

# PAPER CITY.

DALLAS | JUNE 2017

## BRANCUSI INFORMS

FASHION EN PLEIN AIR  
JOSHUA RICE  
COMME DES GARÇONS  
ARTS MONTH | THE AFTER  
LISA EISNER  
FRANCISCO MORENO



\$6.95US

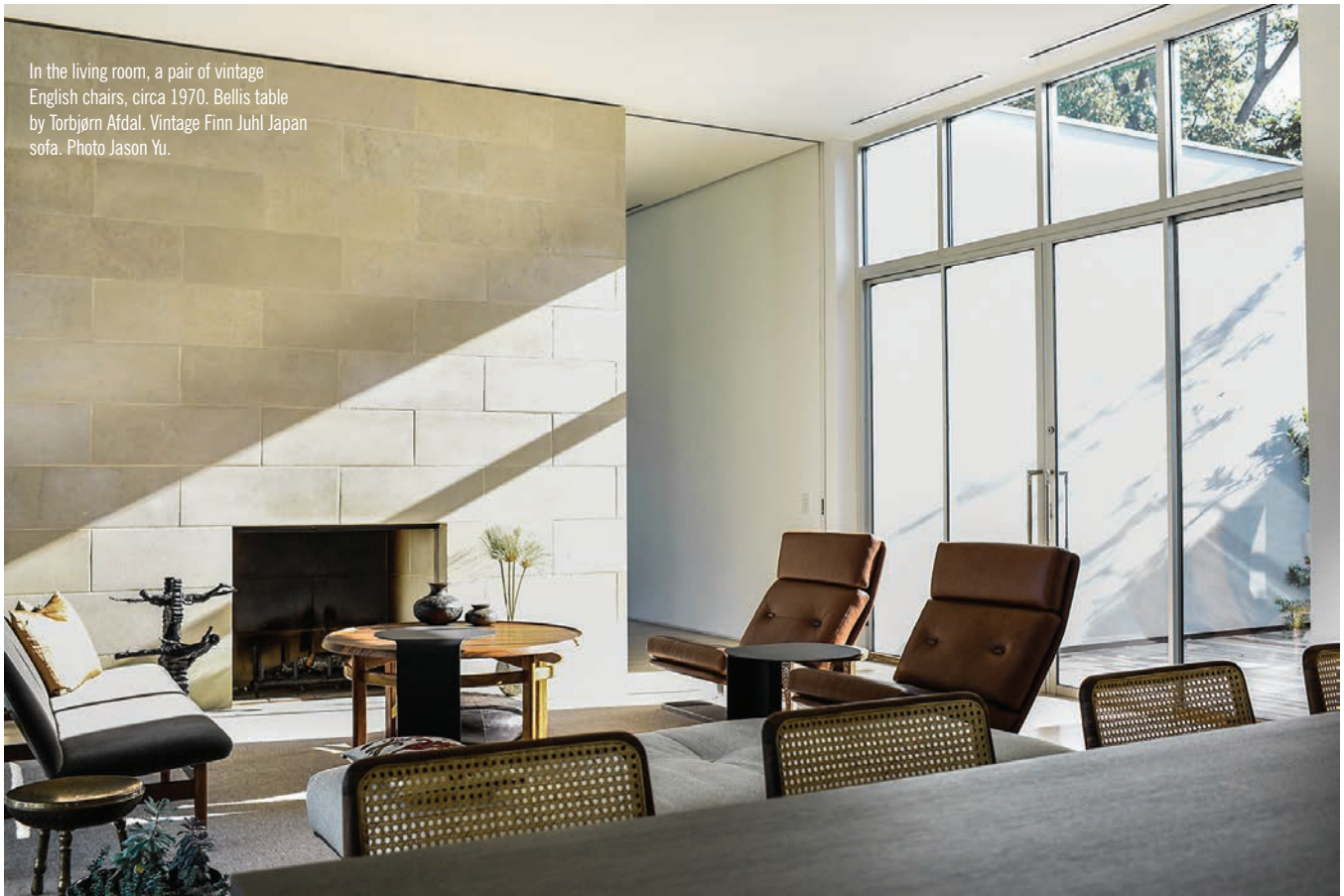


In the living room, white oak floors meet walnut and limestone walls. On far wall, Daniel Duke artwork from Sputnik Modern. Vintage Poul Hundevad teak-and-leather stools. At left, Paul Manes artwork from Cris Worley Fine Arts. Photo Robert Yu.

