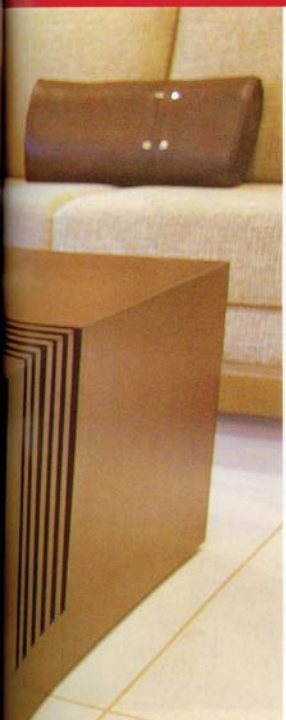




**striking
and simple**

TEXT: SHALINI PERERA
PHOTOGRAPHS: TEJAS SHAI

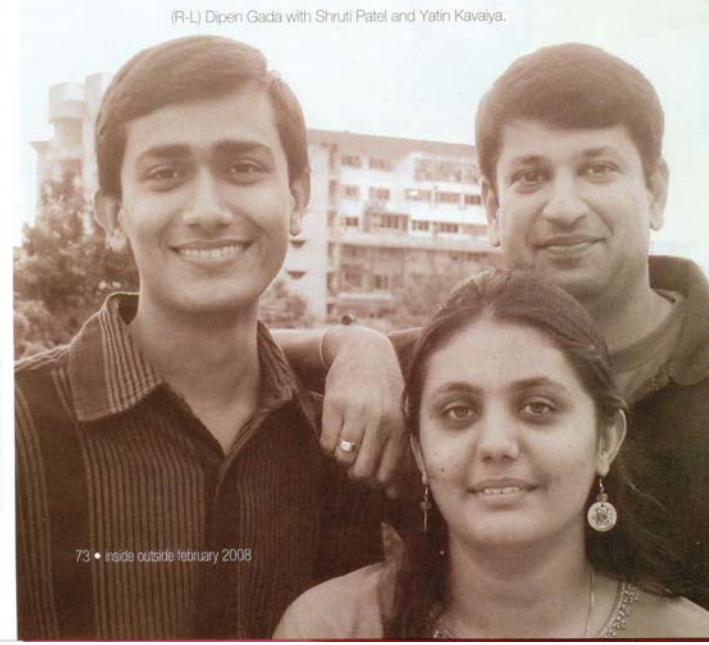
INTERIOR



**Dipen Gada and Associates
design a contemporary home for a young family
in Vadodara, in clean lines, simple forms
and earthy tones, that emphasize
the warmth of the family.**

(R-L) Dipen Gada with Shruti Patel and Yatin Kavaia.

The Parikhs, who are good friends of Dipen Gada, approached him with a simple brief – to design a contemporary home for them, that was both modern and functional. The trust they placed in him, ensured that the design team had full freedom while developing the concept. The only restriction was that no alterations could be made to the external façade of the bungalow as it was part of a society. The house as it evolved was one that suited the family perfectly and reflected their personalities. A brass statue of the Buddha placed against the backdrop of





A brass statue of Buddha placed against the backdrop of a circular antique gold painted panel welcomes one at the entrance foyer.

The focal point of the whole house, is the striking staircase leading to the first floor which dramatizes the entire space of the living room and its role as a design element supercedes its more functional primary role.



a circular antique gold painted Nuwood panel welcomes one at the entrance foyer. One steps into a foyer, which opens out into the living area and the family space. Though this is one large open space, the individual zones are defined by the different colours used in the furnishings. While earthy neutral tones dominate the living area, the family space is defined by the bold use of magenta-pink upholstery.

One of the highlights of this area, and indeed the whole house, is the striking staircase leading to the first floor. 'The volume of the staircase area dramatizes the entire space of the living room and its role as a design element supercedes its more functional primary role,' says Dipen. With a backdrop of a horizontally grooved wall, washed in warm beige tones, a combination of rough and polished wood, a brass Buddha and fresh flower arrangements, it is visually arresting – the treads are of polished wood, the railing is in a combination of polished wood and stainless steel and the polished wood ledge is treated to rough wood detailing. A paper pulp hanging lamp from 'Me' in Mumbai, provides vertical connectivity between the ground and first floor and adds a finishing touch to this space.

The dining area, demarcated unobtrusively from the drawing area by a delicate partition of wood, fabric and glass, has an almost zen-like feel to it. Here the use of highly polished ebony veneer for the table and chairs offsets the neutral colour palette of the walls. Opening out into the main garden, it is a wonderful place to relax as well as to entertain, feel the Parikhs. 'It gives us

the option of extending the living and dining area further and allow guests to spill out into the garden during a party,' beams the contented lady of the house.

