

# Handmade DECOR

**Room Therapy** in Hyderabad is more than just a home décor store. It's a destination in itself, says **SUVASINI SRIDHARAN**

I say hello to the biggest blue door I have ever seen as I push the handle decorated with dragonflies and enter Room Therapy. Light, space, height and colour all seem to converge harmoniously.

This home décor store in Hyderabad is a melange of mirrors, paintings, vases, cushions, photo frames, clocks, trunks and furniture. Then there's the unique wall with drawers nailed both vertically and horizontally on it. They form shelves for the various products the store offers.

Underneath this voluminous chaos though, there is unmistakable order, and each piece retains its identity.

Credit must go to the owner of the store, Sona Reddy, who has arranged the displays.

An interior designer, Sona not only handpicked each item, she also designed the store. "What you see here is my architectural style," she says. A rustic chandelier, designed by Sona, catches my attention. Its black frame holds together light bulbs of different sizes in customised wooden holders. The free-flowing space we find ourselves in after entering the store leads into rooms of different heights. "I wanted to relate the space to different rooms in a house," says Sona.

One room is filled with dining tables; another has a colourful bed.



**THE DAZZLE OF COLOURS** at the store

The interior walls have areas of exposed brick, and each section of the store has different flooring — tiles, wood, cement — separated from one another by black and grey pillars. "As there is so much colour in the products, I wanted to keep the store simple," says Sona.

Room Therapy, spread over two floors, has products curated from across the country and the world, which Sona has picked up from Indonesia, China, and Europe. There are bookends from Indonesia sharing space with painted, wooden artwork from northern China.

Sona doesn't believe in trends when it comes to home décor, but admits to a certain fascination with birds and the colour turquoise at the moment. That explains why the store is peppered with bird paintings, bird cages and turquoise-coloured curios and vases.

Another striking aspect is the eclectic furniture. From cupboards, side tables, and consoles to chairs, they are designed by Sona and made by local craftsmen. Striking pieces include a cane-and-wood chair upholstered in plush pink-orange fabric; a carved, mock-antique

cupboard; and a simple metal-and-wood stool. My personal favourites are the tables with bone inlay. Sona talks of how the craftspeople cut the pieces of bone and glue them without any measurements. The work is intricate and made more beautiful by the minor flaws that come with handmade products. On one table, for example, the bone inlay is stained purple, giving it the unintendedly refreshing effect of a water colour.

Room Therapy is more than just a retail store, with part of its top floor turned into a space for exhibitions. In design and décor, it also serves as samples of the interior design solutions that Sona offers. "Here," says Sona, "you can pick up furniture in different styles; nobody will know it's all from the same store." Besides, no more than two pieces of the same design are made, so you get the added advantage of exclusivity.

Prices start from Rs. 400 for smaller decorative items to a few thousand rupees for customised furniture. Find it at 885, Road No. 45, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. Or log on to [www.roomtherapyhome.com](http://www.roomtherapyhome.com).



**OLD CURIOSITY SHOP** with stuff curated globally