

A LUXURY CALLED SPACE

The tastefully designed bungalow by

Dipen Gada and Associates in Gujarat

spells simple sophistication and elegance.

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COURTESY THE DESIGNER

THIS PAGE A glimpse of the skylight from the bar area shows the retractable roof. With the roof opened this space acts as an inner courtyard that funnels out warm air.



THIS PAGE The family sitting room banks on subdued colours and a free flowing design that gives it an airy and spacious feel. Here again the emphasis is on French windows that bring the outdoors in.



There are spaces that make you feel comfortable; there are spaces that make you luxuriate, and then there are spaces that offer you both; it takes a stroke of brilliance to holistically weave in these qualities and create a style statement that perfectly fits the bill. Dipen Gada and Associates achieved such a feat with the design scheme for the Anand House, in Anand district of Gujarat, and designing the interiors for a sprawling 13,000 square feet bungalow was no mean task.

Created by CAN architects, Mumbai, the elegant white structure sits on 2.5 lakh square feet plot, amidst a grove of mango trees and manicured lawns. The architects had made the house structurally simple and the owners' wished this simplicity to echo through the interiors as well. Added to this were the charms of sophistication and elegance that such an immense space called for.

Says Gada, "The structure had quite a modern form and some really fantastic spaces - it was the perfect canvas for us to explore our ideas."

But it was this immense space that posed the biggest challenge for the designers. Maintaining unity in design and simultaneously introducing varied elements across the entire expanse was like

converging many paintings into a single whole. As Gada puts it, "Due to the scale of the house we were worried about going over budget. Also, maintaining the overall look and feel of the house was a bit of a challenge, however, we were delighted with the lack of space restrictions, that gave us more freedom while designing."

Dipen and his team beautifully incorporated the client's idea of sophistication and simplicity with varied combinations of rich materials and minimalist form. Given the magnitude of the project, luxury and comfort had to be incorporated seamlessly. With the use of rich veneer and Italian marble, the designer achieved the desired effect. Moreover, the use of marble and various hues of wood veneers added to the continuity of design and proved to be the unifying element throughout the interiors.

The house opens with a foyer that foretells the expanse of space that is to follow. The living room is a welcome sight as it is full of light complimented with the brilliance of its sheer white background. Dark wood veneer unites with the minimalist look of the place. Gada has carefully selected white upholstered furniture for the living area to give the

THIS PAGE TOP The living room area lies bathed in white with a dark wood veneer panel in the ceiling adding an accent. **BOTTOM** Gada has used colourful accessories against a white backdrop in the children's room.



space a serene look.

The dining area overlooks the lawn through French windows. Here again Gada has repeated the combination of Italian marble and dark wood veneers. The custom-built dining table, which is starkly minimal, is the highlight of the space.

The living room opens up to the stunning view outside and this is where Gada steps in with his creativity. The room ends in an extended glass box that lets the outdoors meet the indoors. Encased within this glass box is an alcove for relaxation. Sitting by this bay window one can view the lily pond as well as the greenery beyond.

Adjacent to the dining room is the kitchen, wherein stress is laid on utility and clean lines. Functionality is set as a priority and all utility equipments are built in. Gada says, "The colour theme in the kitchen is white and with the introduction of green coloured glass mosaic tile a splash of colour is added to the space. In addition to the regular kitchen, there is also an additional outdoor kitchen which is used for entertaining."

He adds, "In the bathrooms we wanted to give the feel of luxury, so once again we played with Italian marble. The gym bathroom was the excep-





tion as grey tiles were used to give a very modern minimal look. We have also played with artwork to enhance these spaces."

Leading out from the dining area is the bar, which can be regarded as the most dramatic space in the house. Here Gada is at his innovative best. A screen cordons off the bar from the rest of the house, that commands a spectacular garden view. Added to this is the overwhelming height and downright simplicity of design. Elements used are a combination of glass and silver Travatine marble, whilst rustic grey tiles form the backdrop.

However, the most arresting factor of the bar area is the skylight. Being a cozy nook embellished with trendy pieces of furniture, the bar is a great place for some quiet repose. Gada has shown a unique design sensibility as he successfully transforms a dead transition place into the focal point of the house. The skylight, with a retractable roof, spreads across a silver Travatine baithak with a built in planter that occupies the passage leading to the bar area. This space not only helps in separating the bar from the living areas but it also acts as an inner courtyard that funnels warm air out of the house.

As Gada explains, "While the muted tones and clean lines continue into this area, a more casual and informal approach was taken when conceptualising the bar. Rustic off white tiles were used in the flooring and mushroom colour was introduced on one of the walls. A nu-wood mural designed by a DGA teammate adds detail to this space. Sheer curtains provide shading but allow a muted view out over the swimming pool area."

The ground floor also houses the gymnasium, the guest room and the parents' bedroom. In both the parents' room and the guest room a neutral colour palette is used in combination with dark veneers. As the living areas give way to personalised spaces, there is a shift in mood and ambience. As one moves to the upper floor, the spaces become more distinct and exude the personalities of the dwellers.

The two bedrooms on the first floor belong to two brothers, each with an individualised taste and persona. The elder brother's bedroom has warm brown tones, creating a rich romantic ambience. Given his knack for details, Gada has created a carved 'tree' motif in nu-wood as a backdrop to the master bed. "The laser cut tree motif in nu



THIS PAGE Gada's creativity comes to fore with this silver Travatine baithak with a built in planter that stands right below the skylight.
OPPOSITE PAGE The minimalist streak is seen in the dining table design. The room offers a spectacular view of the garden as well.



wood was a real labour of love and came out after numerous trials and mock-ups. The use of soft white linens together with chocolate brown accessories helps create a fanciful space," Gada remarks.

Presenting a contrast to this bedroom is the younger brother's haven. Decidedly masculine, this bedroom is done up with black laminate, dark wooden flooring and dark accessories.

The children's bedroom departs from the usual 'comic book' feel. The entire room is done up in white to give the kids freedom to use the room as a canvas. Against this neutral background are placed bright accessories. Even the wardrobe shutters are painted in strong hues. Adding his stroke yet again, Gada has fashioned a mirror terrazzo bed back for the kids, which reflects the colours around the room and creates a kaleidoscopic effect.

One arresting factor about Gada's design is the finesse with which he has integrated all the important elements of the house, satisfied the clients' desires and left his mark of perfection on the design. He has successfully maintained a unifying facet in design without making it repetitive, ensuring that the interiors reflect a picturesque appeal.



THIS PAGE Warm wooden tones lend a romantic appeal to the master bedroom. A simple platform bed with a glass back bespeaks minimalism.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP With its clean lines and dark veneer furniture, the other bedroom underlines a strong masculine flavour.

BOTTOM The carved tree motif in nu-wood is the highlight of the master bedroom. Its intricate pattern adds a contemporary flavour to the room.