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"Architecture is a strong social force." — Didi Contractor

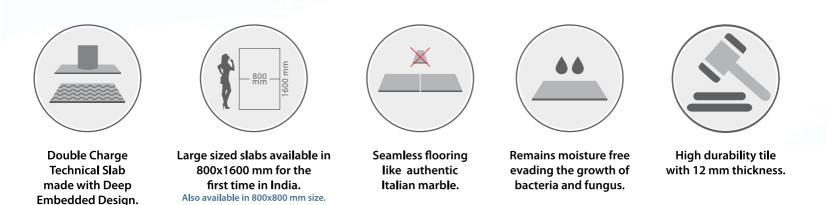


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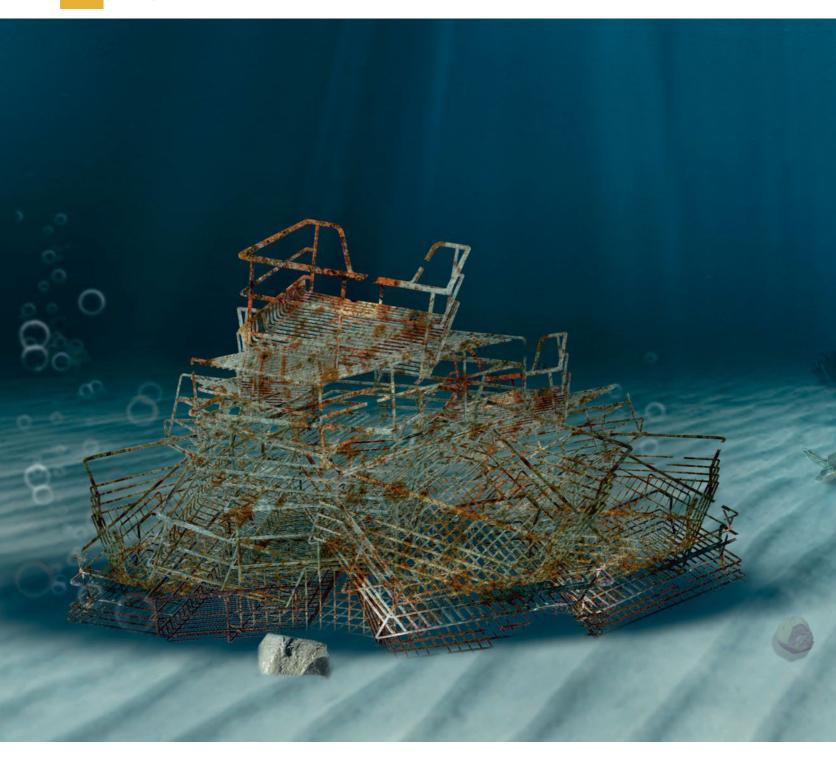
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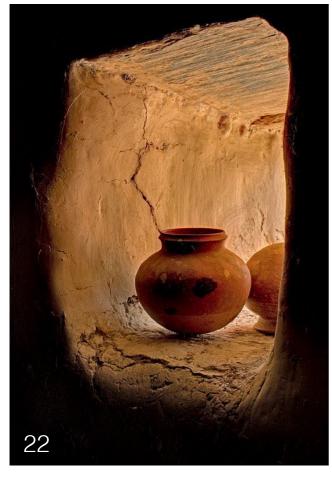
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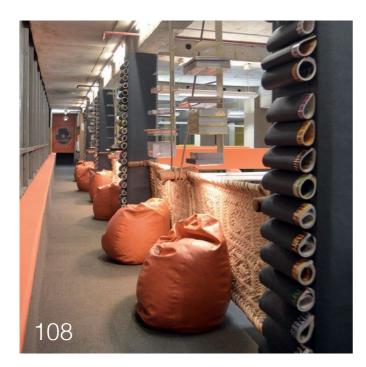
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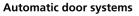


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## about the issue



STRATA, Bengaluru Architects: Cadence, Bengaluru

All drawings and visuals for the projects and articles, unless mentioned otherwise, are courtesy the architects/authors.

"All architecture is great architecture after sunset; perhaps architecture is really a nocturnal art, like the art of fireworks." — Gilbert K Chesterton rom the earlier courtyard houses, the Moghul *havelis* and the colonial bungalows, residence design in India has come a long way. The global influence is evident. Contemporary interior residence spaces also reflect this pattern. With the increasing availability of modern technology and a wider range of materials now available in the market, the designers and architects have better opportunities to purposefully experiment with form, colour and texture. Residential spaces are personal ones and often embody a whole lot of the individual's preferences. It then becomes more challenging and even exciting for the designers to interpret the client's brief. These spaces are symbolic of the modern-day lifestyle, functionality and aesthetic. In a vast country like India, with diversity in culture, traditional elements will always find their prominent slot.

This August 2018 Issue of the magazine explores the design variables in the treatment of residential interior spaces. The published projects are exemplary of creative urges to generate a mood through appropriate lighting, selection of sustainable materials and a sensitive approach to treat the space volumes of with an eye to maximise the intake of natural light. The flow of nature in the indoor spaces in some of the projects no doubt brings a soothing calm to their environs. A few of them are also pointers to the fact that simplicity when treated deftly, can be equally charming and provocative. A positive in most of these designs is the conscious effort to stylise the man-made structures with landscape that evokes a rhythm with nature. The Komorebi House in Bengaluru is a front-runner for the laurels in this segment. The HD Kote project, Mysore, highlights the sensuous pulse when materials are bared with a soft and raw feel. In the Calicut residence, the client's desire to 'have an optimal balance between luxury and simplicity' is well achieved in the free-flowing yet comprehensively integrated design. The Ahmedabad weekend home personifies well the vast scope of tradition and modernity going together with grace.

And talking about tradition, one is drawn to the vernacular script in the works of Didi Contractor. Her projects expose us to a compelling rugged aesthetics. "I try to go back to the traditional processes to build products informed by contemporary need" - is how she describes her design methodology. We carry an interview with her along with some inspiring photography of her creative endeavors.

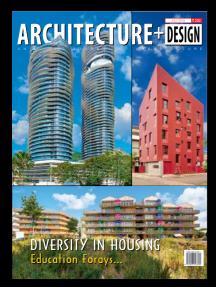
J. P.

**ARCHITECTURE**+DESIGN



**Mountain Spirituality...** 1. El Peñol de Guatape, an ancient temple carved onto a black monolith in the hilly Guatape region of Colombia. 2. Taktshang Goemba, a monastery nestled on a mountain cliff in Bhutan.

"Architecture is the will of an epoch translated into space." – Ludwig Mies van der Rohe



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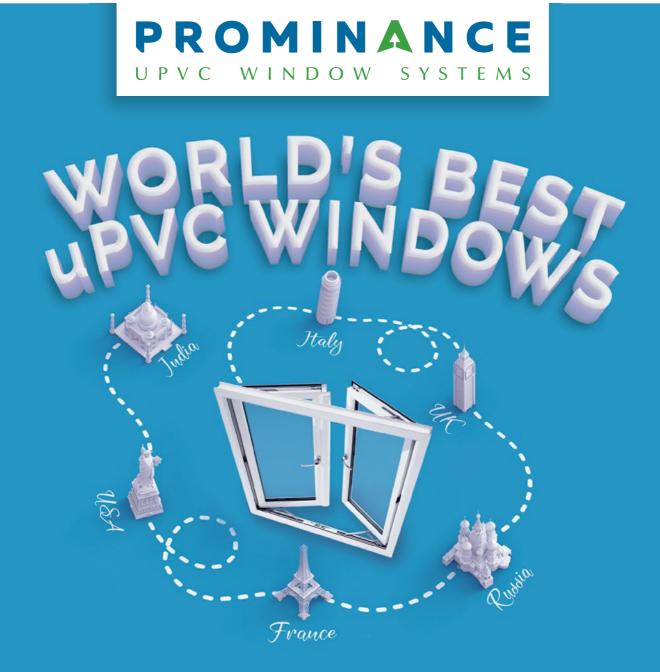
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#### Reflections





# ARRANGEMENTS

On the occasion of Fuorisalone – Milano Design Week 2018, Flos presented a spectacular lighting installation by Londonbased designer **Michael Anastassiades**, celebrating the launch of his new collection of chandeliers, christened **Arrangements**.

Midway between a light sculpture and an industrial design object, Arrangements is a modular system of geometric LED elements that can be combined in multiple compositions as single or even connected chandeliers. The modules are easily fixed together electrically and mechanically, balancing on each other to create the dramatic effect of a big chain of light.

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#### Updates

#### **Fast track**

S tudio HBA a division of the design firm, Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA), assisted the Hyatt Centric brand by designing the country's first Hyatt Centric in Bangalore.

Located in the heart of the bustling city centre, the property features 143 rooms that will serve as a platform for guests who want to explore and share all that is vibrant and dynamic about the city. The property was designed as a launchpad to seeing, tasting and feeling everything the city has to offer.

The design team took to the streets of Bengaluru to find out what was at its heart and the lifelines leading to it. The property's immediate vicinity to the historical layers found throughout the city allowed the designers to pull from a rich history. Upon further exploration, the team uncovered a stencilled piece of street art of a traditional elderly Indian woman riding a Harley-Davidson Chopper. This piece of art served as the ideal metaphor for the city and the hotel's personality – it embodied the zeitgeist of modern Bangalore.

The interiors include pieces of local artistry, each adding individual characteristics to tailor each stay. The woman's metaphor is woven throughout the property - the guestrooms feature stencilled graffiti on the walls portraying traditional characters in contemporary scenarios, each exploring different aspects of this juxtaposition. Additional design touches include the design of the bathroom tiles, the baroque furniture details inspired by the Indo-Saracenic era, the colourful hand painted trunks, the globe lights inspired by the street lamps in the British



cantonment and the blue and white striped fabric throws pulled from the stripes of the streets.

W ith the project called Corte Verde (Green Courtyard), Stefano Boeri Architetti, in partnership with Arassociati, recently won the competition for the site of Via San Cristoforo, in the centre of the Quartiere della Creatività (Creativity Quarter) of the south western area of Milan. The architectural and urban vision of the operation foresees a future for this part of the city, highlighting the identity between past and future, memory and innovation. The project was developed to stimulate the open and

dynamic usage of the public spaces by those who live there on a daily basis or temporarily, but also as a multimodal device able to promote interaction and exchange between the numerous different actors active in the area.

Thanks to the disuse of the freight terminals, to the overcoming of the infrastructure barriers between the two

neighbourhoods, to the initiatives of urban reforestation and the improvement of the quality of the public spaces around the district of Alzaia del Naviglio of Porta Ticinese, the project establishes a marked continuity between the area of Tortona-Porta Genova, historically dedicated to fashion and design, and the residential and touristic area along the banks of Naviglio Grande.

On the architectural plan, the project develops around an open courtyard, culminating in a kind of pinnacle pointing north, towards Piazza Napoli. Towards the south, the structure extends into a large public garden, directly connected with the system of canals and in visual relation with the small suburb of San Cristoforo.

Morphologically, the building develops as a rising spiral form, starting from a lower area to the south, indicated by a

large access portal, whose cover grows with a continuous pattern. The high-efficiency photovoltaic panels that completely cover the surface also define a strongly impactful expressive and chromatic theme. Arriving at the summit, on the south eastern side of the building, the cover bends vertically along the southern wall, amplifying the perception.

Stefano Boeri, principal architect, said "A courtyard home, like the Lombardy tradition, at the centre of a green space, that connects two parts of the city, currently separated. Our project for San Cristoforo is an homage to Milan, to urban forestry and the water system that passes through our territory"







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#### **Updates**

#### **Trade News**

J aquar Group recently launched a new Artize showroom in Delhi NCR. The company also celebrated their winning of the Red Dot Design Award at the launch ceremony.

Created to offer consumers on-site product immersion, the 3000sq ft showroom provides a relaxed way to shop for the designer offerings, including faucets, showers and whirlpools; discerning customers can touch, feel and experience the



products through 'live' displays. The exclusive products include the nature-inspired Tailwater faucet, the Tiaara ensemble of fittings, the minimalist Linea faucet, and the futuristic ShowerTronic electronic showering system, Tumblerain 'bucket shower' and the Joyring, a 360-degree showering product. Wellness solutions for homes include the range of bathtubs, whirlpools, spas, steam cabins, saunas and more.

OTA Boutique Furniture recently commenced the retailing the international brand Ligne Roset. After this tie-up, boutique will be offering the high-end furniture and décor of the label. The entirety of the ground floor has been designated for the brand, giving the buyers a firsthand opportunity to explore and experience the furniture.

Namit Ajmani, MD, IOTA Boutique Furniture said, "A highly contemporary international designer brand, Ligne Roset, is renowned worldwide for its collections of cutting-edge furniture and accessories. Collaborations with both internationally acknowledged designers such as Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec or Pierre Charpin, and emerging young designers ensure that the collections have a strong design focus and are endlessly innovative. With a reputation



for quality and innovation at every level, Ligne Roset uses traditional knowledge with the very latest industrial techniques".

The latest line of the brand reflects contemporary European design sensibilities. The offerings include multifunctional sofas, alterable dining, minimalistic chairs with bold lines and designer beds for comfort.



S anket India recently opened an electronic shopping complex which is spread over an area of 1,25,325sq ft.; it houses electronics and consumer durables goods of brands such as Hitachi, Samsung, Apple, LG, Sony, Godrej and Whirlpool.



Gurmeet Singh, CMD, JCH-IN

Architects Dipen Gada and Associates

have secured quite a few accolades for the shopping complex, including IIID Anchor Design Excellence Awards '17, Visual Merchandising and Retail Design Award (VM & RD) '17 and Festival of Architecture & Interior Designing (FOAID) '17.

Store owners Mehul Patel and Sanket Patel organised a launch that was inaugurated by Gurmeet Singh Sethi, chairman and managing director, Johnson Controls-Hitachi Air Conditioning India limited.

Gurmeet Singh Sethi, said, "Visiting the new electronics store is a visual treat in terms of design and product display. Offering an entire gamut of leading home appliance brands in a one stop shop, providing best price with superfast delivery and great customer care is something where Sanket India is creating a niche. We need many more such well-planned and organized retail partners who not only delight the customer but also set a benchmark for the industry".



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#### Updates

#### **Trade News**

The WhiteTeak Company recently unveiled their retail store in New Delhi as The WhiteTeak Company Lighting Lounge. The lounge is spread in a 3000sq ft area with 2 levels. Offerings include a range of lighting products and décor.

Anu Mehta, co-founder of The WhiteTeak Company, said "Our recently launched WhiteTeak Lighting Lounge would surely be great shopping experiences for our consumers.

Not only this, to provide our consumers both online and offline experiences we are also planning to launch more stores in Mumbai, Chennai and other cities to connect with today's consumers by



giving the experience that is personal and relevant."

#### **Art musings**

ndira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) in New Delhi recently unraveled Arth, a public art project, by renowned contemporary artist Manav Gupta. The project explores nature as a "museum laboratory" of art, thus inciting a discussion on sustainable development by exploring the philosophies of ancient civilisations, such as the Vedic practices, on the environment. Gupta converts rural Indian clay pottery into avant-garde, contemporary installations that reflect nature through various elements.

Arth, which will be on view at the IGNCA



premises, was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Culture, Manish Sharma.

#### **Events**

#### he 35<sup>th</sup> presentation of Architecture

and Society was held on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 at the India Habitat Centre. The talk focussed on the commodification of education in the country, and the factors and effects associated with this trend.

