



Growing up in Oslo, Norway, Else-Liv Ursin's summers were spent exploring the length and breadth of Europe! She probably never imagined that her soul would stay high on wanderlust and that one day she would call several places in the world — Home! Her abode in Bengaluru is an intriguing amalgamation of recycled wooden furniture, colour, fabrics and quintessentially Indian icons.



# An Indian Recall

TEXT: SHWETA KAPUR PHOTOGRAPHS: HEMA NARAYANAN & RAGS K S



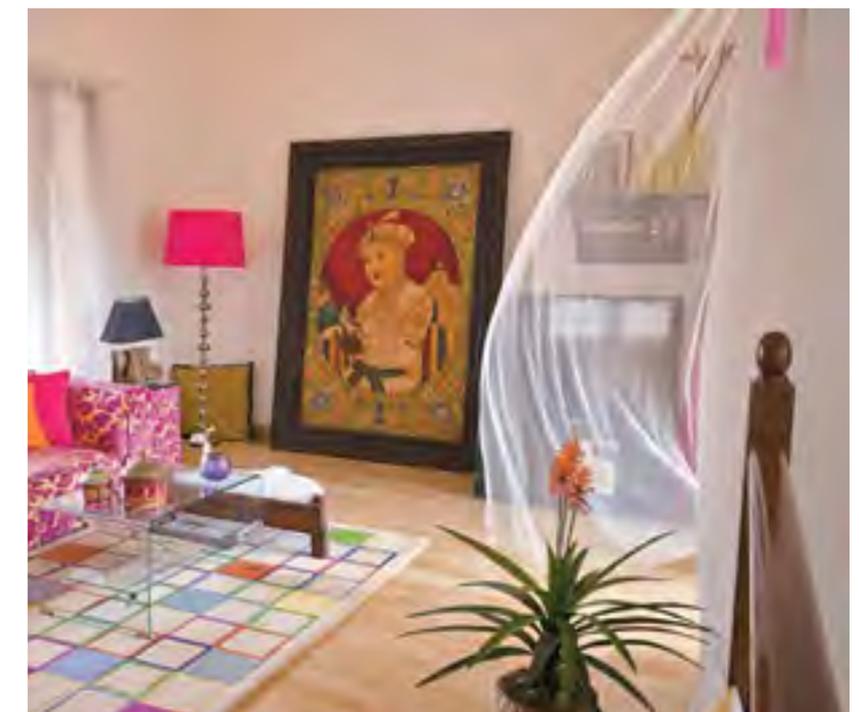
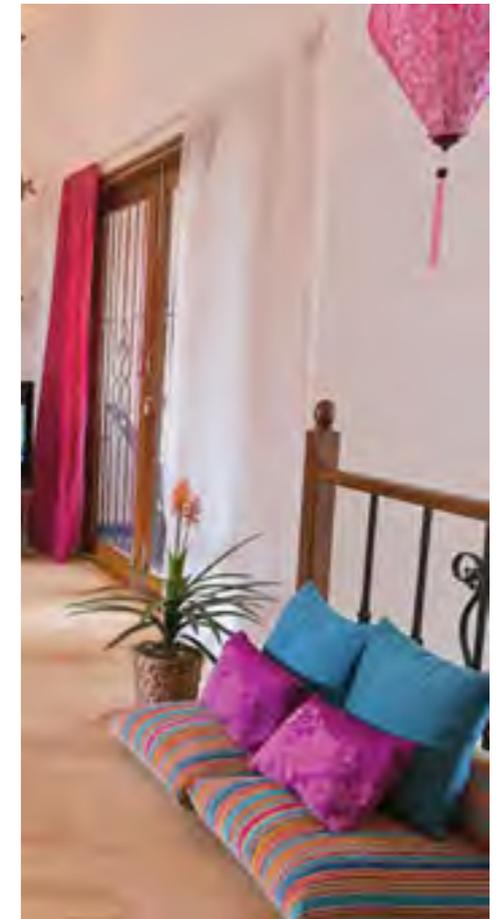
The furniture arrangement flanking a water body in the front garden is brought alive by splashes of fuchsia pink and bright lush green shrubs and bamboos. Metal accessories add to the array of textures.





**W**ith a French-Spanish last name and dark hair to boot, Else-Liv Ursin is a Latin looking Norwegian. Restless by nature and fond of variety, she has unique homes in Bengaluru, Oslo and Southern France. Being on the move constantly – changing the table settings at home daily – she is as passionate about the décor of her home as she is about exploring the world!

**T**he delightful family room is a riot of colour in intense blue, pink and orange presided over by an enormous portrait of Akbar. Translucent embroidered sarees for window dressings and refurbished painted cabinets add an eclectic touch.