# SACRED PLACE



In the living room, a pair of vintage English chairs, circa 1970. Bellis table by Torbjørn Afdal. Vintage Finn Juhl Japan sofa. Photo Jason Yu.



## A YOUNG COUPLE WITH INDIAN ROOTS BUILDS A MODERN SANCTUARY FIT FOR THREE GENERATIONS.

**I**f Ashish and Preeta Monga's elegant house on Glendora Avenue feels awash in a peaceful vibe, it's by design. "The goal was for it to be a calm and meditative place for the family after a busy day," says Ashish, a radiologist who practices at nearby Medical City Dallas Hospital. His wife, Preeta, uses her background in finance and fine arts to advocate for philanthropic and cultural-awareness projects.

After years of searching for a house with clean lines that exuded serenity, yet was practical for their needs, the Mongas decided in 2010 to build their own. "We are modernists, and true modernism eliminates anything that doesn't need to be there," Ashish says. "But we wanted more than a box. It needed to function as a home for kids, and we also knew that one day our parents would move in as well."

The property attracted them not only because of its proximity to the hospital, but because it's situated between two limestone-clad houses designed by award-winning modernist architect Lionel

Morrison, whose work they admire. "We liked the idea of creating a modern enclave on the street," Ashish says. After a long interview process that included discussions with architects across the country, they selected Morrison protégé Joshua Nimmo, who had just gone out on his own. "He matched exactly what we were looking for. Josh is humble and modest, and his work is also that way. We also wanted a deep involvement in the design process, and he was open to that." The collaboration proved intense, with the Mongas and Nimmo meeting weekly for two years prior to the house's construction to discuss design.

The challenge was integrating all their wishes, primarily the desire to accommodate three generations of family with individual spaces that would be private, but not isolating. They also wanted to bring nature into the house in a big way. Nimmo's answer was to create individual suites for parents, children, and grandparents that revolve around a central living area, with views to a courtyard, pool, and a tall bald sycamore they had preserved. "We wanted people to hang out together, not in their bedrooms," says Nimmo, "so the idea was to create

an open, luxurious space where everyone wanted to be."

Taking context into consideration, Nimmo clad the house in the same Lueders Limestone as its two neighbors. Because the house is 70 percent glass, he warmed things inside and out with mahogany, walnut, and bleached oak. Custom raw-steel gates and a long limestone wall enclose the property from the street. "It's very straightforward and stark in its layout," Nimmo says. "It has a severe quality to it, but when you open the gates, you experience these beautiful, light-filled open spaces."

**P**reeta and Ashish Monga arrived with their parents from India to the United States as young children — Preeta grew up in Fairfax, Virginia, while Ashish grew up in Dallas. "Our parents arrived in this country with one suitcase and degrees in engineering and medicine," Preeta says. "There's that bond we have to India, and it's something we are proud of." The Mongas' three children were born in America, so maintaining a lasting connection to their homeland is important. Homage to their

BY REBECCA SHERMAN. INTERIOR DESIGN JOSHUA RICE DESIGN. ARCHITECT JOSHUA NIMMO, NIMMO ARCHITECTURE. PHOTOGRAPHY COSTA CHRIST, ROBERT YU. PORTRAIT STEVEN VISNEAU.







In the master bedroom, George Nakashima  
spindle-back lounge chair from Sputnik  
Modern. Brokis lamps from Scott + Cooner.  
Lassen 42 table. Straight Thread custom  
daybed. Paul Manes painting from Cris Worley  
Fine Arts. Photo Costa Christ.







A slice of the master bedroom is seen from the center courtyard. Exterior wood is mahogany. Photo Costa Christ.

Indian heritage is paid with decorative elements throughout the house, such as large floor pillows made from silk wedding saris woven with pure gold thread, which they purchased on a family trip to India. Others, such as intricate bone-inlay side tables, were inherited. An antique typewriter and a vintage law book that belonged to Preeta's great-grandfathers on both sides is displayed in the living room.

The spacious meditation room located at the end of a long gallery, Preeta says, is "the true center of our home and connects us back to our culture." The entrance features a pair of 300-year-old carved

temple doors from India, procured from Art of Old India in Dallas. Furnished sparingly with floor pillows, an altar, and a love seat, the room is a sacred space for listening to music, dancing, and playing traditional Indian instruments such as the tanpura and the sitar, which their daughter is learning. "Music is a spiritual connection, so we put it all into one room," says Ashish, who describes himself as an audiophile. Five-foot-tall vintage horn speakers and tubes broadcast melodies from all cultures. "The kids come in, and we listen to everything from Nina Simone to Radiohead and classic Bollywood favorites. They sometimes fall asleep

listening to music."

