

# The art of renovating a tiny home in Mumbai

*"I never liked the formula of less is more. I believe that less is boring. I like to layer a space with colour to make it playful" - Sonam Gala*



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Sagar Padwal



*The renovation of Sonam Gala and Nihar Gosalia's 1,200-square-foot apartment in Mumbai*

Avid travellers with a penchant for buying art, Sonam Gala and her husband, Nihar Gosalia, wanted to structure their apartment to suit their lifestyles. So Sonam—a senior designer at her father's interior design firm, Kiran Gala and Associates—turned the standard 1,200-square-foot apartment into one with a walk-in wardrobe, an open living and dining space, and a TV room.



*In the tv room, Sonam Gala reversed the bright-ceiling-whitewall trope for a light ceiling and summery, striped wallpaper from Ralph Lauren Home. It helped open up the small space. The painting above the desk is by Naina Kanodia. The one on the right is a framed puzzle of an Andy Warhol reproduction print from the MoMA store.*

**Architect:** Sonam Gala, Senior Designer

**Before:** A three-bedroom apartment in Mumbai

**After:** A large, open-plan two-bedroom apartment

**Timeline:** Nine months

**Design Motto:** The rule of thumb is three-is-to-one. Three modern pieces to make the one vintage element stand out; three whites to bring out the one instance of colour. “Two-is-to-one is too quick. For me, three-is-to-one works well.”



*Sonam kept the electronics out of sight. The speakers in the living room are concealed in the wall panelling, and the music systems are stowed away in the cabinet.*



*Right: This vintage bar cabinet is from Geethanjali. On top of the cabinet is a vase purchased during Maison & Objet in Paris and a pair of antique crystal decanters from Chandeliers and Furniture House in Chor Bazaar, Mumbai. The artwork is by Jai Zharotia; Left: The entryway to*

*the master bedroom features antiques, like this styling cabinet from Puducherry's Geethanjali and a carved stone sculpture of goddess Laxmi sourced from Chor Bazaar.*

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*Sonam broke down a wall separating two bedrooms to create a walk-in wardrobe. The sliding doors and mirrored walls bring a sense of space into the small room. The minimal shelving unit houses a small collection of the couple's novels and sculptures inspired by Salvador Dalí's artworks, purchased from Mumbai's Designer Studio Collectibles.*



The main living area is separated into two sections, for a sitting area and a dining space. The Dining area features a cabinet purchased from Pondicherry's Geethanjali and the 'Wishbone' chairs by Carl Hansen. The sitting area features an antique art deco chandelier from Mumbai's Taherally's, a centre table from Walter Knoll and an armchair from Poltrona Frau Group Design Center.

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