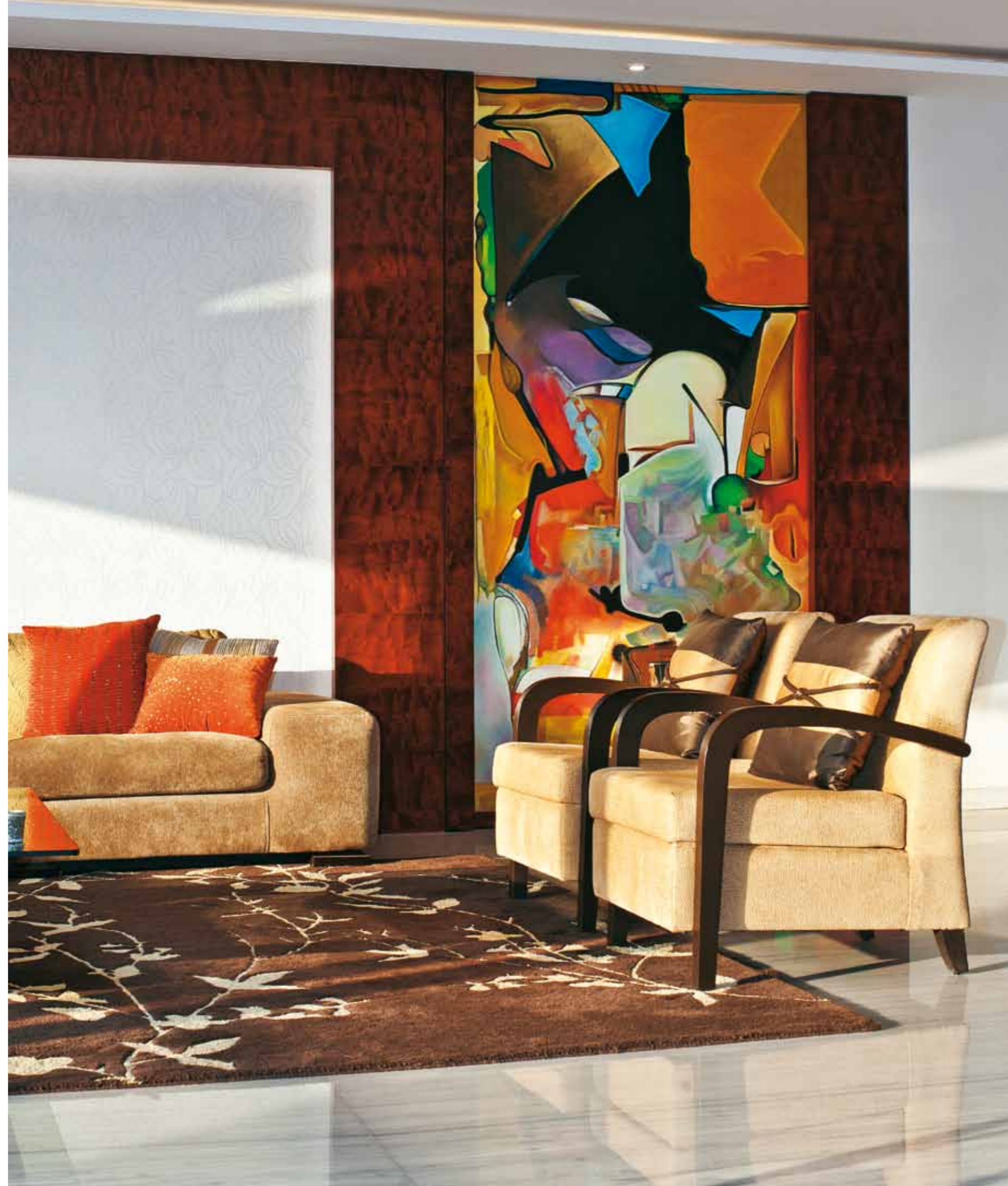Above: A screen partition made of wood and honey-onyx blocks divides the waiting area and the prayer room. The passage leads to the son's bedroom.