The key speaker for the event was Tapan Chakravarty,

Senior Professor and Area Head of Interior and Spatial Design at Pearl Academy. He talked about the growing shift from education and mentoring towards instruction and certification in design institutions; breaking down the complex socio-economic issue into distinct factors, he presented a model



describing the interactions of stakeholders with the factors and its parallels with economic transactions, driving home the gravity of the situation. He also reflected upon the utility and validity of various processes that institutions employ to keep this system in place – such as quantitative evaluation systems followed in colleges, and standards for classroom decorum that stifle creativity and learning. Drawing from his experience of having taught as well as practiced architecture for over two

> decades, Prof. Chakravarty also talked about the role that his mentors played in his development, and how such models of education needed to be followed alongside traditional curricula.

> The session initiated a discussion among the audience members on the responsibilities of design educators and students alike,

the necessity of initiating changes in policy and educational management – and, on a broader scale, the correlation of educational efficacy and good architecture.  $r_{L}^n$ 





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#### Updates

#### **Events**

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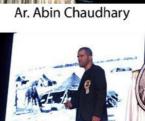
#### ANNUAL SEMINAR SERIES FUTUREWISE

Architecture has never fit into neat boxes; today there are too many boxes to choose from. In our quest to analyse our past, we have lost sight of our present. The question that we ask today is what context are we creating in order to predict the future of Architecture.



Panel Discussion





Ar. Khushroo Irani

Ar. Farid Esmaeil

This year **Meraki 2018** presents to you **'Futurewise'**. It revolves around questioning contemporary architecture. Before the age of communication and the internet, architecture followed a linear path. The first traces of buildings were a direct response to the physical needs of the individual and then the community. As architectural styles began to evolve, each was a reaction to its preceding style while adding a layer of intricacy with every new rendition of the style. With the explosion in mass communication, architecture changed its pre-set patterns. Immediate social feedback became possible and with the help of software, even before a structure is built. This has resulted in no definite style dominating this era.

Meraki 2017

In line with the above theme, the distinguished panel of guest speakers for **Meraki 2018** comprises of

Ar. Anupama Kundoo from (Anupama Kundoo Architects, Spain)

Ar. Shimul Javeri Kadri (SJK Architects, Mumbai),

**Ar. Louis Schulz** from (Assemble Studio, United Kingdom) and **Ar. Swapnil Patil** from (Swapnil Patil + Partners, Pune).

With this year's seminar we hope to inspire the young minds and mould them by learning from the experts.

Date : Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Time : 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Venue : Swatantrya Veer Savarkar Rashtriya Smarak Auditorium, Dadar (W), Mumbai - 400028.



Last September 2017 we successfully concluded our fourth session. We broke record numbers with over 800 participants including Principals of various architecture colleges, academicians, professionals and students from all over Maharashtra.

Meraki 2017 focused on the theme 1:1, Design Execution. The guest speakers for last year comprised of Ar.Farid Esmaeil & Ar.Ahmed Al Ali from 'X-Architects' - Dubai, Ar.Tran Thi Ngu Ngon and Ar.Nguyen Hai Long from 'Tropical Space' - Hongkong, Ar.Khushru Irani from 'KIDS' - Pune and Ar.Abin Chaudhary from 'Abin Design studio' - Kolkata. They provided an insight on their design philosophy and methodology.

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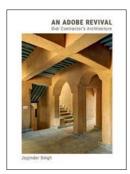


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# **Didi Contractor: Ideas and concerns**

Noted Photographer **Joginder Singh** has been instrumental in the compilation and publication of the book **'An Adobe Revival: Didi Contractor's Architecture'**. He gets into an intensive conversation with the self-made architect, talking about her work and her design philosophy.

Architecture+Design brings an extract of their conversation -



#### Book An Adobe Revival: Didi Contractor's Architecture

Author and Photographer Joginder Singh

Text and Quotations Didi Contractor

Publisher Immaterial Publications ISBN 978-81-935579-0-7 Joginder Singh: You mentioned that you are not formally trained as an architect. When and how did the transition from artist to architect happen?

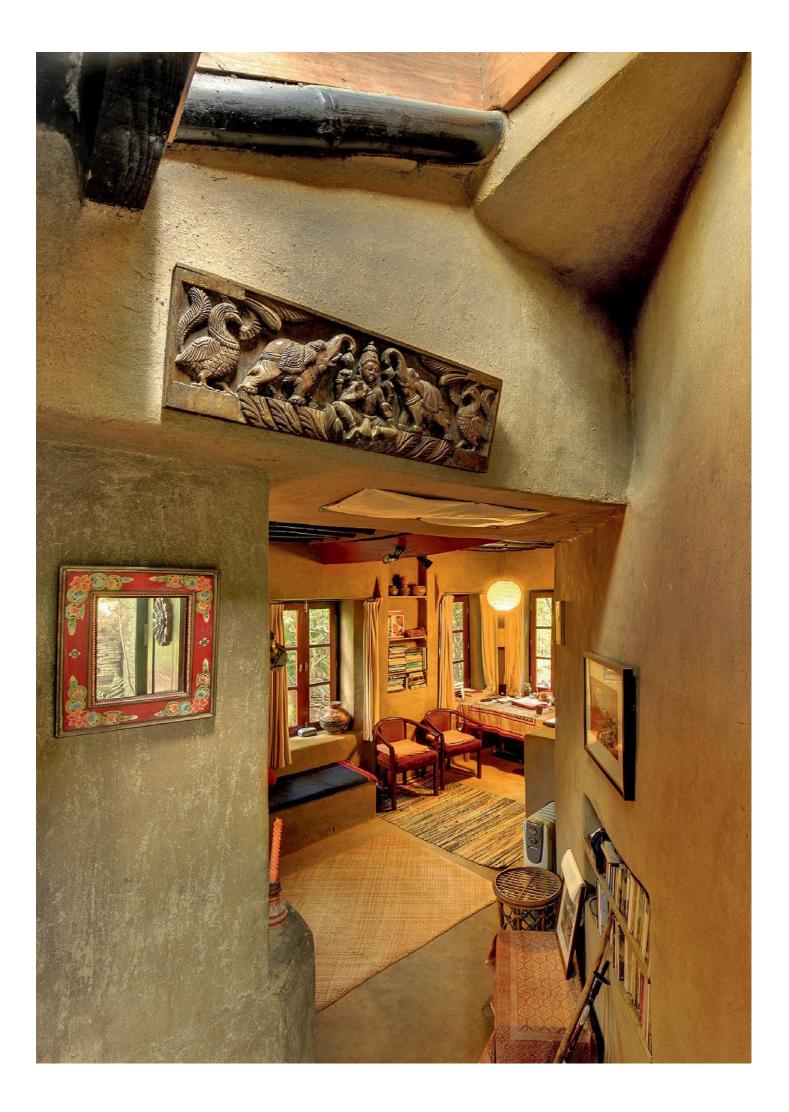
Didi Contractor: I think it went the other way around in a way. When I was a child my imaginative life was full of designing houses. I must have designed a hundred houses before I got to be twenty or so. My way of daydreaming was to dream up spaces. My parents were both artists so I was exposed to art and advanced architecture early. I enjoyed buildings and when I was eleven I heard Frank Lloyd Wright talk and I was terribly impressed. My father was involved in the beginnings of the Bauhaus movement so we knew all the architects. I was very aware of modern design and architecture and of spaces and of the fact that spaces

had emotional content. I would design spaces with emotional content, like the studio I would live in or the home in the country that I would live in etc. If my parents had picked up on my proclivity towards architecture I would have been trained as an architect. But in those days there was this myth that women are bad at mathematics. And I was not interested in arithmetic. But I was fascinated with geometry. So it was assumed that I would be bad at the engineering part of it. When I got to college I discovered that I was very good at Algebra. I probably could have done it, but at that point I was more into being myself, rebelling, writing poetry and so on, so architecture sort of fell by the wayside. When I got married and got to India I thought I'd design a house to live in. I was painting actively at that time. I designed a house at Bombay. Later,

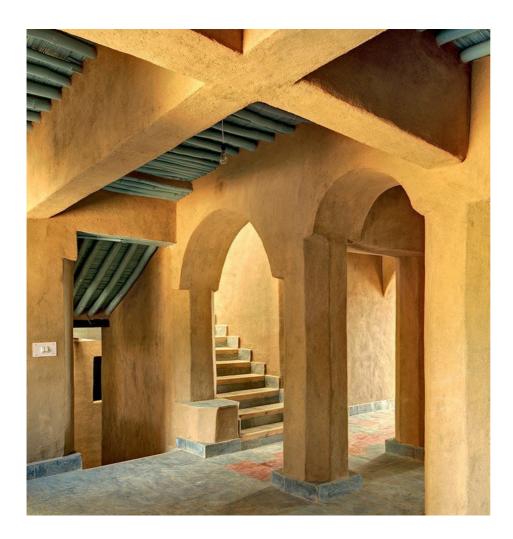


*Didi Contractor,* raised in Europe and America, and trained in the arts, married and moved to India in 1951, where she became fascinated with the art, crafts and cultural traditions of her new home. After bringing up a family, and working as a decorator, she shifted to a village in the mountains, where, almost three decades ago at the age of 60, she began building according to beliefs that had emerged out of her experience.

The images in the interview are from the book An Abode Revival - Didi Contractor's Architecture. All the images are Didi's work in Himachal Pradesh.



"Vernacular languages are mother tongues: just as an affectionate maternal voice can reassure, details inspired by local vernacular architecture foster an intimate sense of healing comfort"





I got a chance to work on the Lake Palace at Udaipur. I must mention the transporting joy of our house in Juhu on the first day I sat there in the morning and the light came in the way I'd planned it. It is such a great moment when you've transported something in your mind into a reality. I was always interested in building

In painting I really got bored with this bourgeois theme of an image. I would rather have something you can enter, interact with and move through. I designed umpteen houses that never got built. I would refine my building watching what people were doing. I wanted to design a house in adobe purely to have a wall where the earth would interact with light. I wanted to play with earth and shadows. When I was a child my parents had bought a house in New Mexico, which was made out of adobe and I spent two summers helping them renovate the house in adobe, so I knew the technique.

In India I fell in love with Indian village architecture, the village shrines and the entire earthiness. Victorian architecture was around one and the early Indian Modern. The Indian Modern does not suit the subcontinent like the village architecture does. I loved the aesthetic of it. I photographed and sketched the spaces. So it was a long interest. It wasn't a switch over. It's just that I got the opportunity to build when I got the money to build for myself. This led to a whole spate of building. I've built several projects now.

JS: What else would you say are possible influences that have shaped your architecture to be what it is today? DC: Studying Indian spaces, sacred spaces. I've always been interested in Dynamic Symmetry, how you relate to it. I used to do a lot of origami, lot



of gardening. I love Indian Village architecture and I have always been annoved that the elite felt that they couldn't live in a mud house. In Taos, New Mexico the most elite houses are adobe. I've done pottery too... played with clay. Then there is the whole aesthetic of it. The human eye has always seen mud walls for a long time and something resonates. To me the Indian village is full of beauty and those are all things people have made for themselves. And then having a chance to play... unfortunately a building needs very expensive art supplies, therefore

clients. I don't believe in doing things purely because it looks nice. It should also serve a function. And the aesthetics should contribute to and not diminish the function and each function should be as aesthetically presented as possible, which does not mean ornamentation. I very much sort of subscribe to the pure Bauhaus ideal of Form follows Function. But that needn't be sterile and cold. It can be a handmade function, a warm function. I envy the potter who puts his thing in the kiln and controls the whole process. I love the moment when I turn the process over to somebody

else and then the process comes back. I dialogue with the process. When I built this house I was here all the time with a trowel in my hand and moving things a bit here or a bit there. JS: Earthen architecture has traditionally been built by the inhabitants and therefore had a high degree of personalisation. There used to be a degree of craft always included in Indian architecture that led to its varied richness. This has waned out after the Western Design approach made its way into our country. Your buildings are 'designed' keeping in mind the requirements of

the client. Do the artisans / masons who work on these have some leeway in terms of personal expression? **DC:** Actually so far very little, but I am so proud when I can turn the senior artisan loose to work on the hill side and ask him to make it look natural. But then he doesn't make perfect judgments yet. And he does not have my background of design or my eye. So I am a controlling artist but I like to include the artisan and I inter-relate with the artisan when I am working. I'm most thrilled with the influence I've had on some of the artisans. They have made changes to their houses based on their work with me. When I'm working I'm also thinking structure and I find a lot of artisans can't visualise what the roof is going to do while putting in the foundation, can't comprehend the complexity of it. Which is why often the local vernacular is rather simplistic structurally. Sometimes while building I tend to leave a niche here or an alcove there. One of my masons has got the aesthetic. I would like to transmit it a bit more but with a little more sophistication. I do try to teach them to see. There is a very interesting philosophical direction one could explore at length between what is intuitive and what is mathematically calculated, what is envisioned and what is response in the moment. And there is, I think, an ideal balance between the more abstract intellectual and the spontaneous. It is a complex thing and I'm trying to bring this language to the artisans in their own language.

**JS:** Is the mud you work with straight from the site? Or do you have to source it from surrounding areas? Is it stabilised or treated in any way prior to the construction? **DC:** Since my primary concern is ecological I use the earth from the site. One of the things in my work that I'm very interested in is what happens to the material next. And the best thing about a mud house made with pure adobe that is not stabilised is that it grows an excellent vegetable garden. Once you've added cement to stabilise the mud brick the soil has lost some of its productivity, it's lost some of its ability to re-establish a good colony of microorganisms because cement is a biocide. So I try and limit the number of biocides in the building and if you have really good earth I'd rather bring in clay or sand to get the right mix. Once you've added cement to earth, it's like baking a brick it can no longer enter into the agricultural cycle or is no longer beneficial to it. So it mutilates the cycle. I'm very concerned with the idea of not just recycling junk now but things that we use should also be part of the cycle





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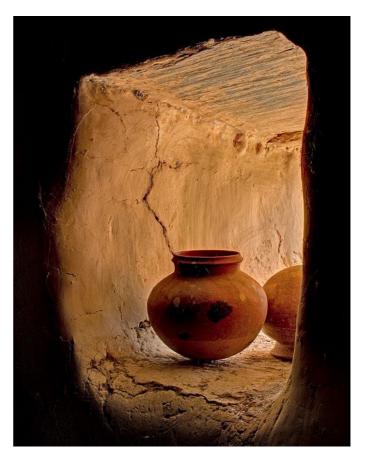
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IN







"In a building, you have to consider two needs: need of the structure and need of the use. You try to adapt to both of these, maintaining a dailogue between the two."

of time. So when you build you should also think of the ruin that it is going to make. I actually prefer the natural cut slate that you get instead of the cut slate because the former are shaped by nature. It all depends on the amount you take from nature. The solar cooker thrills me because you can meet a human need without changing anything. I think there is a whole new direction that design will go one that incorporates natural properties. **JS:** Kindly describe the tenets on

which the Didi Contractor architecture is based?

**DC:** Respect for nature, respect for tradition, respect for materials, particularly cultural respect. I believe in taking the tradition, hearing it and dialoguing with it, not becoming subservient to it. I believe in proportion, believe that the eye has the ability to measure. There have been studies that the human beings can detect golden means. The discovery of dynamic symmetry to me as a teenager was a very important thing. **JS:** Your buildings indicate a very conscious attempt at using Light in Space. Could you comment on that please?

**DC:** Light is like a divine gift. It's like a deity...light and air, I try to bring them in. This goes on to sound. Mud walls have superb acoustics. The elements combine to create an atmosphere. I don't see architecture as separate from religious practice.

