

Contemporary Homes

Each of these homes has a unique identity, indicative of the varied breadth of contemporary residential design





Less is more

Designed by Dipen Gada, the Linear House follows lucid architectural geometry to attain luxury in simplicity

Preceding pages The Linear House by Dipen Gada follows simple architectural geometry. Situated in a community of bungalows in Anand, Gujarat, the residence sits on a 40,000 sqft plot with a grand garden.

Above The subtly-furnished living room looks out onto the front lawns, while the floor-to-ceiling windows allow sunlight to flood the room.

Facing page The public spaces include the dining area and a brightly upholstered family lounge. A distinct jaali pattern separates the lounge from the central courtyard.

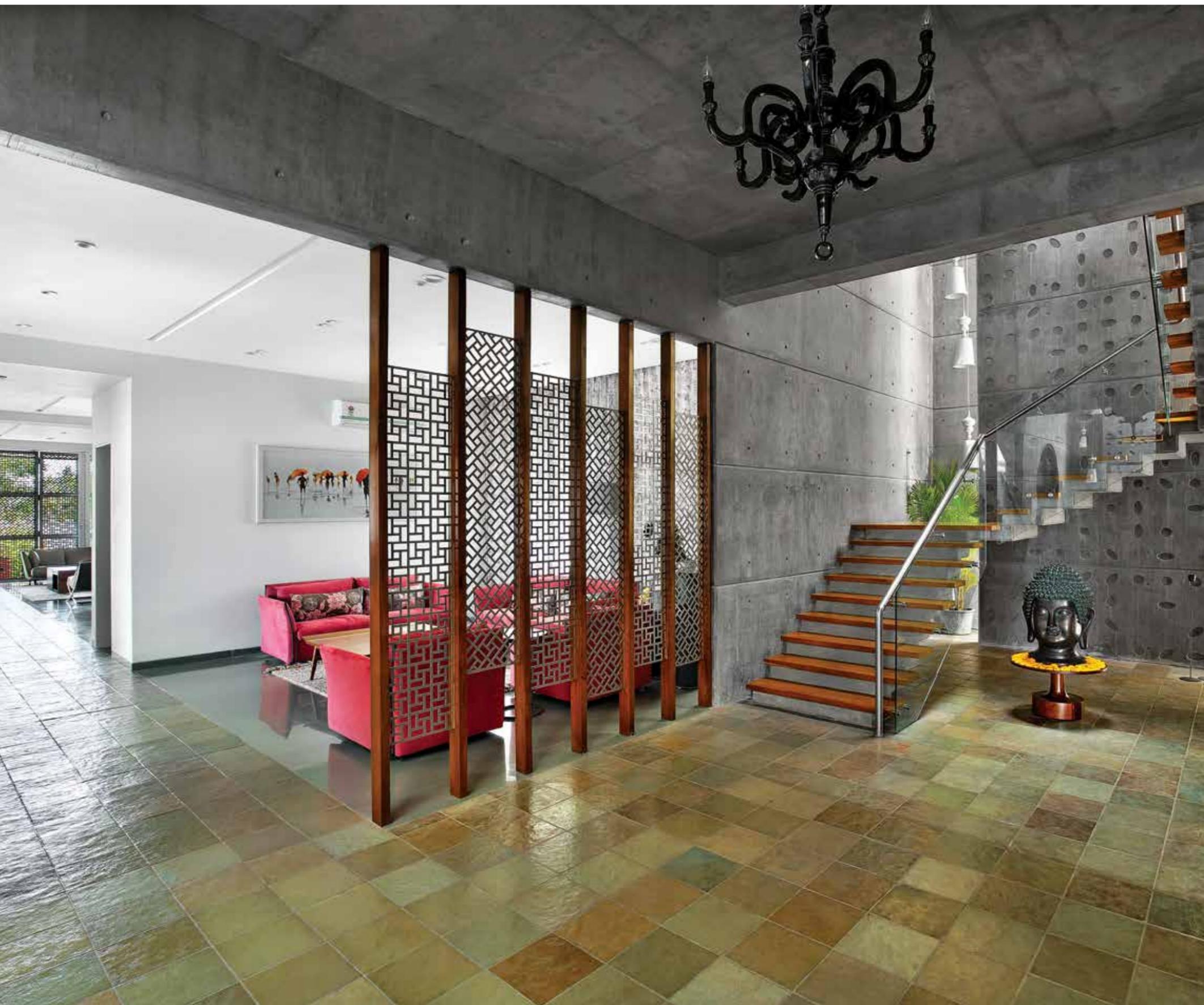
For the Linear House, Dipen Gada & Associates put functionality first. The two-storey structure in Anand, Gujarat, has five bedrooms, a living room, dining area, family lounge, and multipurpose room, which are all connected by a central concrete courtyard within the house.