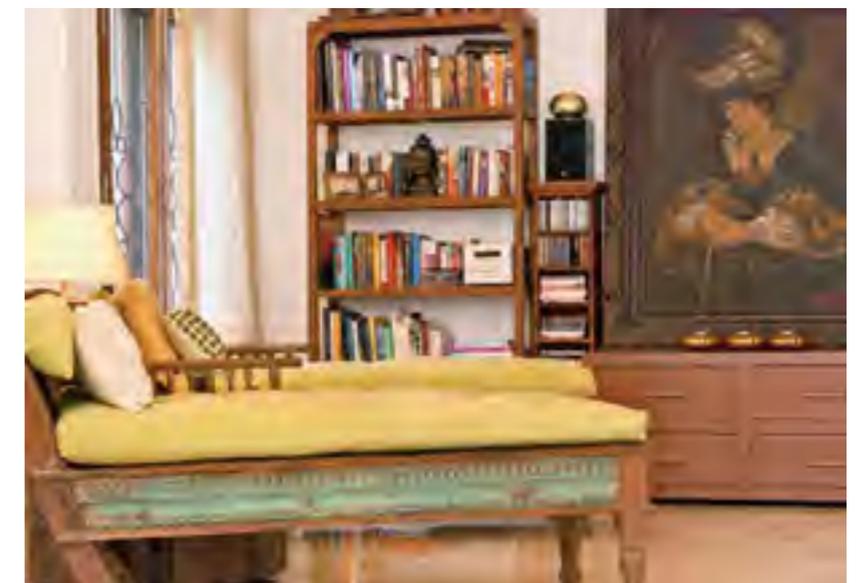


**A**n amazing collection of old and new furniture sourced from Delhi, clad in luxurious fabrics and topped with textured or kitsch cushion covers comprise the seating in the formal living area. The side and coffee tables are fashioned out of junk wood. European and Indian royalty adorn the walls in life sized paintings while cut flowers and a variety of candle stands sit pretty on the table tops.

Else-Liv tells me how her father would pack his wife and three kids into a car to see museums, castles, churches and more – driving from Norway to various countries in the EU, year after year, infusing his daughters’ life with a permanent zest for other cultures, their food, way of life, heritage and architecture. Which is why Else-Liv always feels at ease in any continent yet can never tarry too long. She carries her unique sense of style and design with her – a self-confessed shopaholic, she is on the constant lookout for beauty in the most mundane objects and then fits them into her home with complete bravado. The results are stunningly fresh and inspiringly different. Sarees as curtains, larger than life portraits of Indian

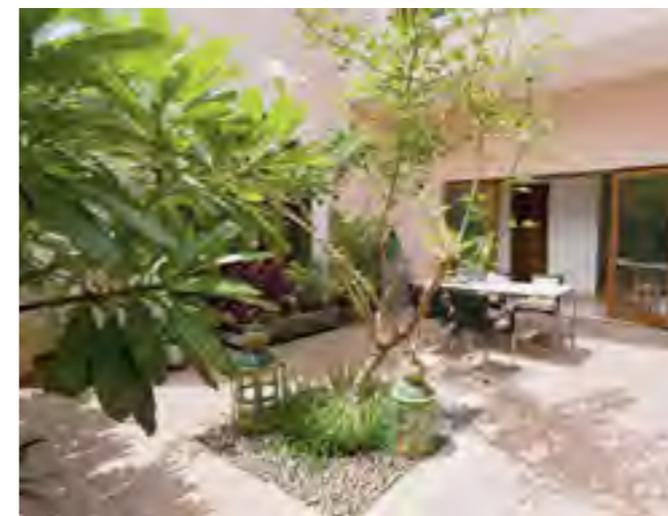


Else-Liv’s favourite acquisition is a pair of carved wood framed mirrors, spotted on some Jodhpur street in a completely ruined state, now restored lovingly by her patient hands.