Interior designer Joshua Rice, who was recommended by Nimmo, strove to create comfortable rooms that harmonized with their heritage and love of modernism. "It needed to be livable," Rice says. "They didn't want a bunch of Mies van der Rohe chairs and an uncomfortable sofa — like the lobby of a bank."

Choices were made with family in mind, but always with the expectation that each piece must be special, beautiful, and have intrinsic value. Rice also gave a nod to Danish design, which he says blends well with the clean architecture and the family's Indian furniture. An 11-



foot table in the dining area, which seats the extended clan, was handcrafted in the Netherlands and is surrounded by Danish-inspired walnut-and-cane chairs made in Brazil. Contemporary brass lighting throughout was sourced from artisan companies in Brazil and New Zealand. A sleek daybed, upholstered in horsehair with dressmaker details, was custom-made by a Wisconsin craftsman who apprenticed in Paris. Rice also took pains locating rare vintage teak and leather stools by Poul Hundevad, a Finn Juhl Japan sofa, Alfred Kill's FK81 lounge chair and ottoman, and a pair of leather chairs by an obscure mid-century British manufacturer. "I'm a little bit of a furniture snob," admits Rice. "Classic modern furniture, while it is wonderful, can be a bit boring and ubiquitous. I want things to be unique."

Avid art collectors, the Mongas asked Nimmo to design a 70-foot gallery leading from the entry to the meditation room. While they have purchased a handful of artworks — the latest a large Andrea Galvani photograph discovered at the Dallas Art Fair — they have left many of the walls bare on purpose. "We had gallerists bring us art we had fallen in love with, but after a few days, we realized the quiet spaces will be gone if we put a lot of art on the walls." When the rooms and views are this sublime, artwork can hardly compete. After all, says Preeta, "Our home was intended to be a livable work of art in itself."

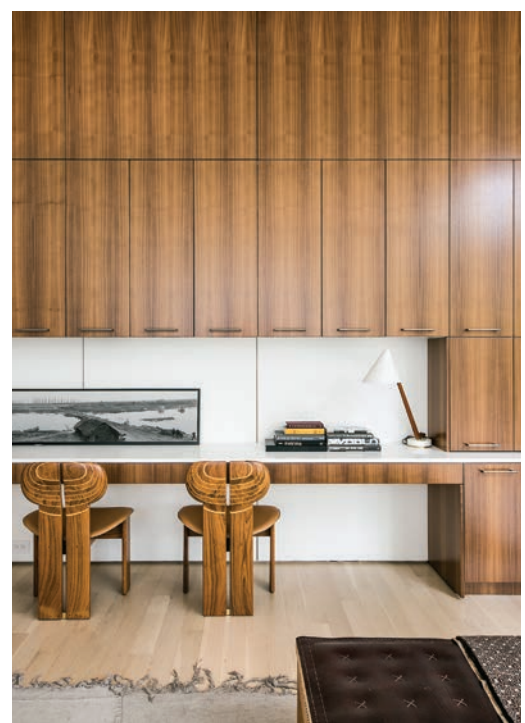


In the breakfast room, vintage walnut-and-bronze Warren Platner table for Knoll and teak Hans Wegner Classic chairs, all from Sputnik Modern. Harry Bertoia bronze sculpture on table. Melvin Shuler standing sculpture, circa 1970. Photo Costa Christ.

In the living area, Fern Studio Shore low table. Vintage FK81 lounge chair and ottoman by Alfred Kill. Heirloom inlay table from India. CasaDesús sofa from Barcelona. Geiger Brabo chairs by Vincent Van Duysen. Nanimarquina Melange pouf from Scott + Cooner. Photo Robert Yu.







Clockwise from top:  
Custom steel gates, which pivot open, provide privacy from the street. Photo Joshua Nimmo.

In the master bedroom sitting area, pair of Afra & Tobia Scarpa Artonia series chairs. Panoramic photograph by Ashish Monga. Custom walnut cabinetry.

In the master bedroom, Penn light pendant by Jader Almeida for Sollos, Brazil. Custom bed by CasaDesús.



