

HOME & DESIGN

A TIMES OF INDIA PUBLICATION

# TRENDS

VOLUME 9 NO 7

## INDIA'S TOP 10 SPACES OF 2021

Our Handpicked List Of The Best Homes In The Country



## FORM AND FUNCTION

### 08

#### DESIGN IN CONTEXT

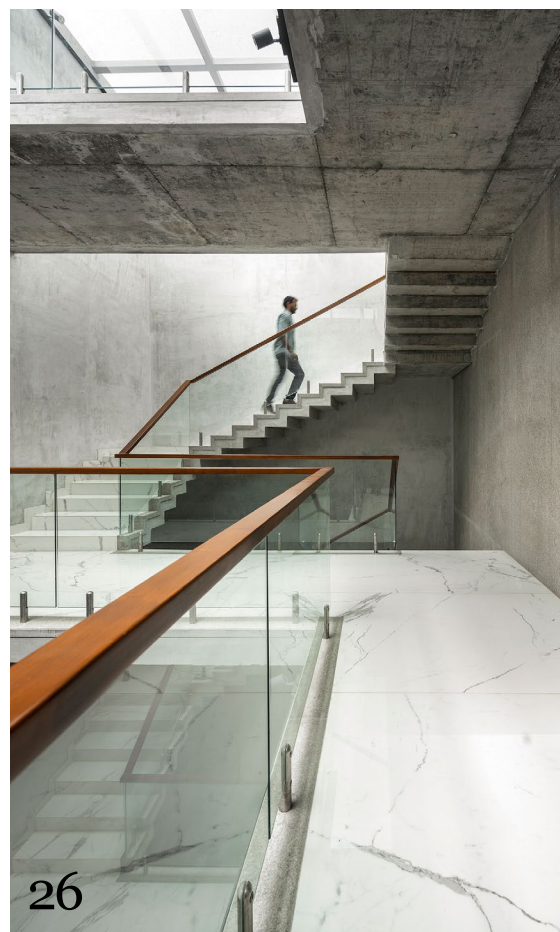
Handpicked products  
that blur the lines  
between art and  
functionality



**ON THE COVER**  
SJK Architects  
Image: Nivedita Gupta



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## BUILDING CONVERSATIONS

### 14 INDIA'S TOP 10 SPACES OF 2021

The much-awaited issue is finally here! Find out who made it to our coveted annual list of India's Best Homes Spaces of 2020. This is a selection like no other. Chosen from the best of new spaces across the country, this handpicked list represents the finest and the most extraordinary projects in India.

## SCULPTED SPACES Commercial

### 36 ON GOD'S LAND

In Haridwar, this hotel by Designers Group is a rendition of Indian culture in a modern design style



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INDIA'S FIRST CURATED LUXURY LIVING SHOW IS COMING TO BANGALORE!

# SAVE THE DATE

## 5TH & 6TH MARCH, 2022

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## EDITOR'S NOTE



When a year is about to end, most of us instinctively tend to look back over the time gone by. I must confess, I'm not one for reminiscing too much, beyond a point. It's nice to think of all the good times one has had. It will also do one good to remember the mistakes one has made along the way because those are the lessons that help you graduate to newer heights.

Every year, for the December issue, we cull out the high points of design that we have observed and loved in the spaces we've had the honour to feature over the last 12 months. This year is no different. In fact, this year has been that much more remarkable with the umpteen challenges it has thrown up for each one of us. Speaking of which, it seems as if the design lexicon has evolved beautifully to address the needs of the spaces borne during the pandemic.

There are quite a few things I'd like to tip my hat to in 2021 – in fact, the list is quite endless. I'd like to sum it all up with a big group hug for the entire design fraternity. There's so much to be learnt and unlearnt yet and I believe that the best gift we have today is each other. And so, instead of picking one thing at a time, here's a year-end toast to all of you! See you in the New Year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Ronitaa'.

**Ronitaa R. Italia**  
*Editor in Chief*



# MEET THE JURY

TRENDS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2021 - DECADE SPECIAL



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FOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

DECADE SPECIAL



# DESIGN IN CONTEXT

*Products where design blurs the lines  
between art and functionality*

Text **AVRIL NOEL D'SOUZA**

## **BLADES OF LIGHT**

The Daouw 2 chandelier is a modern take on what we know of the traditional definition of a light fixture. Nooor, the French architecture and interiors atelier, produced this piece for a design showcase, early this year. Even now it remains relevant for its bold lines and Avant-Garde form. ►





### **ROCK-A-BYE-BABY**

Designed by Dominic Siguang Ma and Feng Wei for the Italian brand Giorgetti, Clop is the modern-day rocking chair. Its birch plywood structure has a natural finish and the designers have created combination possibilities allowing one to a seat in polyurethane foam with removable cover in fabric or leather with leather piping. At first glance the structure is reminiscent of a rocking horse but on rotating it, Clop becomes a small armchair. This design is available in India at Source Unlimited. ►







