

## Bamboo lamps and stone walls: how to design with natural materials

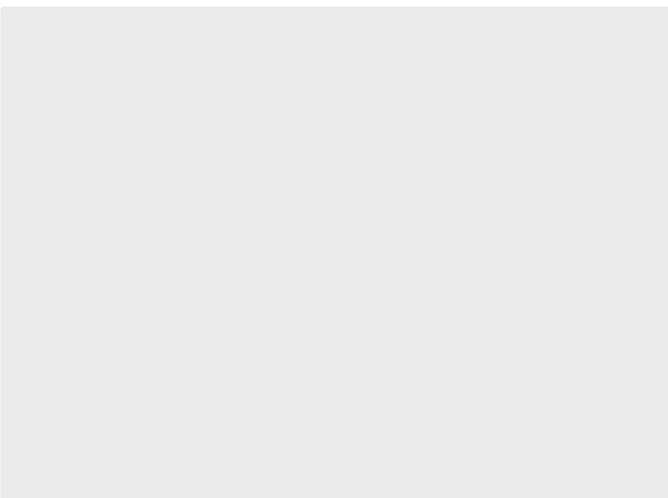


Bindu Gopal Rao

JULY 20, 2018 15:08 IST

UPDATED: JULY 20, 2018 15:08 IST

MORE-IN



**Nature-inspired elements can add a touch of your own personality as well as elevate your home interiors to another level, says Bindu Gopal Rao**

Compromised pollution levels outside and perhaps even inside a home can have detrimental health effects, so why not opt for building with natural materials? When the right ones are chosen, they not only give a

structure an earthy feel, but also add a sustainable living angle to your home. “Flooring options like travertine or terracotta tiles or relatively cheaper options like red oxide flooring, bamboo, rattan and wicker work for seating and accessories. If you decide to go the industrial route, pick out brick and stone for exposed walls in a rustic setting,” suggests Anuj Srivastava, co-founder and CEO of city-based design firm, Livspace. Using natural elements is a great way to ensure you have a green home. “Even if your home is more contemporary, a play on nature can spark a bit of creativity in an unsuspecting nook or cranny around the house,” says Astha Khetan, founder of online marketplace, The House of Things.

## Material matters

Using natural textiles in the home not only has an intrinsic charm but is also breathable and safe. For instance, ripe fruits can be used as a room fragrance. Fruits that have dried up in this heat need not go to the trash bin as well – pot pourri is an interesting way to reuse the fruit, says Mrinmayee Kundalia, Founder of home fashion brand, TUNI Tales. Materials like wood and natural timber are a great way to do up a space as well. The element brings in a touch of the outdoors and is a great choice for spaces like the balcony, study and even open seating areas in an office. “Wood is one of the easiest and warmest materials to use indoors. Twisted branches with plenty of tendrils could be used as an interesting show-piece which will create balance within the display,” says Parul Mittal, Director, Greenlam Industries.

## Accessorise right

It’s important to note that the focus is not just on construction materials but also on choosing the right accessories. For lighting, you can choose from banana fibre ceiling lamps and bamboo lamps as the coarse white and woody shades go with any wall colour. “Jute and cotton chairs and ottomans are ideal if you’re looking to add a quirky facet to your room. A pop of colour breaks the monotony of wood furniture and breathes life into a traditional or Indian contemporary living room,” says Anvitha Prashanth, Founder, Go Native, a Bengaluru-based lifestyle store.

Natural planters made of wood, stone and clay seamlessly complement the greens of any plants they house. Vertical moss gardens are proving especially popular these days. They are maintenance-free and give your home the much needed touch of green. With their natural aesthetic and aroma, they adorn the walls of many homes today. Parushni Aggarwal, Founder and Creative Director at Delhi-based design house, Studio Creo, suggests choosing materials that resonate with your personal style.

Opt for rugged rock walls in the kitchen or add a sophisticated flair of dark mahogany flooring in the living room. “Adding skylight in your bedroom or work area is another very innovative way to bring in some natural light into a room. Geodesic terrariums are also a great option to add something new to your natural living space,” says Chitra Das, Founder of Hyderabad-based preserved flower boutique, Champs Fleur.

---

**Sign up to receive our newsletter in your inbox every day!**

ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

GO