



Producer Rajesh Shah at the highly ornate entrance door of his new show.



A view of the entrance of the majestic 16th-century Udaipur's Uda Fort.



An interior view of the magnificent house, with the terrace at the entrance.



Karan Mehra sitting under the tree at the set.

An afternoon of Rajasthani hospitality...

GRB! visited the sets of producer Rajesh Shah's new soap – *16th Rishta Aye Khabata Hai*, and came away impressed with its Rajasthani opulence, minute detailing, and the cast and crew's warmth and hospitality.

We didn't quite fabricate what was in store as we scouted for the sets of producer Rajesh Shah's brand new show – *16th Rishta Aye Khabata Hai*, amidst the vast horizons of this city.

16th Rishta... is the second-day soap to be produced by Rajesh Shah –

Director's Kut, as well as his second show on Star Plus, following his first super duper hit, *Sapna Bhabhi Ka.. Bhabhi*. It is a story of love finding its way after an arranged marriage and how two people bond and blossom together after entering into sacred ties of matrimony.

While we had only heard rumours of how following Shah's success, *16th Rishta...* will have a bigger budget and scale, the same ground true at once. Witnessed with a flicker and awe by girls in beautiful saris, we set foot on one of the most beautiful sets we'll ever laid eyes on.

Instead of the driveway stood the ornate entrance door, and everything from its style and design to the mural and carving on the walls adorning it gave it a royal touch, which was only orientated once we stepped inside the main hall. While on both sides were carved walls, at the end stood two winding staircases. Further on was the main living area. Costed around the airport, it housed the kitchen, dining area, temple and pooja. The bedrooms meanwhile, were situated on the first floor.

Talking about the opulent sets, Rajesh said, "The sets are grand yet warm at the same time. The touch is Rajasthani, as can be seen by the pillars,

arches, emblems, frescos, mirrors and miniature paintings. A lot of the fixtures have been hand-picked from Udaipur. Further, the rooms open to clear skies and natural light. In that sense, the whole house has been designed in a way that also steers direction and placement of camera."

As we finish admiring the sets, the cast is introduced. The story revolves around Abhaara, an obedient daughter who has been brought up like a princess in a traditional Marwari family, and her life post marriage. Straggler from, Delhi based colleague, Hina Khan plays Abhaara. "I always wanted to act. My parents were at first a little hesitant, but they've come around now. I had followed *Bhabhi*, and went for the audition of *16th Rishta...* when a friend suggested it. Next thing I knew, Rajesh sir had called me and I was in Mumbai the following evening," recalls Hina. Karan Mehra plays Nitish, Abhaara's husband. Talking about his journey into television, he says, "I came from Delhi to pursue modelling and



Hina Khan at the dressing table in her bedroom, done up in her sari white.