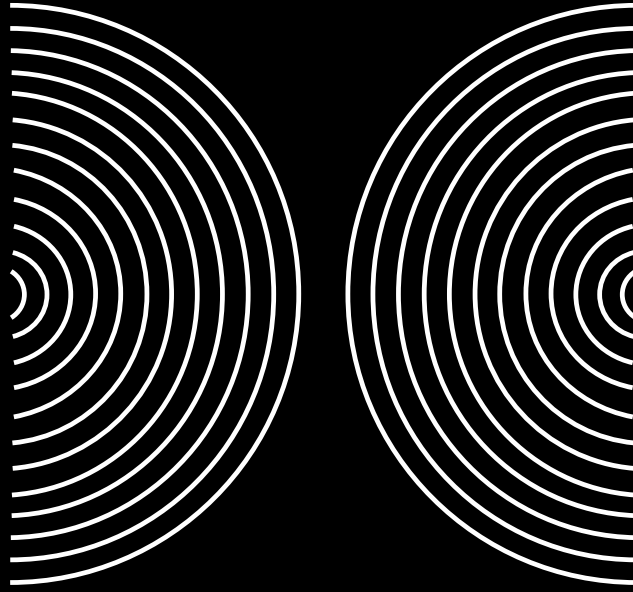
### DRAMATIC UNDERFOOT

Designer Paula Cademartori collaborates with Illulian, an Italian label known for its luxurious contemporary rugs, to craft the Multifarious Flora vol. II rug that is part of their limited collection. It is made of 50% silk and 50% Himalayan wool and has 152,000 knots / m<sup>2</sup>. It is dyed from natural pigments and is completely handcrafted. To make this rug traditional Nepalese rug-knotting craftsmanship is combined with modern patterns. ▶



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### **BOWLED AWAY**

The Nestor 2 is crafted by Emil Humbert and Christophe Poyet of Humbert & Poyet. This trinket bowl in fluted and honed Rosso Levanto Marble is handmade in Italy. It's a great addition as it is both functional and stylish. **H&DT**



Neeta Shah, Founder & Director, N. M. Consultants & Engineers Pvt. Ltd. is a Chartered Engineer, Licensee Structural Engineer, Member of PEATA, IIE, IIV. A graduate in civil engineer from Mumbai University she hones 18 years of rich experience in new construction, extension, repairs, rehabilitation & redevelopment projects.



# A COMPLETE OVERHAUL

**N. M. Consultants & Engineers Pvt. Ltd.** revamped a 15-year-old multi-storeyed R.C.C. building – giving it a new lease of life

**T**he transformations to which buildings are subjected, constitute multiple factors. With time, buildings age and environmental effects tend to alter the architecture of a building. According to experts, the permeability of concrete, rising temperatures, corrosion of reinforcement, and moisture movement are the factors that lead to considerable wear and tear of buildings making their upkeep very critical.

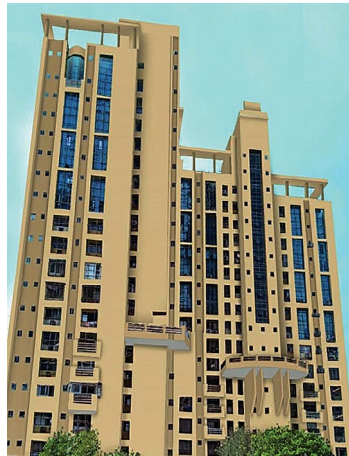
Promoting healthy building concepts specializing in repairs, rehabilitation, and redevelopment of projects, N. M. Consultants & Engineers Pvt. Ltd. revamped a multi-storeyed R.C.C. building with additional amenities in Worli Naka, Mumbai. “After a building turns ten, builders and property

managers must invest in developing the structural health of a building as the life of the building and the property valuation depends entirely on it,” explains Neeta Shah, Founder & Director, N. M. Consultants & Engineers Pvt. Ltd.

