

EDITED BY MEGHA MAHINDRU

# LIVING

CASA

## Toast of New York

Entrepreneur **Maneesh Goyal's** art-filled Manhattan loft is a space to host intimate parties and a sanctuary for him and his partner, finds **Rishna Shah**

Photographed by **BRITAINY NEWMAN**



BOOKINGS EDITOR: JAY MOOI

Union Square is one of those typical historic intersections in Manhattan. There is always a protest going on, or a farmers' market. There are dog walkers hurrying past as construction workers settle for a leisurely lunch break. "This area is alive with the youthfulness of New York University, but also a neighbourhood feel," explains entrepreneur Maneesh Goyal, admiring his view. "We see the same people buying flowers every week." In the distance, the Empire State Building pokes out of the skyline.

It was almost 15 years ago when Goyal came across this rare loft and knew he'd struck real estate gold: 2,500 square feet of raw, empty commercial space ready to be converted into residential. "I wanted a home for entertaining and a space for people to gather," says the 45-year-old. Back then, he was single and running an event marketing agency, so the property ticked all the right boxes. Two years later, in 2008, he met his now-husband, Andrew Wingrove. Together they hosted family-friendly 'salad toss-offs' that made it to the *Wall Street Journal*. Their dinner table would have a spot saved for Anne Hathaway, and their home had a *mi casa es su casa* camaraderie with friends like Priyanka Chopra Jonas.

## ART OF LIVING

Goyal enlisted the services of his friend, designer Aamir Khandwala, for the interiors. "I had to design a space that would function for one person, eventually two people and at any point, 200 people," explains Khandwala, in reference to Goyal's love for throwing parties and vision to settle down. "I also had to think about how to make a loft feel cosy," he recalls, "especially with this abundance of space, which is such a luxury in this city." So he created a floor plan of three bedrooms and bathrooms. An open-plan kitchen and dining area ran side by side, leading to the heart of the home—the living space. "Even though there are no partitions, I wanted to create different pockets for people to congregate," says Goyal.

While the majority of the main room is in muted tones and neutral greys, colour and character shine through the couple's growing contemporary art collection and Goyal's Indian aesthetic touches. "When I told my mother I was gay, with love and sadness she told me she had been saving her best saris for my wife." But he had a better idea for the heirlooms, upcycling them into two statement chairs for the living room. The gold threadwork of the upholstery caught the eye of Michelle Obama, who was over for lunch in 2014. When Goyal explained the sari story

to the former first lady, she insisted that he take a picture of her sitting on it and send it to his mother in Texas. Today, the framed photograph sits proudly on a Knoll marble side table.

An enormous Sadie Benning mixed-media canvas hangs above the dining table. "It really is the hero of the room. Its boldness spoke to us." For their wedding in 2018, the couple gifted themselves a piece by Los Angeles artist Walead Beshty. They also commissioned visual artist Shantell Martin to make them a wall mural illustrating personal anecdotes and a plane to represent their love for travel, and "because I used to work at Delta," adds Wingrove, who is now managing the aviation business for CLEAR, a digital identity company. At a Christie's auction, they acquired a mirrored stool in the shape of the letter 'M' (or 'W' when flipped over) for Goyal's first and Wingrove's last name, and from Holly Hunt they got a quirky chair made of coiled rope.

"The powder room is always in party mode," adds Goyal, pointing to the speaker system fitted in the guest bathroom, where the wooden walls were inspired by a New York nightclub called Lotus. Parties at home usually begin at their bar, a converted vintage lacquer cabinet from the 1980s, where guest introductions are made over champagne. "Our entertaining is often based on where we travelled. We came back from Chile and literally served water from the Andes to our guests," says Wingrove.