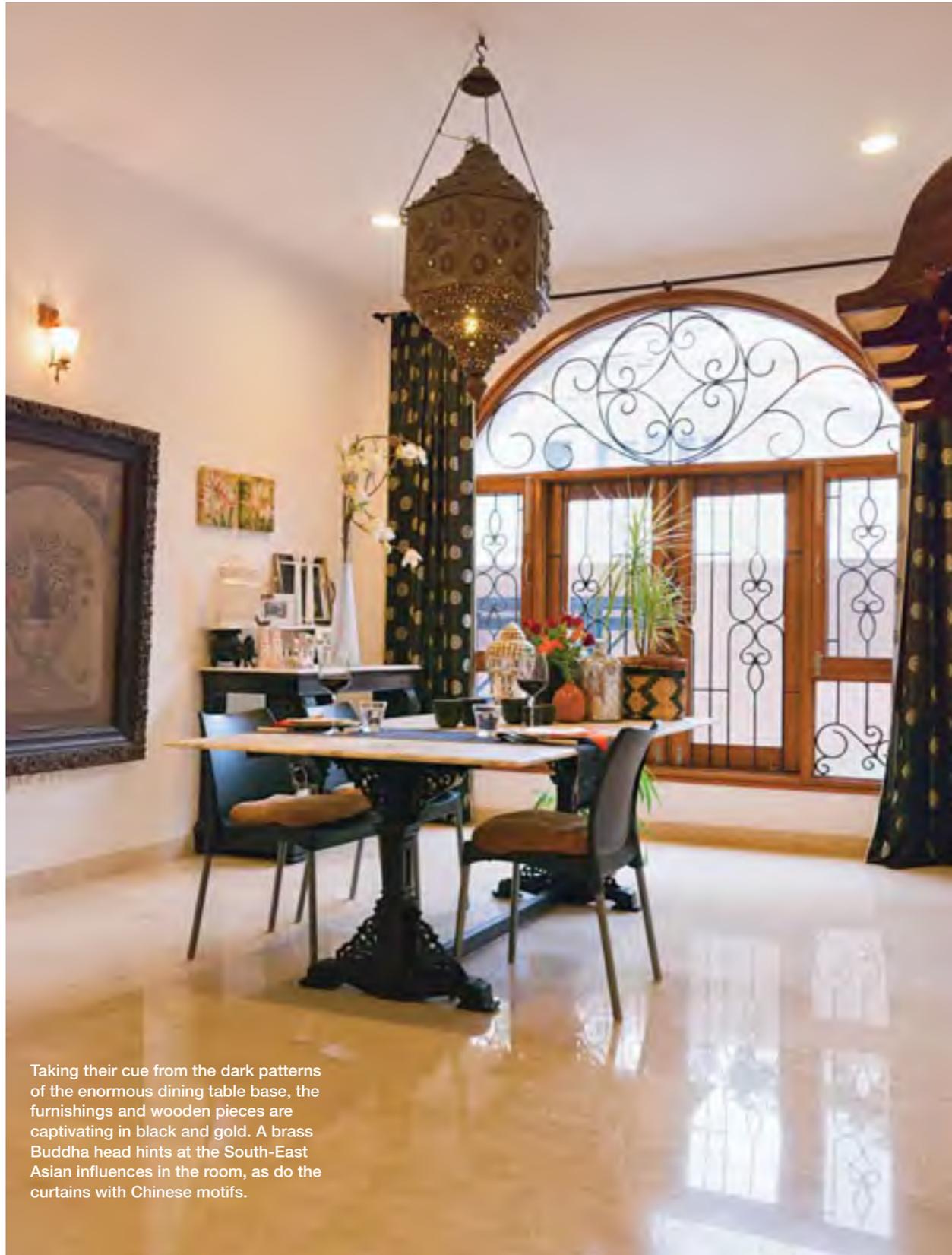


**A**ntiquated ferrous lamps scattered through the internal courtyard come alive at dusk, warming the cool marble tops of the outdoor tables, which rest on metal stands found in the slums of Lucknow. A relic from the past – a stack of travelling trunks turned into storage for garden tools or display stands, still sport their address labels from their last journey out.



royalty, furniture fashioned from junk, tiffin carriers and cane baskets, aluminium travel trunks and more...immersed in bold colours, caressed by rich Indian fabrics...these elements make her current address rather provocatively beautiful!

Every question she posed as the eldest child of three, brought forth an inspiring description from dad that referenced the history of the land and its memorable past. So, apart from a love for languages, she went on to pursue Art history, Art and Literature at college in Paris, which remains one of her favourite cities in the world. Else-Liv



Taking their cue from the dark patterns of the enormous dining table base, the furnishings and wooden pieces are captivating in black and gold. A brass Buddha head hints at the South-East Asian influences in the room, as do the curtains with Chinese motifs.