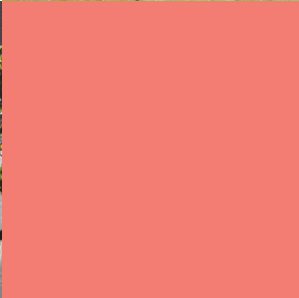
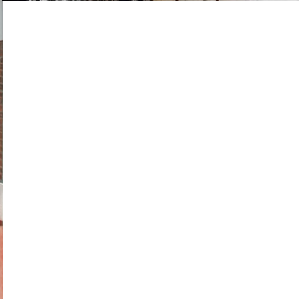
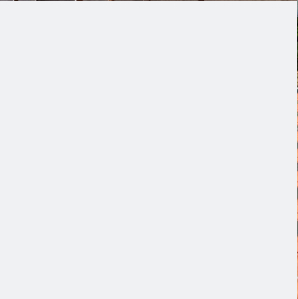
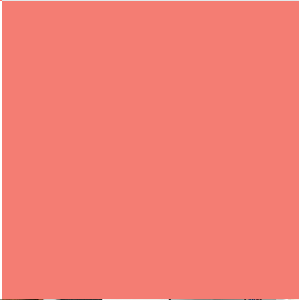
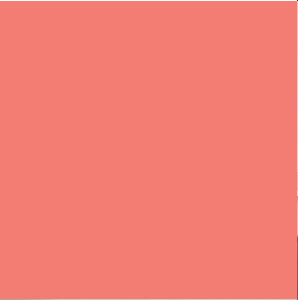
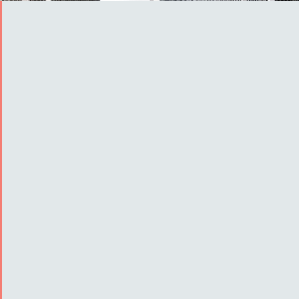
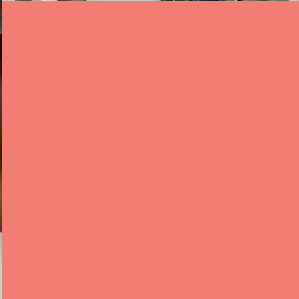
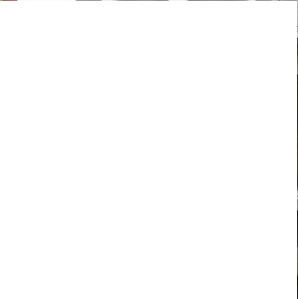
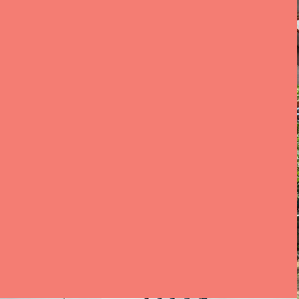
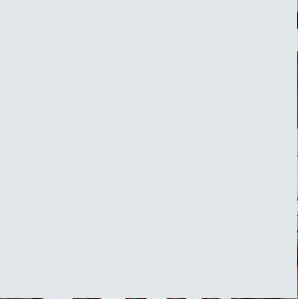
Streamlining the revamp process, it was identified by the experts that the external façade required base repair and surface protection. The restoration was done with external facade patch plaster, structural members, crack filling, and by using elastomeric paint with a waterproof warranty. Apart from protecting the surface of the external facade, the aim was to give the building a facelift to increase the property value of this landmark building.

The experts also revised the space utilization and made the residential building look more luxurious by developing an open party area on the rooftop with all amenities, light effect, and a peripheral garden - overlooking Mumbai’s scenic view. The idea was to ensure that the residential members and guests have the most leisurely experience.

“To maintain the structural stability of buildings, it is important to find the right experts to handle the revamp of the building structure. Our team of experts not only specialize in revamping building structures but also emphasize using products that protect the building from varied harmful elements that a building is exposed to. For the longevity of a structure, even a small change can make a difference. For instance, the recently launched Nippon Paint Weatherbond PRO exterior paint with a 15-year warranty and provides effective waterproofing as it applies water resistance film on the external surfaces, it is resistant to algae and fungal thus the surfaces get extreme durability while maintaining the freshness of the color,” sums up Neeta Shah.







# INDIA'S TOP 10 SPACES OF 2021

**Our Handpicked List Of  
The Best Homes In The Country**

Designing, With Purpose  
by **SML Architects**

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Evolved And Curated Living  
by **OpenIdeas Architects**

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The Terracotta House  
by **Design Ni Dukaan**

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Calm And Collected  
by **Usine Studio**

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Open-Ended Living  
by **Between Spaces**

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A Spatial Quartet  
by **SJK Architects**

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Simple And To The Point  
by **The Act Of Quad**

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Blurring The Thresholds  
by **Amoeba Design**

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A Blue Blueprint  
by **Studio Ruh**

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Inspired By The Past  
by **Diagrammar**



# DESIGNING, WITH PURPOSE

by SML Architects

Images YADNYESH JOSHI



**"The home celebrates the idea of 'slow-living'. In a world that worships the fast, it is important to appreciate the sensuality, specificity, delight and contentment that good design can bring. This, we believe, comes across in every space of this home."**

– Mahek Lalan, *Director and Principal Architect, SML Architects*

**A**s strong as it is soft, this compact apartment by SML Architects has an honest take on what design can and should do for its users. It is designed for three millennials, and has a linear layout, with spaces unfolding as one walks through the space. The pink-pigmented flooring is tough and gentle at the same time.





Functional and stylish, this home is a combination of many contradicting elements. Strong pieces of furniture have curvy edges, and the flooring too is a micro-topped surface that is both tough and gentle. In a way, the interiors and structures in this home contrast with the harshness of the city of Mumbai.





# EVOLVED AND CURATED LIVING

by OpenIdeas Architects

Images ISHITA SITWALA



**"The vision for this home was curated over a period of time. Our client would plan the making of his home over business trips with us. Inspirations were taken note of, while thoughts and imagery were pinned for future reference."**

