



## Plush Style

Dipen Gada designs a bungalow on the outskirts of Vadodara comprising three blocks, a water body and a Zen garden, to give the owners the kind of home they have always dreamt about.



TEXT: SHILPA BHAGCHANDANI  
PHOTOGRAPHS: TEJAS SHAH

Architecturally, the three different blocks create an interesting skewed façade. The white one serves as the entrance; the wooden block, clad with sesame wood strips lends an uneven texture and the third, double-height one is skewed on the side of the pool.



The walkway to the house which floats on a water body, leads one to the entrance foyer where an antique wooden chest with three welcoming statues stands in attendance. A tree motif on the rough wall creates a wonderful backdrop.



Each area is well connected with the outdoors and there is perfect communication between the public and private areas of the house.

The Amins had initially approached Dipen Gada & Associates to design a three bedroom weekend house on the outskirts of Vadodara, on a 65,000 sq ft plot surrounded by lots of greenery.

But the project had got delayed because of some land clearance issues and by the time those were sorted out, the Amins had changed their mind and now wanted to build a home for permanent living. Apart from asking for an open plan to facilitate communication between all areas, the architects were given a free hand.

'After brainstorming, we finalised an interactive plan, and only a ground level house. Later on, the requirements of the clients increased and they wanted a five bedroom place...so we added a room on the first floor.'





Architecturally, the house comprises three different blocks, the white one serving as the entrance. The wooden block is clad with sesame wood strips to create an uneven texture and the third one is the double-height one, skewed on the side of the pool. Together, these three create an interesting skewed façade with straight lines.

A huge but shallow water body mirrors the front façade and also doubles as a soft water feature. The walkway to the house which floats on this water body, leads one to the entrance foyer where an antique wooden chest with three welcoming statues stands in attendance. The tree motif on the rough wall creates a wonderful backdrop, while a skylight enhances it with natural daylight.

‘Our ideology is mainly based on a minimalistic approach, where “less is more”. The layout though

organised, is interactive at the same time, so that each area is well connected with the outdoors and there is perfect communication between the public and private areas of the house.

The bridge between these areas is the dining room, which is very well connected with the living room, home theatre and the kitchen one side – and all the bedrooms on the other. It also flows into the outdoor areas and connects with the swimming pool and a Zen garden.’ This area further flows into the central foyer of the house, which is connected to the four bedrooms on the ground floor and a staircase which leads to another bedroom on the first floor.

Thus the main hub of the house is the dining room, where all the public and private areas converge. The twelve seater dining table has

The dining area and the double-height living room both flow into outdoor areas, and look out onto water bodies.



an antique finish, while a Buddha on a chest casts his blessings on all.

As one enters the living room, the huge scale of this 16 ft high area is evident. One corner has a full length glass façade overlooking the water body and garden in front. On another side, it is connected to the swimming pool and open deck. The slit window on one of the walls with a flower motif cutout creates beautiful sciography in the main hall during the day.

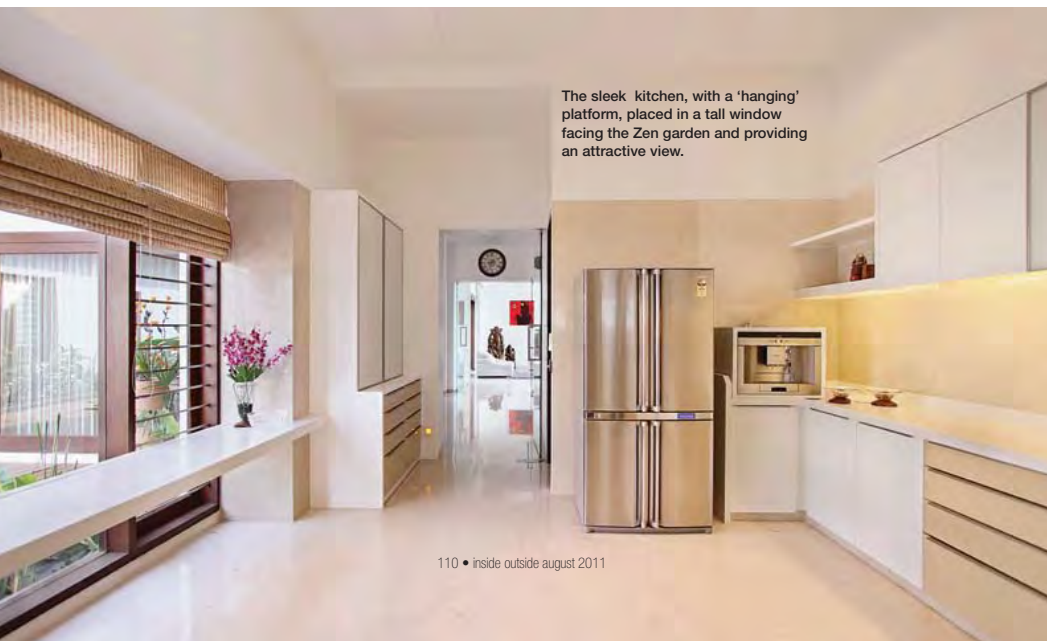
The 18 ft x 25 ft home theatre on the other side of the foyer is designed such that guests can directly enter into this room, without creating any disturbance to the regular activities of the house. Special attention has been given to this room as far as the acoustics and comfort are concerned.

The kitchen is connected with the internal functional areas and the external utility areas. One of the walls here has a 'hanging' platform, placed in a tall window facing the Zen garden and providing an attractive view.

A unique feature is the custom-designed lamp with the theme of 'Journey', hanging from the double-height space in the centre of the staircase. Designed and conceptualised by Dipen Gada himself, it is executed by Manish Maheshwari. An interesting painting and a colourful sit-out also form a part of this central foyer. Sunlight streaming through a cut-out in the slab, washes the foyer with natural daylight.



Art abounds in the foyer with a custom-designed lamp and sculptures hanging from the double-height space. Sunlight streams in through a cut-out in the slab, and washes the foyer with natural daylight.



The sleek kitchen, with a 'hanging' platform, placed in a tall window facing the Zen garden and providing an attractive view.



**FACT FILE:**

Client's Name: Amin  
 Built up Area: 8240 sq ft  
 Duration: 24 months  
 Principal designer: Dipen Gada  
 Design Team: Rinkesh Panchal,  
 Shruti Patel, Shalini Pereira, Dolly Pari  
 Site Coordinator: Vikas Shah

All the bedrooms have dark toned wooden flooring, are well ventilated as well as connected to the outdoor greenery – and all the bathrooms are large and have Italian marble.

The spacious master bedroom has a custom made wooden bed. A collage of family pictures on one wall adds to the warmth of the room. This room is internally connected to a large study which leads to the outdoor garden and a gazebo.

The master bath is a huge 15 ft x 18 ft space with a skylight above the tub. The main feature of this area is the four niches in a wall with candles from Cerrai. A dented silver mirror frame highlights the washbasin area.

Accessories for this project were sourced from Ahmedabad and Bombay, some of them being cus-

tom made for the project, such as the wooden artefact with glass flowers in the living room. The architect's attention to detail has ensured that the Amins were able to realise their 'Dream Home'.

**This Page:** The spacious master bathroom with a skylight above the tub and niches adorned with candles.

**Opposite:** The bedrooms all have dark toned wooden flooring and look out onto greenery. The master bedroom (above) has a custom-designed wooden bed and is personalised with a collage of family pictures on one wall.

