

https://www.nola.com/entertainment_life/home_garden/article_20badf2a-01dc-11eb-8844-131b789048de.html

A taste of Paris in the '20s: Architect's Uptown home draws its energy from a glamorous era

BY R. STEPHANIE BRUNO | CONTRIBUTING WRITER
OCT 1, 2020 - 7:00 AM



One side of the double parlors includes a fireplace that uses ethanol. The parlors are the main rooms for entertaining.

Jeff Strout

R. Stephanie
Bruno

If the Napoleon Avenue home of Nomita Joshi-Gupta and her husband, Shami Gupta, feels a bit like Paris in the '20s and '30s, it's not an accident.

Joshi-Gupta combines rich colors, such as the deep sapphire hue of the sofa and chairs in the front parlor and the shimmering gold of the sofa in the family room, with boldly geometric and intricately detailed accessories to evoke that feeling of glamor and luxury.

With one feature of the home, though, she surprised even herself. "I said I would never live in a beige house, yet here I am," Joshi-Gupta said with a laugh. "That said, I love Benjamin Moore's Carrington Beige — it changes color depending on the light that hits it."

Walls, ceilings and trim throughout are painted the color, which can have a pink cast or a greenish hue depending on the time of day. Beige is a key choice though; it avoids the potential problem of walls and furnishings clashing.

"I knew this house would be great," said Joshi-Gupta. "It was built in the 1920s and has lots of authentic details, like the mosaic tile floor on

the front porch.”

Outside, the multipaned windows, modified Chinese Chippendale railing, deep roof eaves and exposed rafter tails all provide a sense of style – albeit American Craftsman – that places the dwelling firmly in the first decades of the 20th century.



Architect Nomita Joshi-Gupta owns a wallpaper and fabric business as well as an interior design business.

Jeff Strout

The couple had had their eyes on the two-story house for years when they noticed it was under renovation; they stopped in to see what was going on.

“We’d visited it when it was first on the market after (Hurricane) Katrina, but there were structural issues and it was divided into

apartments — it was too much for us at the time,” Joshi-Gupta said. “But the new owner had taken care of the most pressing issues, so we had a chat.”

By the end of the chat, the two parties had agreed to a deal that made both sides happy.

It wasn't hard for Joshi-Gupta, an architect and ASID member, to see beyond the work in progress. She had been involved with dozens of renovations in the 1990s when she was the assistant director of Rebuilding Together. She opened design shop Spruce NOLA on Magazine Street in 2008 and converted it into a wallpaper and fabric business in 2016. She expanded Spruce's offerings when she opened Nomita Joshi Interior Design upstairs from Spruce earlier this year.



Joshi-Gupta added book shelves above the existing low cabinets in the dining room, make the space suitable for serving as a study setting for her children.

Jeff Strout

In the front of the house, there are two parlors on the left and a dining room-library across the hall. A big, airy kitchen follows, and at the rear of the house, a guest room and family room connect to a deck and marble-tiled patio with a pool. The family reclaimed the rear yard from its previous use as a parking lot for tenants.

“We had enough bedrooms (upstairs), so we turned one of them into the family room. It's just the right size for watching TV with the kids (son Yash, a Country Day sophomore, and daughter Simran, a Tulane freshman),” Joshi-Gupta said.

The guest room next door — outfitted with a vibrant Turkish bedspread and vivid artwork (including a piece by Simran) — is where Joshi-Gupta's mom, Rekha Joshi, stays when she's visiting from India.

“The visit has been extended this year because of COVID — it's been wonderful to have her here for so long, especially because she loves to cook,” Joshi-Gupta said.

Throughout the home, contemporary furnishings mix with antiques to produce an animated composition. An elegant pier mirror propped up against the wall in the second parlor complements a Chinoiserie bar cabinet and ultracontemporary fireplace surround and insert.



The home of architect Nomita Joshi-Gupta and her family.

Jeff Strout

In the master bath, an antique Italian hat cabinet and terrazzo floors contrast with the sleek shower and sculptural free-standing tub.

Light fixtures range from antique bronze wall sconces to Ikea pendants.

By mixing chrome-legged chairs with furnishings that include a carved Indian day bed, the design avoids becoming overly enmeshed in a single era.

Wallpaper, a specialty of Joshi-Gupta, appears in several key spots in the house. In the master bath, a large panel of wallpaper above the tub stands in for a piece of artwork and depicts a portrait of two lovers.

The downstairs powder room features a deep purple paper with monkeys climbing around exotic ruins. A leafy green wallpaper behind the bookcase in the dining room makes a surprising statement, and a third pattern — white cast iron against a dark background — covers the walls in another bath.

Window coverings in the front parlor aren't fabric at all but thick paper cutouts intended as wall hangings.

“I wanted to use wallpaper in a variety of different ways here, because it's so versatile,” Joshi-Gupta said.

Low cabinets were built along the walls in the dining room when she bought the house, so Joshi-Gupta added bookcases above them to extend the use of the space beyond that of a place to consume dinner.



A family TV room leads to the backyard and pool.

Jeff Strout

“Since the kids have both been home and doing homework in there, it works out just fine,” Joshi-Gupta said.

The dining room is also the place where a small replica of a Hindu temple occupies a console on the wall opposite the bookcases.

“My mother makes offerings there and prays for my father,” said Joshi-Gupta, whose father died fairly recently. A smiling portrait of him appears

nearby.

As complete as the house seems, there's a final project that the family has in mind.

“We want to put a real covered porch on the back of the house, one that resembles the front porch,” said Joshi-Gupta, “right down to the mosaic tile floor.”



RELATED

Thinking of renovating? See how these 5 home projects pay off for New Orleanians in the long run



RELATED

Designed as an 1880s carriage house, this Uptown building becomes a casually elegant home



RELATED

St. Roch firehouse gets a second life as a home for a do-it-yourself family

SPONSORED CONTENT





Bottega Veneta

By **Net-A-Porter AM**

Bottega Veneta - Chain-embellished Macramé And Leather Pumps - Black

Recommended for You

Louisiana Launches New Policy for Cars Used Less Than 50 Miles per Day

Low mileage drivers are surprised the...
Sponsored | My Insurance Savings

[Learn More](#)

The Best In Modern Living

Platner Dining Table in Gold by Knoll - ...
Sponsored | YLighting

[Shop Now](#)

6 Credit Cards You Should Not Ignore If You Have Excellent Credit

Sponsored | NerdWallet

She's Getting Divorced - Again

Sponsored | Lonny

Cubic Zirconia 18k Yellow Gold Over Silver Ring 5.75ctw

Bella Luce Â® white diamond simulan...
Sponsored | Jewelry Television

[Go!](#)

New Orleans, Louisiana: This Tiny, Unknown Company Is Disrupting A \$200 Billion...

Sponsored | US Auto Insurance Now

[Learn More](#)