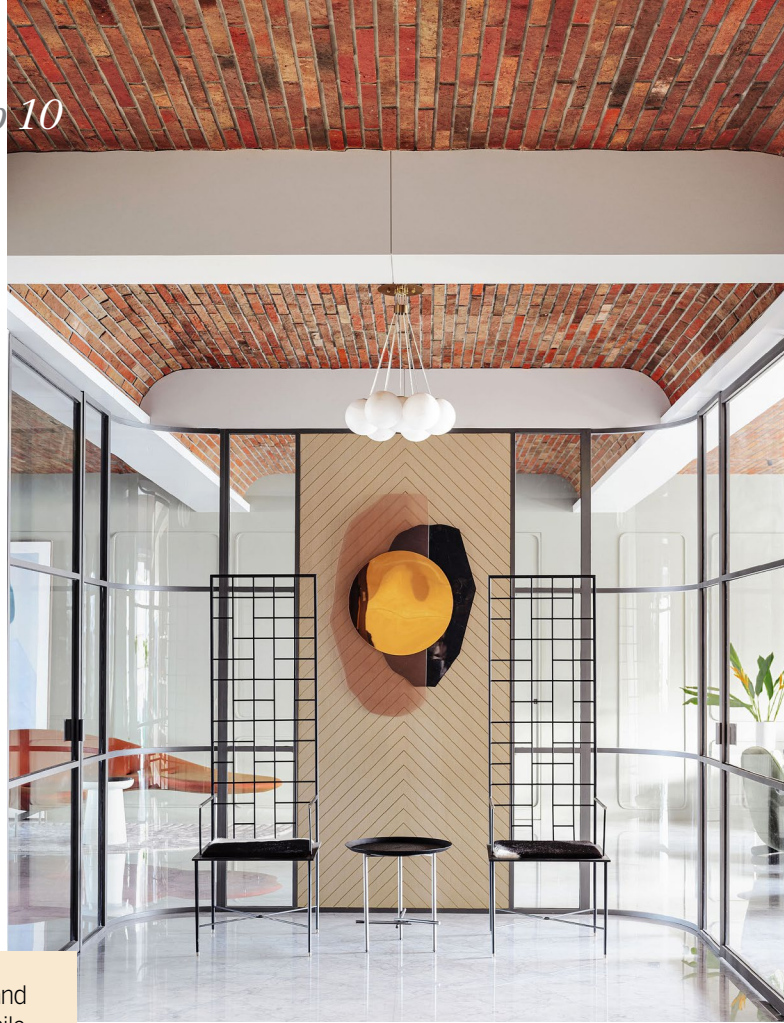
– Monarch Champaneri, Co-founder, OpenIdeas Architects

**T**his 5,760sqft home was crafted for a purveyor of internationally-sourced furniture. The intention was to showcase the imports in a modern space. Monarch Champaneri, Nilesh Gajera and Niralee Champaneri, of OpenIdeas Architects, converted the seven-BHK apartment into a four-BHK.





For this open-plan home, the architects created a shell with pale and gentle shades. Drama is infused through the statement pieces. While Statuario marble makes its luminescent presence felt in the public areas, the private areas are clad in tiles that mimic its look. Most walls are lined in painted MDF panels.





# THE TERRACOTTA HOUSE

by Design Ni Dukaan

Images ISHITA SITWALA



**"It was an experiment to understand how the anatomy of a shape can affect the complete volume in terms of an interior-architectural space. We took inspiration from various iterations of Burle Marx's art. The mandir, the staircase and the chandelier create a strong narrative."**

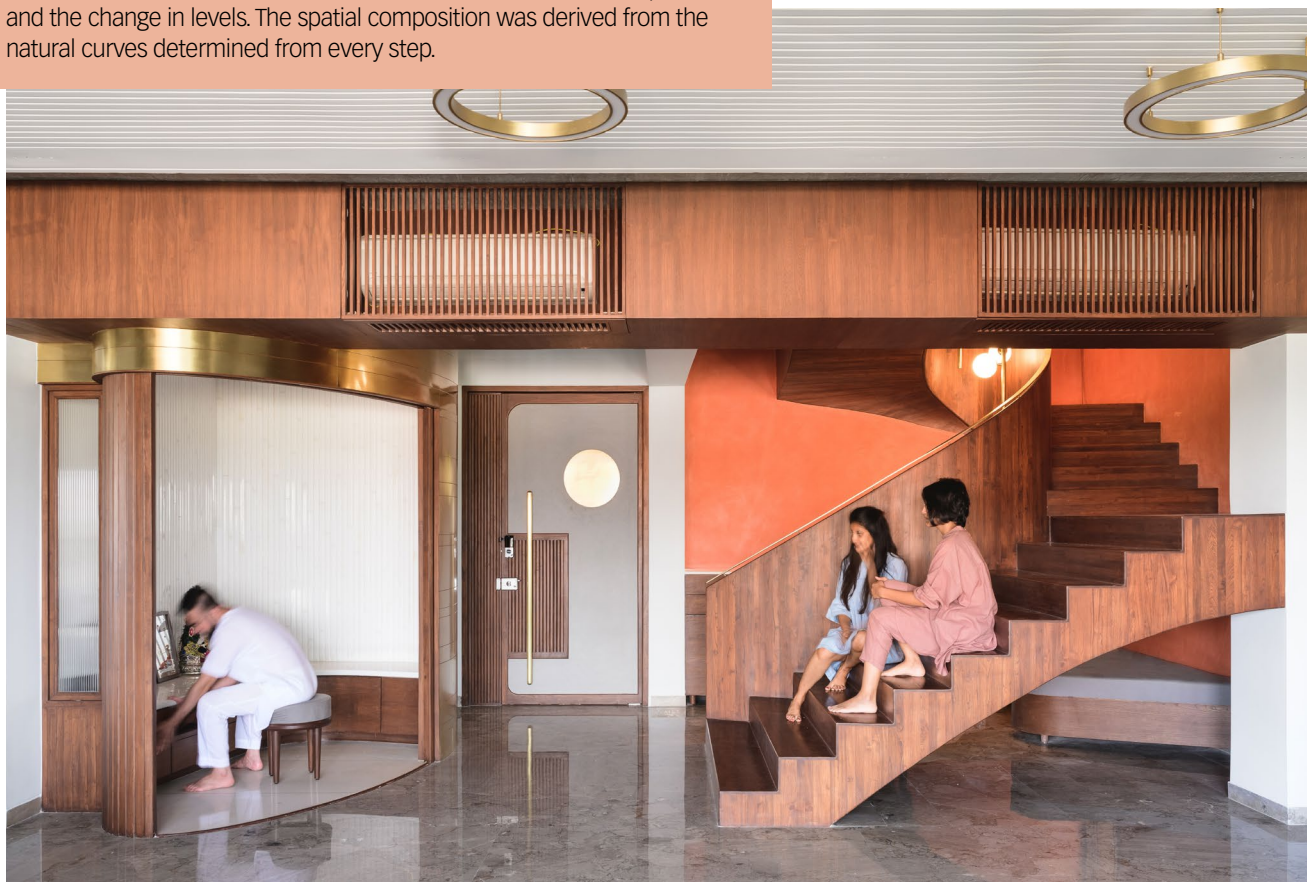
– Veeram Shah, Architect, Designer and Founder, Design Ni Dukaan

