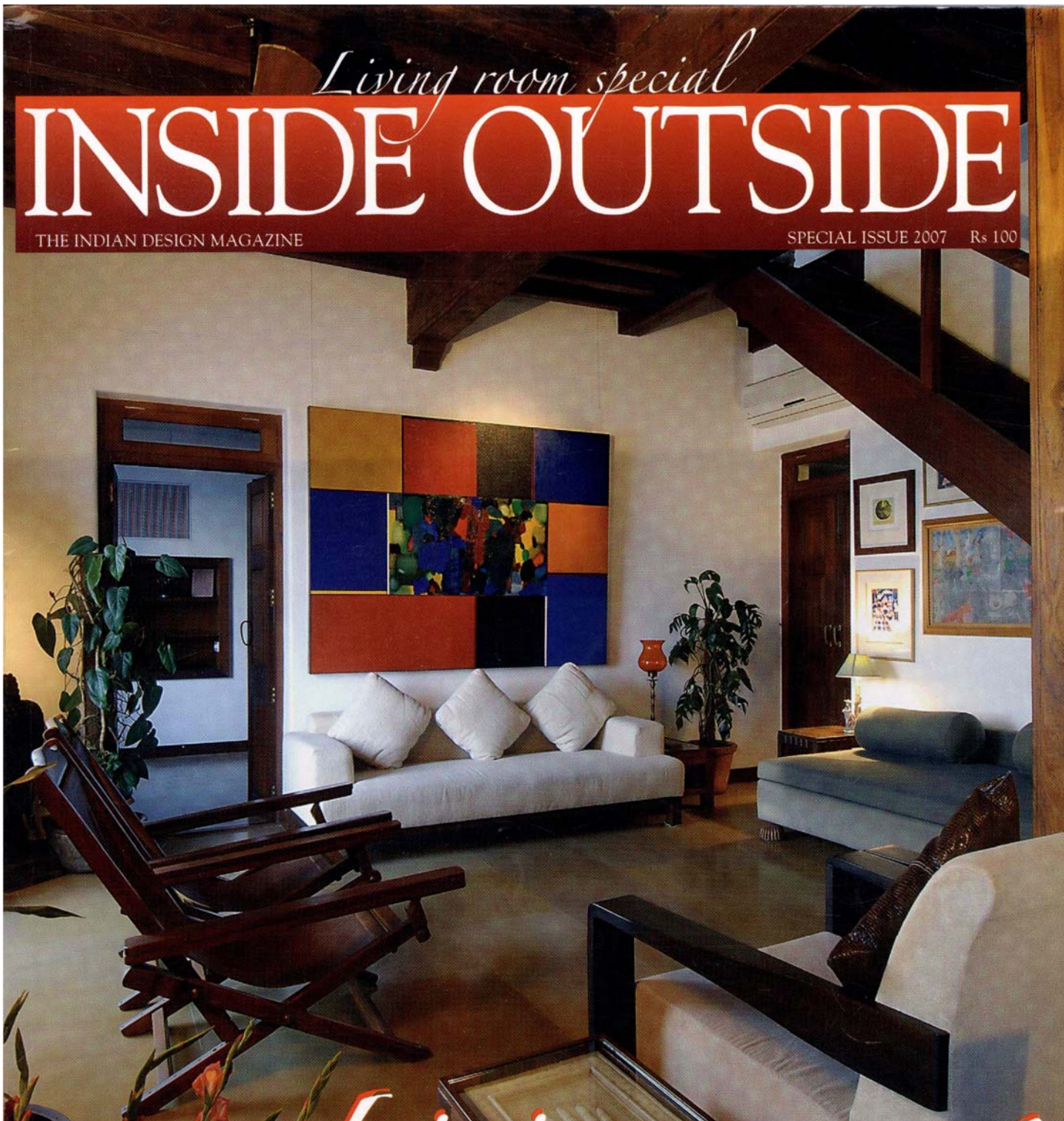


Living room special

INSIDE OUTSIDE

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No TV! No formal dining area! This was the brief Planet 3 Studios received from the Vishwas Deshpande family, when they were designing their living room. What then would be the focal point of the room, Planet 3 asked themselves as they set about rethinking the usual stereotypes of planning and layout. In cooler climes the point of interest could have been a fireplace, but in warm humid Mumbai...? And what did people do before TVs invaded their living rooms?

The design team came up with an ingenious solution: they proposed the tropical equivalent of a fireplace – a custom-designed water cascade! The sight and sound of water flowing over multiple levels is the highlight of the room and creates a unique ambience, while minimum furniture, including a breakfast table cantilevered from white concrete, emphasizes the presence of the water cascade.

The ceiling too posed problems as it had an awkward grid of beams. Planet 3 decided to highlight it as a design element rather than camouflage it, by creating a half vaulted ceiling with reflected lights. A single oil painting on one wall adds a splash of colour and vibrancy to the otherwise stark room. **11**

photographs:

VISHWAJIT SORAP, COURTESY THE ARCHITECTS



creating a FOCAL POINT

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