

# INDIA Good Homes

GOOD DESIGN CHANGES EVERYTHING

A Times of India Publication  
VOLUME 12 ISSUE 5 AUGUST 2019 ₹120

@goodhomesmagazine  
@goodhomesmagazineindia  
@goodhomesindia

## WHEN SIMPLE DETAILS PLAY MUSE

*Live inspired with Nerolac's  
#nerolaccolourtrails campaign*

**IN FOCUS**  
Modern homes  
with traditional  
courtyards

51+

fabulous ideas  
that make up  
our refurbishing  
special



# THE MASTER, AT HOME

Welcome to the home of Aldo Cibic, the legend of the architecture world

FEATURE **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**  
PHOTOGRAPHS **HELENIO BARBETTA**



Before Aldo Cibic could move in, this space was an abandoned, near derelict, architectural eye sore. It's now a home of transition, where the designer spends just four-five days a month (he spends half his time in China, and his primary abode is in Vicenza, near Venice). Sometimes he is joined here by his wife and son. Regardless of this lapse in visits, the house is designed to exacting effect, and as he says, "There is nothing to change and I will love it forever."

This is a very soft, almost romantic, mono-material house, for which Aldo has used just two materials, cement and a natural plaster. The light sand hue of the concrete floor and plaster sets the tone of the whole house. The intention was to create a neutral container that would animate everything else.



“

I intentionally created a neutral environment to let the art, furniture, colours and different materials be more alive. Some of the things I owned already, whereas others I have found over the last two years.

