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AD

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HOMES IN THE WORLD

THE RENOVATION SPECIAL

MORE THAN 20 PAGES OF IDEAS
TO TRANSFORM YOUR HOME

HOW DESIGNER **SUSSANNE ROSHAN**
CHANGED ACTOR **SONALI BENDRE'S** HOME



100+ GIFTING
IDEAS FOR THE SEASON
& HOW TO WRAP THEM!

HOW TO INTEGRATE YOUR
FAITH INTO YOUR DECOR

AD'S FIRST
EVER MAKEOVER
DESIGNED BY
ARCHITECT
ASHIESH SHAH
SEE THE
RESULTS INSIDE!

A photograph of a hallway with dark, patterned wallpaper. A large wooden door is centered at the end of the hallway. A chandelier hangs from the ceiling. Several framed pictures are on the walls.

fabricate!

Outfitted with exquisite swathes of cloth, textile designer Peter D'Ascoli's unusual abode in New Delhi holds a mirror to his passion and profession

WRITER PRIYA CHRISTIAN - PHOTOGRAPHER TOM PARKER
PRODUCTION PRAGNYA RAO

CULTURE CLASH

In the studio, antique French shawls hang above tiles from Naples, Andalusia and Turkey. World-travel paintings and scenes of ancient Rome are visible on the wall behind the Italian velvet sofas.

(Opposite page)

MATERIAL WORLD

Architectural renderings from Ecole des Beaux-Arts belonging to the 19th century line the entrance hall that is draped in a paisley fabric from Peter D'Ascoli. The lamp is from Goodwin's.





(Clockwise from top left)

CLOTH ENCOUNTERS

An archive of design books and antique textiles inform the creative process at the studio: original designs for prints and embroideries hang on the walls for review. Antique documents and new-wart overflow from the Flat Files. Swatches, trim and specification sheets pinned on a soft board in the studio.



It is a very busy and colorful room, full of life and energy. The walls are covered with framed pictures and decorative plates. The ceiling is painted in a vibrant, multi-colored pattern. The room is filled with various pieces of furniture, including a dining table, chairs, and a large mirror. The overall atmosphere is warm and inviting.



A portrait of Peter D'Ascoli
with wife Cecile, daughter
Floza and her pet, Bhagwan.

JOHN ANDREW THORNTON/ART

Fair is a keen sense of discernment, a natural talent that cannot be taught. One has it or not. My first memory of walking into Peter and Cecile D'Ascoli's home in Parkbhabha Park in New Delhi was of being greeted by candlelight at the entrance. I could hear Beethoven playing in the background, effortlessly changing to Jazz, then Indian classical music, a hint of the cross-cultural mix that defines the couple. A love for India is evident here, and combines effortlessly with an obvious European background. Cautious about this cosmopolitan family, I decided to dig deeper into their story to understand what drives their creativity and what led them to make Delhi their home.

Peter has been fascinated by India from a young age. Born and raised in America, he is of Italian descent and first came to India in 1985, and travelled the country, designing and developing hand-printed and hand-woven textiles with Indian craftsmen. This subsequently led the Indian government to invite Peter with the task of promoting and commercially developing Indian handicrafts and textiles. Thus, his childhood curiosity about this country developed into a love for its rich heritage that led to setting up home in Delhi.

Upon meeting Peter, I instantly knew I was meeting someone who has the ability to see, judge and appreciate beauty and harmony, a fact that was reflected in his home, his studio and in the fabrics he creates. His strong Mediterranean roots form a link with Cecile, whose ancestors moved from Spain to Istanbul, then Milan and finally to Paris, where she was born. It is easy to say that it is a spirit of adventure, of finding beauty, friendship and love in foreign cultures that drives this couple. Peter explains: "Like a Jamavar shawl is created in the valley of Kashmir and then travels around the world to end up in a French

woman's cabinet—vastly different was the essence of my work and the story in their hallway itself, draped as it is in inspired by Jamavar shawls, designed I

CULTURE COCKTAIL

He, along with Cecile—a garment designer and hand woven in Indian village daughter, Floza, are perfectly content; in fact, that is how they prefer it and so New York, Paris or London. This ease continents is apparent in their work as art, objects and curiosities from across Alexander the Great found in Istanbul papier-mâché vase bought in Kashmiri needlepoint cushion gets along perfect iron chairs from a flea market in the H an expression of taste but also of perso

I begin to understand Peter's sensibilities objects, colours and fabrics. It o diversity, there is a sense of order and architecture is seen in the symmetry of lamps and artefacts—and his use of col the work of Manisac, with an antique me to far-flung places like the Riviera, home in India, created by a New York designed as it is curated—perfectly jud is the culmination of their past travels

Content for this family means cre entertaining where colours and patter objects from different corners of the w had once mentioned: "I love things th seem—unafraid of using the power of anew." That explains the creation of h based on historical references. One qu in his home and office; pieces of antiq chintz stools and Chinese embroidered art from his studio. Peter's style brings Geoffrey Benison, Madeleine Castai of conjures, the common thread bei combined with a contemporary style. by 18th- and 19th-century archival d transcended history by bringing those

LOVE NEST

I am drawn to a series of small paintin room only to discover from Cecile the story of how Peter and she happened in the capital a decade ago. True to his meeting led them to Agra to see the T York and painted this series of waterco new relationship. A revelation that in foremost, a romantic artist, drawing a explains his fair fox colour and his eye Having grasped his refined sense of de of history, I begin to understand the s timeless fabrics from his studio in Ind

As I said at the beginning, fair is a natural talent that cannot be taught. I