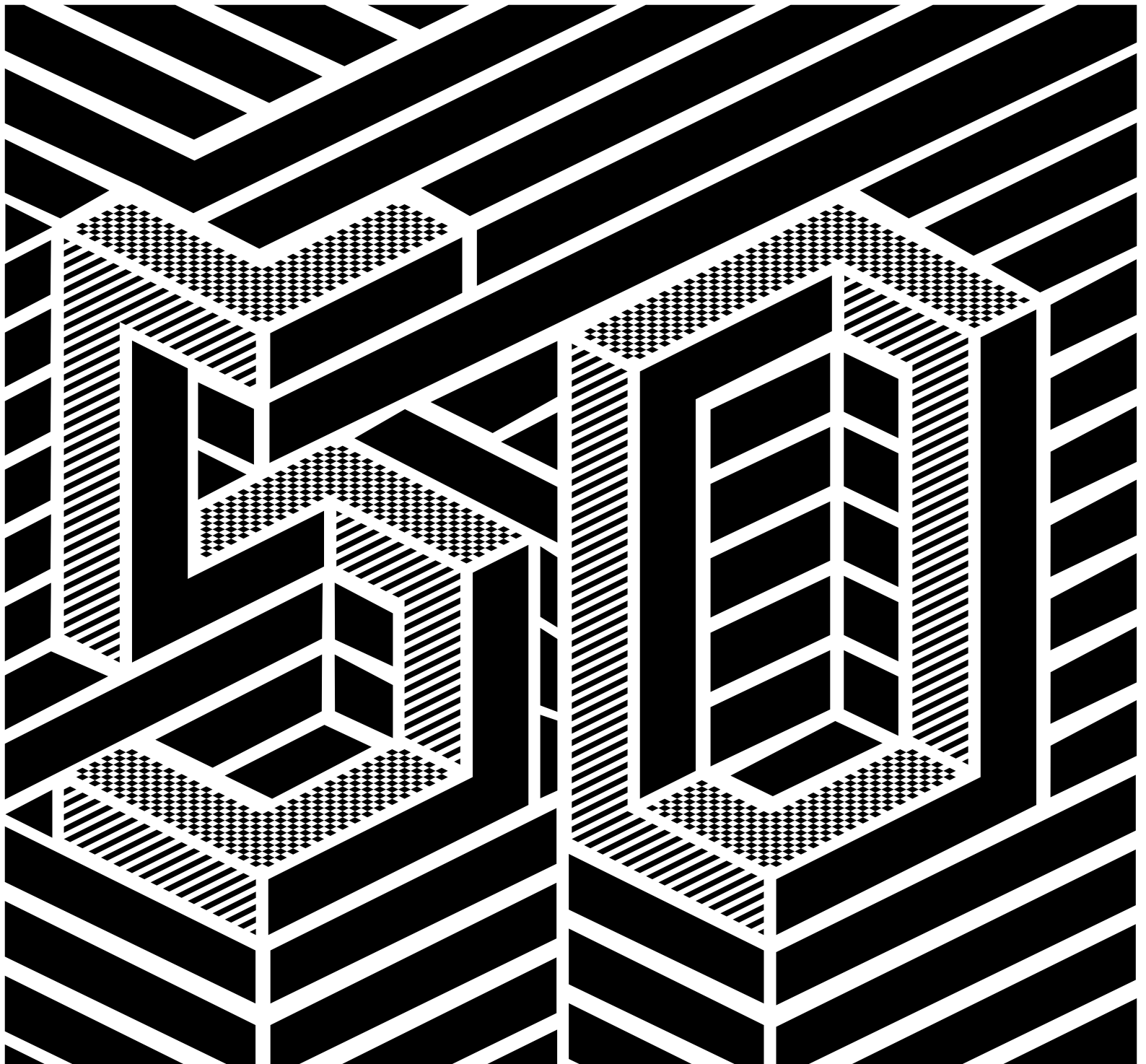


ASIAN PAINTS AND ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE 50 MOST BEAUTIFUL HOMES 2016



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PHOTO: TEJAS SHAH

Nirant

Location: **Near Vadodara**
Firm: **Dipen Gada & Associates**
Principal: **Dipen Gada**



The human figures, in various relaxed postures, were custom-designed by Dipen Gada for the house and are meant to convey people interacting with nature.

At first glance, it simply looks like a stunning concrete wall installed in the middle of a meadow. Its bold austerity is punctuated by open spaces. A house planned out of the city limits in Vadodara, and located on a riverbank, Nirant is a single-storey residence built on naturally curved land. The stark linearity of the house serves as a counterpoint to this undulating topography. The blank concrete wall becomes an important architectural element; it sets the tone for the house, right from its minimalist design language to its function as a thermal buffer that allows the internal spaces to stay cool even during the soaring summer temperatures. Its opacity and placement in the layout ensure that the internal spaces stay concealed, offering privacy to the residents. The dominant use of stone and limited use of wood has been done in keeping with the idea of staying natural. The built spaces, comprising two bedrooms and a home theatre, are sparsely furnished, the simplicity overlaid with a local vernacular. Vibrantly coloured tiles of India Pattern Stone have been used for the floors, the only touch of colour in the largely neutral palette that informs the space. The insertion of glass strips between the tiles serves the dual purpose of creating joint-free floors and preventing them from cracking. Most of the furniture was designed by the architect himself, with the living-room sofa being the only sourced piece. The free-flowing spaces that build a dialogue with the outdoors are cleverly juxtaposed by the poolside area, conceived as an inward-looking space. It is Gada's installations of whimsical figures in different poses of relaxation—sitting on the wooden deck, reclining on a cut-out—that really capture the essence of the design aesthetic. That of a retreat ideally suited to commune with nature.



From above: The project's extensive landscaping was designed in-house in consultation with an experienced gardener. The bedroom's white and blue palette and minimal interiors make it spacious and airy.

Facing page: India Pattern Stone was dyed in various colours for the floor tiles all over the house.

ASIAN PAINTS DESIGN NOTE 11

Glossy surfaces with shimmering highlights can be achieved using the 'Mother of Pearl' finish from the Woodtech Insignia collection.



PHOTOS: TEJAS SHAH

