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ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

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**INDIA'S FIRST MAGAZINE ON THE TILE INDUSTRY**

# SIMPLICITY AT ITS BEST

Architect Dipen Gada shares inspiration that drives him for unique designs and takes us through one of his remarkable project **The Cube House**

INTERVIEWED BY: TTI  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY: Courtesy DGA



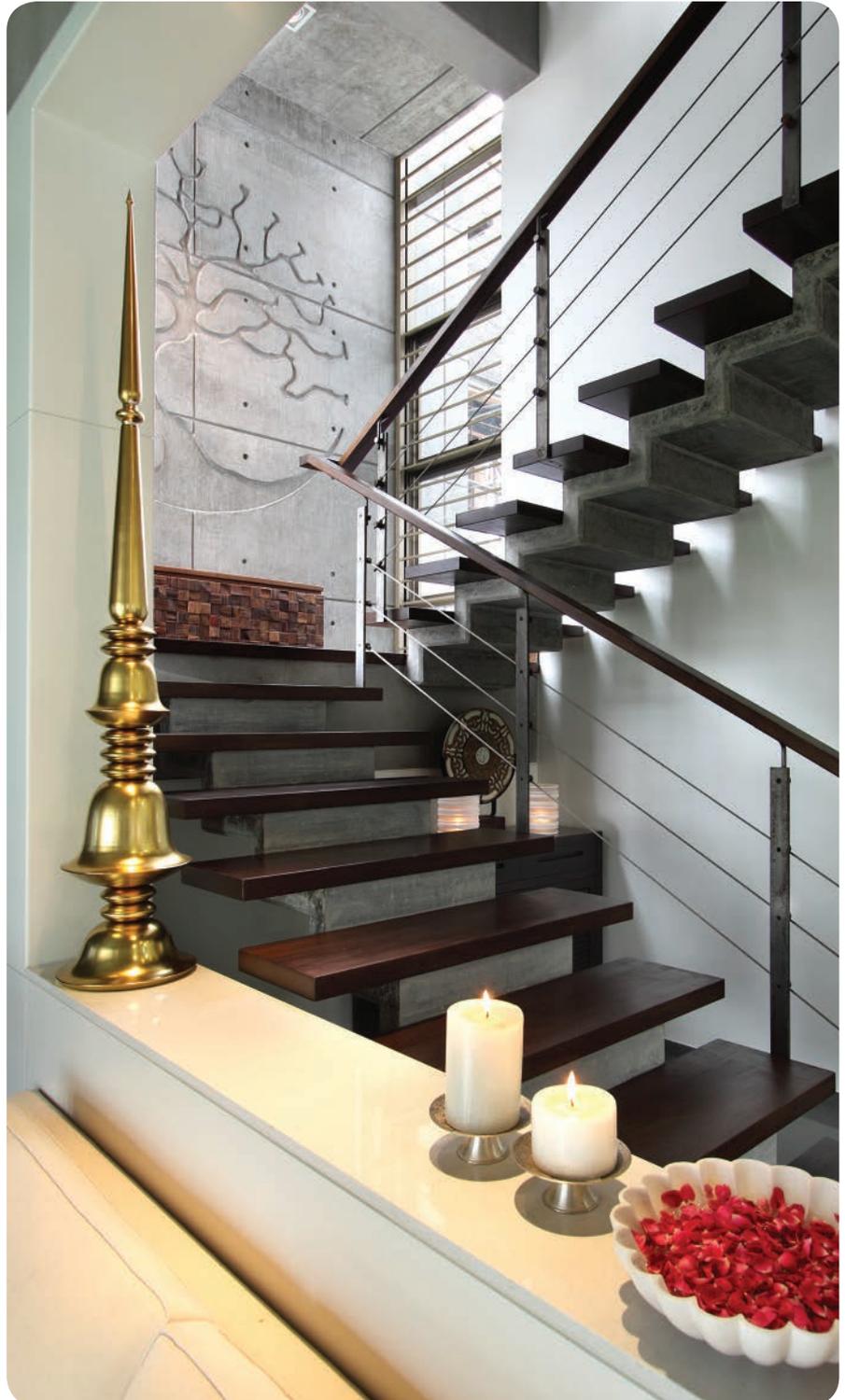
*Ar. Dipen Gada*  
DGA

*"Where the mind is without fear  
and the head is held high, where  
knowledge is free. Where the world  
has not been broken up into fragments  
by narrow domestic walls..."*

**- Rabindranath Tagore.**

On being asked about his inspiration, Dipen Gada quotes the above and says that, "Creation of an environment that would surrender to nature and give unforgettable experience is a thought which drives me for unique designs. There is a constant search of exploring the uncharted and concluding beyond the conventional."