**I**t took Veeram Shah three years to complete the Terracotta House, ...but before that, he worked for three months on various layout plans to get his vision approved by the homeowners. Veeram fashioned a bespoke design based on how the family went about their day and what they prioritised. This culminated into an Avant-garde structural design.





Veeram did various iterations for the staircase. The intent was to create a choreography between the different elements. The relation between the mandir and the staircase continues as a transition between the space and the change in levels. The spatial composition was derived from the natural curves determined from every step.





# CALM AND COLLECTED

by Usine Studio

Images ISHITA SITWALA



**"Each room has been carefully designed keeping our ethos and aesthetics in mind. Handpicked furniture pieces and artefacts complement the comforting white theme of the house."**

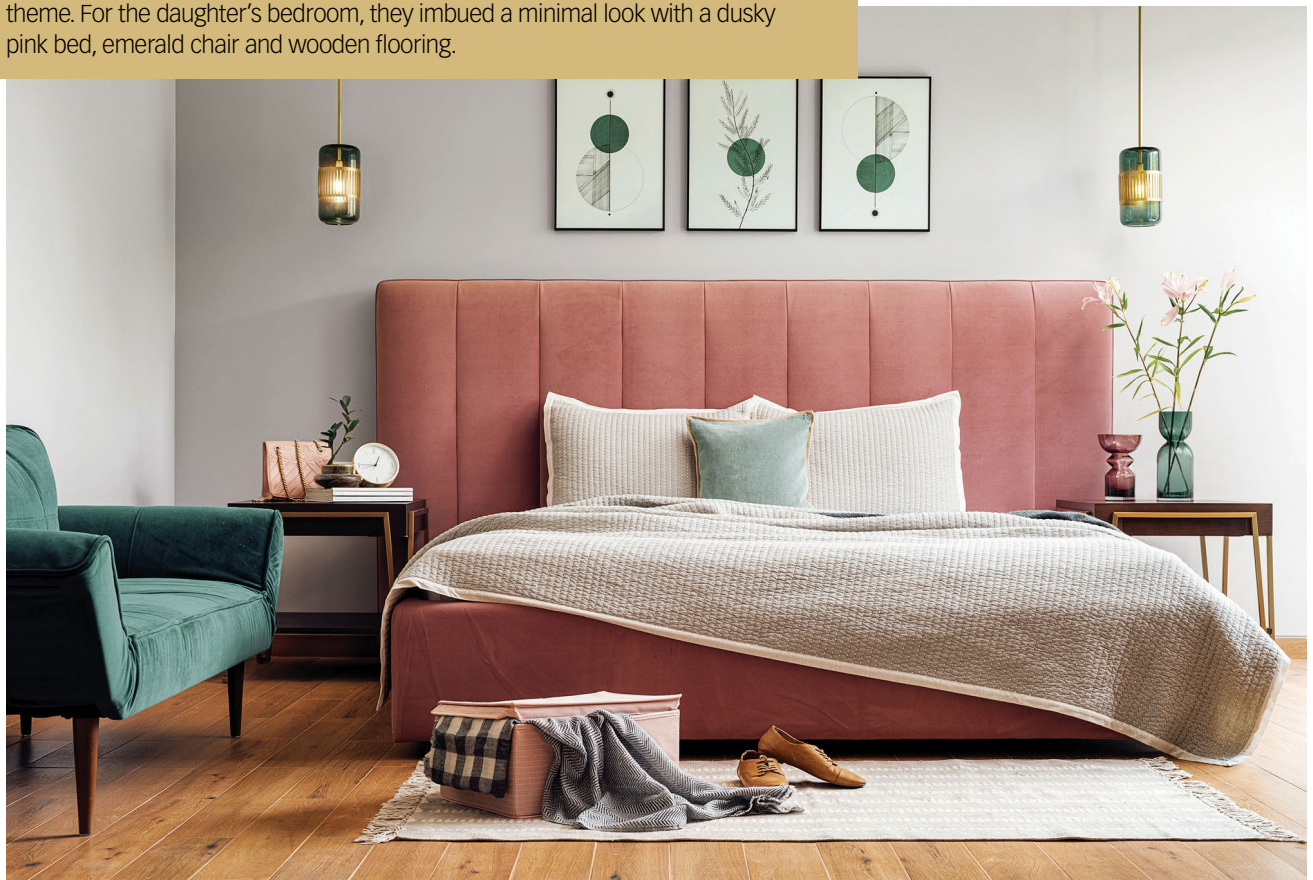
– Yatin Kavaia,  
Co-founder, Usine Studio

