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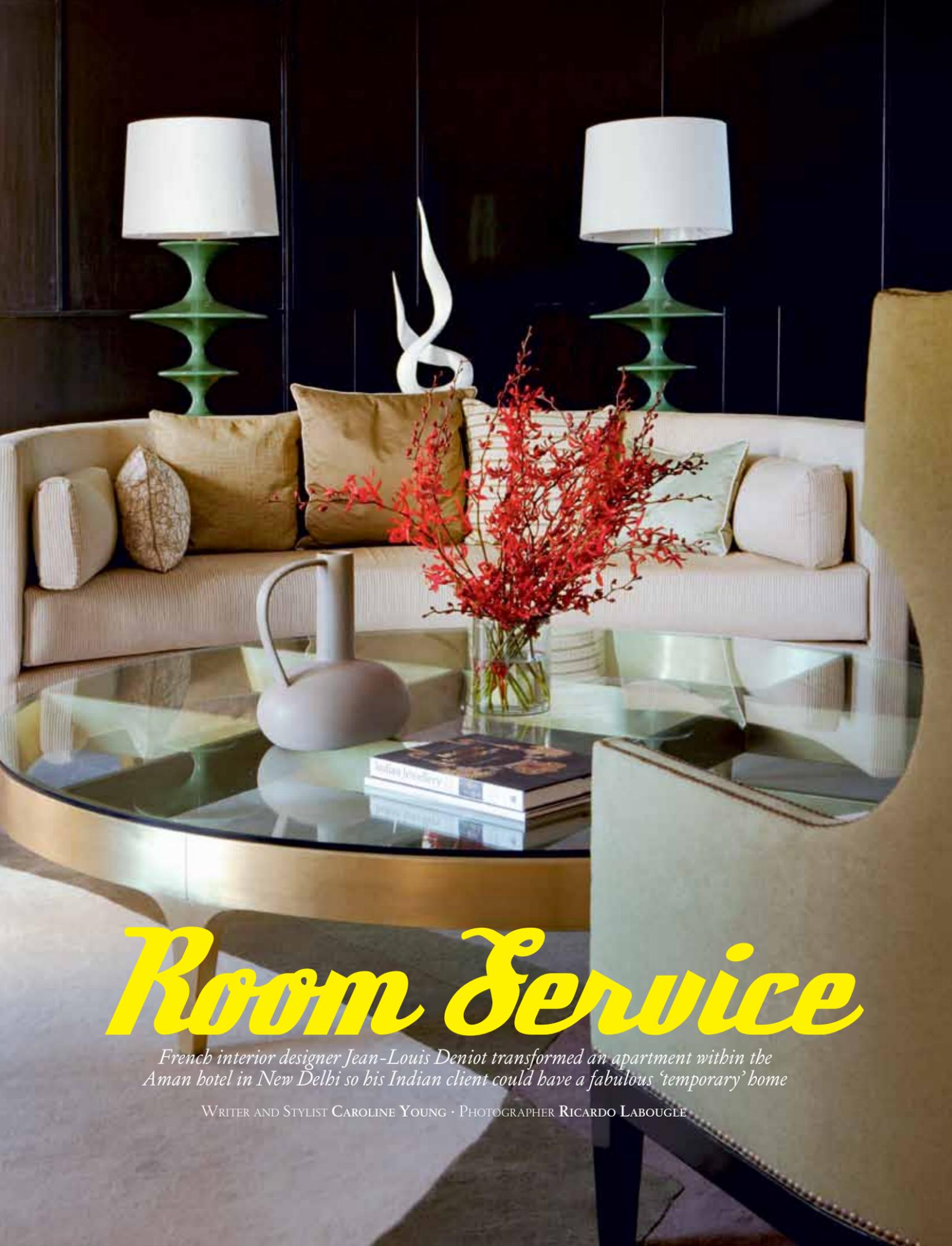
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ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

INDIAN EDITION
JULY-AUGUST 2012

HOME FEATURE

*Pernia Qureshi &
Arjun Prasad*



(Left and below)

