



# Cubic Design

**Designed by Dipen Gada & Associates, the Cube house is a radically different looking home in Baroda.**

**P** rincipal Designer Dipen Gada will always cherish the Cube House in Baroda because it is this project which has won a lot of critical acclaim and awards for the firm. The contemporary structure located in Baroda, draws its inspiration from a simple cube. The house, designed by Dipen Gada & Associates, is a combination of exposed RCC and white plastered exterior walls juxtaposed in a way that creates an illusion of multiple cubes fitted into one another resulting into masses and voids.

The client was clear that he wanted a radically different home. Accordingly, the architects had to ensure their work matches the client's rare vision and trust. This 4,000 sq.ft. space flaunts clean lines and an open floor plan; the modern layout suits the region's climatic conditions where the courtyards and large openings on the ground level help in keeping the temperature cool; the openings flood the space with ample natural light.

A raised entry threshold lets you into the house. At the entrance, a vestibule opens out into the living room area; there is a small courtyard adjacent to the

Dipen Gada and Associates claim to be influenced to some degree by Modernist design concepts and draw great inspiration from Mies van der Rohe's famous words Less is more. Great emphasis is placed on designing with an Indian context keeping in mind the uniqueness of the Indian climate. They are also established consultants and contractors ranging from civil, carpentry, electrical and air conditioning who are capable of handling the technical aspect of very complex and time bound project.



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vestibule which is visible from the living and dining area. The courtyard draws diffused light into the house, and has been screened from the entry area by a custom-made screen of lacquered M.S sheet.

The house wears a neutral colour palette. The designers have opted for restrained materials in order to create a modest space. Also, tasteful art pieces spruce up







the style quotient. The ground level has mirror-polished kota stone for flooring that lends this space a contemporary look. This material complements the exposed RCC, which has been used in the slab in the living and dining areas.

The immediate entry to the house has been demarcated from the living room by use of different flooring material, and by a low-height storage unit. The focal point in the living room is the black tinted IPS wall which holds a painting of Shreenathji.

Another highlight in this area is the staircase; a combination of exposed RCC, wood and metal, it is one of the most dramatic elements of the house. The backdrop of the staircase is an exposed RCC wall that has a motif of a tree cast into it. Light flows in from slits on either side of the stairwell to flood this area with diffused light.

On the first floor, the staircase opens out into a central space which is used as a TV room. This space also doubles as a dance hall for the client's daughter, who is a classical dancer. The first and second floors are private areas that are demarcated with wooden flooring. The warmth of the dark richly-toned wood adds







a sense of intimacy to the space.

The first floor also houses the master bedroom. It is dominated by a black stained IPS wall that has stripes inlaid in horizontal and vertical lines. This IPS wall forms the backdrop for a custom-designed poster bed that frames an abstract artwork. The bedroom is radically simple yet elegant with its veneered furniture, wooden flooring and white walls.

Both daughters' bedrooms are also on this floor. They are marked by clean lines and starkly minimal forms. Dominated by a white colour scheme, these rooms contrast beautifully with the polished kota stone flooring. In the elder daughter's room, this starkness is interrupted by the aqua marine Bisazza walls behind the sleeping area. Multi-coloured furnishings add colour to the younger daughter's room. Black and white photographs of the daughter's performances create a feature wall for the sleeping area.

A small room carved out from the terrace area doubles up as a second TV room as well as a gym. This room opens out to a small landscaped garden and a gazebo. Compact fluorescent lamps and green rated air-conditioning systems have been used to reduce energy consumption. An effort has also been made to use natural materials that are easily available.



Looking at this elegant space designed by Dipen Gada & Associates, one can understand how keeping it low key and subtle has earned his firm a reputation for creating spaces that are dynamic, contemporary yet practical ☺

**Project Details**

- Built up Area : 4,000 sq. ft.
- Duration : 18 months
- Principal Designer: Dipen Gada
- Design Team : Hardikk Tamboli, Aditi Dave, Shalini Pereira, Tanvi Rajpurohit, Dolly Shah.
- Site Coordinator : Rajesh Patel

**Text: Shalini Pereira**  
**Photographs: Tejas Shah; courtesy the architect**