



THINKING OUT OF THE CUBE

A truly out-of-the-box home created with modern-day, minimal elements intertwined with Indian sensibilities, this residential space in Baroda exemplifies what a clever design plan can achieve; the final outcome had the owner floored.

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THIS SPREAD
A black stained IPS wall with a Shreenathji painting forms the feature wall in the living area. The white sofas supply a stark contrast to this wall.



Inspired by a cube, this 4000 square feet house in Baroda has been designed in a way that marries contemporary style and Indian ideals. Briefed by the client to steer clear of a housing stereotype, the team took on the challenge to create a design that while representing the client's vision would transcend his expectations. Exposed RCC and white plastered exterior walls have been interspersed to create masses and voids which create an impression of different cubes having been integrated into each other. The RCC walls extend to the inside to create some focal elements in a few of the interior spaces. A conscious effort has been made to stick to a neutral palate throughout the house with furnishings providing the occasional colourful interlude. Strategically placed art pieces create a dramatic break in the overall austere appearance.

Multi-coloured river polished kota stone leads to the entrance of the house which is marked by a customised aluminium grill. The entry vestibule extends into an

open planned ground floor. Mirror-polished kota stone has been used in the lower ground floor to give it a sophisticated edge and complement the RCC walls which form the slabs in this space. A courtyard visible from the dining and living room helps filter natural light into the ground level. Well-planned large openings also significantly help in cooling this level. The highlight of the living room is the black tinted IPS wall which provides an ideal backdrop for the ornate painting of Lord Shreenathji. The dining room overlooks a semi-covered courtyard with a water body. Pergolas in the double height slab and an aluminium screen create an interesting interplay of light and shadow and also provide the ideal setting for the pooja area.

Special care has been taken to make a dramatic statement with the wood and metal staircase and take it beyond its mere functionality. A tree motif has been carved into the RCC wall which forms the backdrop of the staircase; this floods the area with soft natural light. ▶



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An RCC wall with the motif of a crane cast into it provides privacy to a courtyard behind it.

OPPOSITE PAGE

Entry to the pooja room is through the courtyard. The ornamental doors are made of beaten white metal.





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The dining area opens out into both a large semi-covered courtyard and a smaller courtyard that holds a bust of the Buddha framed by greenery.

OPPOSITE PAGE

TOP A low height cabinet doubles as a seating with a multi-coloured seat and cushions. **BOTTOM** Black-tinted IPS walls frame a section of wall where the plaster has been chipped off to expose the brickwork below.



The first and the second floor house the bedrooms and the private living spaces of the family. Here, dark wooden flooring has been used to create a warm intimate ambience. The staircase opens into a central room which serves primarily as a T.V. room. The master bedroom and the two daughters' bedrooms lead off from here. The key feature in the bedroom is the black, stained IPS wall with S.S. patts inlaid in horizontal and vertical lines. This forms the backdrop for the lush, customised four poster bed. Leaving the rest of the walls white lends the room a starkly elegant appearance. Both the daughters' rooms are stark white with polished kota stone floors. In the older daughter's room aqua marine bisazza tiles behind the bed provide a break in the white wall. In both the rooms multi-coloured furnishings and other accessories have been used to infuse colour.

A second T.V. room, that also doubles up as a gym has been created just off the terrace area. This space stands out distinctly from the rest of the house with its painted exposed brick wall and colourful furnishings. The element of fun in the design marks out this space as a more informal area for the family's use. The terrace has been tastefully done up to include a small landscaped garden and a gazebo. ▶

In going with the modern theme of the house, relevant design elements have been included to make it an environment friendly residence. Openings have been strategically constructed to encourage the inflow of air but not direct sunlight, so that the coolness within the house can be maintained. Compact fluorescent lamps and a green-rated air-conditioning system ensure that energy utilisation is optimal. The firm has also made a conscious effort to use natural and easily available materials.

Teamwork and excellent co-ordination between the firm and the labour agencies has helped achieve a high quality of finishing in the project. Over the years, Dipen Gada and Associates has established itself as one of the most reputed architectural and interior design firm in Baroda. DGA has successfully completed more than 600 projects in a range of fields including residential spaces, retail spaces, office spaces, hospitality spaces and health care.

Led by Dipen Gada, the team believes that there must be a clear connect between the architecture and the interiors for the design to work. Their projects are a seamless mesh of contemporary architecture and traditional sensibilities. A contemporary look with clean lines, basic forms and minimal embellishments typify DGA projects as clearly exemplified by the Cube. ■



THIS PAGE TOP In this all white room the furniture is finished in beige PU colour. The bed's headboard has a floral motif carved into it. **BOTTOM** The feature wall is of black tinted IPS with an inlay of S S pattas in a grid. A wooden poster bed frames an abstract painting. **OPPOSITE PAGE TOP** Dark coffee coloured tiles are used in the powder room of this bedroom. **BOTTOM** Highly polished kota is used in the flooring. A kota ledge along the window provides seating.