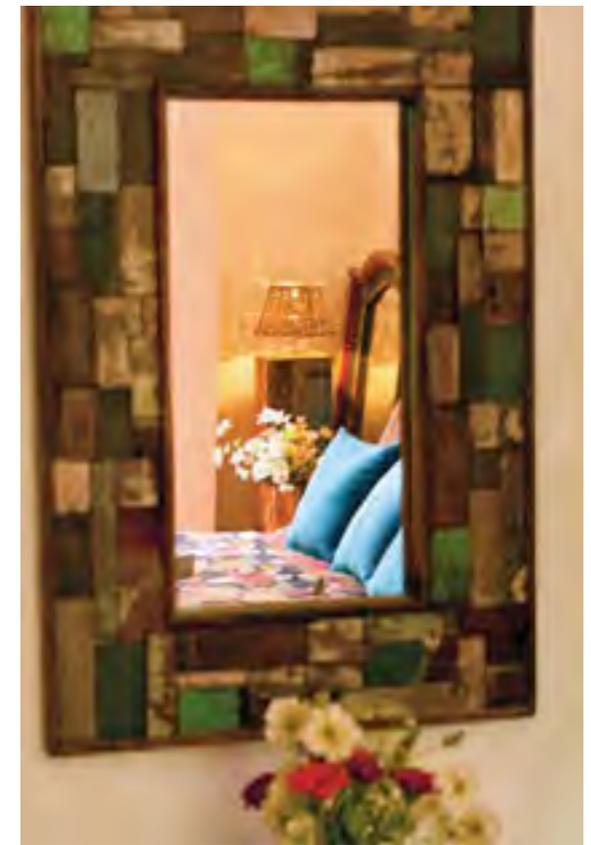
returned home and after getting married, moved to Singapore soon after. Given the sizable population of fellow Norwegians there, she started an import business to cater to their interior décor needs. A visit to Indonesia prompted her to start exporting furniture from there to Norway and got her busy for a bit again.

Else-Liv continued her tryst with kitsch-chic, designing interiors and furniture over the next decade and continued to travel incessantly, visiting several countries. Eventually her husband's move to Lucknow in 2010 on a



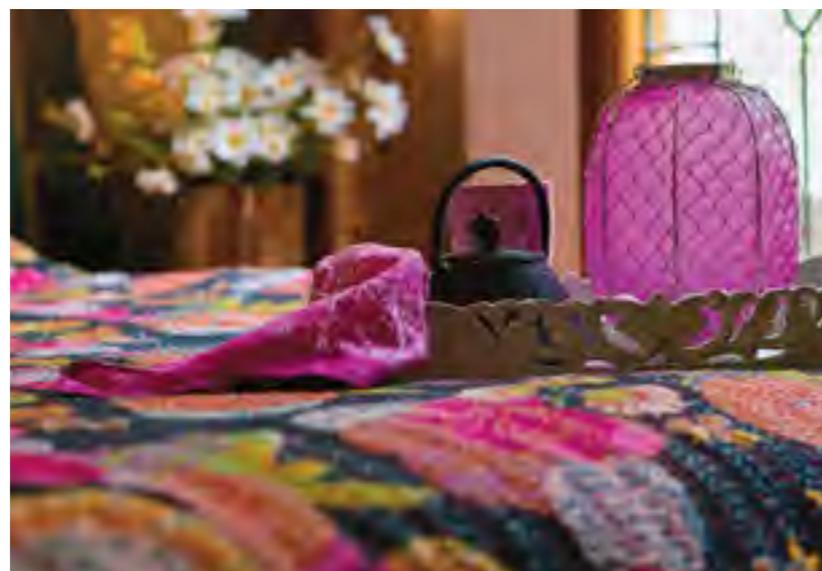
The kitchen, as vibrant and cheerful as the rest of the house loudly proclaims its owner's love for colour.





Else-Liv's driver suggested she buy these prints of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru at a local store and so she did. Right below are a bench, lamp stand, cabinet and mirror frame – all made of recycled wood, crafted by an exporter based in Jaipur. The original colours were left as is to convey how attractive pieces can look when new is created from old!

work assignment and then on to Bengaluru in 2011, has resulted in this loving but brief tango with India. Their nomadic life has worked, says Else-Liv, because the four people in this family are like one soul and remain connected, inspite of the distances, with her grown sons working in Norway and her husband being a huge pillar of support. Her popularity in Bengaluru, her warmth and hospitable persona is evident – friends keep walking in all day round, the kitchen smells heavenly with fresh baked goodies and the prettiest flowers adorn the dining tables amidst crystal ware and fine china.





**G**olden fabrics, brass framed wall décor and electric green accessories complement the warm honey tones of the wood floor and furniture in the master bedroom.



# INTERIOR



**A** black and white retreat for the Norwegian couple. When hit by a longing for a white winter their study rises beautifully to the occasion. Folders, shelves, lamps and upholstery are all unified by a single colour – white! Her christmas decorations and her memories of Paris are inseparable, captured in the pictures on the back wall!



In her own words – collecting friends, wine and countries! Else-Liv inspires us to live life to the fullest! 