**Y**atin Kavaia and Jiten Tosar of Usine Studio have incorporated the principles of Zen living into the Deliwala residence, which is located in a gated community at the outskirts of Vadodara city. The client's brief was to have comfortable and clean spaces which are luxurious at the same time.





It was a challenge for the architects to offer a new set of design experiences that reflected the client's seasoned yet understated lifestyle, with a subtle overarching theme. For the daughter's bedroom, they imbued a minimal look with a dusky pink bed, emerald chair and wooden flooring.





# OPEN-ENDED LIVING

by Between Spaces

Images SHAMANTH J PATIL



**"This house is built on a tight corner plot. The structure's narrative was conceived around the idea of creating a playful yet pragmatic design. We call this home the Cuckoo's Nest, as it alludes more to the playful imagery of the namesake clock."**

– Pramod Jaiswal, Co-founder, Between Spaces

**F**or this multi-generational family, Divya Ethirajan and Pramod Jaiswal of Between Spaces designed a simple, pragmatic and modern home where each member is able to explore the space in their distinct manner. The architectural plan sequentially takes one from the busy outdoors to the muted interiors.





The interiors are simple; selected walls are finished in hues of blue and brown. While the architecture is impressive, the interiors have been cleverly planned. Indirect and soft daylight filters through deep-set windows and the skylights over the staircase such that a lovely glow embraces the interiors through the day.





# A SPATIAL QUARTET

by SJK Architects

Images NIVEDITAA GUPTA

**"A strategy for nurturing life and love inside the four homes generated a building with a facade that playfully engages with the streets around it."**

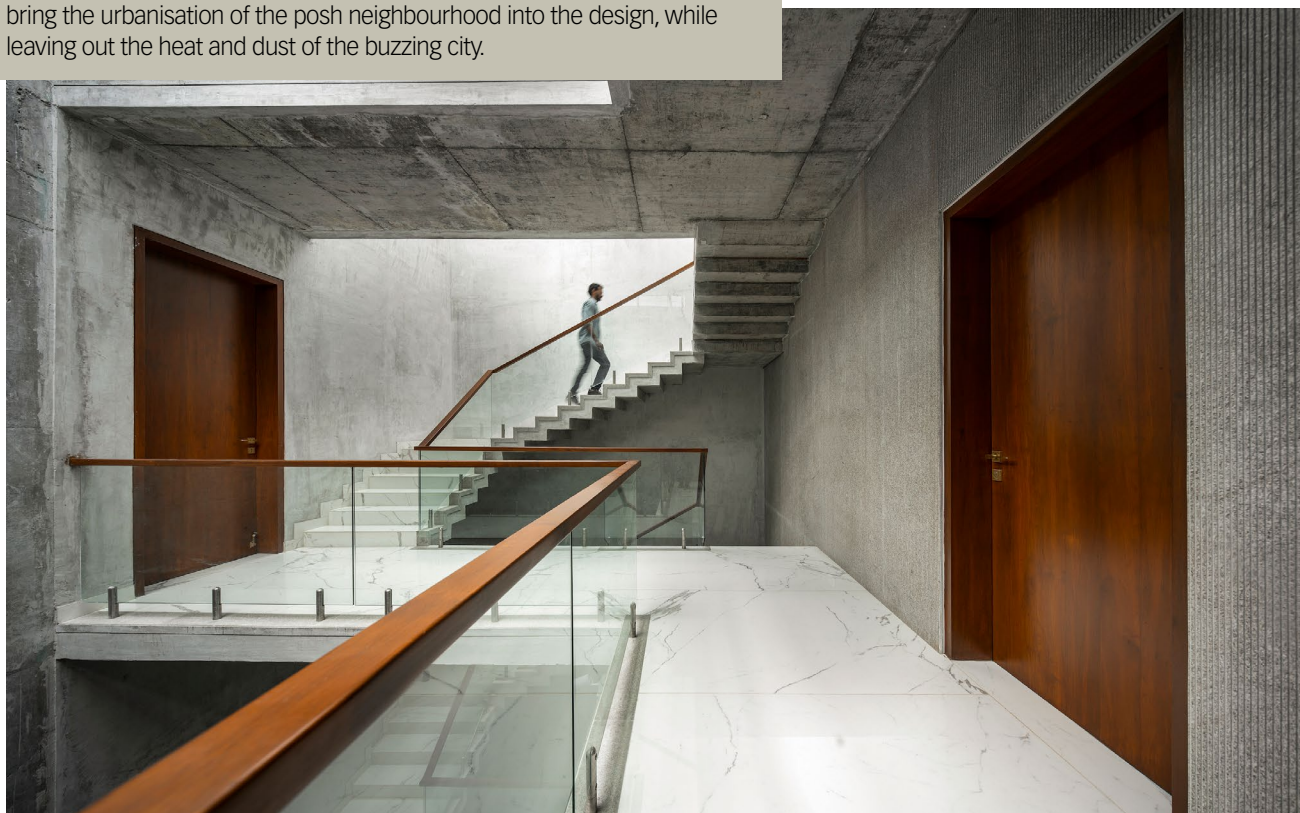
– Shimul Javeri Kadri, *Principal Architect, SJK Architects*

A harmony of four duplexes within a striking facade, this apartment building in Chennai by Shimul Javeri Kadri of SJK Architects reinstates people's relationships with nature, themselves and each other. To create these homes in the sky, the central connecting core is a sun-filled atrium with a staircase.