JS: With almost two decades of an architectural practice in mud, have you seen clones of your work? DC: Yes, but only parts that are out of

context. I've had an influence, but only by way of imitation. I've often visited museums and marveled at the little objects there and you can almost feel the artist's delight at having created it... delight at having discovered that form. In India, Laurie Baker's work is like that. I would love it if people to do that with my work rather than imitating it. **JS:** Himachal lies on an active seismic zone. The traditional buildings fare quite well in the event of an earthquake. Have you incorporated details in your buildings to make them resistant to earthquakes?

**DC:** When I first came here I visited villages I studied buildings that had withstood earthquakes. I understood the principles and have incorporated them with modification. All the old buildings had continuous bands in





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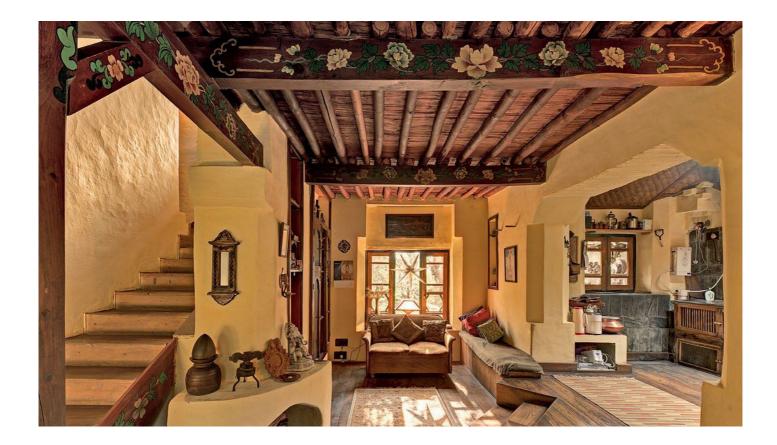
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timber. Now timber is not so easily available so we've replaced the bands with reinforced concrete in the walls. The roofs are propped and designed in a manner that they would fall outward and collapse in discrete chunks.

**JS:** Who are the clients that you cater to? Is your work done for people who are already convinced about the

academics, writers, NGO workers, essentially people who are thinking in this direction. Some think ecologically and sociologically.

**JS:** In terms of cost how does it work compared to conventional architecture?

**DC:** It is usually one third, because you source the mud on site. You could go further down but I haven't been

Aesthetics. Some of the modern buildings in India are very good but they involve commercial imperialism, which is much worse than political imperialism was. Some are cutely Indian, but insult a tradition that had much more depth. During building, I am very conscious of where the money is going. If I'm buying cement, God knows where the money is going;

"When you focus on the small, the large will unfold correctly: the careful proportioning of small details, which most people add on, is to me the basis of good design. I really believe in the small beginnings that lead to big things."

benefits of earthen architecture or do you have to engage in convincing the client to your way of building? How uphill has the task been? **DC:** Very uphill. But basically people who come to me are people who are interested. But each client has to be involved in the process; you have to take them into your thinking. I have only one local client, which in itself says a lot. So my clients are pursuing monetary cost. One of the main philosophical ideas that I have been concerned with in social critique is that by commodifying everything we lose everything. There are so many other values that should stand ahead of the commoditisation. I am much more concerned with the ecological cost of the building, the cultural cost of buildings that don't take into cognizance the idea of Indian it usually is going up in a way. But if I'm making mud bricks the money is usually going to someone who can't find any other sort of work here. It is a luxury to be able to do that but it helps overcome, to some extent, the inequity within the society. Social costs are very high on my agenda.

**JS:** Your architecture is quite regional and rooted in the context in complete contrast to what one sees in the cities

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these days, which is an architectural anarchy of sorts. Do you think modern Indian Architecture has an identity? DC: I think it is looking for one. Modern Indian culture doesn't have one either. It is being mostly destructive towards traditional identity. I think Indian identity is something very deep and human identity is something most of us have lost. We are becoming creatures of consumerism. Consumers are dehumanised in some way. I feel that with the current technological advances we can live in harmony with nature and don't really have to live in cities. Technology has opened up possibilities of decentralisation. Indian cities, to me, are a passing moment. But maybe that is because I'm 80 and have seen a lot of change. The shopping malls and the slum next to it is not a reality and will change as the resources get depleted. I don't really have solutions for the current contemporary commercialised world. It will have to undergo a certain mutation to survive.

JS: You have been taking on

apprentices? Have any of them exhibited a sustained interest in continuing to practice architecture in mud or have they succumbed to the urban demands of the profession? Do you think an apprentice manages to translate the ideology in its entirety or is there a dilution of sorts in translation?

DC: It depends on the apprentice. I have been taking on who has come to me. I'm more concerned about the team of artisans that have been working with me with their own hands. I do talk to these city kids who come to me with their educated backgrounds and I think it makes a real change in them. My alternatives may not be the right ones but it gives them the idea that there are alternatives. It certainly makes them think more. A few apprentices have gone ahead and pursued higher studies and then amalgamated things. I do not want to spark a clone. I want to spark an interest. The thinking is more important than the work. The work is merely a product of the thinking.

**JS:** 'Sustainable architecture' 'Appropriate Architecture' 'Environment Friendly', are buzz words that one is continually bombarded with these days. How do these translate in your ideology?

**DC:** Well they are absolute imperatives. They translate as imperatives. That is why I look at ecological cost above monetary cost. Which does not mean my building is going to cost more. It just means that I am more concerned with the ecological cost.

**JS:** Finally, what is the Didi Contractor legacy?

**DC:** (Laughs) Wait till I die, you'll see! I don't know. Might be nothing at all. Actually, I don't really believe in the individual as much as the ideas that are floating around. If I've left some pointers behind for people to see they may or may not get inspired. Who knows? I'm concerned with learning from the past and I would like not to harm the future but otherwise, one is concerned with the present, which isn't a legacy anyway.



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I Smaran Mallesh

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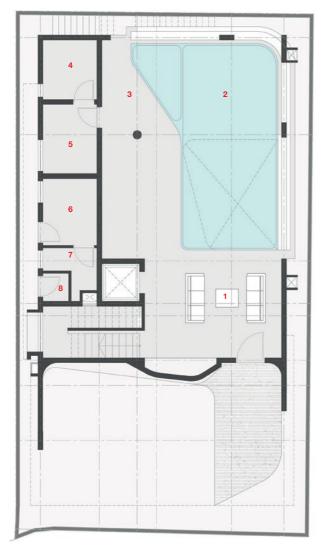
# The house is a collage of individual aspirations and design ideologies...

Project: STRATA, Bengaluru Architects: Cadence, Bengaluru

S ituated on a tight site of 40' by 70' in an urban context, the client approached the architects with a brief of designing a residence for a joint family with members across a varied age group. The challenge in this project was to accommodate a dense program in a tight site.

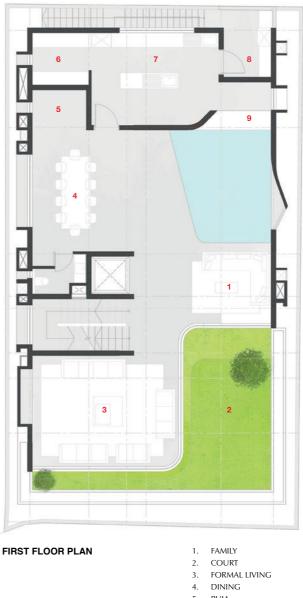
The architects grappled with the issue of providing private spaces for all the members, without compromising

the feel of an independent residence, as opposed to a multi-level residence. Arranging the programs vertically enabled the creation of a stratified effect with the facade. Individual spaces across three levels enabled to maintain privacy for the family members. The fragmented arrangement of these individual spaces created break-out spaces at each level, which facilitates the congregation of the family members.



#### GROUND FLOOR PLAN

- LOUNGE 1.
- SWIMMING POOL 2.
- 3 DECK
- 4. PUMP ROOM
- CHANGE/SHOWER 5.
- 6. SERVANT ROOM SERVANT TOILET 7.
- TOIL FT
- 8



- 5. PUJA
- STORE 6.
- KITCHEN 7.
- UTILITY 8.

A large cut-out which spans through the vertical volume of the residence, enables the members to constantly be in visual connectivity with each other. This also creates a sense of continuity in terms of the volume when a member enters at the ground level and ascends through the residence. The interiors have been designed to look opulent and luxurious, in a non-typical manner, replacing the traditional carvings with more contemporary finishes, making the spaces look more chic and glossy.

Each level has been designed with features that aid sustainability. The pool in the ground floor helps to cool the air that moves up to the higher floors through the atrium. The court and the deck in the first and second floors respectively are deeply recessed areas that not only promote interaction between the family members but also help in experiencing the lush green trees around the house. The terrace garden becomes an important sustainable feature to cut out the heat passing through



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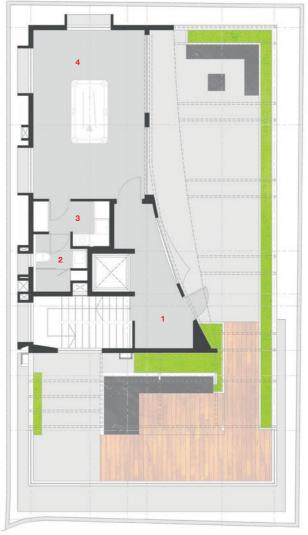
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SECOND FLOOR PLAN

- 2. COURT
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   DINING
- 5. PUJA



TERRACE FLOOR PLAN

- 1. STORE ROOM
- PANTRY
   POWDER ROOM
- 4. LEISURE ROOM



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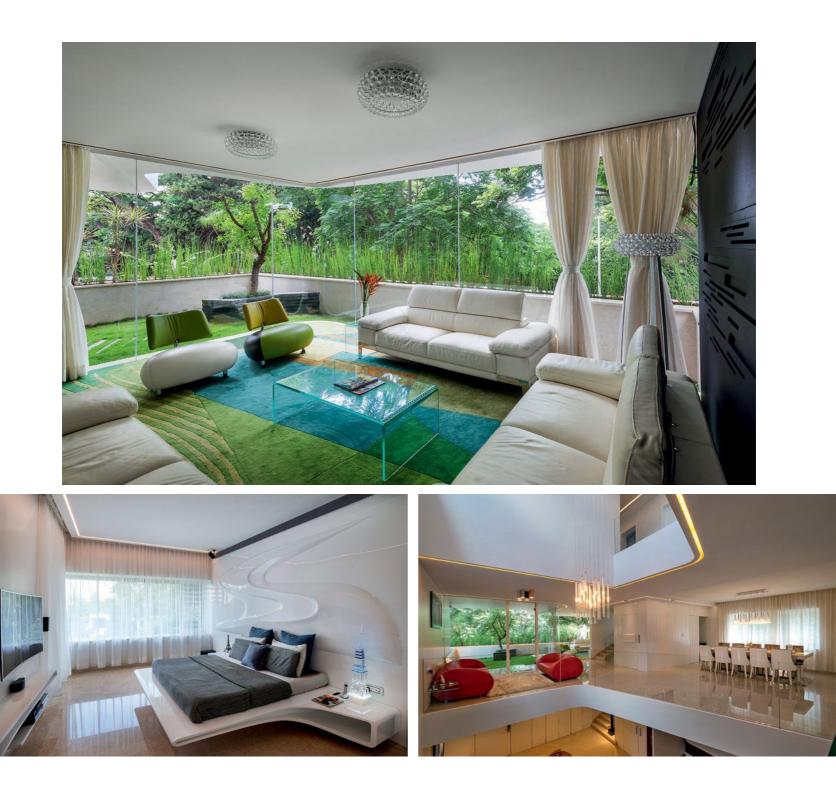
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to the lower floor. The landscape outside and within the house promote the experience of green living in the urban scenario. The triple height court ensures a physical and visual connection within the volume.

Moving away from the notion of a conventional facade comprising of decks and glazing, a dynamic façade is crafted as a composition of static and dynamic strata. These facilitate the opening of the residence to the existing green foliage outside the site by introducing apertures at all levels– appearing to be a stack of hollowed out spaces and fluid forms. This allows the members to have a visual connect with the outside and moreover appreciate the foliage that exists. The facade albeit is an assemblage of elements, is a contrast to the internal volume of the residence, which is vertically continuous from the ground level onwards.









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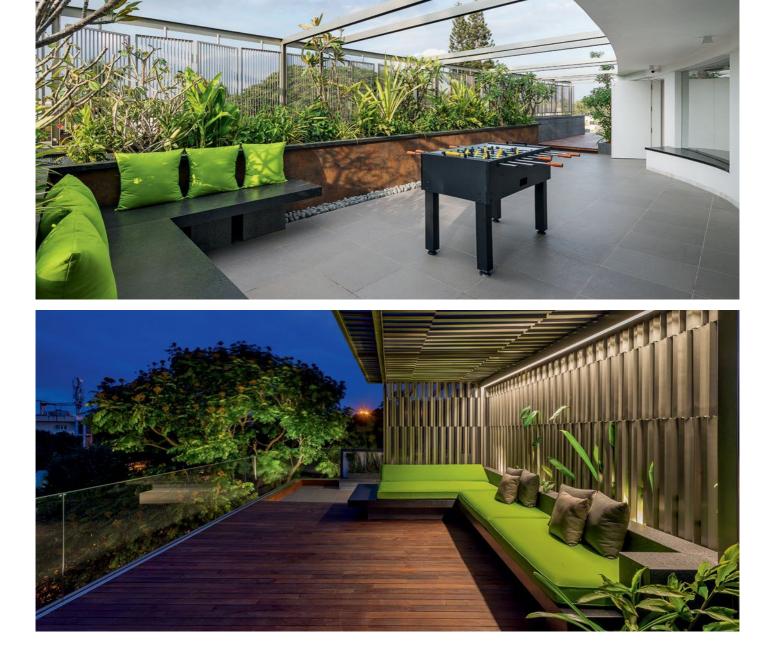
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The palette on the inside is neutral; a muted blend of white and a single shade of marble. With a specific brief of no wood in the interiors, and the design approach of fluid forms, a lot of MDF has been used with a CNC finish. Gypsum has been used extensively and Fexiply for all the partitions, beds, etc, combined with soild acrylic surfaces and lamination paints. The external finishes are intended to be more rustic in nature, in order to blend with the landscape. An object has been sculpted in the façade, and finished in white stucco to contrast with the rest of the rustic surfaces.

The house is a collage of individual aspirations and design ideologies. Each private space has been closely detailed with the member, and tailored to suit their briefs. It was a challenge to maintain a cohesive language throughout the house. The large family enjoys their individual privacy, at the same time congregating at various cavities interspersed throughout the levels of the house.

