



# Best of both worlds

Dipen Gada creates a vertical structure to maximise the available area.  
A traditional motif binds the exteriors to the interiors

*Above and facing page:* Situated in Vadodara, this 4500 sq ft residence by architect Dipen Gada of Dipen Gada & Associates has been constructed on a tight site. A tall tower acts as a defining factor and is supported by horizontal planes that balance the design. As a signature mark, Gada uses a tree motif that influences the interiors as well.

**Though homes are reflections of the owners' personality, the design always carries a strong stamp of an architect's creativity. Every architect or designer has a signature style that either stands out prominently or sometimes in an understated manner.**

"I always make it a point to select a single strong element that acts as a unifying force in my projects. This brings about a sense of continuity and gives a residence a distinctive mark," says Dipen Gada of Dipen Gada & Associate.

For this Vadodara house, he uses a tree motif that influences the exteriors as well as the interi-

ors. When the owners' approached the architect they were keen to have a house that would echo a strong traditional design tone with no modern characteristics. However, during the designing process they decided to have a blend of both.

"When I took on the project, the first challenge was the area of the plot. Approximately 3000 sq ft, it is a tight site and we had to be very careful in terms of architecture and designing. As we had to design multiple areas within the house, we decided to spread it vertically," says Gada. "Considering the size of the plot, there was limited scope for landscaping and hence





**Above:** Though the architect had enough space, he chose to create a L-shape seating in the living room. To bring the tree motif pattern in this area, he created a river polish mint stonewall and etched the pattern on it. The fenestrations on one side add warmth and traditionalism to the area. Focus lights create a dramatic effect in the living room.

we have tried to incorporate natural features in the interiors and have also given the exterior a tree motif."

The stark vertical structure instantly attracts attention for its motif that stands out in the front elevation. The structure is a combination of horizontal and vertical planes at multiple levels that break the monotony of the singular long vertical tower.

Another remarkable design feature are the fenestrations puncturing the facade. They have been kept to a minimum to render an empowering look. They allow in am-

ple natural light into the house along with multiple skylights, which are present within.

The built-up area of the house is 4500 sq ft and accommodates a living room, dining, kitchen, four bedrooms and bathrooms. The ground floor has the public areas along with a bedroom whereas the first and the second floor have the remaining three bedrooms.

A stone statue marks the entry into the house and has a striking partition made of doubled veneered motifs that lead in to the living room.

"The living room is low on accessories and has a L-shaped sofa along with a striking river

polish mint stone wall. This wall has the tree motif that brings continuity from the exteriors inside," says Gada.

The dining area, near the foot of the staircase, is a modern space with a glass tabletop and wooden chairs. A customised wooden lamp adds drama to the space. Where the living room and the dining are in earthy colour tones, the kitchen is a stark contrast in green and white. Gada deliberately chose this vibrant colour against white to add vibrancy. A counter has been created in the centre that also functions as an informal dining space.



**Above:** The architect used the available space under the staircase to create the dining. The fenestration pattern used in the living room has been replicated on the base of the dining table as well.



**Left:** Gada has used muted colour tones throughout the house but has used bright shades of green for the kitchen. The green gives the space a vibrant edge and also breaks the monotony of white.



*Right:* The skylight above the staircase allows natural light into the house all the time thereby accentuating the ambience of the area. Traditional lamps used here add a soft glow. The stonewall at the staircase breaks the monotony of brown.

*Facing page:* The wooden fenestrations throughout the house echo the traditional design tone and create an interesting play of shadows.







**Preceding pages:** The guest bedroom also acts as the home theatre-cum-entertainment room for the owners. Designed in vibrant shades, the architect has gone casual in terms of design. The exposed unfinished brick wall adds a rustic element to the room that is accentuated by the exposed ceiling. The area opens out to the terrace and can be converted into a singular space during entertaining.

The staircase in the dining has been done in RCC and Jodhpur stone, finished in wood-like colour paint. The staircase runs free from the wall with a backdrop of wall clad with river polish mint stone.

The bedroom on the ground floor belongs to the parents and is done in shades of beige and white. It extends to a terrace as well where the architect has placed a traditional swing.

The area gets its natural light due to the pergola. The low headboard echoes the tree motif done in water jet. The first floor has the master bedroom along with the daughter's bedroom.

The tree motif on the facade brings in light into this room throughout the day.

"On the second floor is the guest bedroom that doubles up as home theatre room. The room is a stark contrast from the rest of the spaces of the house. I have left the ceiling exposed and have used a combination of wooden plank texture with smooth finish there. The Katni marble flooring accentuates the warmth of the space. We have used a Burmese teak sofa here that doubles up as a bed and have also used special handmade tiles that have been set in the bed pull out," says Gada.



**Above, extreme left and left:** The parents bedroom on the ground floor has an adjoining terrace. The pergola in the terrace adds a modern touch to the space. The tree motif on the exterior is replicated on the headboard. The black marble in the terrace area highlights it and acts as a contrast against the beige marble in the bedroom.



## Dipen Gada of Dipen Gada & Associates



Dipen Gada of Vadodara-based architecture firm, Dipen Gada & Associates (DGA) has been successful in creating a niche for himself in the architecture and design industry. His unique work philosophy came about from creative use of design skills, constant study and a keen sense of observation. A civil engineer by qualification, Gada has played an instrumental role in taking his firm from being an exclusive interior designing one to being a civil and an architectural planning firm. DGA's work includes a wide array of projects, ranging from residential, commercial, retail and educational institutions. The firm's focus is to create spaces that are simple yet speak the bold language of minimalism. DGA's projects have won accolades and awards both in India and internationally. These include IIID National MK Awards 2009, National IAD Awards 2009, and Celebration of Architectural Awards (Regional) 2011. For further information, email [dipen317@gmail.com](mailto:dipen317@gmail.com) or call +91-265-2311136.

- 1. Amin residence, Vadodara
- 2. The Cube house, Vadodara
- 3. The Wall house, Bharuch



**Above:** The skylight in the bathroom ensures natural light at all times. Gada has placed plants to accentuate the natural quotient. The long free-standing basin counter provides ample storage space

**Owner's name:** Choksi family  
**Architect:** Dipen Gada; Dipen Gada & Associates  
**Design team:** Foram Patel, Dolly Pari  
**Site co-ordinator:** Bharat Mistry  
**Kitchen:** Custom-made  
**Flooring:** Vietnam White Marble  
**Paints:** Asian Paints  
**Lighting:** Ace Luminaries  
**Benchtops:** Corian  
**Oven:** Faber  
**Stove:** Faber  
**Ventilation:** Cata  
**Refrigerator:** LG  
**Dishwasher:** LG

**Basin:** Kohler  
**Taps:** Jaquar  
**Shower:** Jaquar  
**Fittings:** Jaquar  
**Tiles:** Shon Ceramics  
**Toilet:** Duravit  
**Accessories:** Jaquar  
**Bed Linen:** Avaran

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