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## ON THE COVER

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP)

TIMOTHY OULTON, ROCHE BOBOIS, NINA  
 RICCI MAISON FROM SURPRISE HOME  
 LINEN AND HERMES

COVER BY NILANJAN DAS



Photograph courtesy OLEG KLODT ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

## INTERNATIONAL DESIGN SPECIAL

### 16 FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Global brands available in India, a Russian farmhouse, a French light designer and British furniture maker, a look at tips, tricks and trends to watch out for





# IN PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

Hidden in the pine forests, ahead of Moscow, lies a home in the hills, a showcase of contemporary Russian design by Oleg Klodt Architecture & Design

By **RIDHI KALE**





The living area with a billiards table in the second house

Other than the fact that Russia is the largest country in the world, it is most known for its vodka, traditional borscht and Matryoshka dolls. However, what many don't know (or realise) is that it is also home to spectacular architecture and interior design, both traditional and contemporary. A great example of modern meets traditional style can be found 40 km away from the centre of Moscow, towards Kiev, in a beautiful hilly region between pine forests, with wonderfully clean air and small ponds. Hidden here is a gem, a 500 sq m villa. "Our clients chose the spot with care, it's a place where you can get yourself back together after the noise and bustle of Moscow," says Oleg Klodt CEO and founder of Oleg Klodt Architecture & Design (olegklodt.com). For those not in the know, the Russian architectural and design firm was founded in 2000. Klodt forms one half of the creative team, the other is creative director, Anna Agapova. Together they aim to bridge the gap between classical and contemporary. Something, one can clearly see in this property.





An outdoor sit out, overlooking the main house

#### DECODING IT ROOM BY ROOM

"The centrepiece of the main house is the staircase, whose unusual shape is emphasised with ornamental banisters. The staircase is part of an open-space area that also comprises the lounge, dining area and kitchen," says Klodt, adding, "The unifying element for this huge open-space zone is the floor, laid out in warm-hued light-toned marble throughout. The stair hall emerged as fairly small, so to keep the feeling of space, we added a mirrored wall, in which the beautiful chandelier over the staircase is reflected." The floor plan is fairly simple, but well planned, elegant and works for the homeowners. The ground floor has been conceived as a communal area. So it has a grand entrance that leads to the upper floor via an open-railing staircase. "The lounge

and dining area run straight on, into the kitchen with some stained glass. On the ground floor there's also a guest room, which has its own WC and bathroom. The upper floor offers complete privacy, and is divided into two sections. The master bedroom offers panoramic window views to the garden, a separate male dressing room, a bathroom, and a female dressing robe," says Agapova. On the upper floor, opposite the main bedroom there's a study and children's zone, which has its own WC and glassed-in terrace. There's even a laid-out play area, here. Across the children's room is the grandmother's bedroom, with its own en-suite bathroom.

#### ONE SPLITS INTO TWO

Unlike other homes, this one has two structures in the same





The formal living area (left), Oleg Klodt and Anna Agapova (below)



property. One is the main house with living, dining and bedroom, the second is a recreational space with a spa and the sauna. "The conceptual approach was that the clients wanted to achieve a chalet-like feeling in this building, a cosy wooden structure, with contrasting colours, natural wood and a stove. It is a contrast to the main building, with its impressive and distinguished interiors. To preserve the only baths, details were included that were more complex, and more suited to the second building. One example is the large chandelier in the lounge, which is nearby the highly contemporary light fitting in the billiard-room. We gave a lot of thought to the setting out the architecture of the space. When designing the swimming pool, we took a great deal of care over the geometry, wooden beams support the roof,

while the vertical lighting of the walls forms a mosaic in the pool itself, that sets the rhythm," explains Klodt.

#### A COMPLEX PROJECT

The duo feel there were no real problems faced in the design phase. "The project was rather complex when talking about the large number of different details. Each centimetre of the space was carefully planned, and put to use with a large variety of different items that we were all individually designed at the initial conceptual stage of the project. It's like a Lego set, in which you can't afford to make a mistake, otherwise the pieces won't fit properly together," says Klodt. One look at the home and you know that everything fits beautifully and the end result is the right mix of the old and new.