

Good Homes

INDIA

GOOD DESIGN CHANGES EVERYTHING

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1 Are there any specific plants that enhance financial stability according to Vastu? If so, can you name a few?

– Anisha Madan
In Vastu, plant placement as per direction and nakshatra is essential for attracting prosperity. Medicinal and aromatic plants are beneficial, while thorny or milk-oozing plants should be avoided. The money plant can be placed in the North for career growth, tulsi in the Northeast for wisdom and fortune, aloe vera in the East to bring opportunities and hibiscus in the Southeast for strengthening financial stability. Stay tuned for more on Vastu and plants in my upcoming articles.

2 Does keeping a mirror in the North really amplify wealth? What are the guidelines?

– Danish Sampat
Placing a mirror in the North can help attract financial abundance by symbolically doubling opportunities. However, it is essential to follow certain guidelines to maximise its benefits. The mirror should always be clean and crack-free to maintain positive energy. Rather than clutter, to enhance

prosperity, it should reflect open spaces or wealth symbols such as a safe or cash locker. Avoid placing mirrors directly opposite the entrance, as this may deflect positive energy instead of inviting it in.

3 I have a toilet situated in the North. Is this a problem? How can I fix this?


– Rudran Prabhakar
A toilet in the North can negatively impact financial stability, as this direction governs career and wealth flow. To minimise its effects, keep the toilet clean and the seat closed at all times. Place a small bowl of sea salt to absorb negative energy and use aromatherapy to neutralise Vastu defects. Ensure the toilet door remains closed and consider installing an Emerald Pyramid in the North (outside the toilet) to balance its effects. These simple remedies can help counteract the financial instability caused by a toilet in this direction.

4 Where should I store important financial documents to ensure prosperity?

– Ananya Malhotra
The Southwest direction is the ideal place to store financial

documents, as it represents stability and security. It is recommended to use a metal or wooden safe in this zone and ensure that it opens towards the North or East to attract wealth. Financial documents should not be placed in the Northwest, as this direction can cause financial instability, losses or unnecessary expenses.

5 Is there a specific Vastu remedy that can help recover stuck payments or delayed finances?

– Smitha Bafna
Placing a Shree Yantra or Kubera Yantra in the North can help attract wealth. Lighting a green or yellow candle in the North on Wednesdays is also beneficial for financial growth. Keeping a gold coin or emerald stone in your cashbox or workplace enhances prosperity. Additionally, avoiding leaky taps, cracked walls, or broken locks is important, as they symbolise financial drainage. Writing the name of the debtor on a red paper and placing it under a Ganesha idol can help attract timely payments. 

We loved hearing your thoughts on the last column! Your enthusiasm has been amazing. Here are Maanushri's answers to all your questions. Naturally, keep writing in with your questions.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
MAANUSHRI AGARWAL
VASTU ARCHITECT

Maanushri Agarwal is a seasoned Vastu consultant with a diploma from the International School of Astrology & Divine Sciences in Rajasthan. She combines her expertise in Vastu Shastra with an academic foundation in economics and business, holding an MBA from Infinity Business School and a BA (Hons) in Economics from Hindu College, Delhi University. Maanushri brings a unique perspective to her practice, blending traditional knowledge with practical insights to help create harmonious and balanced spaces.

FIRST ART PURCHASE?

Here's what galleries want you to know

Sanya Malik, Founder and Director, Black Cube Gallery, on how to navigate your way through an art gallery, especially as a first-timer



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I often meet first-time collectors who step into the gallery or our art fair booths full of curiosity — and hesitation. Buying art can feel like a world filled with unspoken rules and insider language, but here’s the truth: you don’t need an art history degree to fall in love with (and take home) a meaningful piece of art. All you need is a little guidance and the confidence to ask the right questions. As gallerists, it’s our responsibility to answer every

question with transparency and enthusiasm. You’re not expected to know everything. Come with an open mind, and don’t be afraid to start a conversation — a good gallery will welcome that. I personally enjoy this part the most; helping someone purchase their first piece of art brings me endless joy. Great art isn’t just about technique; it’s about emotion, context and the story being told. Understanding the person behind

the work deepens your connection to it and helps you decide whether the piece truly resonates with you. At the end of the day, art can be a valuable investment, but it’s also something you’ll live with. It’s important that it brings you joy and feels meaningful in your space. Whether you gravitate toward contemporary or modern work, and no matter your budget, there is something out there for you. And it helps immensely to be familiar with a few key concepts...

MY FIRST PIECE OF ADVICE IS ALWAYS THIS:
Ask about the artist — their story, process and influences.


Don’t be shy to share what moves you or ask for recommendations.

1 ASK ABOUT THE MEDIUM
Is it oil, acrylic, mixed media or sculpture? And how will it age over time? Certain works may need added protection for long-term display at home. Knowing how to care for a piece allows you to protect your investment and enjoy it for years to come.

2 ENQUIRE ABOUT ITS PROVENANCE
Provenance refers to the artwork’s history — previous owners, exhibitions and documentation — and plays a big role in value and authenticity. Always ask for a certificate of authenticity. It’s an important document for resale or legacy planning. If a certificate isn’t available, there may be other forms of verification — such as inclusion in an artist’s publication or archival photographs with the artist. Some historically significant works carry enough provenance to speak for themselves, but ultimately, you must trust the person you’re buying from.

3 IS THE ARTWORK A UNIQUE PIECE OR PART OF A LIMITED EDITION?
This is especially relevant for prints and sculptures. Limited editions will be numbered — for example, 1/9 + AP (Artist Proof) — and these details are usually found on the artwork itself or on the certificate. It’s important to know how many editions of the artwork exist in the world.

4 WHAT INFLUENCED THE PRICING OF THE ARTWORK?
Art pricing may feel elusive, but it typically reflects the artist’s career trajectory, past exhibitions, demand, size of the work and medium. Never hesitate to ask how the price was determined. Emerging artists can be a great entry point into collecting, offering both affordability and future potential.

Remember, you’re not just buying a product; you’re becoming part of a story, a moment in an artist’s journey. So don’t hesitate to ask questions. A gallery visit should feel like a conversation, not a transaction. Whether you walk out with a new piece or a new perspective, your first step into the art world should feel empowering — not overwhelming. Art is for everyone — and collecting it should be too! 



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**SANYA MALIK
FOUNDER AND
DIRECTOR, BLACK
CUBE GALLERY**

Sanya was exposed to the world of art right since childhood, igniting her passion for this field and shaping her future career trajectory. Having acquired experience in diverse sectors of the art industry in her early twenties, she now spearheads New-Delhi-based Black Cube Gallery, and has steered it to become a platform that democratises art while bridging the gap between established and emerging artists.