#### Photo credit: Anand Jaju

### **Fact**file

#### Client: Mr Chandu

Principal Architect: Smaran Mallesh, Naren Pirgal, Vikram
Design Team: Kinjal Gulechha, Silambarasan G, Rejin Karthik, Nirali Ashra
Consultants: S & S Consultants (Structural); P K Consultants (Electrical); 3 Fold
Designs (Landscape); Cadence (HVAC, Facade); Bays (Plumbing)
Contractors: Sarvashree Constructions (Structural); S K Electricals (Electrical);
Plumbtech (Plumbing)
Built-up area: 8,935sq ft

### Year of completion: 2016

Company names of products/materials used: Sanitary ware/Fittings: Grohe, Roto; Flooring: Italian Marble; Furniture: Simply Sofa; Air Conditioning: Aircon, Mitsubishi; Lighting: Ivory Edge; Elevator: Schindler

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### **Evolved Residence Spaces**



## **Blending styles...**





Chun-ta Tsao

Kuan-huan Liu

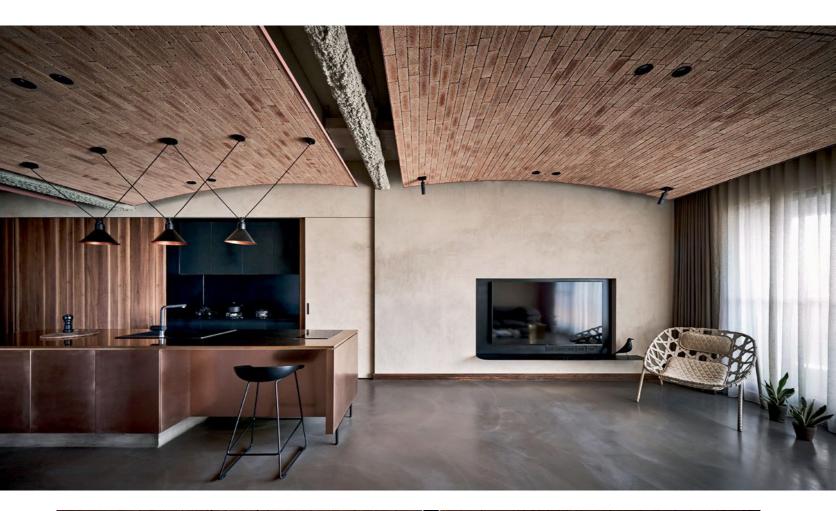
Project: Residence Wang, Taipei, Taiwan Architects: KC Design Studio, Taipei, Taiwan

he project is for a young couple with a two-year-old child. The owner has lived in the foreign country for a long time, having the special feeling for the neighbourhood of Xindian River, where he used to live in the childhood. So he chooses Xindian District as the home for them and their child.

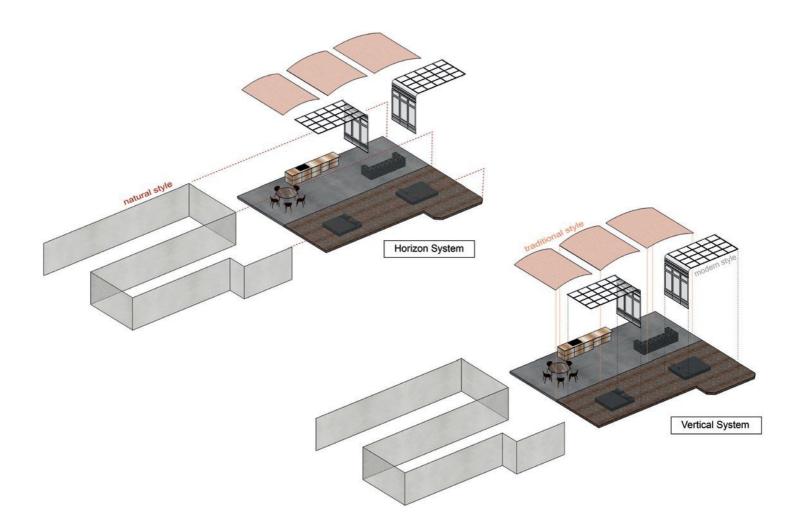
In the space of nearly 125sq m and 3m-high, the first to overcome is the over-low steel girder and main pipe. So for the design of the ceiling, the concept of 'deconstruction' was adopted to separate the steel girder and ceiling so that either can exert its function independently. The arc technique of the ceiling elevated the space. The low point of the arc can be equipped with the solid facilities.

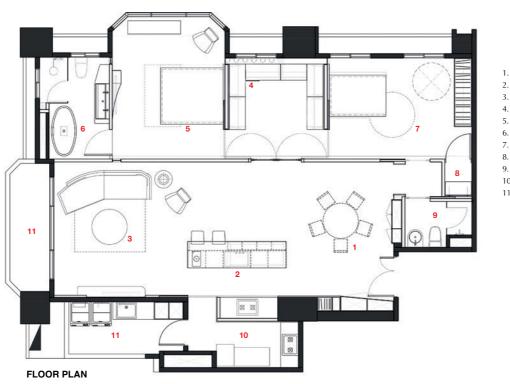
The setting of the style is based on the modern elements favoured by the male owner and the natural elements favoured by the female owner. The difference in style brings











- DINING AREA 1.
- KITCHEN ISLAND 2.
- LIVING AREA 3.
- DRESSING ROOM 4. 5.
  - MASTER ROOM MASTER BATH
- 7.
- 8.
- KIDS ROOM STORAGE GUEST ROOM 9.
- 10. KITCHEN 11. BALCONY





out a lot of inspirations. Like 'deconstruction', different styles can exist separately. The ceiling, the wall and the floor were made independent and defined the fields with different materials. For example, different floor materials are used in the living room and the bedroom while the wall material connects the whole space to lower the independent feeling. In the open space, the architects created the field spirit. With the technique of extension, the floor is extended to the wall, and the wall is extended to the ceiling to create the space integration and the visual tension.  $r_{1}^{n}$ 

Photo credit: Hey!Chesse



#### Factfile

Client: Rock Wang Design Team: Chun-ta Tsao, Kuan-huan Liu Area: 125.4sq m Cost of project: \$600,0000 Year of completion: 2017 Company names of products/materials used: Novacolor, UBEKON www.wonderfloor.co.in

(f) 😏



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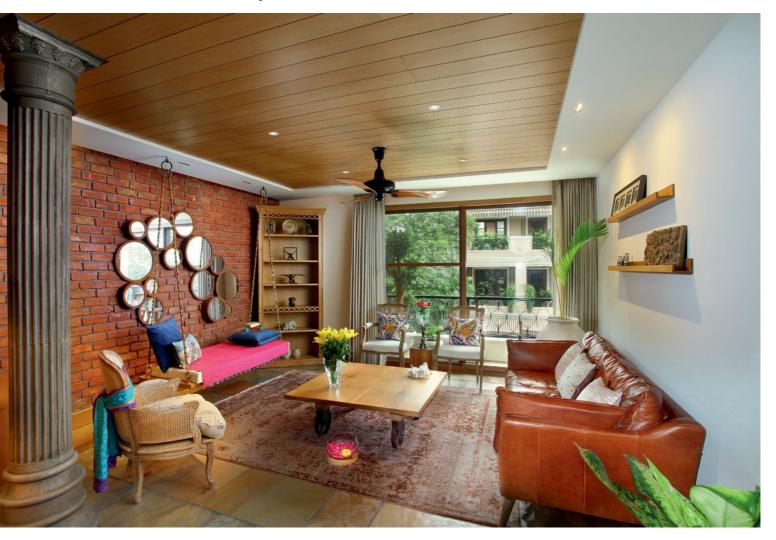


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### **Evolved Residence Spaces**



## **Weaving a Metaphoric Thread**

**Project:** Jindal Residence, New Delhi **Architects:** Group DCA, New Delhi

he design of the residence began as an exercise in trying to provide personally identifiable living spaces to all members of the client family– spanning three generations–under one roof. The primary challenge was to craft individualistic spaces within the home, while retaining a larger singular theme that would bind the whole residence together.



Amit Aurora and Rahul Bansal

The residence is housed on a single longitudinal floor-plate and is accessible through a staircase and an elevator on its longer side. Inheriting a site with only the floor slabs, there was enough opportunity to make an intervention to carve out a unified space. The main entrance opens into a foyer that provides access to the drawing room, and to a corridor that acts as the

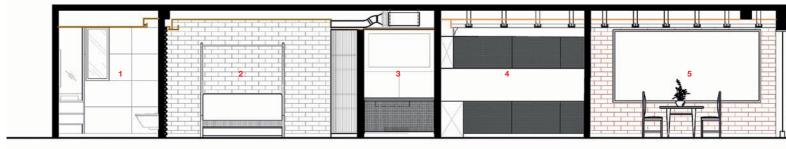




- DRAWING ROOM 1.
- BEDROOM 2.
- WASHROOM 3.
- FAMILY LOUNGE 4.
- 5. POWDER ROOM
- PARENT'S BEDROOM 6.
- PARENT'S ROOM WASHROOM 7.
- MASTER BEDROOM 8. MASTER BEDROOM WASHROOM 9.
- 10. WALK-IN CLOSET
- 11. KITCHEN
- 12. UTILITY 13. POOJA ROOM
- 14. DINING AREA

N 🔶 FLOOR PLAN



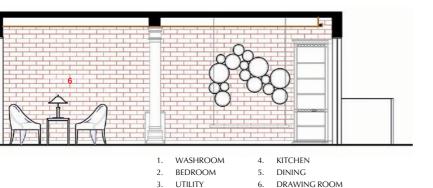


SECTION

circulation spine of the residence. This corridor forms a central axis and runs for almost the entire length of the residence; it opens up into a family lounge and open kitchen-dining in the heart of the house, while its ends are marked by entryways into the bedrooms.

Another challenge was designing around an existing floor-plate structure–when the client bought the floorplate, the external walls had already been placed and the internal walls were in the process of being put up. The architects found that this structure was lacking adequate provision of natural light and air for the interiors. Hence, the floor-plan has been modified in an effort to optimize daylight penetration and cross-ventilation. A central cutout is devised to bring natural light into the semi-public kitchen and dining space. Additionally, a verandah is provided as an extension to the drawing room, and





indoor plants were placed within the house to encourage engagement with nature.

Following the brief from the client, distinctive personalised elements are added in bedrooms to reflect the individual interests and sensibilities of its users; this includes a large world-map backdrop in the teenaged boy's room, and a ceiling-hanging *jhoola* (swing) in the teenaged girl's room. The larger décor, however,









carries the same materiality throughout the residence to weave a metaphorical thread around the home. Natural materials and finishes-exposed brick walls, stone flooring, sandblasted wood-are employed and used in tandem with contemporary art and furniture pieces to impart a sense of eclecticism. The drawing room features custom-designed products such as a low-hanging hemispherical chandelier, a cast aluminium column with a European aesthetic, and a wall installation with multiple circular mirrors. One wall in each room is finished in exposed brick to carry forward the material palette, and to tie the spaces with a common thread, albeit in different colours.

Photo credit: Kapill Kamra, The Portrait

### Factfile

Client: Mr Jindal Principal Architects: Amit Aurora, Rahul Bansal Design Team: Vini Sam, Pritha Mitra Design Styling: Nalini Aurora Consultants: Electrical, Furniture, Lighting: Dca Architects Built-up area: 2950sq ft Year of completion: 2017 Company names of products/materials used: Lighting:LSI; Flooring -Andra stone; Air Conditioning-weather comfort engineers; Arts/Artifacts - Gopal Namjoshi



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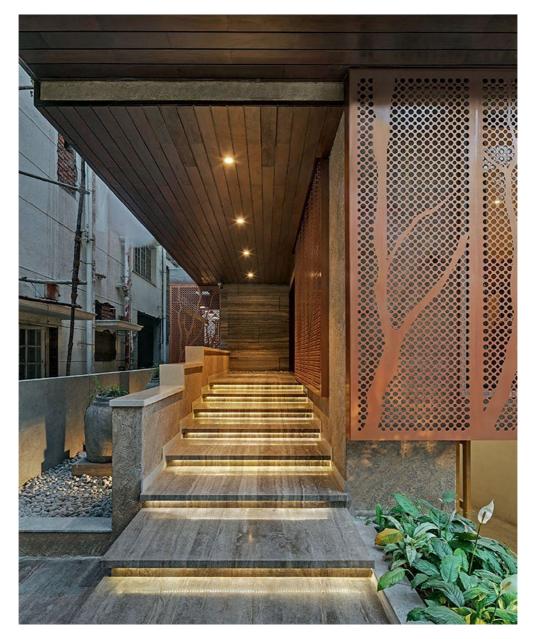


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### **Evolved Residence Spaces**



## Interplay of Light and Shadow

### Project: Komorebi House, Bengaluru Architects: The Purple Ink Studio, Bengaluru

he idea of the house is conceived by the 'sunlight filtering through the leaves' and long avenues of dense tree canopies forming the approach to the site. Komorebi (Japanese) (n.) means sunlight shining through the trees. A combination of four Japanese characters, it eloquently captures the essence of a phenomenon which cannot easily be expressed in English.

This very phenomenon was captured by the amalgamation of perforated mesh along with the inspirational lines taken from the greens around forming



1. Trees on the acctess road to the site



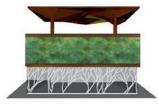
2. Identifying the trees to include for abstraction



3. The branches becoming the Jaali for visual screening and physical security



4. The top folliage translated into Bio-wall



5. Extending the tree form to a higher level, resembling the upper folliage of tree structure

### PROCESS + DESIGN EVOLUTION

6. Pushing the Jaali behind the added sun and rain shading



7. Creating a niche to get the main entry



8. The overall built form

the building skin at lower levels. Set on a 4500sq ft plot, the villa was designed for a family of six suited to the lavish milieu in a cosy enclave. Tailoring to the specific requirements of the user, the villa was designed in three volumes stacked atop one another, with the ground floor forming the core leading to more private spaces on the upper floors.

The entrance foyer clad with stone in random pattern advances to reveal a dramatic double height entrance lobby connecting the living and dining areas. The formal living areas are emblazoned with the tree lined screens that not only act as a shield from the sun's heat, but also introduces an enticing interplay of light and shadow throughout the day. Further accentuating the overall design is the artful Zen-inspired court with a large Buddha statue, highlighted by the natural light that trickles in from the intricate fenestration.

The dining area is flanked with an open kitchen and a connecting lily pond which seamlessly blurs the lines between the interiors and landscape. Traversing to the upper floors, are the bedrooms and the entertainment





#### GROUND FLOOR PLAN

- 1. FOYER
- ENTRANCE LOBBY 2.
- 3. FORMAL LIVING
- 4. ZEN GARDEN
- MANDIR 5.
- LOBBY 6.
- 7. PRIVATE LIFT
- 10. POWDER ROOM 11. MASTER KITCHEN 12. WET KITCHEN

9. LILY POND

8. FORMAL DINING/COURT

- 13. GUEST ROOM
- 14. BATHROOM

Х to 11 ŧ. 10 

#### FIRST FLOOR PLAN

- 1. HOME THEATRE
- 2. GYM
- ENTRANCE LOBBY BELOW 3.
- 4. MANDIR BELOW KIDS ROOM
- 5. 6. LOBBY
- 7. PRIVATE LIFT
- 8. SPA BATHROOM 9. PLANT BOX
- 10. MASTER BEDROOM
- 11. DRESSER
- 12. SHOWER
- 13. BATHROOM
- 14. WC







### Big Slabs for Big Ideas

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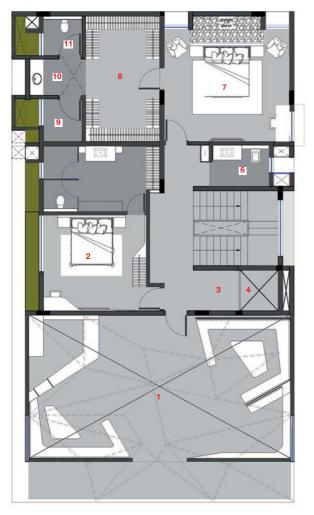
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### SECOND FLOOR PLAN

- 1. SEMI-COVERED TERRACE/
  - OUTDOOR PARTY AREA KIDS ROOM
- KIDS RO
   LOBBY
- PRIVATE LIFT
   BATHROOM
- 9. Shower 10. Bathroom

POWDER ROOM

DRESSER

MASTER BEDROOM

11. WC

6.

7.

8.

areas. The bedrooms are best planned as luxurious and spacious with en-suite bathroom and a walk-in wardrobe. The material palette is subtle with elements highlighting the urban feel of the bedroom.