“The clients were looking for simplicity and functionality and basic adherence to *vaastu* principles. They handed over an empty plot and left the rest to us. As with all our designs, we first designed a basic layout devoid of any complex designs, then we looked at functionality, and finally, aesthetics. We decided

to bring character into the core, which pulls all the spaces together and also divides the house into its public and private spaces,” says Gada.

Aptly named, the Linear House obeys simple longitudinal geometry. The front of the house has all the communal spaces, followed by a spacious concrete block that grandly leads to the more private bedrooms. The simply furnished living and dining rooms stand in the same space near the entrance. Smaller spaces like the kitchen, pooja room and powder room lead on to a larger family lounge on the left and the multipurpose room on the right. Plush rose





couches in the family lounge stand strong and stark against the subtle white of the multipurpose room on the opposite side.

For this project, security was as important as openness. "The bungalow is one among many in a residential society that is flush with open spaces. For safety and privacy, we created a custom metal grille that adds an extra layer of protection beyond the long glass windows. When the grille is opened during the day, it adds to the spaciousness of the home, with the outside garden area creating a breezy ambience and a wonderful choreography of light," states Gada.

Left The central courtyard is designed like an outdoor area, but with a concrete finish. Green plants and elegant accessories are illuminated by rays of light from the grille on the ceiling. The floor is laid in kota stone with a leather finish.

Above On the first floor landing, two high-backed lounge chairs create a cosy seating area. Two similar black chandeliers adorn the ceiling of the ground and first floors.





Preceding pages The central concrete courtyard is the focal point of the house. A grand aluminium swing sits opposite the staircase. Bright accessories add pops of colour to an otherwise muted space.

Above The staircase is supported by concrete walls with a distinct oval pattern. On the outside, the void juts out from the height of the building, adding character to its elevation.

To bring the outdoors in, and also to anchor the house to a focal element, Gada introduced a double-height concrete courtyard within the house. On one side is a seating area with a traditional *jhoola* designed entirely out of an aluminium plate, and on the other is the staircase that runs to the first floor and the terrace. While the seating area is split from the multipurpose room by a round glass window, the staircase is separated from the family lounge by a vertical grille.

The high walls that run along the height of this space are cast in concrete, with a distinct pattern that creates

a striking interplay of light and shadow. The custom designed pattern is the result of one of Gada's own sketches. The ceiling has a metal grille with a glass window that allows a controlled amount of sunlight to enter the area, and draws out the hot air. For the floor, Gada used leather-finished kota stone only in this space, as opposed to the rest of the house which is laid in polished kota stone.

The bedrooms, two on the ground floor and three on the top floor, all have one concrete wall that connects them to the central courtyard. Muted colours and subtle furnishings are brightened with elegant

paintings and bright accessories that have either been customised or sourced from Italy and China. The overall aesthetic is underdone, for the distinct and colourful decor elements to stand out. The bedroom above the public spaces is connected to a semi-open seating area and a terrace.

"Overall, the foundation of the house has been kept bare, so that the owners can play with the furniture and decor. It's an effective way to add colours onto neutral palettes and change them as per your mood," advises Gada. Even with its minimalism and simplicity, the Linear House has achieved its own individuality. ■



Above and left Four bedrooms are stacked over each other, while a fifth has an outdoor terrace area. Every bedroom has one common concrete wall treated with graphic patterns.