It is this same desire to create the unconventional that inspired The Cube House. Situated in Baroda, the inspiration for this house is the simple cube. The modern aesthetic of the house employs a combination of exposed RCC and white plastered



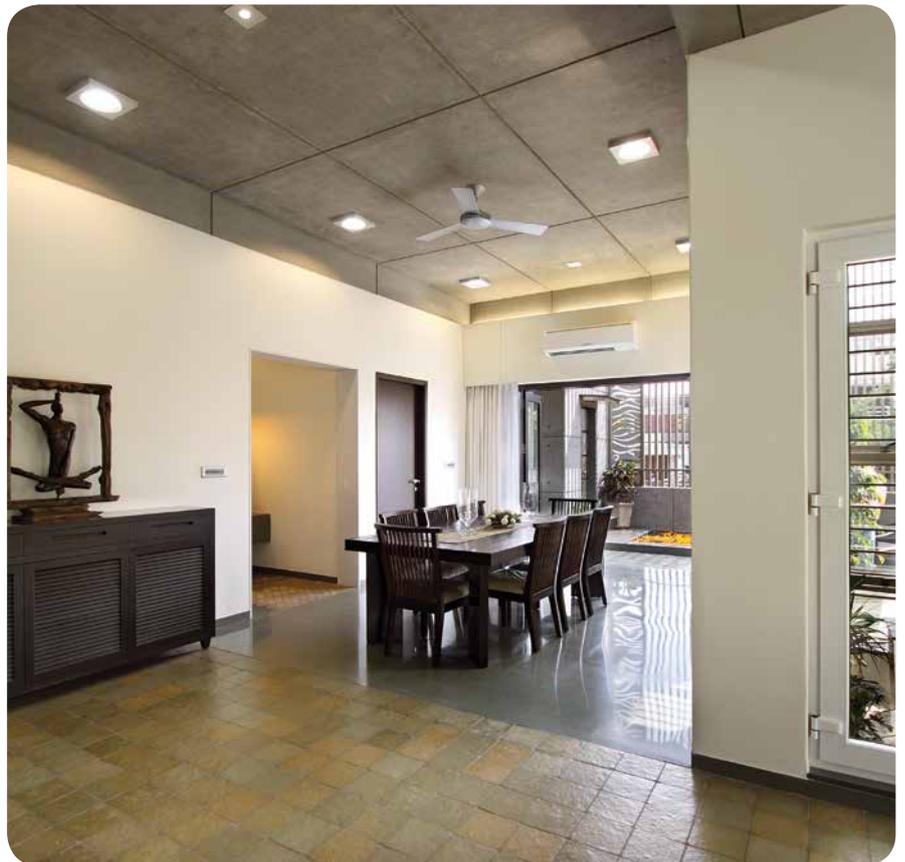


*Creation of an environment that would surrender to nature and give unforgettable experience is a thought which drives me for unique designs*

exterior walls in such a way that they look like cubes fitting into one another creating masses and voids resulting in a structure that is massive and simultaneously intimate.

The brief of the client was simple—to create a house, which veered away from housing stereotypes. This was one of the rare residential projects where the client was one with a rare vision and trust.

This 4000 sqft home embraces





modernism with clean lines and an open floor plan, while keeping in mind the region's climatic conditions and Indian ideals. Environmental transparencies at the ground level, created through courtyards and large openings help in passively cooling the internal spaces.

A raised entry threshold signifies the entry into the house. The flooring here is of tiles of multi-colored river

polished kota stone leading to the entry. At the entry we first see a custom made grill that has been cast out of aluminum. The entry vestibule opens out into the living room area. There is a small courtyard adjacent to this vestibule. This is visible from the living and dining area, but has been screened from the vestibule area by a custom made screen of lacquered M.S sheet. This courtyard

## Property facts

**PROJECT NAME:** Cube House

**CLIENT'S NAME:** Amit Shah

**BUILT UP AREA:** 4000 sq ft

**DESIGN TEAM:** Dipen Gada, Hardik Tamboli, Aditi Dave, Shalini Pereira, Dolly Shah

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Tejas Shah

acts as a light well drawing diffused light into the house.

The immediate entry to the house has been demarcated from the living room visually by a change in the flooring material, and physically by a low height storage unit. The focal

## THE FLOORING HERE IS OF TILES OF MULTI-COLORED RIVER POLISHED KOTA STONE LEADING TO THE ENTRY.



point in the living room is the black tinted IPS wall which holds a painting of Lord Shreenathji.

The dining room, which is part of the open planned ground floor, overlooks a small courtyard, which adjoins the entry vestibule. It also



overlooks a huge double heighted semi-covered courtyard having a water body. Pergolas in the double height slab, coupled with a screen of aluminum fins, create changing patterns of light and shadow that has a dramatic impact.

The project is also a very good example of environmentally friendly design with openings being placed to maximize the inflow of breeze, while reducing direct sunlight. Compact fluorescent lamps have been used in most of the spaces to reduce energy consumption and green rated air-conditioning systems have been used. An effort has also been made to use natural materials that are easily available. A great believer in humanitarian design he says that, "Humanitarian architecture is for improving the welfare and happiness of a population through the art and practice of designing... thereby alleviating suffering and transform conditions into collectively preferred ones. It acts to create a built environment that is for the betterment of society. There are mixed results for adapting these designs. Thus, the concept still needs to be emphasized among the people. We agree..."

### Contact Details

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