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This multigenerational Vadodara bungalow is a serene escape dipped in greys & browns

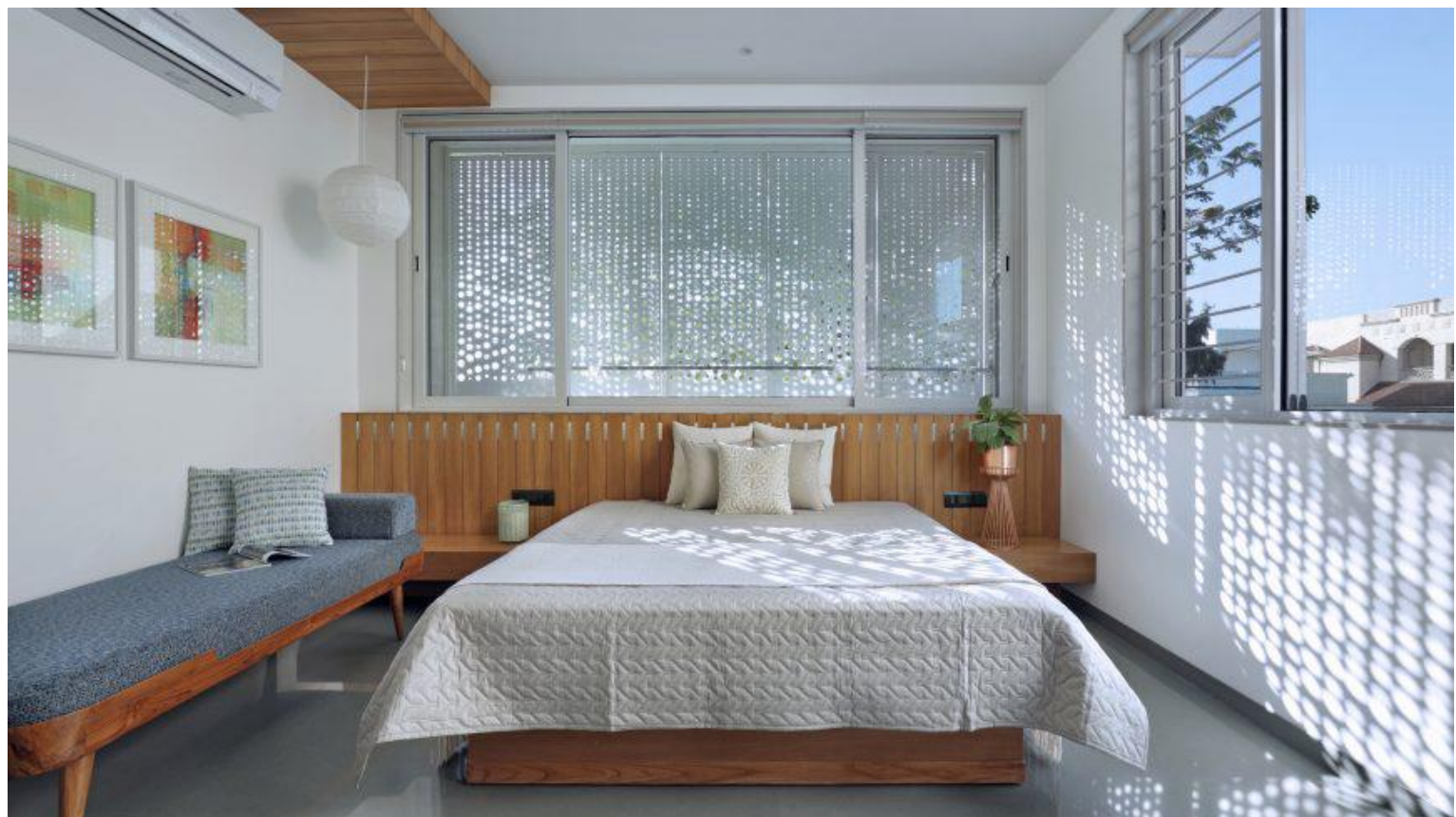
Exposed ceiling, sun-spangled spaces, jali designs and a vastu-verified layout make this home designed by Dipen Gada & Associates, an ideal family nest



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PUBLISHED: JUN 29, 2020 | 07:30:51 IST

Tejas Shah



Explore this Vadodara home in detail

Dipen Gada Associates designed this three level bungalow in Karelibaug, a residential area in Vadodara, keeping in mind the dreams and aspirations of its residents. “Flanked by two bungalows, the site is a small 1,500-square-foot one,” says Dipen Gada, founder & principal designer at the firm. “It was a challenge to give shape to the dreams of the owners without compromising on aesthetics or the functional aspect, while adhering to the tenets of vastu.” Clearly, Gada had no intention of letting any budgetary or size restrictions dictate an impersonal aesthetic. The spaces he created are layered with what nature itself provides—patterns of light and shadow.

For their multigenerational family home, the clients wanted spaces to be simple and undemanding in terms of maintenance. “Priority was given to the functions of the spaces,” says Gada. “The businessman with his parents and

two children waited for a year, till we were able to take up this project. Their enthusiasm was an impetus for us.”



The house accommodates three generations

Exterior

Since the site was compact, Gada had to exercise appropriate restraint in the aesthetics. Instantly visible is the white façade with a tall perforated staircase block, together with a “box” with a movable perforated screen, holding the master bedroom on the first floor. “Exposed concrete has been avoided for budgetary considerations,” says Gada. “The perforated aluminium plates on the staircase enable the ingress of breeze from the west, even as they control the harshness of the sun. The screen on the box of the master bedroom has raindrop shaped perforations, casting a slowly moving dappled pattern of light and shadow inside the bedroom, as the sun marks its trajectory in the sky. “Since these screens are movable, the light as well as breeze can be controlled at will,” says Gada. Concerns of security are also addressed by the screens.