Guests usually spend hours around their dining table, on Kartell's Mademoiselle chairs, under a >

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*Clockwise from above:* Goyal in the media room, where a work by Waswo X. Waswo is framed on a pineapple print custom wallpaper by Dennis Shah at Chambord Prints & Studio Printworks; the guest room with a rani pink paisley wallpaper is decked with framed antiquities from Asia Week New York; the master bedroom with a copper light fixture by Craig Montoro bought from First Third



bulbous light fixture by Tom Dixon. Today, the table is set with beaten metal plates stacked on mirror mats sourced from a souk in Marrakech, their last travel destination before the lockdown. But when it comes to hosting, their biggest crowd-pleasers are their India-inspired nights. “I have a lot of tableware from Nicobar and I make it fun by using ghungroos as napkin rings. I typically invite a chef to cook and plate dishes, but if my mum is in town the food will be home-made.”

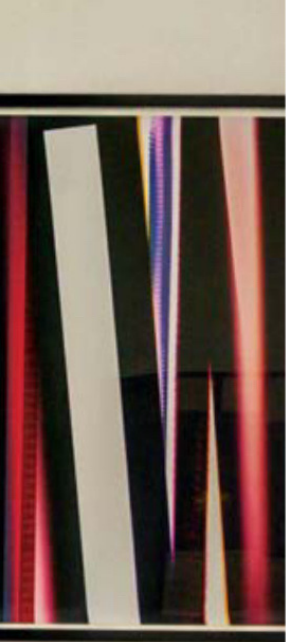
The guest list is crucial too. “We always have a mix of racial identities, genders and sexualities,” he says referring to their star-studded line-up that has included the former artistic director and chief curator of the Guggenheim, Nancy Spector, Tanzanian model Flaviana Matata, *Vanity Fair*’s editor-in-chief Radhika Jones, and fashion designers Prabal Gurung and Bibhu Mohapatra. “Barack Obama hasn’t come over yet, but he’s always welcome,” he says. “John [Legend] came without his wife last time, but we’d love to have Chrissy.”

Goyal plans to take this love for hospitality one step further: his next project is Sona, an Indian restaurant in New York’s Flatiron district that opens in March. It’s a homecoming of sorts. When his father emigrated from Punjab to Dallas in the 1970s, he had opened the first Indian restaurant in Texas. “I grew up in it [India House], so I’ve come full circle.”

## CLOSER TO HOME

In his house, the Indian influences are toned up a notch in the guest room. The walls tell their own story, with a rani pink paisley wallpaper, an assortment of framed antiquities from Asia Week New York and quirky Lego-style posters bought from Mumbai’s Filter shop. The media room is moodier, almost cocoon-like, with its deep purple walls and dark ceiling. A painted photograph by Udaipur-based American artist Waswo X. Waswo is framed on a custom pineapple print wallpaper. “A pineapple is a symbol for welcoming guests and graciousness,” explains Goyal. It’s no coincidence that his

The couple seated on a couch from ABC Carpet & Home, under the Walead Beshty artwork they bought after their wedding in 2018. *Opposite page:* The passage flanked by a wall mural created by visual artist Shantell Martin; Lego posters from Filter shop in Mumbai; the study nook by the kitchen features a coiled rope chair by Christian Astuguevieille from Holly Hunt



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venture firm is named Pineapple Co and that the chandelier in the same room (Blossom Blacklight by Jeremy Cole) resembles the tropical fruit too. "When Andrew moved in, this became our nook. We spend most of our time here if we aren't entertaining." Here, bundled up in hand-knit afghans, they play board games or binge-watch *Killing Eve* together.

At the other end of the flat you see the master bedroom through a glass wall. Above the bed, a copper light by Craig Montoro can be admired from most vantage points in the apartment. The bathroom has two shower heads and they haven't fought about the closet space yet. "Luckily, we have the same shoe size," confesses Wingrove.

"I grew up in this apartment," adds Goyal. From intimate hosting to investing in hospitality, he opened doors, and doors opened for him. "It was a coming of age for me. I found my footing and I found love." And with this love, he made this house into a home. ■

JACOB SNAVELY