Two in one

By combining two apartments, a villa has been created on the 20th floor of a Mumbai high-rise

On the quest for big and spacious residenc- es, city dwellers often tend to merge adjacent apartments to create one sprawling home. The homeowners of this 4800 sq ft property in the central suburbs of Mumbai wanted a spacious home and decided to do the same.

The primary objective of designer-duo Ritu and Rajan Goregaoker of GA Design was to give the clients the ambience of a private villa within a city high-rise.

The lobby to the apartment looks onto a wall cladding with a mosaic of copper and Indian stones. The residence houses four bedrooms, an

Left and above: **Architects Ritu and Rajan Goregaoker blend two adjacent apartments harmoniously to design this 4900 sq ft Mumbai residence. The spacious feel is retained in this 30 ft x 30 ft living room with minimal furniture. A full-length painting on one of the living room walls conceals the entry to the entertainment area.**

These pages: A 30 ft long balcony is separated from the living room through sliding glass doors that adds volume to the living room. Wooden grooved panels on the ceiling and dark flooring distinguish the balcony from the living.

entertainment room, a dining and a living area, kitchen, servant's quarter and a prayer room.

A small waiting area has been created at the entrance of the home. In order to maintain privacy of the living room, it has been partitioned off from the waiting area by a screen made of marble, glass and veneer. Niches have been designed on the living room side of this screen to accommodate accessories and the television unit. The waiting area leads directly to the bedrooms and the kitchen as well.

The two living rooms from the original plan were merged to create a singular and expansive living area, spread across 30 ft x 30 ft. In order to retain the height of the apartment at 10 ft yet install a cooling system in this voluminous space, the architect has used two vertical air conditioning units in the system.

One side of the living room extends into the dining area. The master suite located besides the dining accommodates a seating area, the master bedroom, the master bath and a walk-in wardrobe. The architects have used Australian marble for the flooring of the wardrobe. In the master bathroom, metallic tiles have been used behind the mirror as well as on the wall above

the bathtub to lend a sense of opulence. Black granite covered with bent glass has been used for the counter top.

"The project cost of this bathroom itself was about Rs 15 lakh," says Rajan.

The flooring of all the bedrooms has been done in Italian marble. The son's bedroom situated beside the entertainment area is a stark contrast from the rest of the apartment's design. Contemporary in tone, it is primarily done in white with shades of red and grey. Built more like a studio apartment, this area includes a study,

an informal seating area, a bathroom and a bedroom.

"The son is 22-years-old. Hence, we wanted the room to be vibrant and edgy," says Ritu.

The entrance to the entertainment area from the living room is camouflaged with a full-sized painting. This room is designed with acoustically treated wooden veneer panels and textured brown fabrics. Panels cladded with different forms of leather have been used in the ceiling. Indirect lighting systems are installed in each of the panels give a theatrical ambience to the room.

Legend to plan: **1 living room, 2 prayer room, 3 balcony, 4 entertainment room, 5 dining area, 6 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, 8 servant room, 9 kitchen**

Architect/Designer: Ritu & Rajan Goregaoker; GA Design
Tiling: Belleza Decor
Flooring: Quality Marbles Exports, Belleza Decor
Wallcoverings: Shreeji Innova, Belleza Decor
Lighting: Belleza Decor
Heating: Venus Home Appliances
Furniture: Essenza
Window: Alutech Industries; India
Benchtops: Quality Marble Exports
Splashback: Belleza Decor
Oven: Siemens
Stove/Hob: Siemens
Microwave: Siemens
Refrigerator: Siemens

Dishwasher: Siemens
Waste unit: Blum
Bath: Oyster Bath Concepts
Basin: Water World
Taps: Grohe
Shower: Grohe
Fittings: Grohe
Shower Stall: Benito Bath Luxuries
Toilet: Vileroy & Boch
Bed linen: Custom-made, Atmosphere
Cabinets: Jalaj Chauhan
Mirror: Saint - Gobain
Bedroom furniture and accessories: Oma, Satguru, Ecoscapes, Good Earth, Address Home

These pages: **The contemporary curve of the son's bedroom is replicated in the suite's bathroom as well.**
Indirect lighting creates a theatrical feel in the entertainment area.

Story by Dheera Majumder-Mitra Photography by Indrajit Sathe & Sameer Chawda

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