

REGISTERED NO. L/HR/FBD/256/10-12

DESIGN TODAY

July 2012 ₹100

SPACES ETCETERA

IN FOCUS

WOOD WORK

Homes in Argentina & Chile
Hotels in Australia & Finland

Vadodara House
A minimalistic design

Office in Greater Noida
A rhythmic articulation of
volumes and spaces

THE
INDIA
TODAY
GROUP



RNI NO. DL/EN/2002/6742

DESIGN MUSINGS: URBAN FORMS

DESIGN AT HOME



LESS IS MORE

A RESIDENCE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF VADODARA, GUJARAT, DESIGNED BY DIPEN GADA & ASSOCIATES, IS FASHIONED IN A MINIMALISTIC DESIGN ETHIC WHERE THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AREAS ARE IN PERFECT COMMUNION WITH EACH OTHER AND YET HAVE THEIR OWN DISTINCT IDENTITIES

DESIGN AT HOME



The 16ft-high living room with vast openings is connected with the entry foyer and landscaped garden on one side and the pool on the other



DESIGN AT HOME

The owners of this residence wanted the architects to create a three-bedroom weekend house for leisure activities. The work got delayed because of land clearance issues and when they came again with their brief, they had a different plan. This time they wanted a residence for permanent living. Located on the outskirts of Vadodra, this 65,000sq ft land is surrounded by

a lot of greenery. The brief was to create an open plan where all areas could communicate well with each other. Vadodra-based architects Dipen Gada & Associates initially came up with a structure which consisted of only the ground level. Later, the requirement of the clients changed and they wanted to have a five-bedroom place. As such, a room was added on the first floor.

The house mainly translates into three different blocks. One, a white block, which serves as the entrance to the house. Second, the wooden block, clad with sesame wood panis and the third, a double-height skewed block. Together, the three blocks create an interesting skewed facade with straight lines. The ideology is mainly based on a minimalistic approach where less is more. The layout is organized and interactive. Each

The formal dining space opens to the wooden back deck which further blends with the serene Zen garden area is well-connected with the outdoors and there is perfect communication between public and private areas of the house.



DESIGN AT HOME

A 19ft-long metal-and-cloth lamp designed by the architects, hangs as a sculpture from the ceiling, enhancing the beauty of this light-filled central space



DESIGN AT HOME

The L-shaped swimming pool has an open wooden deck with a bar and lounge chairs. It can be accessed from the main dining area and the living room as well.



DESIGN AT HOME

A huge, shallow waterbody creates a mirroring effect of the front facade and also doubles up as a soft water feature. A floating walkway on this waterbody, leads to the entry foyer. An antique wooden chest with three statues welcomes visitors into the house. A tree motif on a rough wall creates a wonderful backdrop in this area while the skylight enhances the wall with natural daylight. The foyer is positioned in such a way that it connects to the living area as well as the home theatre.

The living room is vast and 6ft high. One corner of the room has a full-height glass facade overlooking the waterbody and a garden in front. On the other side, it is connected to the swimming pool and an open deck. A slit window on one of the walls has a flower motif. This opening creates an interesting topography on the wall in the main hall during the day time. The living room leads to the dining area and the kitchen.

The home theatre, set up in a 18'x24' room, lies on the other side of the foyer and is designed in such a way that guests can directly enter the room without disturbing the regular activities of the house. It is also connected to the dining room.

The powder room—between the home-theatre and the dining area—is also connected to all public spaces. A skylight in this room brings in a good amount of daylight.

The kitchen, which is at the other end of the dining area, is connected with both—the internal functional and external utility areas. One of the walls in the kitchen has a hanging work platform, placed against a tall window that opens up to the Zen garden, bringing in fresh air and views.

The main hall of the house is the dining area where all public and private areas converge. The 12-seater dining table has an antique finish with a similar looking divider and crockery units. Two large openings connect the dining room to the swimming pool on one side and the Zen garden on the other. This area further flows into the central foyer which is connected to the four bedrooms on the ground floor and a staircase which leads to the bedrooms on the first floor. The puja room located in

The Zen garden creates a tranquil and serene ambience as it subtly merges with the surrounding landscape

The central foyer is well-lit due to the skylight in the ceiling that allows ample natural light into the space.

All the bedrooms are well-ventilated and connected to the outdoor greens. Dark-toned wooden flooring has been used in these areas. The large master bedroom has a custom-made wooden bed. The room is internally connected to a spacious study which leads to the outdoor garden and gazebo. The master bathroom is a huge 15'x18' space with a skylight above the bathtub. A distressed silver mirror frame highlights the wall with the basin. All bathrooms are roomy, have a neat arrangement and are done in Italian marble. Overall, the manner is a fusion of modern architecture with a semi-classical approach in the interior spaces, worked in a minimalist fashion.

—Design Team: Rinkesh Ranchor, Shruti Patel, Shilpa Perera & Dolly Pari.

Photographs: TEJAS SHANI Text: SHILPA BHASCHANDANI | Courtesy: DIPEN GADA & ASSOCIATES