PILLOW SPACE

In the TV room is a custom-made Nepalese wool rug by Jean-Louis Deniot; the coffee tables are from Pouenat, Paris; a sunburst brass-and-copper mirror hangs on the back wall, in front of which is a 'Chopin' sofa from Bonacina. The terrace features 'Victoria' armchairs from Bonacina with decorative pillows from Georges Le Manach, Paris, and green pillows from Brunschwig & Fils; the candlesticks from the Aman hotel, along with the brass banana leaf platter from Viya Home, New Delhi, are placed on a centre table by Deniot; an oval stone sculpture from Dubai sits at the back.

(Opposite page)

ON THE CURVE

The living room has a half-moon sofa covered in fabric from Seasons, New Delhi. Lamps with a wooden base finished in high-gloss lacquer and velvet-covered armchairs have all been custom designed by Deniot. The decorative pillows are from Georges Le Manach, while the vintage 1960s vase is from Denmark.

Room Service

French interior designer Jean-Louis Deniot transformed an apartment within the Aman hotel in New Delhi so his Indian client could have a fabulous 'temporary' home

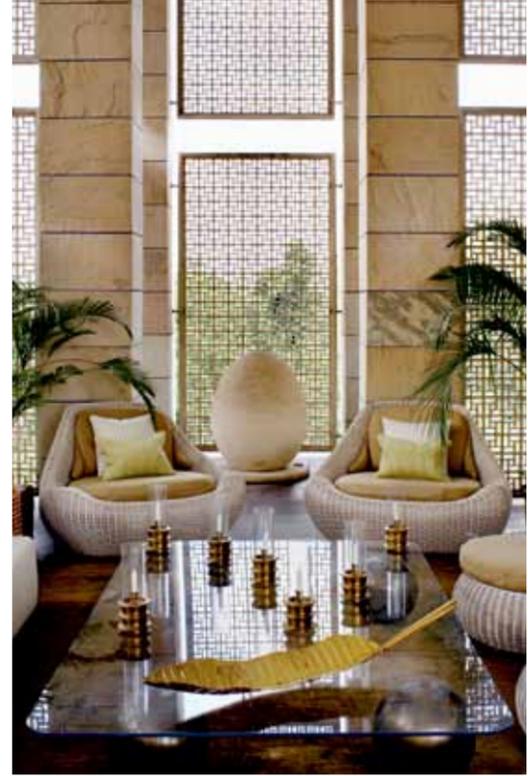
WRITER AND STYLIST CAROLINE YOUNG • PHOTOGRAPHER RICARDO LABOUGLE

One client, four projects—that's the strength of the relationship between interior designer Jean-Louis Deniot and the New Delhi-based Qureshi family. The acclaimed French designer's smallest project for his favourite Indian clients was a sumptuous penthouse apartment at the Aman hotel in New Delhi, meant to be a transitional home for Pernia Qureshi, a fashion stylist, and her husband Arjun Prasad. Deniot had previously designed two properties for Pernia's parents, Nasreen and Moin.

THE MANDATE

Jean-Louis Deniot Ltd is considered one of the most predominant practices in the world of interior design. Deniot has been included in the Top 20 in *AD* Spain, Top 30 in *AD* Russia, Top 70 in *AD* France and in the Top 100 by *Architectural Digest* USA. He currently has projects in 10 different cities worldwide: New York, London, Paris, Delhi, Corsica, Capri, Dubai, Istanbul, Moscow and Bora Bora.

But working with different individuals from one family can be a challenge because there's always the risk of one project echoing another. When I asked Deniot if he made a concerted effort to give Pernia's apartment a different design sensibility than her parents', he said, "Yes. As I designed her parents' house, she had me in mind to build her future home. I designed this penthouse for her so she would have a place to stay during the construction. (The couple recently moved to their permanent home.) Pernia wanted something different from the art deco and neoclassical manor I built for her family. She asked me to achieve a sophisticated, worldly space, something you would find in New York, or London."