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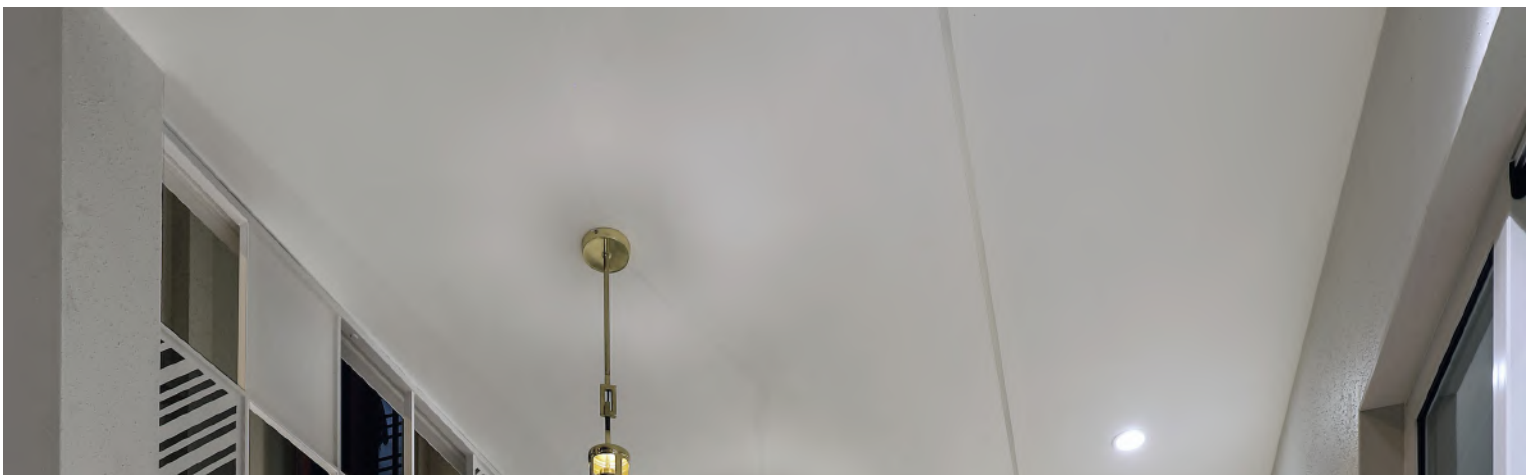


Entrance

Double doors face the north in a nod to the diktats of vastu. The main door is a simple one in solid wood, accentuated by a custom designed handle. The inner jali door opens on a pivot. A small space, the foyer is given privacy from the neighbouring house via a grill, while a small cabinet for storing footwear doubles as seating.

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Living and Dining Rooms

Open and airy, this is an integrated space with the staircase playing a stellar role. “The exposed concrete ceiling has a geometric pattern on it, and provisions were made for the lighting at the time of casting, since we had procured the fittings in advance,” says Gada. From the living room, a door opens onto the small front garden that features a swing, ubiquitous to homes in Gujarat.

The dining room is adjacent to the kitchen and has a table which cantilevers off the wall due to the space constraints. Flanked by a bench on one side and three chairs on the other, it offers an informal feel, the rectilinear lines of the pendant light echoing the geometry of the table. Custom designed, its colour and lines advance the aesthetic of the space.

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Kitchen

This open plan space is visually connected to the dining room, although a wooden framed partition restricts the view of the work counter. “Fabricated on site with PU shutters, it is well appointed with all necessary appliances. The utility area at the rear ensures that most of the mess associated with Indian cooking is kept out of sight,” says Gada.

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Staircase

“Elegantly slim, the sleek metal staircase turned out to be a design element in its own right, attracting attention in the living room,” says Gada. The wall supporting it has a combination of textured concrete panelling and POP, while light filters through a skylight at the top in a dynamic interplay with the textured wall. “An unexpected inspiration was the use of a bold tangerine on the staircase. This thought came to me during one of my site visits and it has turned out to be the star of the space, adding a vibrant element to the subdued palette dominated by grey and biscuit tones,” says Gada.

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Master Bedroom

This bedroom is located in the south west as per vastu guidelines. The perforated screen behind the bed has a dynamic presence, with the ever-present drama of light and shadow. “A study table with all necessary storage has been incorporated, as in the other bedrooms,” says Gada.

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Other Bedrooms

Simple furniture has been restricted to necessities, keeping the spaces low on maintenance and free of clutter. The artwork in each room draws attention effortlessly, juxtaposed with the low-key furnishings.

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Puja Room

With glass walls covered in a matte film, this small but pristine space is appropriately awash with light from the skylight above.



The prayer area is a clean, clutter-free space

Much of the aesthetics come from the interaction of the grills and perforated screens with natural light, providing visual interest to spaces which are a mute backdrop for the drama of moving patterns created by light and shadow. “It is my contention that to create beautiful spaces which complete functional requirements, one doesn’t have to use high-end materials or have exorbitant budgets,” says Gada. To this end, the exercise in restraint skilfully balances the basic brief with touches to uplift the soul.

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For a cohesive, beautiful structure, there needs to be a balance, almost a poetic correlation between the interiors and exteriors, "wherein the constructed structure stands in equality with the landscaped area," says Vipul Patel, founder and principal architect of his eponymous architecture firm, Vipul Patel Architects. His description perfectly echoes the blueprint that inspired the ... [Continue reading](#)

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