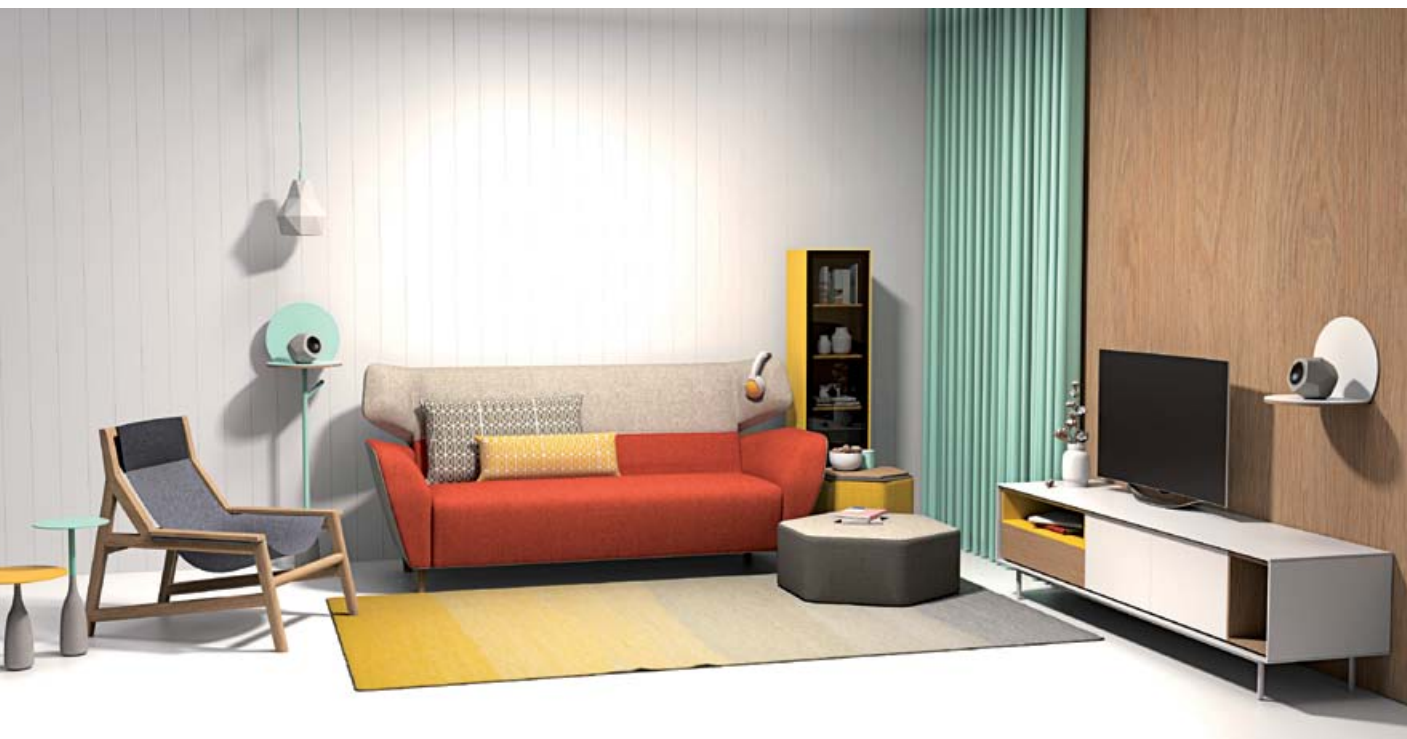




REALTY CHECK

New Frontiers

In order to meet the demands of adaptable living systems, designers and innovators need to revolutionise the interpretation of spaces

An average urban consumer's purpose or role is hardly ever isolated towards one activity – she runs a successful textile firm and is also a mum who home schools her kids; he is a diligent marketing manager, but grows a herb garden too. With limited land being taken over by a booming populace, the buzzwords now are “compact” and “multitasking”. So how can designers integrate both effectively in their works? Every product and space needs to have multiple uses. Today's living and design movement calls for versatile environments. But, how do you make sleek forms for such environs without undermining functionality? In an era of interchangeable areas, the norm must be activity based ecosystems. Space saving becomes crucial – tables with built-in storage and cabinets that fit in beds are the need of the hour. In cities where space is a constraint, homes of multiskilled people call for rooms with dual uses – a living cum dining alcove or a library that is also an office. Foldable, portable and flat pack pieces are already mainstream. And as streamlined forms gain greater acceptance, we can hope to see further headway in adaptable furniture as well in the future. ♦ **Tasneem Merchant**



From Top Fluid spaces can address the issue of lesser sq ft in urban cities. For instance, a living room that doubles up as an entertainment area; Furniture pieces that blend effortlessly into any space are the need of the hour; Bulky and heavy pieces will have to make way for smaller, portable and ergonomic alternatives in the near future