

# HOME TRUTHS

JOIN US AS SIMPLY CHENNAI STEPS INTO THE FINEST AND MOST STYLISH CELEBRITY HOMES IN THE CITY

By SARANYA CHAKRAPANI

Quirky, trendy or sophisticated, Chennai's finest homes today are a statement in cutting-edge design, panache and bespoke luxury. As we surveyed some of the most luxuriant homes in the city, we found interesting features unique to each home that took us by surprise. However, what all the homes had in common was the home owners personal touch, charm. SIMPLY CHENNAI takes you on a walk-through to discover some of the region's most extravagant celebrity homes that inspire colourful whims and lush fancies.

## "Add, don't demolish"

Their bungalow is a refurbished version of a 40-year-old house Satyajit's parents, the legendary dancer couple, VP and Shanta Dhananjayan, set up in Adyar's Jeevarathnam Nagar. "Three years ago, we felt the need for a new house, with state-of-the-art facilities and ample space. The house has a lot of sentimental value for us. So we decided to add instead of demolish," says Satyajit. He and his wife Anupama put their collective creative instincts to use and were aided by architect Benny Kuriakose's design sense. Satyajit a professional photographer and Anupama, an artist opened up the house to nature. Large French windows were added to various corners of the house, keeping it well-lit and airy during the day. The view of beautiful flowering plants and bamboo shoots is an added bonus. "The old house didn't open out to nature as such, and so Benny suggested that we bring the 'outside' inside," says Anupama. Satyajit's living area reflects his unconventional aesthetics with subtle asymmetrical lighting points, classy wooden furniture and earthy Athangudi tiles coloured in natural dyes. This flooring helps keep the house warm during winter and cool during summer. "We designed our living space organically, a home has to respect the family's sentiment and accommodate things that not only look great, but also mean something to us," says Anupama.

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