

mesyue

sky is the limit!

Dipen Gada has made the sky a part of the Patel Bungalow with his creative genius.



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 projects.

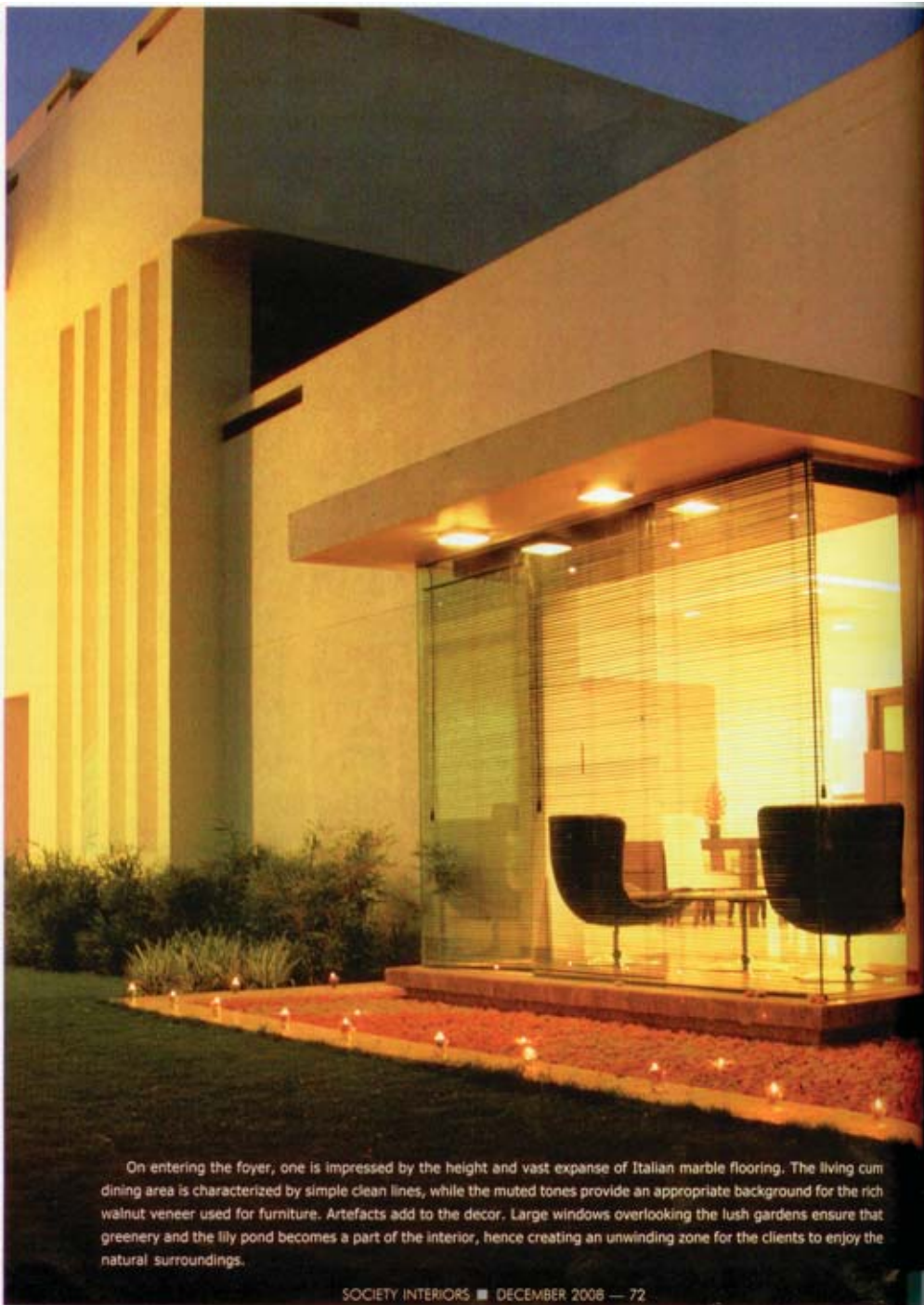
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Creativity has no boundaries ... and sky is the limit. Vadodra-based Dipen Gada Architects has taken a progressive leap in terms of design by literally making the skyline a part of the interiors in DC Patel's bungalow in Anand, Gujarat. Spread over a lush two-and-half lakh sq. ft. land, the Anand House (as is fondly called), built on a sprawling 13,000 sq. ft. area, is a white structure that take center stage amongst the stately mango trees and manicured lawns.

For the interiors, the architect was armed with a brief for 'simple, elegant yet sophisticated home', where the clients had given him a free hand after seeing some of the outstanding residential spaces designed by the firm. "When the clients approached us, the house was complete at the architectural level. The structure had quite a modern form — it was the perfect canvas for us to explore our ideas," informs Dipen.





On entering the foyer, one is impressed by the height and vast expanse of Italian marble flooring. The living cum dining area is characterized by simple clean lines, while the muted tones provide an appropriate background for the rich walnut veneer used for furniture. Artefacts add to the decor. Large windows overlooking the lush gardens ensure that greenery and the lily pond becomes a part of the interior, hence creating an unwinding zone for the clients to enjoy the natural surroundings.



Offset from the dining area is the bar, which is undoubtedly the most dramatic space in the entire house. Here, horizontal space and vertical height submerge to create a double-height space. The bar is an elegant combination of glass and silver, where travatine marble along with the double-height wall clad in rustic gray tiles creates an interesting backdrop for this area. From here, one can not only view the garden, but the sky as well. The beauty of this space is the play of light as the day progresses. A silver travatine *baithak* with pebbled skirting and a built-in planter has been





cleverly introduced to this otherwise a possibly dead transition space. Overhead, a skylight fitted with a re-tractable roof transforms the space into a courtyard letting in natural light and ventilation.

The courtyard also separates the bar area from the family room. The family zone follows the same muted colour scheme and clean-line decor with more casual and informal ambience. Rustic off-white tiles for the floor and mushroom colour for walls along with a white wood mural as the backdrop for the seating add a sophisticated touch to the informal ambience. The large windows overlook the pool, white sheets block the in-coming harsh light.

As one moves from the outer living spaces to the bedrooms, one notices a subtle shift in



ambience. To which Yatin Kavaiya, senior associate adds, "The starkness of the common spaces gives way to a more personal, slightly more ostentatious feel. This change is gradual and we have so cleverly brought it about that one perceives it



almost at an emotional level rather than in a visual way." Each bedroom showcases a distinct personality — the children's bedroom is a surprise! Unlike the usual, the designer has graduated and created a white canvas where the children's own toys and artwork add colour.

Warm brown tones create a 'rich romantic' ambience for the master bedroom, "which is exactly what the elder brother and his wife wanted," explains the designer. A carved 'tree' motif in Nu-Wood forms an arresting backdrop to the bed. In stark contrast is the bedroom of the younger brother, which is 'masculine' with the use of black laminate,



dark wooden flooring and dark accessories. Both the parent's room and guest room follow a more neutral colour palette in combination with dark veneers.

After a walk-through to the different area, you leave with some of the distinct features etched in your memory — the re-tractable skylight and opening of the indoors to the outdoors. Leaving the last word to Dipen, "It was a real challenge to do the interiors of this house because of its size and different areas involved. Maintaining the underlying character of the house was important, but equally important was ensuring that things didn't get repetitive. I think that we have been quite successful in achieving this," what more can we say ■

Fact file

Architects: CAN Architects, Mumbai ● **Landscaping:** Ashish Tuli, Ahmedabad ● **Interior Design:** Dipen Gada Associates, Vadodara