Architect/Designer Dipen Gada (Principal Designer), Manav Patel, Arpit Jain, Anshu Jain
Kitchen Manufacturer Tiara
Window/Door Magan Patel; Skyline, UPVC Windows
Flooring Baba Marbles
Paints Asian Paints
Lighting Hybec
Stove/Hob Siemens
Ventilation Siemens, CATA
Microwave Siemens
Refrigerator Siemens
Dishwasher Siemens
Bath Kohler; The Bathworld
Vanity Vitra; The Bathworld
Basin Kohler; The Bathworld
Taps Jaquar, Kohler
Shower Jaquar, Kohler
Fittings Jaquar, Kohler
Shower Stall Jaquar, Kohler
Hot Water Systems Jaquar, Kohler
Tiles Kajaria, RAK Ceramics
Toilet Kohler
Accessories Kohler
Bed Linen Atmosphere; Good Earth
Outdoor Lighting Hybec

Story by Tina Thakrar
Photography by Tejas Shah

This page The bedrooms have an understated design aesthetic, with soft colours and neutral upholstery. Hints of colour are brought in through the accessories, to provide a complementary contrast to the concrete wall.

Know Your Architect: Dipen Gada; Dipen Gada & Associates

Dipen Gada & Associates began as a modest interior design firm in Baroda in 1993. Over time, by way of innovative and timeless design, the firm began to receive national acclaim and broadened its scope to become a well-respected civil and architectural planning firm. It aims to go beyond conventional practices for its architecture, interior design, landscape design and product design projects and create spaces that are acknowledged for their architectural expression. Since its inception, the firm has received recognition in the form of multiple design awards and continued media coverage.



What is good design?

The root of good design lies in functionality. In today's age of space constraints and skyrocketing property prices, design should be simple, basic and minimalistic. The fundamental design principle is to achieve simple forms with basic materials that create a strong statement. Overall, design should be functional, logical, aesthetically appealing, environmentally-responsible and for society's betterment.

Which works of yours make you most proud?

Peep House, Lambhvella Home, Cube House, Linear House and a few retail showrooms have been some of our favourite projects.

What benchmarks have you set for yourself?

To achieve an incredible spatial experience

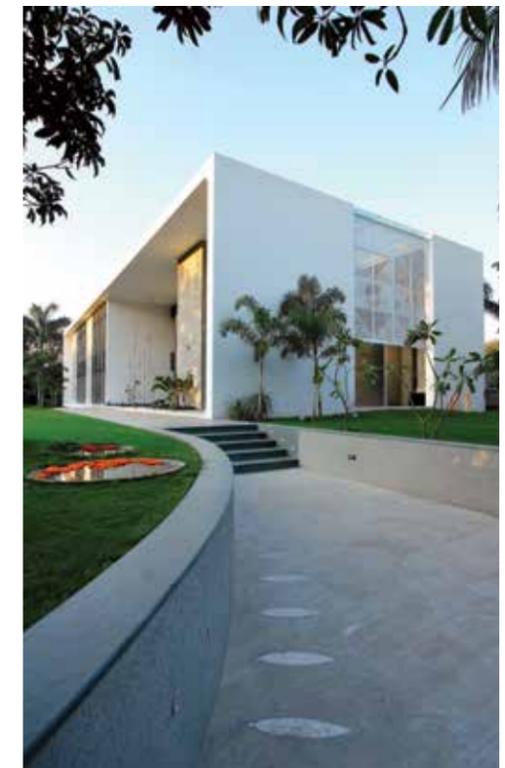
with very basic, conventional construction techniques is the benchmark we have set for ourselves. We are making an effort to revive our traditional Indian techniques and materials. We incorporate these in our initial design planning and will continue to do so in our future designs as well. We consider it a great achievement when we see people following our design style.

What kind of interior style are you partial to?

Classic minimalism is the style I follow and maintain in each project. I also believe in respecting natural materials and the uniqueness of each element, and I like to explore each element with its qualities and adapt it to the requirement.

Which architects and designers inspire you?

That will be Tadao Ando for his minimalistic



design and Geoffrey Bawa for his nature-blending design.

Name a structure that you think challenges the boundaries of architecture and design.
The Eiffel Tower.

Which is the best city in terms of architecture and why?

Chandigarh is the best city of India in terms of architecture. In ancient times, when there was chaos in design, this city was well planned in architecture and urban design.