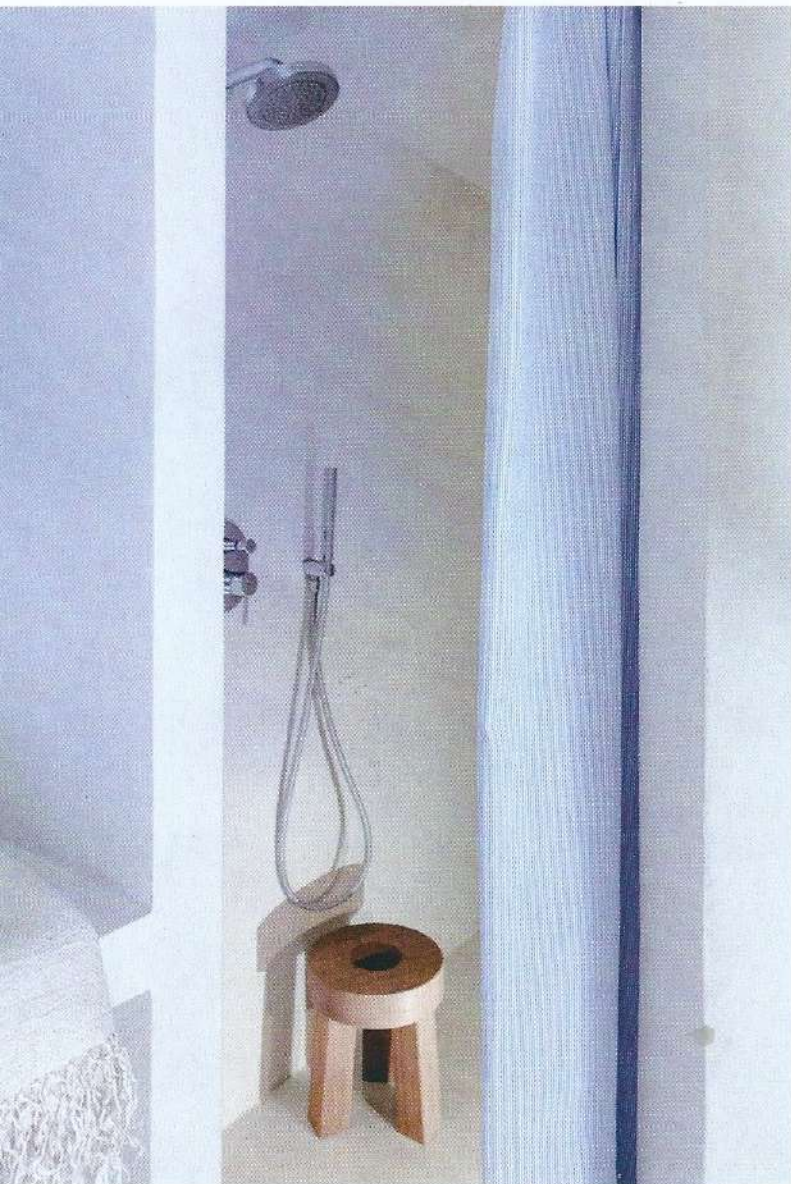
— Aldo Cibic, Architect and Homeowner





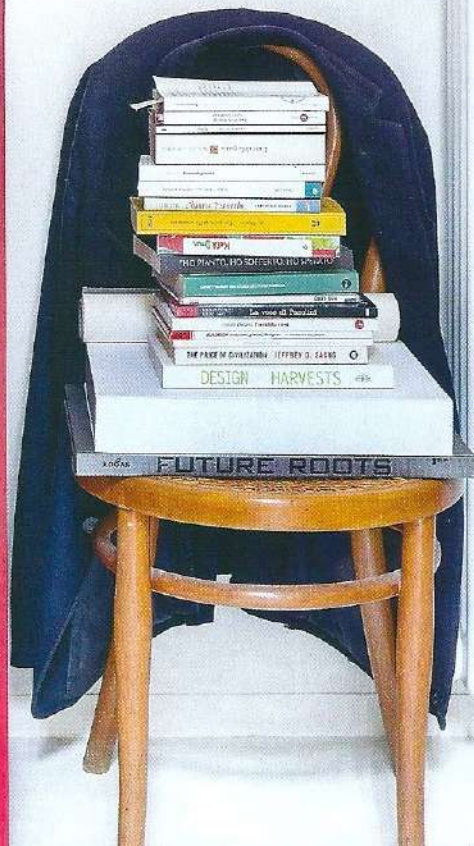
What unites the mini rooms I have created is the fact that a small house makes sense the moment you leave it, because the city is ready to offer everything you need.”

— Aldo Cibic, Architect and Homeowner



Taking us through a day in his life here, the designer says, “Usually when I wake up, I do my gymnastics on the rug; then, I enjoy the shower sitting on “Donut” — the stool I specially designed for the home. Following this, I go to the kitchen to prepare breakfast and eat it on the big white table, where I start working.”







The big window is perhaps the largest design element in this house. From here Aldo enjoys the view of a nice, quiet courtyard that belongs to an old, ivy-covered Milanese house.

# W

ords fall short in our attempt to describe the design genius that is architect Aldo Cibic. “Brilliant”, “inspiring”, “path-breaking”... honestly, we are just getting warmed up here. Aldo’s home in Milan is a departure from his impressively extensive and world renowned architectural works. It is simple, small and subtle. To summarise its design — this 430 sqft home is a miniature prototype with just the essentials — a living room, kitchen and bedroom. As with everything that the maestro does, this home was designed with a clear missive. His home is a model for future dwellings in densely inhabited cities; something we could definitely take note of!

Talking about the design, he says, “Even if it is small, it has three places where I love to stay: the couch, the table, and the bed.” The loft-like bedroom is located above the kitchen and Aldo describes it as a sort of swimming pool that he can lean out of to see what’s going on downstairs. Aside from the bed, the only other piece of furniture here is a large shelf where the designer keeps his books. We love the quaint stairway leading to it...from a corner of the living room, it almost seems like it leads nowhere! But Aldo does everything with purpose, and knowing this truth, we snap out of the illusion. The next tiny surprise is the kitchen. It may be petite, but has been designed as an extremely functional and efficient space. The living room is the largest area, and here, Aldo has curated an envious collection of art. We especially love his version of a self-sufficient cave. It’s fascinating how just a few square metres contain everything this legendary designer needs! 