With approximately 23,600sqft of built area, Boat Club Apartments comprises four luxurious 'villas in the sky'. The brief from the client was to bring the urbanisation of the posh neighbourhood into the design, while leaving out the heat and dust of the buzzing city.





# SIMPLE AND TO THE POINT

by The Act of Quad

Images ISHITA SITWALA



**"The home has many soft and sensual feminine elements, with a few firm and dark aspects to the design. This is in keeping with the confluence of styles that the family members wanted."**

— Falguni Bhatia,  
Co-founder, The Act of Quad

A minimal narrative with curved forms and the colour blue, forms the crux of this fuss-free family apartment by Priyanka Itadkar and Falguni Bhatia of The Act of Quad. White was the starting point for the design. Blue accents introduce drama, while arches and curved forms break through the severity.





For the architects, the inspiration came from a desire to push the boundaries within the limitations and the constraints of this apartment. The half bedroom was extended into the dining area with the help of a faux curved wall. This zoning creates open space and draws a connection with the panoramic city views.





# BLURRING THE THRESHOLDS

by Amoeba Design

Images TALIB CHITALWALA



**"We were tasked with creating a house around the aspirations of our clients. Our own sensibilities lie in extremely simple, rustic and earthy aesthetics. This project was a challenge for us but we found the middle ground."**

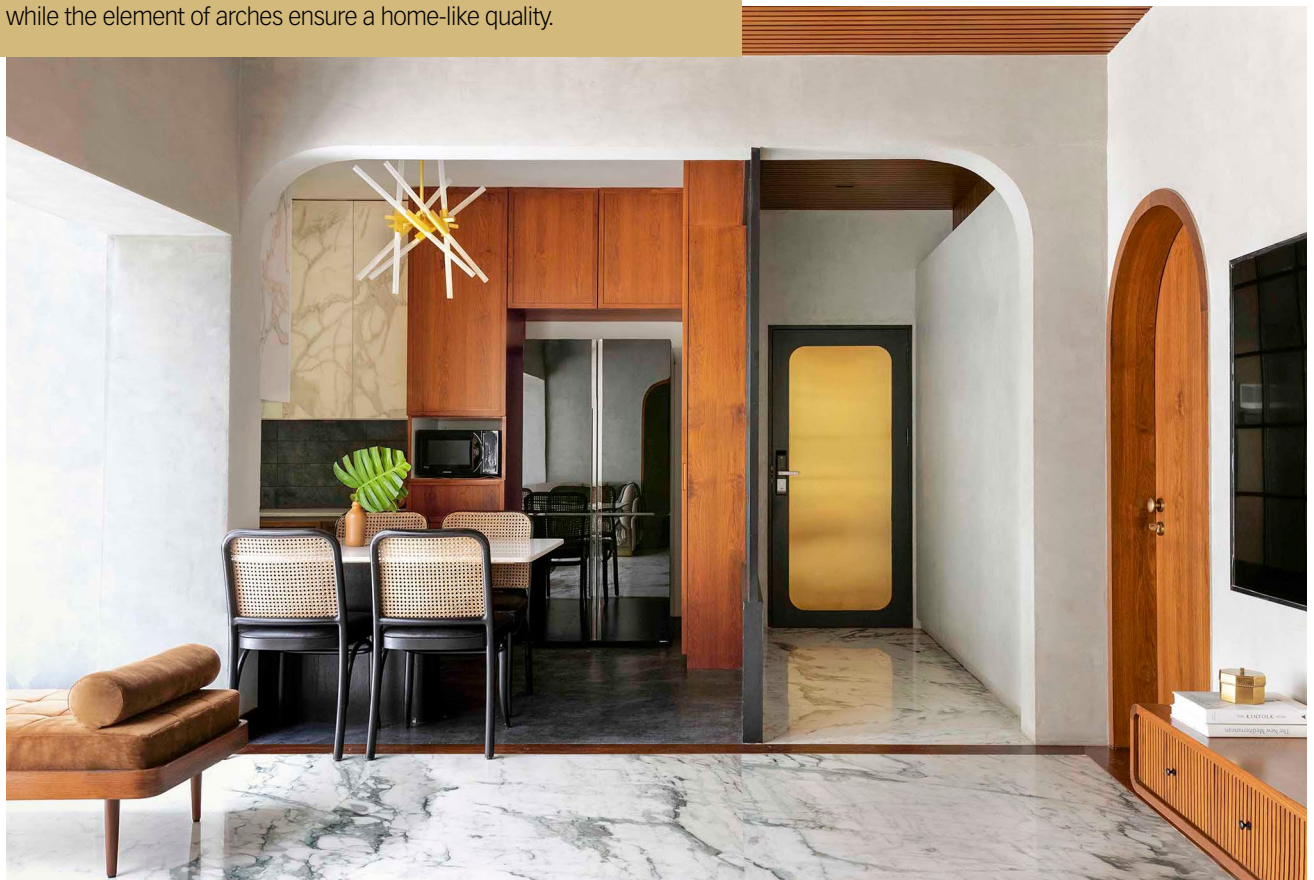
– Satyajeet Patwardhan, Co-founder, Amoeba Design