The entertainment area has a private theatre with an open gymnasium on the first floor. The theatre is flanked by movie posters recreated by local graphic artists which adds a unique character to the space.

There is a semi-open lounge on the second floor, accentuated by a double height wooden roof, reminiscent











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- 2. HELPERS ROOM
- 3. FORMAL LIVING
- 4. DOUBLE HEIGHT LOBBY
- 5. MASTER KITCHEN
- WET KITCHEN
   GYM/GAMES ROO
- GYM/GAMES ROOM
   KIDS ROOM
- 9. BATHROOM
- 10. DRESSER
- 11. PRIVATE LOUNGE
- 12. TERRACE

of the trees surrounding the area. The deck of the lounge overlooks to a vast expanse of tree canopies. The lounge is adorned by a 40ft-wide graffiti of Elvis Presley which is an ode to the rock and roll days, created on site by the local artists. The entire area is highlighted by synchronized LEDs that can change with the mood for the area. The furniture is fluidly designed, with a professional bar counter, setting the tempo of the space to something unique, to an otherwise busy neighbourhood.

### **Fact**file

**Design Team:** Akshay Heranjal, Nishita Bhatia, Aditi Pai, Priyanka Bankapur, Jaikumar

Built-up area: 12,000sq ft

Year of completion: 2017

Company names of products/materials used: Furniture & Soft Furnishings

- Anil Drapes; Bathroom Fixtures & Fittings Kohler, Jaquar; Windows
- Panoramah!, Schuco; Kitchens Kohler; Paints & Textures: San Marco;
   Wallpapers Asian Paints; Bathroom Fixtures & Fittings Gessi, Laufen,
   Villeroy&Boch, Toto; Lighting Luminac

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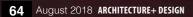
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### Evolved Residence Spaces

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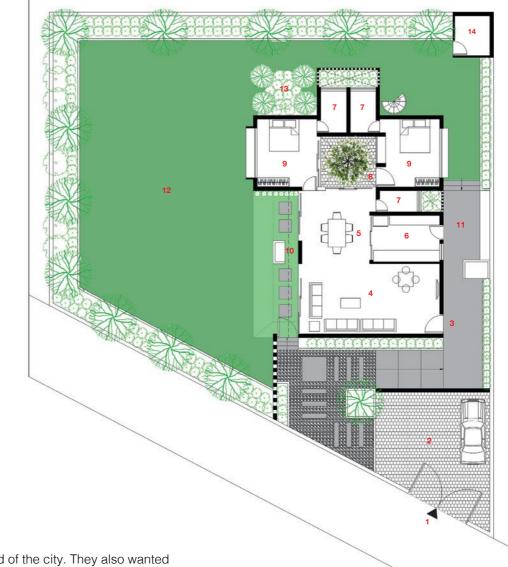
## Amalgamation of the Modern and Traditional

**Project:** Weekend Home at Kensville Golf Resort, Ahmedabad **Architects:** URBINTARCH, Ahmedabad

t is said that a house becomes a home once it gets a soul. The soul of this weekend home is a beautiful neem tree that almost designed the house around itself. This project presented itself with a rare opportunity, where the clues for the design of the house were given by a neem tree situated within the site. At the onset of the project itself, nature had already started planning the house in its own inimitable way. A neem tree had started growing on the plot. Cutting it down was a big 'no'! The small tree had already become a member of the family even before the physical building started to come up. The house was conceptualised in such a way that the tree became an integral part of the house.

The site is part of a sprawling Golf Community, Kensville situated about 50Km from the city of Ahmedabad, near Bavla. Nestled in the lap of nature, in this community is a two bedroom house.

A few years ago when the clients decided to build a weekend home, two things were clear; one, the house should be motorable distance and secondly it should be



MAIN ENTRANCE CAR PARKING 2. ENTRANCE PORCH 3

- LIVING ROOM 4.
- DINING ROOM 5.
- KITCHEN 6.
- 7. TOILET

1.

- 8 COURTYARD
- BEDROOM 9.
- 10. BARBEQUE
- 11. SERVICE YARD
- 12. GARDEN
- 13. KITCHEN GARDEN
- 14. STORE

far from the maddening crowd of the city. They also wanted it to be small and functional. The client wanted a home that connected them to the simple way of living at the same time modern with all the amenities. After a lot of family discussions and meetings, the design by the architect was unanimously approved. The design brief given by the clients was very interesting too. The house would have a dual language to itself in terms of ambience. The exteriors would be contemporary looking whereas the interiors would be more rustic and ethnic. This adds to the element of surprise as one transitions the spaces from the outdoors to indoors. The siting of the building footprint was done to maximise outdoor spaces.

Conscious efforts have been done to make the design of the house climatically responsive too. The longer axes of the house face north-south; hence deep overhangs and recessed windows have been proved on the southern facade to avoid the harsh solar glare. The northern facade has been provided with slit windows at higher levels to capture the northern light. The western facade has been devoid of any openings to reduce the late afternoon heat. China mosaic flooring has been done on the terrace, which

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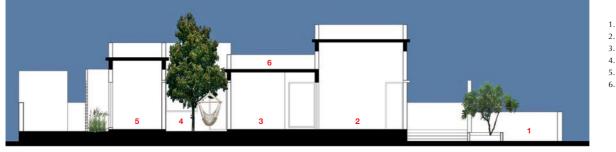


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ENTRANCE

- 2. LIVING ROOM
- DINING
   COURTYARD
- 4. COURT 5. TOILET
- 5. TERRACE

SECTION

reduces the solar heat gain from the roof. Interesting play of volumes has been done in the house, which in turn helps in regulating the indoor temperature. The living area has the highest volume with the slab placed at 15ft, followed by the bedrooms at 12ft and dining and kitchen at 10ft.

To enhance the dual aesthetic language of the house, the contemporary exteriors of the house are given by exposed RCC finish walls combined with very rustic reddish brown textured walls which are reminiscent of the lippan done on the walls in the villages of Gujarat. The interiors of the house sport a stark white look on the walls. A very interesting approach has been adopted for the finishes of the walls inside, where the colour palette is kept white and there is a play on the textures on the walls. In the living room, one of the longer walls has not been plastered from inside. The rough and uneven surface of the brick masonry is enhanced by painting it in white limestone paint. The main entrance wall has been done in white textured paint in the lippan technique. One wall in each bedroom too has been done using the same technique. The clients were not very keen on having any display shelves for putting artefacts; the artefacts would be housed in the walls itself. Hence arched niches of various proportions were carved out of the walls of each room. Windows have been designed to act as the connection of the house to the lush green nature outside. Recessed windows with wide ledges to sit on; connect the bedrooms to the beautiful garden and the intimate neem tree court.

A *chowk* has been built around the existing tree giving a cosy, rustic feel to the house. Every room is oriented towards the *chowk*, giving framed views of the tree via the large openings towards the *chowk*. The floor was done with a special technique which is still used in the villages and houses in southern India. Once the structure was ready with white walls and a rust floor, the clients started thinking on the furniture and décor of the house. One thing was certain that being a weekend home, the furniture should be minimalistic and low maintenance. They decided to bring colour to the house through furniture pieces and the soft furnishings.

The beds in the two bedrooms are of concrete and cladded with Kota stone. To add to the rustic look, the dining table and chairs were bought of stressed wood. The clients love entertaining people and they wanted this house



# INSPIRING RANGE

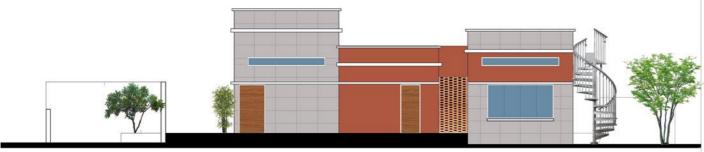
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to be a party house. A pretty wooden cabinet embellished with painted ceramic tiles and a matching centre table were bought online. They had a lovely hand embroidered Kachchhichopat set which they wanted to display. Thanks to their skilled carpenter, Amarnath, a similar coffee table was customised with tiles and ceramic knobs, which their son had bought from Goa. This table with a glass top has a drawer which displays the chopat. A classic house in Gujarat isn't a home without a swing. A wooden '*paat*' swing with brass rods divides the dining and the sitting area. The seating in the living room has been designed for a dual purpose. It is like a box seating element, which also stores mattresses for sleepovers.

Given the fact that the house is both inward and outward looking, landscape too played an important role in shaping





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up the ambience of the house. The entry to the house has been planned such that one has to meander through to reach the entrance porch of the house. The main entrance of the house is screened from the road by a beautiful random rubble masonry sandstone wall, which almost looks like a free-standing mural framing the driveway area. A planter bed with a Red Champa tree symbolises the entry to the house. Cudappah cobble stones are used in the driveway and the transition to the main entrance of the house is done over Kota stone slabs placed on red brick murrum base, to add that element of colour surprise amongst grey and black stone paving. A long planter bed with Budhha's Belly Bamboo lines up the wide steps that lead to the house. The steps and the entrance porch are paved with river wash Kota stone. An exposed brick *jali* screen acts as a visual barrier between the driveway and the garden area, and at the same time enhancing the interplay of natural stones and bricks.

Being outside the city limits, power-cuts are natural; as a result an inverter was inevitable. The challenge was to visually screen the machine sitting in the corner of the living room. The clients bought three old window shutters from the junk wood market in Vasna. The surface of the shutters was grinded and polished. Ceramic knobs and left over tiles were used to create an artistic panel.

A lone antique embroidered wall hanging embellishes the long white wall. The bright colours of the '*chakda*' speak volumes of the myriad colours of life. Colourful durries break the monotony of the rust floor. Barring a few lights on the wall, uplighters are used to light the house. The connect between the glorious past and the present is reinforced by using traditional Mundhas for seating along with an old piece of reclining chair. A traditional flour mill *"stonechakki"* painted in bright colours has been placed strategically such that it becomes a visual treat to watch.

The clients are glad, they have a weekend home that helps them relax and unwind. They know their grandchildren will be able to come here and enjoy the little pleasures of swinging from a swing tied to a tree. The house connects the past with the future. The peace of the surroundings beckons them every weekend to a couple of days of peace and rejuvenation.

#### Factfile

Dhaage by Neha

Client: Nimisha Kane and Apurva Kane Design Team: Arjun Joshi Consultants: Structure Design - Swati Consultants, Ahmedabad; MEP Consultant - MEP Tech Consultants, Ahmedabad Contractors: Savvy Infrastructure Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad Built Up Area: 1200sqft Cost of Project: Rs50 lakhs Year of Completion: 2018 Company name of products/materials used: Modular Kitchen - Creo, Italy; Kitchen Tiles – Somany; Sanitary Fixtures – Cera; Sanitary Fittings – Jaquar; Air

Conditioning - LG; Inverter - Luminous; Home Linens - Hand Made Shibori -



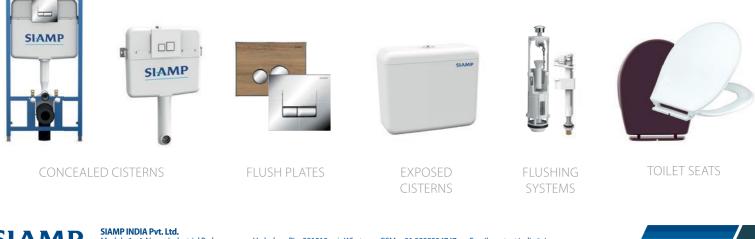
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### **Evolved Residence Spaces**

# A Sustainable Abode

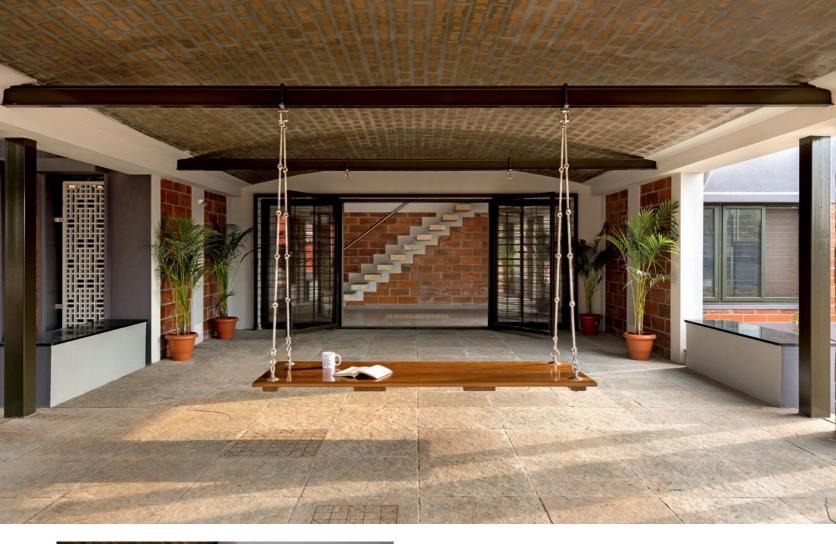
#### Project: HD Kote, Mysore Architects: Design Front Architects, Bengaluru

o strike an element of transparency was 'the challenge' for this house in the farm amidst the green. This farmhouse is worked on a simple linear orientation to the north with fenestrations dissolving the distinction between the interior and the exterior. The form simple in nature has a lean to roof for the main areas



**Anand Chalawadi** 





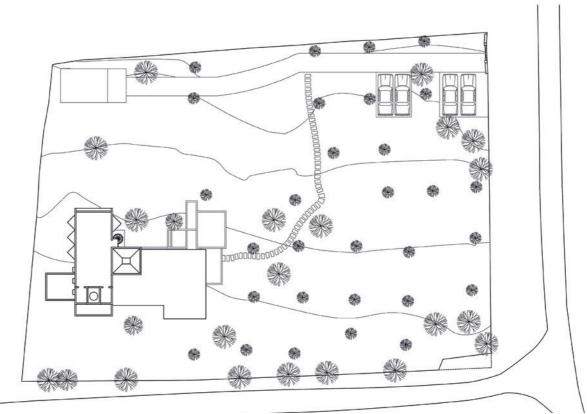


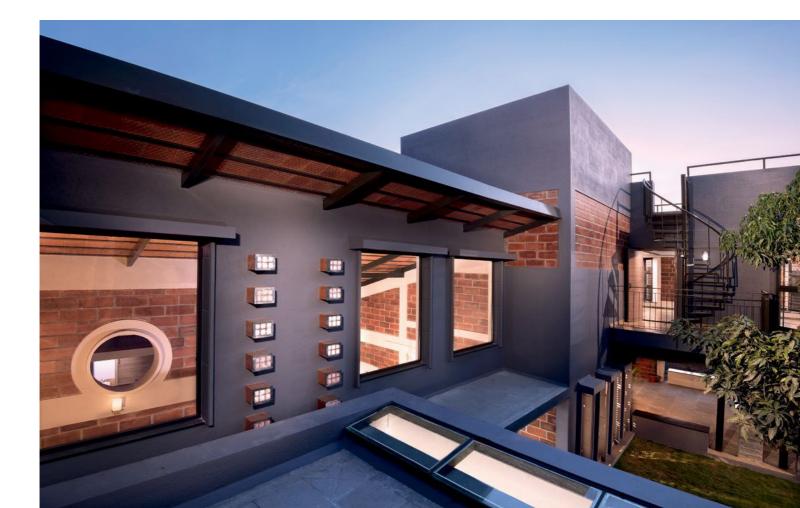
accentuating the north orientation and is sustainable with bricks and roofing systems all manufactured on site. Trees that nurture and sway in the environ are retained and the footing of the structure accommodates these elements of green.

