

The row of authentic Balinese wooden columns gives the villa its distinctive character and beautifully frame the view of the pool and valley beyond. The terracotta planters in the foreground were sourced from Pondicherry – Sucheta personally observed their final coat being applied using cling wrap for the glossy effect

A PLACE IN THE SUN

Nestled in a tropical valley, Sucheta Potnis and Hans Tuinman's homestay Summertime is a little piece of Bali in Goa

TEXT BY **URMEE MEHTA MANKAR** PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY **FABIEN CHARUAU** and **SUMMERTIME VILLA GOA/**
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In the main living room with wicker furniture:
The wall was designed as a double partition for
structural strength and the niches were added on
site to give it visual interest and character



Clockwise, from Above The sea green antique
door lends a playful splash of colour to the
garden; The view from the living room is framed
through the panelled glass walls and wooden
columns beyond. The wooden panels lend
a sense of openness and light, while also relating
to the other raw elements; The choice of black
stone flooring in the same area was intentional to
create a contrast against the wood and light. As
a family of readers, the owners have books all
over along with many cozy nooks to curl into



They chose the name “Summertime” for the mood they
wanted the home to evoke – with...an open view of the sky...



There is a harmony within each room across the furniture design but they are still distinctly different. Small details in the room enhance the feeling of luxury like a bedside table that is double the normal size, but the expanse of the room ensures a sense of openness and calm. The lamps are designed in collaboration with PandyMania, a brand that works with underprivileged women in Pondicherry

Sitting on the verandah at Summertime with a vast unbroken vista of the green valley, you can't imagine that you're just a short drive away from the crowded Calangute beach. Inspired by the lines of classic Balinese homes, the homestay is designed and built by owners Sucheta Potnis and Hans Tuinman. They chose the name "Summertime" for the mood they wanted the home to evoke – with light, greenery and an open view of the sky, all of which encapsulates the happiness of a slow, lazy summer day.

LABOUR OF LOVE

While not trained architects, Hans and Sucheta designed and built the villa themselves, almost in the tradition of master builders of the past, visiting the site daily and personally overseeing the construction. Their own home next door, Aranya, was also envisioned by them, and many of their experiments there were the genesis for Summertime. For Hans, "the process of building our homes ourselves was very rewarding and gave us such a burst of energy for those few years."

The villa sits on a large plot of land but was designed as a single compact structure to retain the site's verdant cover. A koi pond, inspired by a trip to the Water Garden resort in Bali, is a wonderful focal point in the garden with darting koi fish and the constant, soothing sound of water.

FLORA & FAUNA

The property attracts many species of birds, especially in summer when the koi pond is one of the few readily available water sources in the area. For Sucheta, an avid bird watcher herself, this became a playful theme to carry through the interiors of the house. It is repeated across whimsical paintings and accessories to create a story that runs through every room. Each of these was carefully selected and as Sucheta says, "There is a happy feeling when you know where each piece has come from and its entire history of production."

EASY LIKE SUNDAY

Each suite was consciously planned with identical layouts to ensure no guest has to compromise on their living space. They are, however, made distinctly different through the choice of furniture and colour palettes. The spaces and furniture are designed with a nod to indulgence, along with anticipating and addressing the needs of their patrons.

After finishing the house, Hans and Sucheta lived in it for six months, "to give it a soul" and it does translate in the villa's laid-back vibe. Being at Summertime is quite like spending time at a friend's place – that friend whose great taste you've always admired. ♦

The placement of the house on the site was planned to perfectly frame the view of the valley. Hans and Sucheta often find their guests sitting by the pool with a book or pair of binoculars. The loungers are made from 100 year old recycled Burma teak and designed to be wider than normal for added comfort