In order to create a coherent plan that connected the overall design of this home, Pashmin Shah and Satyajeet Patwardhan of Amoeba Design executed some major modifications to craft an expanse that defines understated luxury. Polished brass is introduced in a controlled manner, making the overall space classy.





To fulfill the client's aspirations for a dressy home, the right amount of gloss was clubbed with cement-finished walls and wood accents, while the element of arches ensure a home-like quality.





# A BLUE BLUEPRINT

by Studio Ruh

Images ISHITA SITWALA



STYLE: SAMEER WADEKAR

**"A concoction of soaring internal volumes, a play of natural light streaming in through skylights and pergolas, and most essentially the water court, become the nucleus of the blueprint."**

– Kavya Sheth, Founder, Studio Ruh

A focal water body court by Kavya Sheth of Studio Ruh and Vasundhara Shiva Kumar, the senior interior designer and architect at the firm, moulds the identity of this home, giving it its distinctive soothing vibe. Tuscan grey marble and walnut-hued veneer surfaces of the passageway add to the languid tone.





The residence expresses itself through the language of minimalistic design. Linear silhouettes, curated accents, and a subdued palette of colours and materials breathe life into the soul of the home.





# INSPIRED BY THE PAST

by Diagrammar

Images BRS SREENAG, SREENAG PICTURES



**"We created a home that reflected the evolution of the family while retaining aspects of sentimental value. The owners wanted a central and open kitchen with a visual connect to all parts of the house."**

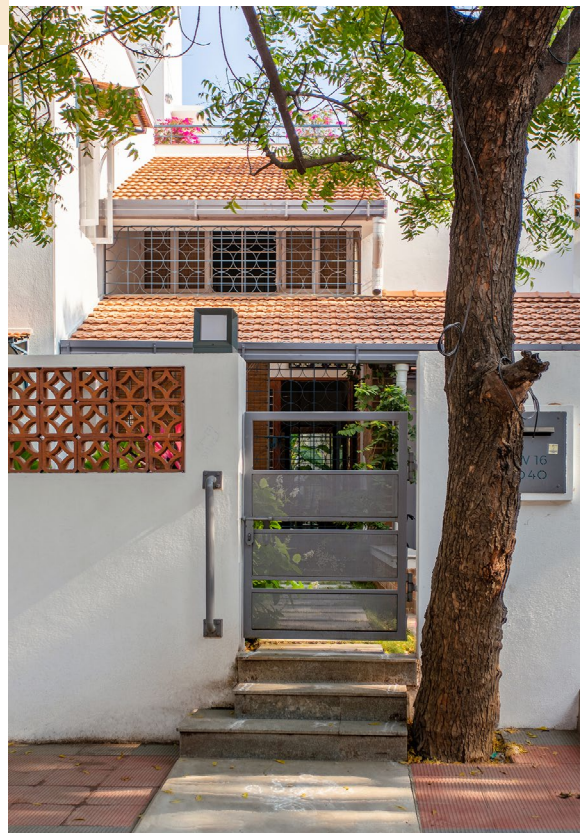
– Kalpana Balaji,  
Founder, Diagrammar

In response to creating a modern home for the changing lifestyles of a traditional nuclear family in Chennai, Kalpana Balaji of Diagrammar crafts an impressive expanse. While its open-plan structure is reminiscent of traditional design elements, modern comforts are introduced via its functional interiors.





Kalpna Balaji redesigned this home that stood on the same plot of the family's previous house. While the earlier bungalow was structurally out-dated, it had a great deal of emotional value for them. Kalpna created a new home that was reminiscent of their past.





# ON GOD'S LAND

*In Haridwar, this hotel by Designers Group is a rendition of  
Indian culture in a modern design style*

*Text* VANITA ARORA *Images* PRASHANT BHAT





Situated on the banks of river Ganga, the ancient facets of the hotel have been refurbished to celebrate Lord Shiva's influence and highlight the four phases of life - Purusharth as per Hindu philosophy.







**"This vintage property was owned by descendants of the royal family of Pilibhit. We wanted to retain the enigmatic grandeur and create a hotel that is a kaleidoscope of cultural influences and civilisations - symbolic to the holy city of Haridwar where people come to attain *Moksha*."**

*-Ar. Khozema Chitalwala, the Principal Architect & Designer, Designers Group*







The hotel is divided into four sections - entry, courtyard, lounge, and dining that lead towards river Ganga. The colours of Ganga and Neelkanth have been instilled and are reflected through the doors and windows. The courtyard is the central hub of the hotel and provides an unobstructed view of the lounge and several rooms. Both the ceiling and flooring are adorned with intricate carvings.





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