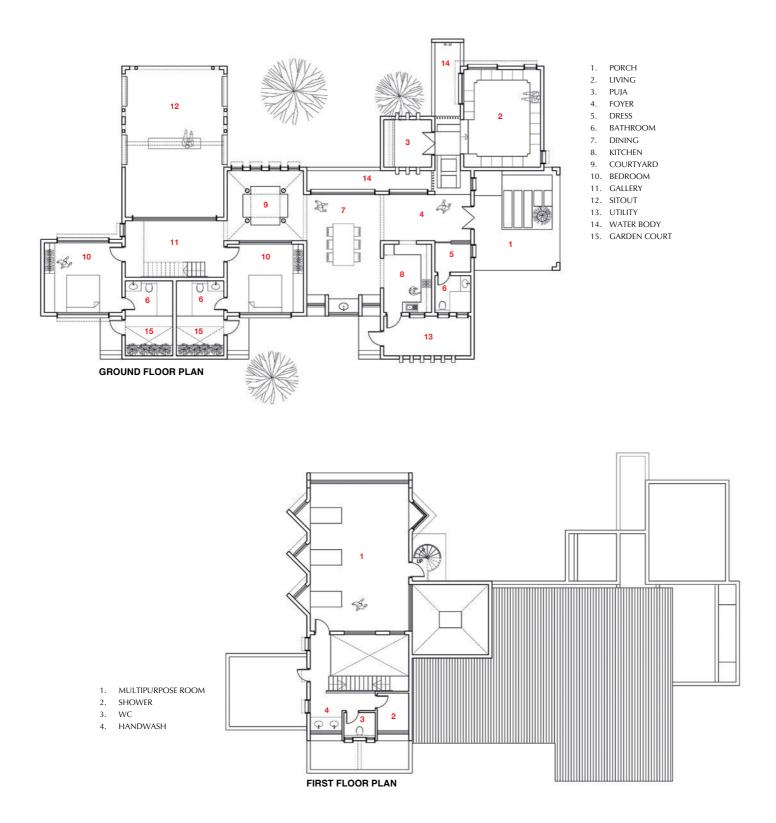
Being a joint family, the program has been debated to eventually have two bedrooms on the ground with a multipurpose hall on the first floor. The ground with the living, dining, and the kitchen come with the associated rooms and a traditional courtyard segregates the guest and the private areas. An elaborate *pooja* room sits in the north-eastern quadrant and is sized to accommodate four members for the daily rituals.

The gallery, a preamble to the bedrooms, opens to the sit-out on the north. This sit-out is adorned with a swing, a welcoming gesture to all for that sense of ease and freedom.

The two bedrooms on the ground have bathrooms with an open-to-sky garden attached to it. With privacy in mind







the walls on the south of these bathrooms have been raised to a comfortable height also allowing for one to dip in the rain that would pour in.

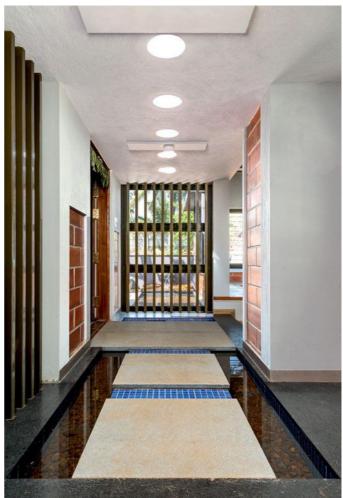
The dormitory mainly for the children has the bath and the toilets separated in a manner that would allow four to use these facilities at any given time.

Few blocks in the construction of the walls have

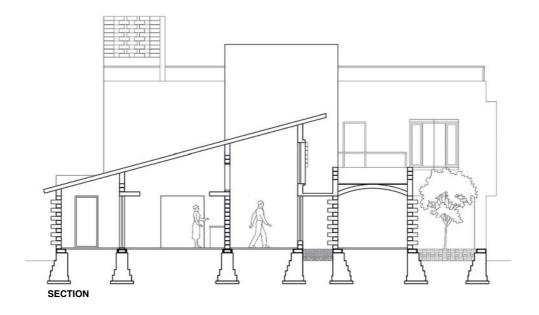
been turned to allow ventilation and they in turn cast an interesting shadow pattern on few surfaces within the house. The dual wall on the western part of the *pooja* is fit with a linear skylight bringing in ample light as the wall washer on the surface that holds many idols and photographs. The stair connecting the dormitory is the simple cantilevered stone slab with railing on one side











highlighting the minimalistic approach in line with the overall language of the house.

Stabilised roofing bricks, terracotta panels and the precast beams have all been processed on site which in turn has lead to a huge reduction of plastering, painting and consumption of steel and concrete.

As a part of a learning curve, architects from the firm and students of architecture have been part of this project at various stages of construction. They have had their hands on experience right from the construction of vaults to execution of roofing bricks and panels. =

#### **Fact**file

Client: Vishwanath

Design Team: Anand Chalawadi, Sahana Shetty and Ajay Kumar Consultants: Mahijaa (Structural), Design Front Architects (Mechanical, Electrical, Interior, Landscape & Plumbing) Built-up area: 4450sq ft Cost of project: INR 90,00,000 Year of completion: 2018 Company names of products/materials used: Blocks - Clay blocks from

Tumkur; Flooring -Kajaria and Spanish Tiles



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# Verandah on a Roof





Kalpak Shah



"There's a special feeling you get on a verandah that you just can't get anywhere else."

- Haruki Murakami.

### **Project:** Veranda on a Roof, Pune, Maharashtra **Architects:** Studio Course, Pune, Maharashtra

ocated on the roof of a 12-storey building of a duplex apartment, this space was conceptualised as a 'verandah' (Hindi meaning: A transitional space between public and private area or, between a house and a street). A concept, which conjures up an image of a welcoming social space meant for all.

Traditionally, verandahs have always been an integral part of our homes. However, in recent years, to a certain degree forgotten and disappeared. A verandah was always an element, central to making our houses into homes, an accidental space for long conversations, a place for one to relax and unwind.



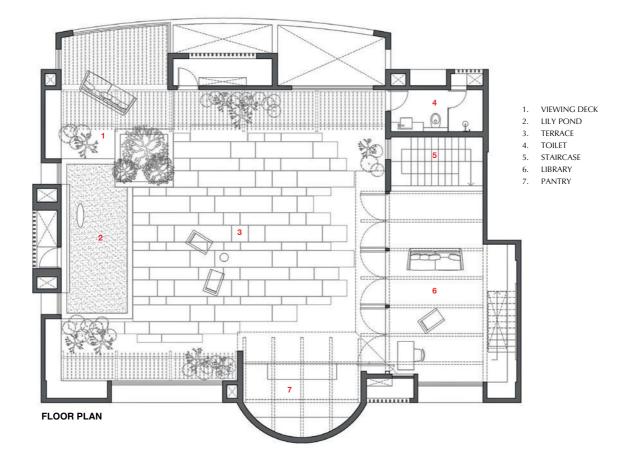
But, the project is no accidental space. It is a space designed keeping in mind the family and their clear understanding of a special place they wanted to add to their home. A space crafted out from their lifestyle which revolves around books, food and plants. Hence, it houses a library and a pantry, which extend into a terrace, or in other words, parts of terrace which are covered to accommodate a reading nook and a pantry.

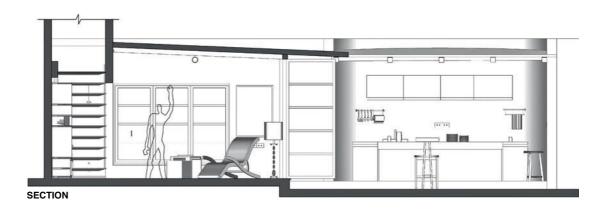
The design intends a play on the senses as one approaches the place through a wooden staircase from the living room below. The existing walls of the staircase were broken down and roof was created to open up the space and get better connection. This enabled to make the verandah into an extension to the main house below while allowing the two levels to engage in a dialogue.

Bold earthy undertones of the cement textured walls

and teak wood furniture are used to set the tone of this space. The roof library overlooks the terrace garden through a wooden glass panelled façade, which gives a notion of an enclosure that can open up completely, blurring the boundaries of the inside from the outside. This uniformity of space is also accentuated by the use of natural materials like cement plaster, teak wood, granite stone and brass metal which span inside as well as outside. The hand movement imprints on the cement plaster constantly give a sense of tactility of the process that has undergone to make its architecture.

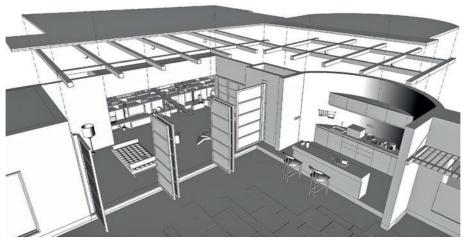
The low-on-clutter, minimal furniture allows for easy movement. The library unit is designed to be understated in its form so as to consciously reduce its visual impact. A metal staircase hung from the stainless steel wires on one end and anchored to a wooden beam on the other leads to











AXONOMETRIC VIEW

a store room above. Here, the treads are designed in a way, so as to perfectly align with the shelves of the library unit. Similarly, a lot of elements such as the door handle, door stopper, tower bolts, drawer handles are custom-designed to follow this language with the notion to fade away.

The fully equipped pantry on the terrace continues to have the same language where the thrilling idea of cooking outdoors is explored. Walking on the gravel produces a sound which triggers the memory of being in the outdoors. The gravel floor is used in parts across the terrace to heighten this tangibility. A reading nook, which sits along the waterfall and a lotus pond within it, is a tranquil setting to indulge into a piece of literature with the garden partly screening it. The house cannot only overlook the exotic view of a race course but also be able to create a world within its own, where one can immerse and indulge in the pleasures of one's seeking. It turns as a refuge, where the shifting contexts have created new meanings.

Photo credits: Hemant Patil

#### Factfile

Principal Architect: Kalpak Shah Gross Built-up area: 50sq m Year of completion: 2017



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## Cohesive connectivity in Design



**Project:** Residence, Calicut, Kerala **Architect:** DAC, Calicut, Kerala

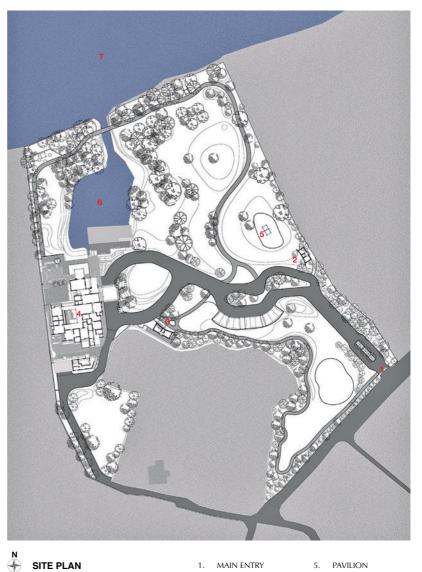
his sprawling residence situated on the verge of the Chaliyar River is set apart by slender vertical lines revealed at first on the facade, shaded by L-shaped louvers, and then in the interiors, where furniture and fixtures subtly echo the feature.

The expansive 4-acre site, richly endowed with verdant green, opens up into a cobblestoned driveway that chases the curves of the meandering river. The built area

is allocated in a pocket deep inside the plot, glimpses of which can only be seen from the focal points in the turns of the driveway, hidden amid the green. The fine vertical lines characterising the residence stand out against the organic curves of the landscaping.

The client, settled abroad and a very frequent traveller required a comfortable and liveable space for himself and his family where an optimal balance between luxury

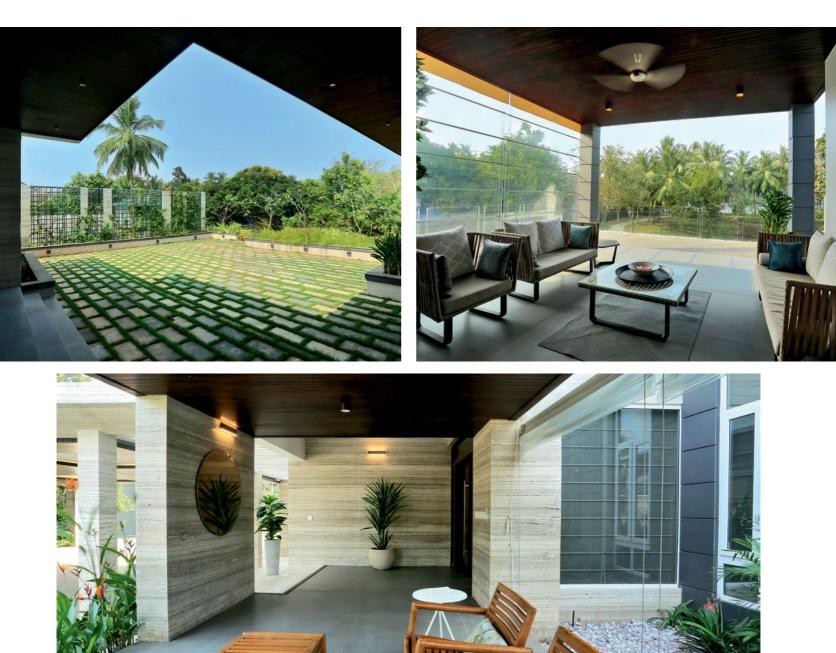




SITE PLAN

- MAIN ENTRY
   SECURITY CABIN 3. DRIVER'S CABIN
   4. RESIDENCE
- PAVILION
   WATER BAY
   RIVER





and simplicity was called for, and connectivity between family members within the living space was considered imperative.

An existing boathouse and water bay, previously used for recreational purposes, is integrated with the residence with terraced landscaping, steps adorned with planters and walkways leading to the al-fresco deck.

The built area of the residence is allocated in a pocket deep inside the expansive plot, the rest of which is landscaped to perfection– flaunting beautiful winding walkways, steps adorned with planters, and the site itself retains all its natural endowments, lending a special atmosphere to the residence.

The landscaped paths lead towards the existing boat-house and catchment area. These were used as a recreational space by the family, to enjoy the thrills of the Chaliyar River. The catchment area is connected to the formal living space through the subtly rising slope and steps that lead to the al fresco deck.

This project exudes an aura of relaxation and indulgence, ideal for a family that travels a lot but appreciates time spent at home. Designing for a





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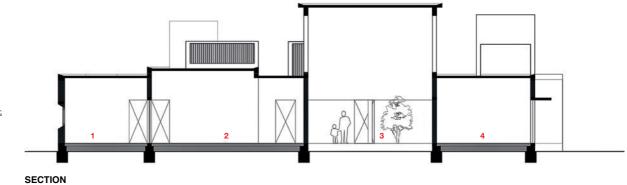


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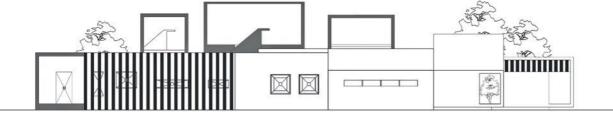




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ELEVATION

property where a likelihood of water seepage existed was a challenge in itself, resolved by elevating the residence completely, taking care to avoid the built mass imposing on the site. Stepped landscaping and the subtly increasing slope of the paths were made use of to achieve this balance. The client also desired to showcase the beautiful natural landscape on site. Although a premier high-end NRI residence, the functional aspects of the residence were given more consideration that a decorative elevation and maximum connectivity within the house was given high priority. This was achieved with separate public and private zones, and within the private zones visual access between individual rooms and spaces. Further, service areas were completely separated from the main living area. The elevation was developed from the massing. Decorative efforts to ornament the facade were avoided. In addition, the finishes that were used in the exterior retained the contrast levels between the site and the building block. Clay tiles, stone facade and slender metal louvers adhered to tones of brown and grey giving the site and its natural landscape the utmost consideration.

