



INSTITUTE
OF INDIAN
INTERIOR
DESIGNERS

December 2018 | ₹ 100 | Vol. 11 Issue 09

www.insiteindia.in

insite

A WALK THROUGH THE WORLD OF IIID AND BEYOND



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B2B DESIGN MAGAZINE ON INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

{ DESIGNER'S **INSIGHT** }

{ EFFORTLESS, TIMELESS, AND COMFORTABLE }



Architect Dipen Gada of Dipen Gada & Associates shares his definition of design through the philosophy and approach in designing a farmhouse on the outskirts of Vadodara.

TEXT: Vivek Gopinathan | PHOTOS COURTESY: Dipen Gada & Associates

".....A RIGHT SOLUTION TO NEEDS, DREAMS, IMAGINATIONS, FANTASIES WITH THE ESSENCE OF AESTHETIC IS DESIGN TO ME"

For me, design is not just all about the aesthetics; along with the aesthetics, it should serve its purpose, fulfil the dreams, imaginations, and the fantasies it is meant to... Design is a constant process and most importantly a solution to the problems, a solution that serves the purpose and the need...

It's purely contextual and differs from brief to brief. Different perceptions leads to different ideas, minds, and understanding. For me, design should be "SAHAJ", meaning effortless, timeless and comfortable. One should feel the calm, silence and comfort with the space and its usage. Design should not jar you nor bother you.

"NIRAANT" is an example of such theory I can say...

Just a little away from the urban chaos, this farmland is really dear to me, which was designed with the theory of bold minimalism. It is located near river Mahi, close to Vadodara, with an undulating terrain. The summer heat in this region is a challenging task (can reach up to 44°C in the summer). So, something which is an answer to the local climate and serves the purpose of calming down, silence and comfortable living was developed...

A two bedroom home with a living room, pantry, kitchen, dining, entertainment area, swimming pool, terrace garden, and a small machan; this is what this small abode is all about. It all started with the concept of an inward-looking house. There is a huge cavity wall covering the house from the scorching

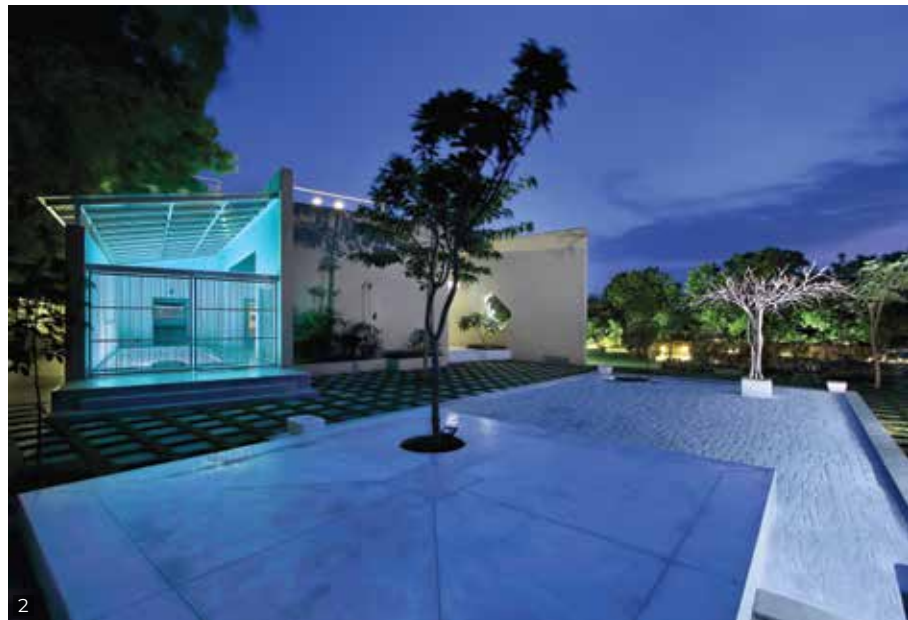


heat of southwest, while also allowing the wind to pass through the house, as much as possible through narrow openings in the southwest, and wider outgoing passages in the northeast.

This simple undulating plaster (Cowdung Plaster) gives a bare but soft look to the wall and will allow vegetation to grow on it over time. This incorporates the concepts of non-building in the future. (The building which ultimately merges with the surrounding nature is a non-building to me).

This wall, along with few interactive human statues, gives a different dimension to this dead facade and creates interesting features. The layout is very simple and basic. As one enters, one finds a huge door consisting of two small doors within it. Rabindranath Tagore's poetry, 'Where the mind is without fear', is carved on the door.

You come across a passage with a play of stamped oxide flooring. To the right of the passage is the living room and dining area, a small multipurpose pantry is a part of the extension to the dining, followed by the kitchen and the



store which ultimately connects to the servant's quarters from the rear.

There is a small swimming pool connected to the main living room in the north-eastern direction, which is covered with a glass canopy. The pool area is in white and blue reflecting sky with a nice canopy of the surrounding trees above.

To the left of the living room, there is

1. The wall with the interactive human statues gives a different dimension to the facade.

2. The landscaped area by the swimming pool.



3



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3. The living room with its grey oxide exuding a sense of calm and cool.

4. The pool is in white and blue reflecting the sky and the canopy of the surrounding trees above.

a bedroom, it has a brick bed which is covered with same blue oxide of the floor, creating a seamless effect. There is a multipurpose entertainment area a few steps away. There is a large opening which give generous views of the landscape outside.

In the entire house, the material palette is kept very subtle, IPS, oxide flooring, all frames and few of the seatings are of Jodhpur stone, the exposed ceiling is treated with warm hues of Indian block printed fabrics, along with acoustic panels, giving a very warm vibe to the place. Customised lamps in the dining area give a break to monotony.

Artworks, which have been collected over a period of time, have been highlighted as main elements in the space.

Niraant is the name thought after the experience of the place and the silence and calmness it offers...It is an abode to love and experience. ■

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Dipen Gada & Associates (DGA), began in 1993 as a modest interior design firm. Gradually with time and every project accomplished, DGA evolved from an exclusive interior design firm to a civil and architectural planning firm and attained the position as one of the most respectable and admired firms of India. The principal designer and founder of the firm, Mr. Dipen Gada holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from M.S University, Vadodara, Gujarat. DGA is been recognized as one of the most influential names in Indian Architecture and Design by AD50, Architect & Interiors India Magazine as well as Construction & Architecture Update Magazine.

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