

DECOR

ASTRO-ARCHITECT NEETA SINHA EXPLAINS HOW YOUR HOUSE COULD BE DECIDING YOUR FORTUNES. PLUS, A FURNITURE STORE



A glimpse of Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla's London store that Neeta worked on

Home horoscope

Not just your karma, even your house has a say in charting your lifestory. And like you, your house has a horoscope. Baffled? That's astro-architecture for you.

For one of astro-architecture's proponents Neeta Sinha, research-led conviction is strengthening with every case she handles. "I studied astrology for many years, and I have also been studying spaces. I learnt vastu shastra and feng shui but I found that both these sciences have general remedies. For example, in a 12-storeyed building, every flat will have more or less the same vastu, because it is calculated on the plot. But the fortunes of the people in the various flats are different," explains Neeta.

The craft has apparently developed a fan following in Bollywood. "The name of the house is very important. I changed Amitabh Bachchan's house's name from Mansa to Jalsa. I asked Shah Rukh to pick a name with 'M' and he chose Mannat," she

says. "There's a lot of aggression in that industry, people are always trying to reach the elusive top slot. Maybe that's why they are always looking for some energy to help them," she feels.

"I studied 30,000 houses and realised that like people, houses have a horoscope and the aura of the person has to match with the aura of the house," she adds.

The horoscope of the house is divided into 12 sectors. But while the human horoscope is affected by the time of a person's birth and the planetary positions at the time, for a house, the most important considerations are the name of the owner and whether it is a residential or office space.

Neeta feels the 'astro-architect' tag is a misnomer. "I don't really know or practice a lot of architecture," she confesses. "I make no structural changes to the space. I only make simple suggestions like better colour coordination, adding a plant or some other positive element in a certain place." One has to know where to place each colour.

Twenty years of practice has given Neeta confidence in her skills. "I have a formula, yes, but one also tends to get more intuitive with time," she says.

For Neeta, the horoscope of a house serves the same purpose as the horoscope of an individual. She says that she can predict what will happen in the life of the inhabitants through it.

Neeta believes the present day pre-occupation with astrology, vastu and the higher powers is because the balance in nature has been disturbed. "Earlier there was a lot of greenery, so that absorbed all the negativity. Now, all the electronic gadgets emanate a lot of negative energy."

From success to inter-personal relationships, Neeta's home astrology has a remedy for it all. "Anupam and Kirron Kher had two adjacent flats in an apartment block — one in his name and one in her's. That was causing problems for them because the house was divided. I changed that."

Poulomi Banerjee

Buy buy



A low-height leather-back eight-seater that comes with stylish cushions at Square Feet.

Picture by Rashbehari Das

Dining on a hardwood table flown in from Italy, sipping coffee while lounging on a settee from Malaysia or sleeping pretty on a bed made in China... Square Feet, a one-stop furniture solution store in Baguihati offers customised imported furniture at "affordable rates". Occupying 10,000 sq ft across two floors, Square Feet specialises in both office and home furniture. First launched in November 2006, the store was renovated for a pre-Christmas re-launch.

The store is thematically divided between modern utility furniture and carved antique replicas. The residential furniture on display includes dining tables, bedroom sets, centre tables, multi-purpose kitchen units, cabinets, bar counters, settees and sofas. "Except for the sofas and settees that I have designed, everything else is imported," said Sweta Khandelwal, retail furniture head.

The first floor has bedroom and dining room furnishings; as well as home decor curios in crystal and environment-friendly lamps in cane and bamboo. Bedroom sets for kids come in candy colours. Priced between Rs 55,000 and Rs 1,50,000, the bedroom sets are crafted from hard density fibre-wood or hardwood. "All the master bedroom sets come with dressing tables and a matching TV unit can be added for an extra Rs 6,000," adds Sweta. Floor-plan solutions are also provided to customers for free.

Funky cane garden chairs and retro-chic dining chairs in leather are stand-out selections.

Low-seating sofas, sofa-cum beds, settees and recliners priced between Rs 12,000 and Rs 85,000 share the ground floor with corporate furniture.

The corporate furniture is more orthodox with executive tables, file cabinets and synthetic push-back chairs all designed in solid blacks, grey and beige.

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