A SERVING OF LUXURY

In the dining room, a set of 1940s-inspired French chairs are covered in fabric from Seasons. The table is custom designed by Deniot with a distressed brass base and travertine tabletop, while the 'Brass Flame of Forest' candle stands are from Viya Home. The vintage rusted ribbon chandelier was bought in Miami. The painting in the background is by Ravicharan Gupta.



WARM REFLECTIONS

The landing has a mirror console in light oak designed by Deniot with a hammered vase from Zaza Home and a black Travertine marble-and-bronze lamp also designed by Deniot.



the only lighting points and gave off an unflattering light so he designed the sculpture as a back light, which produced great shadows and diffused light.

Deniot designed 75 per cent of the furnishings specifically for this penthouse, and the pieces were all manufactured in India by Juneja Associates and Kapoor Lamp Shade Co. He also designed all the carpets, which were custom-made in Nepal. All the upholstery fabrics were sourced from Seasons and Atmosphere in New Delhi and some of the accent pillows were bought in Paris. Everything sits alongside fabulous Indian art.

ALL DRESSED UP

The envy of every fashionista was Pernia's walk-in wardrobe. According to Deniot, "I designed Pernia's closet with independent, free-standing, sophisticated racks as I wanted something that was smart looking and practical. Some have long hanging capacities, others for double hanging, while some are only for bags or shoes. I know of Pernia's shopping addiction as I have already designed three other dressing rooms for her at her parents' homes. At the manor, she has two walk-in wardrobes; one for the summer and one for the winter! The concept behind using the racks was to give the sense of a private store, in reference to her business as a stylist."

The kitchen was used primarily for making salads and 'odourless' foods so that cooking smells would not permeate and linger in the living space—Pernia preferred to order food from the eclectic range of cuisine available at the Aman. The other benefits of residing in an apartment located within a luxury hotel: "It was a convenient life for undomesticated people like Arjun and I. The pool, tennis courts, spa, room service, all amazing reasons to live in hotel apartments." ❖

< The couple's home was also starkly different from other apartments within the Aman. Designed by Australian architect Kerry Hill, the elegant hotel has decidedly modernist Asian interiors, very unlike this eclectic home.

INSIDE STORY

As the apartment was intended to be a 'temporary' home, Pernia wanted objets d'art and furniture which could easily transition to a larger space. "I wanted pieces that we could take with us whenever we moved and blend them in a different home. Arjun was very specific about what he wanted, and Jean-Louis already knows my sensibility so he tried to merge the two," says Pernia. Prasad's main request was that it should not look "old". Pernia's love of a soothing colour palette is clearly evident; the living room is done up in shades of pale green, such as La Durée green and Prada green, which connects well with the greenery on the terrace. Ivories and old-gold yellow in the TV room with black-and-white accents and a mix of icy blues create a calm environment.

Despite Pernia "not wanting anything that was an obvious 'egg' shape", the one exception to this specific request is a beautiful oval stone work (reminiscent of Constantin Brancusi's style) placed elegantly between two pillars on the terrace. This outside space is a 'lounging' area. Prior to implementing the decor, there was a huge white wall on one side of the terrace with two misplaced, unattractive wall lights, so Deniot decided to go vegetal. He had a vision of a monumental wall sculpture representing the idea of green, organic, climbing free forms. The two existing sconces were