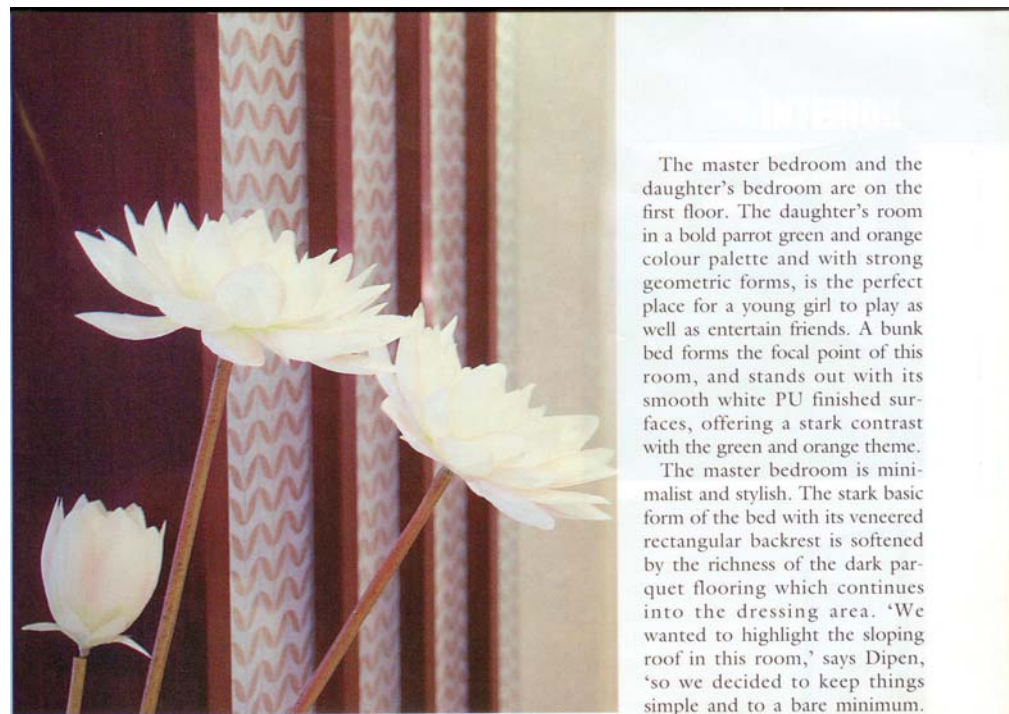
The puja room adjoining the dining area is a tranquil, meditative space, while the kitchen is functional and easy to maintain with its dark laminates and granite counters.

Dipen has skilfully used indirect lighting throughout the house to wash the walls with a yellow glow and create different moods within the same space.





A delicate partition of fabric, sandwiched between wood and glass subtly demarcates the living from the dining area.



The master bedroom and the daughter's bedroom are on the first floor. The daughter's room in a bold parrot green and orange colour palette and with strong geometric forms, is the perfect place for a young girl to play as well as entertain friends. A bunk bed forms the focal point of this room, and stands out with its smooth white PU finished surfaces, offering a stark contrast with the green and orange theme.

The master bedroom is minimalist and stylish. The stark basic form of the bed with its veneered rectangular backrest is softened by the richness of the dark parquet flooring which continues into the dressing area. 'We wanted to highlight the sloping roof in this room,' says Dipen, 'so we decided to keep things simple and to a bare minimum.'



Like the rest of the house, the kitchen in contemporary clean lines is functional and easy to maintain with its granite counters.



Above Left: The master bathroom, elegant in white textured tiles and grey Italian marble, and a jacuzzi to relax in.

Far Above & Above: The focal point of the daughter's room is a bunk bed which stands out with its smooth white surfaces, offering a stark contrast with the green and orange theme.



And that's also why we decided to avoid a false ceiling.'

The other rooms such as the parents' bedroom, guest bedroom and study all follow a similar design vocabulary with a neutral colour palette, with accents of colour provided by the furnishings and carefully selected artefacts.

Lighting was an integral part of Dipen's design and he has skilfully used indirect lighting to wash the walls with a yellow glow and create different moods within the same space.

The neutral colours with an occasional splash of bright tones, the rich material palette and the simple forms have all combined to create a home the Parikhs revel in. **15**

Opposite below & this page: The master bedroom is minimalist and stylish. The stark basic form of the bed with its veneered rectangular backrest is softened by the richness of the dark parquet flooring.



Design firm
DGA
Principal designers
Dipen Gada
Design Team
Yatin Kavaiya & Shruti Patel