



THE DREAM HOUSE

On the outskirts of Vadodara, architect Dipen Gada concretised the envisaged dream house of his client and a surreal sanctuary emerged ensconced in the greenery around.

TEXT BY ARCHITECT KRUTI CHOKSI • PHOTOGRAPHS TEJAS SHAH COURTESY THE ARCHITECT



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Mastering the art of correct angles and command over the accuracy of detailing, architect Gada's design has a remarkable aesthetic appeal.



'Beauty once created lasts forever,' is the idea that usually drives every individual while woolgathering for his hard earned dream house. He dreams of a house that not only reflects his identity and values but one that also gets passed on as a valued treasure to his next generation. With the increasing pace of life and hectic work schedules of every member, the family is conveniently bound together through the magnet called home.

What does an architect do when he is shouldered with the responsibility of giving form to somebody's dreams? "The client came to us with a simple brief: an open plan that allowed for a good communication between the interior spaces. The rest was left entirely to us, which allowed for a good amount of freedom to design," shares Ar. Dipen Gada whom the client had entrusted with the mission of shaping his dream house.

Situated on the outskirts of Vadadara, this 65,000 sq. ft. site was surrounded by the tranquil beauty of nature. Throwing light on his design scheme the architect explained that the lush greens were inspiring enough to give him his basic concept for the design of the house. He goes on to add, "The unique feature of this house is the transition of the built to the semi-built to the open." The seamless flow of one space into another space at all junctions throughout the house

makes it truly contemporary and modern.

A beautiful walk-way floating on a shallow water body leads to the entrance foyer where one is welcomed by three statues placed against a textured wall etched with a tree motif; this is illuminated with a beam of natural light let in by the planned slit in the slab above. While the foyer on its left has the home theatre, the double height living space waits on its right. Freed of walls at one corner, the living room overlooks the water body and garden in front through a full length glass façade and is connected to the swimming pool and open deck on the other side.

Considering minimalism as his design philosophy, when asked how he strives to achieve it, Ar. Gada says, "Our design approach is playing with emptiness. We compose a few basic

THIS PAGE A Zen garden with beautiful white pebbles creates a soothing environment which eventually subtly merges with the larger landscape of the surroundings.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP The entrance walk-way floating on the water body holds the clue to the fantasy that shall unveil, once inside. **BOTTOM** The swimming pool turns out to be an integral part of the layout and gets viewed through various spaces.





elements, which influence the entire environment of both, the built and the non-built, thereby eventually evening out the final outcome."

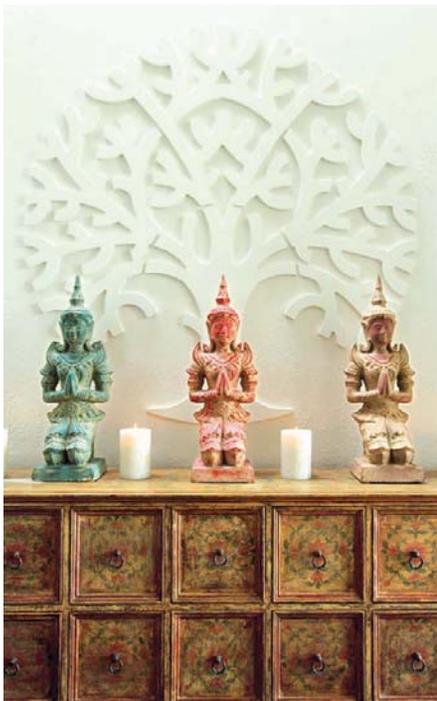
The overall layout is generated primarily through the juxtaposition of three blocks. First is the white block serving as the entrance zone, a second one is in the shape of a wooden block exhibiting a raw uneven texture created by the use of sesame wood and the third is the skewed double height block at one end of the pool. The kitchen and the powder room are so correctly positioned in the entire layout that they are not only well connected with all the public spaces but also act as the space separators.

However, the heart of the house that pumps life into it is the dining space that literally bridges the private and public spaces. Flanked with a Zen Garden on one side and a huge swimming pool on another, the dining space effortlessly brings in the outside. The kitchen, dining and bedroom spaces breathe through the Zen Garden just as the pool holds the living room, dining space and another bedroom on its periphery thereby promising adequate natural light and ventilation through all areas.

What adds salt to Ar. Gada's recipe is the personal touch given to each space through his specially crafted elements. Like the staircase space is enhanced with a 19 ft. long custom made lamp depicting a deeper thought about the journey of humans towards their envisaged goal of life. The clear glass banister escorts ▶



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The stark white of the couches and ceiling in the living room gets harmonised by the colourful views of the outside let in through the dramatic openings.
BOTTOM A family collage on one of the walls vitalises the ambience of the bedroom.
OPPOSITE PAGE TOP Skylights and artifacts add charm to the otherwise stark white interiors of the house. **BOTTOM** The main hub of the house, the dining space is occupied by a table that sits twelve.



one to the next level where a bedroom and gymnasium were housed to meet the additional requirements of the family. The master bedroom on the ground floor gets adorned with an en-suite outdoor garden and gazebo. Now if one is blessed with such a luxury on a daily basis, why would one seek a resort or weekend house in the quest to unwind?

Play of mass and volumetric rhythm is something that goes with all of Ar. Gada's designs making an impact on the very first sight.

"We definitely have our own signature style. Emptiness, vastness and simple straight lines are some of the prominent features of our design and striking bold facades are an inherent part of it. Our aim is to create a simple, clutter-free and functional environment," says Ar. Gada, more than content with his creation. At this particular house while the skewed block and play of double height dramatises the façade, the huge shallow water body in front creates romantic reflections softening down the entire feel. Mastering the art of aesthetics at all levels, this harmoniously well knitted house commands elegance from part to whole.

The fusion of flamboyant aesthetics with a classical and warm ambiance defines good taste hereby. In spite of the completely modern and 'contemporarised' look what this house does not miss out on is that feeling of coming back home! ■

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A skylight over the bath tub and candles by Cerral in the niches in the adjoining wall, add élan to the experience of grooming in the master bathroom. **BOTTOM**

At the entry foyer, against the backdrop of a naturally lit wall highlighted by a tree motif, three statues placed on an antique wooden chest greet the occupants.