

HIDE AND GO SEEK

Choreographing an elegant interplay of light and shadow, Dipen Gada and Associates create a warren of passages leading to momentous spaces celebrated in light and veiled in shade.



Pics: Tejas Shah

Located at one end of the sprawling garden, the Peep House is an 8700 sq.ft. structure that literally *peeps* out from behind a large stark concrete wall. Responding to the clients brief of wanting an out-of-the-box design and experimenting with form, Dipen Gada and Associates decided to drive the element of surprise home.

The concrete wall ornamented with a grid of perforations divides the plot into three main spaces - the house, the Zen garden and the swimming pool. While the singular mass of the house in the form of a cube rests firmly atop the concrete wall, the landscape dissolves all boundaries between the outside and inside. Apertures in the walls, skylights in the roof, open verandahs and covered walkways invite an abundance of natural light into the interior spaces. A sojourn through the 50' long passage is an experience rendered in tranquility as you view the pool through wooden fins on one side and overlook the front garden on the other. In the day, the passageway is striped with an ever changing pattern of light and shadow as the sun beams through the finned cut outs. At night, the stripes





take a delirious turn to dance across the desolate hallway, as an overhead-suspended light is turned on. This custom made tubular fitting creates a dramatic effect of linear fragments strewn across the floor and walls. As you move along into the main house, the feeling of openness and an intrinsic connect to the outside does not fail. While the flooring is rustic with a river-finished kota stone, the walls are left bare to be adorned solely by vast windows framing views of the garden or open courtyards. These courts act as light wells flooding strategic corners with natural light.

The sizeable expanses of space seem to have a constant diffused glow of sunlight in the day, and are relatively dim at night. Certain areas are highlighted with decorative fittings suspended from the ceiling, accentuating a particular moment in space and pausing it in time.

While the drawing room, dining room, kitchen and parent's room break out at the end of a small passage, an informal outdoor living area overlooks the pool. The water-body is an exquisite feature catching the

sun's rays in the day and at night turning into a glassy surface reflecting the brilliance of intricate veneer lamps suspended overhead. The drama of the pool is well balanced with the adjacent Zen garden, which has become the most delightful and enriching part of the whole house.

As one climbs to the upper floor, natural light claims its domain once again in a long passage flanked by a solid, staid wall on one side and large, flamboyant windows on the other. Leading to another open court at the end, the sun streams down in magnificent patterns of light and shade as it negotiates a pergola styled roof.

While other rooms branch off from the hallway, the master bedroom is witness to a theatrical play of light through the day. Opening out onto a terrace garden, the mystery of the peeping cube unfolds in this space.

Dipen Gada and Associates pay close attention to the dynamism of natural light and choreograph it elegantly through the interior spaces of the house. Evident that daylight is a fundamental component in the

design process, the Peep House experiments with the intense sunlight of Gujarat and respects the sanctity of the shadow. Yet, at nightfall, drama does not cease to exist. Adopting CFL and LED sources for most of the lighting in the house, DGA plays with concealed coves for soft ambient light and bespoke decorative fittings for a dramatic effect. While 6 to 10 watt fixtures are used for smaller spaces, or to accentuate artwork and details; 12 to 14 watt fixtures are employed for general lighting. The design intent is translated gracefully into the lighting scheme as various purposefully designed light fixtures are tactically placed in harmony with the given spaces.

www.dipengada.com

PROJECT DETAILS

Official Name of the project: The Peep House
 Client: Mahesh Kothari
 Architect: Dipen Gada & Associates (DGA)
 Interior Designer: Dipen Gada, Shalini Pereira, Aditi Dave, Dolly Pari
 Landscape Architect: Ashish Teli
 Lighting Specified: Philips, Osram, Wipro.