

Diversity in Residence Design

Peep House

Project: The Peep House, Vadodara
Architects: Dipen Gada & Associates, Baroda

The house nestles in a huge 40,000sq ft plot. 'Surprise' is what describes the house which is a result of the tremendous faith and trust offered by the client at the end of a few conversations and a smooth transition from the requirement of a typical bungalow to an experimentative, out-of-the-box design.



The stark solid RCC wall with perforations veils the house beautifully behind it allowing only a few glimpses through the punctures. It divides the whole plot into three main spaces: the house, the Zen garden and the swimming pool, with the landscape seamlessly blending these areas together to strike a perfect balance of the indoor and outdoor spaces. There is only one built mass, a singular cube peeping out and resting firmly above the solid wall which forms the first view of the house. The sojourn through a 50ft long passage that the wall guides through to the main entrance of the house is rendered by the view of the pool through wooden fins on one side and overlooking a front garden on the other. This experience is enhanced by the 40ft long tailored lamp hung above in the passage which creates a dramatic play of lights

and shadows in the day and even at night. The feeling of openness tags along inside the house with the river finished multi-coloured Kota stone flooring that runs in from the passage out and is highlighted by the view of the open court with planters and the green through the perforated wall.

The layout is a simple plan constituting a basic drawing room, a formal dining room and kitchen and a parents' room that is at the end of the small passage inside and an informal outdoor living area overlooking the pool and an adjacent Zen garden which is the most delighting and enriching part of the whole house. The swimming pool creates a thematic colour play of lights and effects influencing the spectrum of moods according to the nature of requirement. The pool neighbours a small office and a home theatre.





FIRST FLOOR PLAN

- 1. OPEN TO SKY
- 2. MASTER BEDROOM
- 3. DRESSING
- 4. TOILET
- 5. BEDROOM
- 6. OPEN TERRACE
- 7. 8' WIDE PATH

The staircase leads to the upper floor which has a long passage supported by a wall on one side that displays the collage of family photographs and a long window on the other side, allowing ample ventilation and flooding the space with light, that sums up to create a dramatic experience. The end of this passage is a splendid open-to-sky zone, an area, which is artistic by the beautiful scenography that lights and shadows create with the artefacts that are specially selected.

The bedrooms are interlinked through this passage with the master bedroom immediately at the end of this passage where the mystery of the peeping cube unfolds. This room projects in the front above the axial RCC wall and opens out to a scenic terrace garden.

The décor of the house is minimal and classic with no superficial decoration. The concept is a simple linear layout with the RCC wall forming the main axis connecting the areas





around. Each nook and corner of the house highlights the simplistic and minimalistic approach, a signature style of the architect. There is an apparent 'play with the emptiness' to create the rich experience where architectural detailing blends with the interior design in the most natural way leaving no scope for plasticity.

The material palette constitutes all natural materials like brick wall, Kota stone, white marble and wood. Ample natural light floods through the house and it is also well ventilated minimising the use of conventional sources of energy. The building complies with major green building norms. Experimentation with the right stroke of simplistic

design and natural materials creates a beautiful and rhythmic substance inhabitable with comfort and luxury. ❖

Text by: Nidhi Patel

Photo credit: Tejas Shah

FactFile

Client: Mr Kothari

Design team: Dipen Gada (Principal Designer), Shalini Pereira, Aditi Dave & Dolly Pari, Biren Parwa (Site Coordinator)

Built up area: 8700sq ft

Year of completion: 2012