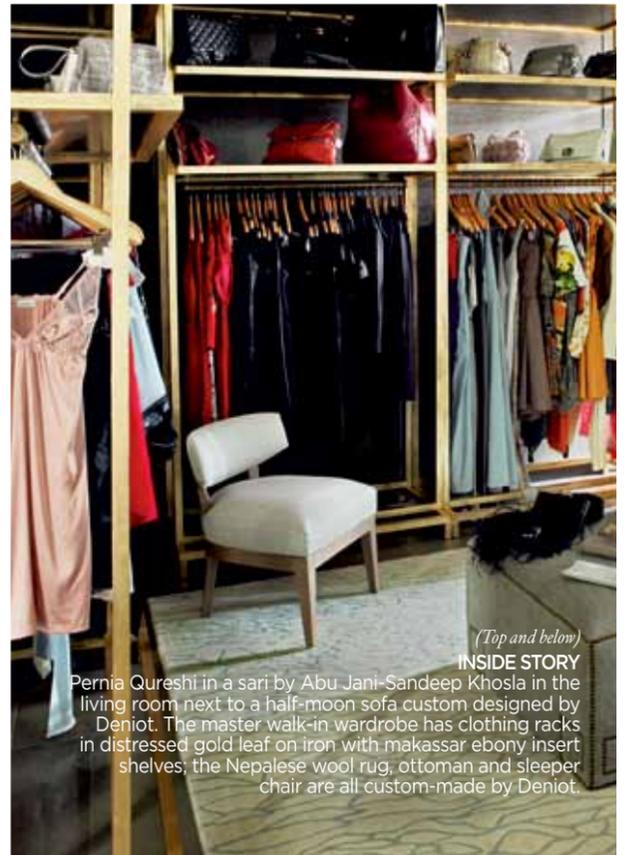
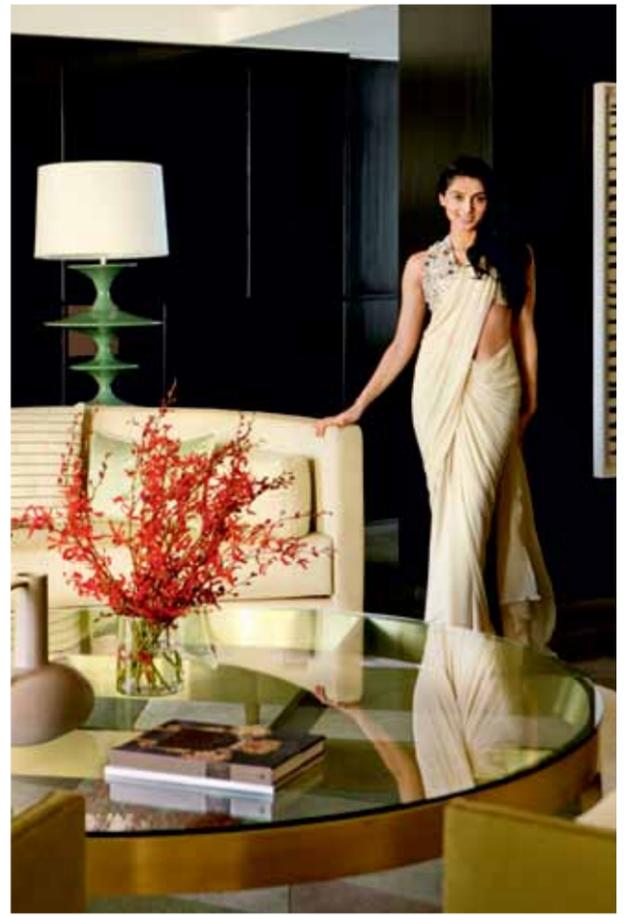


REST STOP

The guest bathroom has an antique silver-clad chair and stool, covered in silk fabric from Atmosphere, New Delhi; the 'Vajra' bowl in front of the bathtub is from Goodearth.

PRIVATE QUARTERS

A custom-made headboard and bed skirt by Deniot covered with silk fabric from Atmosphere dominates the master bedroom. A Nepalese wool rug, also by Deniot, runs through the room. Mirror-and-bronze night stands by Deniot sit next to the headboard. The vintage stools from Onsite Antiques, Paris, are clad with fabric from Seasons. A custom-made large screen in ivory lacquer and distressed brass acts as a room divider.



(Top and below)
INSIDE STORY
Pernia Qureshi in a sari by Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla in the living room next to a half-moon sofa custom designed by Deniot. The master walk-in wardrobe has clothing racks in distressed gold leaf on iron with makassar ebony insert shelves; the Nepalese wool rug, ottoman and sleeper chair are all custom-made by Deniot.