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The stand-alone porch, clad in rustic traventine stone is flanked by a sit-out which is surrounded by the landscaped pockets and leads to the main entrance of the Hidden House– a light-filled foyer extending to an open-to-sky courtyard while acting as a transition space segregating the public and private spaces.

The formal living area connects to the outside with a river-facing deck overlooking the landscaped pockets. The dining area and open kitchen are connected to the family living area which looks into a verandah surrounding the large enclosed courtyard. The bedrooms are arranged around this patio, behind the wall of which is a staircase leading to the service and utility area.

The muted colour palette dominated by greys and browns is intermittently accentuated by rose gold trims, adding a hint of sheen to the flooring, furniture and lighting fixtures. This home makes the best use of natural light in a variety of ways– the enclosed courtyard allows light to get in but regulates the amount and quality. The hatched screens extending below the ceilings causes light to intersperse and scatter, throwing shadows on the walls, the patio and the interiors.

The Hidden House does not have visual access from the main gate. Instead, a series of winding curves in the

driveway lead a visitor to glimpse the residence from shifting perspectives, some between the dense foliage on site, some undisturbed by these. From one point to another, the elements that are emphasised in the facade change, making the journey to the residence—for the visitors as well as the home-owners—a treat for the senses.

Photo credit: Running Studios

#### **Fact**file

Client: Mr Rasheed V K Project Team: DAC Architect: Brijesh Shaijal Project Manager: Fasin K Architectural Coordinator: Sarath Sarasan Int. Coordinator: Mr Praveen Site Engineers: Javid & Sareesh Consultants: Edge Cochin (Electrical MEP); Streamline Consortium (Structural) Contractors: P K Constructions (Civil) Interior: Shyam Enterprises Year of completion: 2017





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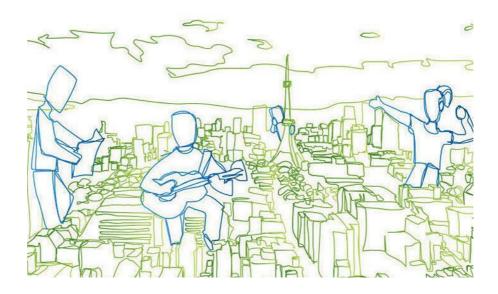
### CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF ENTHRALLING PROJECTS & INSPIRING IDEAS

STUDENT



### **Buildings of the Future:**

People at the centre



#### **Text by: Peter Greaves**



Peter Greaves

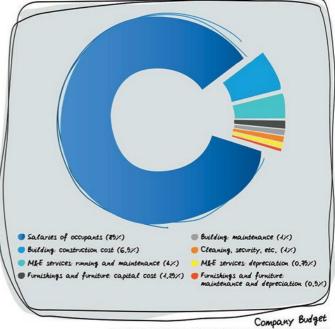
G lobal engineering and infrastructure advisory company, Aurecon, recently met with a multi-million dollar telecommunications company about building some swish headquarters. "We want the latest technology. We want high tech!" reads the wish list. "Why?" Aurecon countered. The reply was astounding.

The company faces a war for talent and needed to create a place where talented programmers would want to work. Asking "Why?" and thereby uncovering the real purpose of the building would re-shape how the building was designed.

Very often, designers get so caught up in the technology involved in buildings of the future, focusing on everything from building management system apps and information screens to automated elevators and rooms that are air-conditioned and lit a few seconds before the occupants enter them, that they forget who a building is ultimately designed for: people.

Building design is not only about bits and bytes, but flesh and bones – it is important to take a step back and remember that humans are at the centre of every design. Buildings of the future are about designs that unlock human potential. High-tech is only high value if that same technology enhances human experience.

Why designing for humans is really important?: According to the British Design Council, who did a study examining the ways office accommodation can create economic and social value for businesses, salaries of occupants constitutes 85



surce: The Impact of Office Design on Business Performance. British Council of Offices, 2008

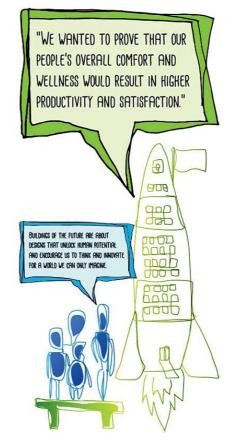
percent of a company's annual budget, while just 6.5 percent goes on construction and 8.5 percent on furnishing, maintaining and operating the facility. Humans are quite obviously the biggest expense.

Conventional projects see the client's focus on cost of construction and the facility manager's focus on operations. In reality, a three-dimensional approach to the ROI analysis of buildings of the future is needed, yet the third leg of this approach (namely humans) is often neglected. More attention needs to be given to the way in which a building and its facilities can actively support or disrupt the people in it. The spotlight needs to shift to the results of post-occupancy research in building design, answering guestions such as: What building functions do we really use? How do we use them? Is it making our jobs more efficient? Intellectually and Emotionally Intelligent Buildings: Creating buildings that are both intellectually and emotionally intelligent will be the currency in the future as companies start to realise that their bottom line depends largely on the effect they have on the wellness, happiness and productivity of their people.

In a survey by Management Today magazine, 97 percent of respondents said they regarded their place of work as a symbol of whether or not they were valued by their employer. Yet alarmingly, only 37 percent thought their offices had been designed 'with people in mind'.

Buildings were never meant to operate in isolation from users; rather in 'synchronisation' with them. For a building to be smart and connected, it doesn't have to be complicated. It's up to the building designers to consider all the complexities involved in designing a human-centred and emotionally intelligent building – and then to design 'simple' ones. This means having empathy for the needs, challenges, daily tasks, desires and longterm goals of the people who use them. Theory in action: Aurecon Centre in Melbourne When Aurecon established its new Melbourne base camp at 850 Collins Street, they did so with their staff's needs driving the design.

The eight-storey Aurecon Centre houses 700 Melbourne-based staff and the design focused on a building that would foster co-creation, engagement, collaboration and innovation. Carefully planning everything from digital platforms that connect a range of sensors throughout the building, walkways, bike racks, recreational areas and living plants enabled the company to design a space that not only provides useful data and insights, but one that people enjoy. They wanted to prove that their



people's overall comfort and wellness would result in higher productivity and satisfaction.

The data that is studied allows Aurecon to review these correlations by looking at scenarios such as: comparing stair versus lift use; measuring bike facility usage; monitoring indoor air quality; using wearables to promote health initiatives; understanding drinking water consumption; and optimising daylight, temperature and humidity levels. Together, these factors determine the success of the building's design for the people who work in it and occupy its space. What's Driving the Change? The connection

between building design and productivity has been at the heart of a lot of research and proves that how people operate in a space and how comfortable they are in a space has a huge impact on staff motivation, satisfaction and retention levels.

'Workplace design' has become far more important than 'building design' due to massive changes in the way people work. This shift will require a deep understanding of the drivers of buildings of the future, namely:

 A Mobile Workforce: Employees value mobility, flexibility and remote connectivity to work, which means that businesses need to invest in collaborative technologies, cloud computing solutions and even virtual and augmented reality.
 Changing Social Context: Employees' social contexts will need to be supported by their work environments (consider how many businesses already have crèches at their offices). Changes in transportation, such as car drones and autonomous vehicles, will lead to changes in how building design needs to accommodate these technologies.

• A Sharing Economy: The rapid rise of the shared economy will also play a role in buildings of the future. Companies like Airbnb and Uber are set to become mainstream in the property industry as well, with many small businesses already sharing offices, infrastructure and services, resulting in better utilisation between companies, tenants and individuals.

• War for Talent: Attracting and retaining top talent means investing in a physical environment that can match the innovative spirit, enthusiasm, lifestyle needs and creativity of the people that a business employs.

• The Ability to Respond to Human Needs: Analytics and sensor technology can track how, when, and where people move throughout the building and these insights can be used to optimise everything from the indoor temperature and acoustics to natural lighting.

• Aligning with Corporate and City Strategy: Millennials especially want to work in buildings that are reducing their impact on the environment. A future ready building not only benefits the environment, but it also creates the right perception of value that influences the talent a business attracts as well as the rental returns that the building can generate. On top of this, it supports corporate strategy elements such as collaboration, innovation and social responsibility, and integration with the broader community.

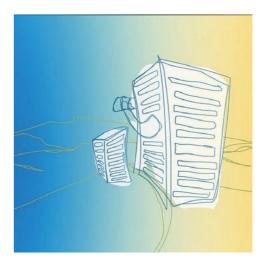
Designing for efficiency and demonstrable ROI: Designing for efficiency and ROI is a three-stage process, starting from design and construction through to operation. The needs, movements and preferences of building occupants can't be considered only after a building has been constructed. A building that has been designed for the end user doesn't just happen. People-focused strategies need to be followed at every stage of the project, from design right through to construction and operation.

Design – enabling human-centred design through collaborative design, rapid prototyping and 'optioneering': Human-centred design is enabled through collaborative design, rapid prototyping and optioneering. When the right stakeholders are brought in during the concept and design phase and ideas and feedback are tangible and immediate, then the building designers and engineers can learn through producing. Prototypes don't have to be perfect from the get-go; they need to represent a concept that's open to adjustments and optimisation. This type of optioneering enables testing of ideas within a continuous feedback loop. It's essentially a practical, repeatable approach that will help everyone arrive at truly intelligent, humancentred buildings.

Visualisation has only just started to be explored. Leveraging visualisation and community engagement, expanding the application of design models, and understanding the end user sentiment requires an agile design approach. Aurecon, for instance, used visualisation to explain building access and operation to the facilities management team for a building in the Oman Across Ages Museum.

Emotionally intelligent buildings will enable better leverage of design data and communication in different types of visualisation scenarios, especially with regards to daylighting, indoor environmental quality and acoustics.

Some examples of this include auralisation, where acoustic modelling is used to simulate noise to optimise building designs and influence



sound masking within buildings, Computer Fluid Dynamics (CFD) analysis to understand the efficacy of a building's façade and HVAC system, as well as digitised way finding and pedestrian modelling solutions. While these visualisation options could be deemed costly, it must be put into the context of the overall cost of buildings of the future to translate a better return on investment for owners and developers.

Construction – Bridging the gap between design and operations: During the construction and

operation phase, data insights and sensors can be used to gain valuable feedback and target specific problems. These rapid insights can be used to justify larger, more costly adjustments to the design.

When building systems are installed, machine learning will eventually be able to take data derived from these systems and enable a building to manage itself.

Theory in action: Wynyard Station

When Aurecon was tasked with upgrading Wynyard Station, they used an unconventional solution involving 3D printing and virtual reality to create a simulated station environment to test possible design options that were unconventional or had only achieved limited success in the past.

In this case, prototyping and visualisation allowed the project team to take the client and stakeholders along the journey, starting from collaboration right through to a physical demonstration of the solution that all the stakeholders had collectively devised. The exercise demonstrates the benefit of visualisation by using robotics, off-site construction and technology to create a more defined product without any added actual design costs.

Operations – Asset and facility management for both new and existing buildings: Data-driven technology such as smartphones, smart watches and smart glasses continue to optimise every aspect of our daily lives and it won't be long before the Internet of Things (IoT) enables us to use this data to create emotionally intelligent workplaces as well.

Today's building occupants already have the wearables, apps and smart phones with everything from e-mail, social media and calendar schedules, but the ability to tie it all together with their place of employment is what will help businesses differentiate themselves in the future. This aligns with many property owners, who are aware that tenants' expectations have shifted from the buildings that are high-tech and luxurious, to the buildings that are sustainable and intelligent.

Smart sensors are a key element in the 'things' of lot, along with software, network connectivity and electronics that enable them to gather and communicate data. Smart sensors in buildings of the future extend far beyond merely picking up on changes in a physical environment and the movement of people. IoT ecosystems that run on state-of-the-art machine learning algorithms can provide unprecedented precision in detecting the movements and location of occupants.

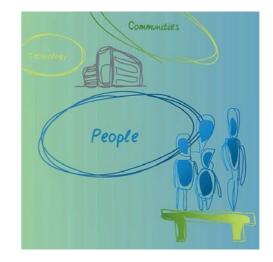
When integrated into other building systems

and appliances, truly smart buildings that enhance safety, save energy, provide business intelligence and optimise facility management and occupants' experiences are possible.

This data also needs to be accessible and enable stakeholders to make better decisions. DrawingBox is a tool that Aurecon developed to assist with this. It enables facility and asset managers to scan the QR codes of building systems so that they can gain access to information related to these systems on their phones.

Theory in action: Melbourne School of Design At the Melbourne School of Design (MSD), a state-of-the-art educational building that is the largest of only 12 buildings in Australia to receive the industry lauded Green Buildings Council of Australia 6 Star rating, visualisation technology continues to change the way occupants use and gain value from the space.

Students and staff have access to water and energy usage data so that they can observe and interact with the building's functionality while being made aware of this impact of the building's functionality on an ongoing basis. The water and energy usage, which is tracked by data sensors, is also used by design and built environment students for research purposes.



Human-centred equals future-focused: Putting people at the centre of the design process forces us to change our focus to the future – how will we work and live in the future and what do we need to do now to be ready for that evolution? =

Peter Greaves is Aurecon's Buildings of the Future Leader, a chartered electrical engineer and passionate about creating intelligent buildings that are not only technologically innovative, but also emotionally intelligent.



# **Restoring historical legacy...**

**Project:** Archaeological Survey of India, Delhi **Architects:** Ramesh K Safaya and Manju Safaya (as Executive Directors – Consultancy, HUDCO)





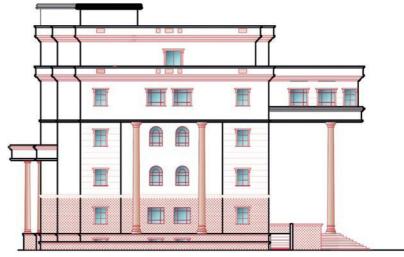
he Archaeological survey of India (ASI) is an ageold institution that has significantly contributed to art, culture and heritage of the country. Lately, the interest of the public in understanding the cultural heritage of India has increased, along with the curiosity of outsiders. The office of ASI was functioning in sheds on the land belonging to the national museum, which had its own plan of extension pending for a long time.

ASI owned a plot of land measuring 2.58 acres at 24 Tilak Marg, New Delhi, near the Supreme Court of India and adjacent to the College of Arts. The plot has a large, colonial-style bungalow in a relatively good condition, which was used for the Institute of Archaeology. It was thought that the headquarters of ASI could be accommodated on this plot in a newly-proposed building while the bungalow could be retained. The building could be used to develop a museum on archaeology with a state-of-the-art display.

The new office headquarter block is already functioning wherein modern facilities for an office have been provided. The elaborate artwork proposed for the



Manju and Ramesh Safaya



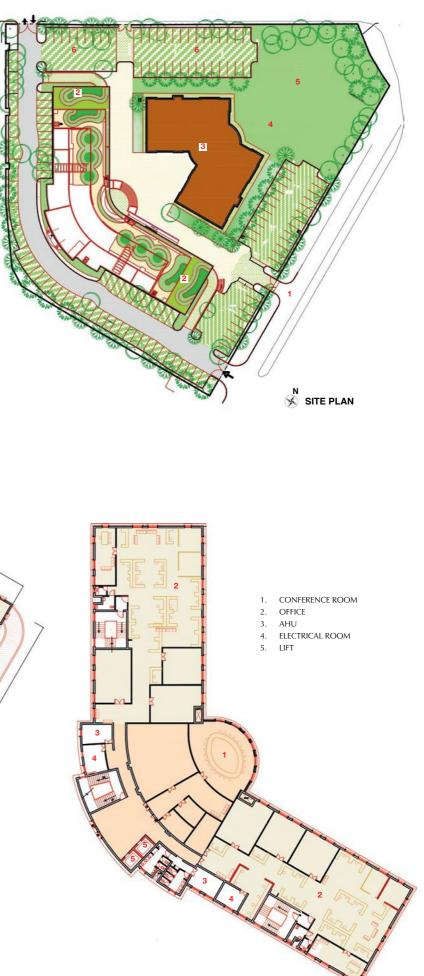
ELEVATION



- 3. NEW ASI OFFICE BUILDING
- 4. EXISTING BUILDING

11

- 5. LANDSCAPED GREEN
- 6. CAR PARKING



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

UPPER GROUND FLOOR PLAN

1. ENTRY PLAZA 2. ENTRANCE LOBBY 3. OFFICE 4. RECEPTION 5. WAITING 6. AHU/INDOOR UNIT 7. ELECTRICAL ROOM 8. LOBBY 9. LIFT

10. CONFERENCE ROOM 11. EXISTING BUILDING

10

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The available area for the construction of the new building was on the longer side of the site which was towards the College of Arts. This enabled the architects to design an arc-shaped block on the extreme edge which enclosed the open courtyard created by the bungalow - the bungalow remained single-storied while the new building was planned as 4.5 storied with reassessed floors on sides. The entrance canopy, supported by three-floor tall circular columns, projecting out into the courtyard, acts as solid and void combination. The colonnade on the front wing and on the sides reflects the use of colonial architecture yet carries the variation in the façade. The ramps located on either side of the building provide the accesses to two basements. The library occupies the sub ground floor, the office space on upper floors and DG's office on top floor overlooking the terrace gardens on either side. Appropriate landscape for the display of sculptures and artefacts after retaining the existing trees adds to the overall ethnic look of the entire complex. The building also includes various green rating features. 🕂

#### **Fact**file

Client: Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Consultants: M/S Stup Consultants (structural, mechanical, electrical, interior, landscape and plumbing, HVAC) Contractors: Central Projects and Works Department (CPWD) (structural and civil) Built-up area: 11,400sq m

Cost of project: INR 50 Crores Year of completion: 2017

complex is yet to be initiated. This will help in creating a cultural complex that is not only for students of art, culture, archaeology and architecture, but also for common visitors as well as dignitaries.

The trapezium-shaped site is accessible from Tilak Marg and Sikendra Road while the existing bungalow is located on the smaller wedge encircling the open court in the rear.



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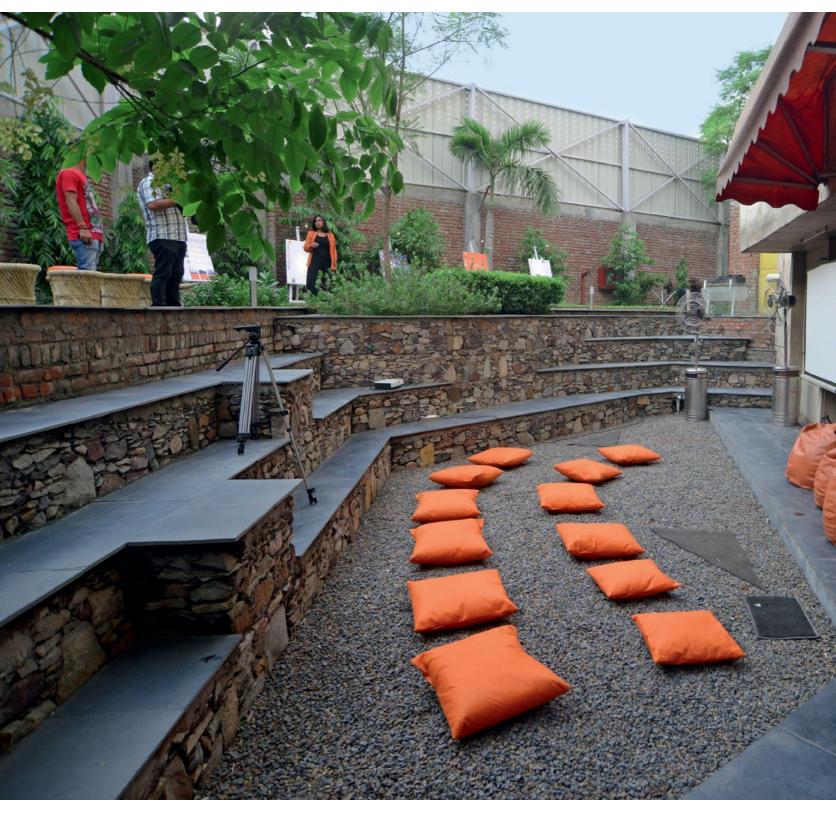
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## **Project Features**



# **A Work-in-Progress Aesthetic...**

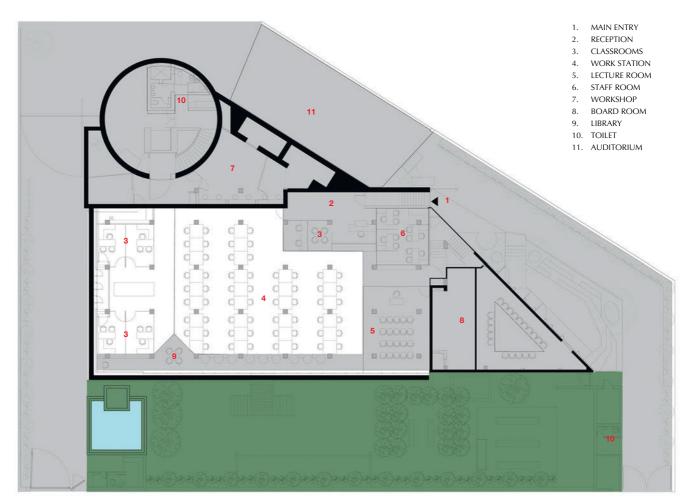




## **Project:** The Design Village, Noida **Architects:** Archohm, Noida

he campus in Noida is thoughtfully designed around the idea of 'interaction'. The spaces must encourage interdisciplinary encounters that the institute firmly believes are essential for holistic design education. It is designed as a vibrant and an active one, interspersed with distinctive mediations to inspire creativity amongst the students.

Planned as a global hub that educates, promotes and supports development through design, the interdisciplinary institute with a focus on design and practice is conceived as a 'village' in all aspects, with its mix of institutes, associations, studios, industries and centres. Upon entrance, one is greeted by a sunken amphitheatre that serves as a gathering space for



SITE PLAN

students during their break times as well as for outdoor seminars, plays etc. Surrounded by lush green cover, this stoned terraced space merges with the landscape of the exterior. The zone is punctuated by benches and steps.

The step-well with a stone masonry structure holds a set of guest rooms at its base. These guest rooms are furnished with kitchenettes and other necessities and are cleverly tucked into the basement of a concrete triangular volume above.

As a conversation starter, a sedan is mounted vertically on the wall atop the stage of the amphitheatre – this is an intriguing comment on the everyday object being elevated to the status of art. It was relieved of its engine and put up on the concrete wall. The car's headlights serve as an interesting light source for the space. The number plate reads 12052014, which stands for the day the village was conceived. A temporary bamboo food basket perched in a corner serves as a contemplative space that is reminiscent of a confessional.

Below a narrow fleet of stairs with thick stone wallcladding is the entry walk. One is led into an open reception area with half-glass walls that add transparency to the space and enable a quick visual connectivity with the studio spaces. A small meeting room abuts the reception desk. A linear waiting area is planned across the reception for visitors – it overlooks a life-size tag board that contains important notices and schedules of the institute.

The glass door of the waiting area urges the visitor to enter into an expanse of studio spaces, divided by glass walls that double as writing surfaces. In order to maintain the privacy as well as the fluidity, glass stickers are used. The pattern of these stickers is inspired by the institute's









DNA circular structure, thus symbolizing the philosophy of 'Life Through Design'.

On entering the learning spaces, a 15-feet long blackboard wall welcomes the visitor, with some brainstorming charts and doodles. A column grid is placed to partition the spaces. Each column is either a blackboard or a tag board.

The sheer division of program with glass walls divides the entire space into workshop areas, studio spaces, workstations, faculty rooms, lecture rooms and an unusual bay library.

This main learning studio takes the north face and is housed in an economical RCC-framed structure wrapped in glass. The glazed façade with cut-outs of the letters of TDV bring in diffused light near the workstations, which helps in creating optimum working conditions.

Exposed concrete ceilings and columns lend an interesting work-in-progress aesthetic to these creation spaces. Felt has been used in tagboards in workstations as well as in the library to make soft wall storages. This creates an envelope to hold various magazines and books in place, thus utilizing the space.

Cane *mudhas* (stool made of woven reed and ropes) have been used for seating. They come with permanent, striking orange cushions that display the branding colours. Rope *khats* (traditional Indian bed consisting of interwoven ropes within a wooden frame) are hung by ropes to create low level partitions.

The library is housed in the horizontal front face. The library takes its shape in accordance to the view of the garden that it entails. Bean bags and poufs are placed in the library along with multifunctional, self-designed bookshelves cum lamp houses. Each shelf is ceiling mounted with an LED at its base.

The zone echoes the flavour of the village. The grounded materiality of the spaces, accented with bright coloured surfaces, space-saving solutions, all facilitate freedom of expression. =

Photo credit: Humayun Khan

#### Factfile

Client: The Design Village Foundation Principal Architect: Sourabh Gupta Consultants: Roark Engineers Consulting (structural); Archohm (electrical); Techno (plumbing) Year of completion: 2014

### **Versatile Products**



## MULTI-USE SLABS

Lioli Ceramica has recently unveiled two new porcelain slabs, Vincent Pietra and Statuario under its brand TechnoSLAB. The nature-inspired modern Statuario is characterised by the bold and rich grey veins creeping across the tile's milky white plane. Alongside, the charcoal black Vincent Pietra, contrasted by white veins, makes for an eyecatching combo installation with the former. The slabs can be used in a host of different spaces to emulate the look and feel of natural marble.

The large format slab is available in 3200 x 1600mm size and in choices of 6, 9, 12 and 20mm thicknesses. The products are stain-proof and fire-resistant, making them suitable for a wide range of interior and exterior applications, including walls, kitchen counters, and table tops.

## ORANGE FURNITURE

Headed by interior designer Nomita Kohli, Wisma Atria Interiors launched a line of furniture exclusively in the colour orange. The collection comprises essential furniture pieces such as sofa, chair, console and a centre table, which use solid wood, glass, and fabrics to ensure strength and durability. The furniture is available in different hues of orange, with a variety of patterns and a lacquered finish.

## NATURAL STAIRCASES

HARO recently launched HARO Stairs, a staircase range, to complement the brand's floor product range for the specialist trade. The stair trims are produced from original floors, thus guaranteeing a matching look.

HARO parquet, HARO laminate and the DISANO design floors are suitable for installation on staircases. Matching stair nosings and side trims are also available for parquet stairs,



both for open and straight staircases. Surface finishes from the range include natural matt surface finish of the naturaDur surface, the hard-wearing, sealed permaDur surface and the breathable naturaLin plus surface, recreating the natural ambience of wood. The finishes are suitable for all designs, namely plank 1-strip, longstrip and strip parquet. The silver anodised aluminium mouldings offer reliable protection for sensitive stair edges.

## UNCONVENTIONAL SLABS



Classic Marble Company (CMC) has launched its latest Techlam product, Magma Stone, in their porcelain slabs range. Inspired by the natural formation of magma found underneath the earth's surface, the product surface displays golden honey swirls against a deep black background. Like flames from a fire, the patterns rise and fade against the complimenting dark framework. The large-format porcelain slabs create infinite spaces with seamless installation and are suitable for flooring and wall-cladding applications. The products are available in 3mm thickness and in the standard 3000 x 1000mm format. The tiles are strong and durable despite being thin and are also low on porosity.

## COMFORTABLE TUBS

Villeroy & Boch has introduced a selection of outdoor whirlpools, offering the various benefits of hydrotherapy in the comfort of one's home. With their Premium line, Design line, Comfort line and X Series, the company offers customisable whirlpool tubs; the arrangement of the JetPaks<sup>™</sup> in the whirlpool tub can be tailored as per personal preference, allowing a targeted massage of specific muscle groups. The tub can be operated via an app or touchscreen panel. Different models offer neck padding, an integrated stereo system and atmospheric lighting.

The range comes in both three-seat model



for small groups and an eight-seat version for a larger gathering. The products are designed to be weatherproof as well as energy-saving. The filter cleaning system also allows easier cleaning of the water, reducing the frequency of water changes to just three or four times a year.

## SLIDING DOORS



Hettich has introduced the InLine S range of small sliding units. They follow the mechanism of doors opening sideways, with which even the wide doors can be opened across a large area of the front with less effort. The product incorporates top or bottom running sliding door system for flush sliding doors on sideboards, wall and base units. The range caters to wooden doors or aluminum framed doors with weight up to 20 kg and height up to 1200mm. It accommodates varying a thickness of 10, 16, 18, 19, 22 and 23mm with +/±3mm height adjustment and adjustable door overlay and tilt. The fitting is installed with soft-close adjustable silent system in opening and closing direction. InLine S accommodates door width in the range: 696-1,196mm as well as provides for 4D adjustment indoor height, depth, overlay and angle. The product line has been accredited with the Interzum Award. 🕂



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## For your reference...

The listing that follows is of the consultants/companies involved in the published projects-



#### Structural Consultants

- 42 S & S Consultants, Sarvashree Consultants
- 72 Swati Consultants, Ahmedabad
- 80 Mahijaa
- 98 Streamline Consortium
- 111 Roark Engineers Consulting
- 106 M/s Stup Cossultants

#### Electrical

- 42 P K Consultants, SK Electricals
- 54 DCA Architects
- 80 Design Front Architects
- 111 Archohm
- 106 M/s Stup Cossultants

#### MEP

- 72 MEP Tech Consultants, Ahmedabad
- 98 Edge Cochin

#### Contractors

- 72 Savvy Infrastructure Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad
- 98 P K Constructions
- 106 Central Projects and Works Department

#### Landscape

42 3 Fold designs

#### Plumbing

- 42 Bays, Plumbtech
- 80 Design Front Architects
- 111 Techno





#### Materials/Fittings

- 42 Sanitary ware/fitting: Grohe, Roto; Flooring: Italian Marble; Furniture: Simply Sofa; Air Conditioning: Aircon, Mitsubishi; Lighting: Ivory Edge; Elevator: Scindler
- 54 Furniture DCA Architects; Lighting: LSI; Flooring: Andra Stone; Air Conditioning – Weather Comfort Engineers
- 62 Furniture & Furnishings: Anil Drapes; Bathroom Fixtures & Fittings: Kohler, Jaquar, Gessi, Laufen, Villeroy&Boch, Toto; Windows: Panoramah!, Schuco; Kitchens: Kohler; Paints & Textures: San Marco; Wallpapers: Asian Paints; Lighting: Luminac
- 72 Modular Kitchen: Creo, Italy; Kitchen Tiles: Somany; Sanitary Fixtures: Cera; Sanitary Fittings: Jaquar; Air Conditioning: LG; Inverter: Luminous, Home Linens: Hand Made Shibori – Dhyaage by Neha
- 80 Flooring: Kajaria and Spanish Tiles; Blocks: Clay blocks from Tumkur

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