

5th
Anniversary



A paradigm shift



MY SPACE

Earlier, a bathroom was just a space for personal hygiene activities, generally consisting of the bare minimum -- a toilet, sink and shower area. But with time, these have evolved from being just functional to something more personal.

A simple touch of greenery in a washroom establishes a great connection between the indoors and outdoors, making the space look refreshing and energetic as nature spills into it.

On the other hand, a stunning amalgamation of design and art in various mediums is a symbiotic relation to make any washroom as lively as rest of the house.

The use of the latest technology like the Jacuzzi, sauna, chromotherapy, body jets, high-end spa faucets and many more, have increased and added a glam quotient to the space.

Dipen Gada, Founder and Principal Designer, Dipen Gada & Associates comments, "The washroom has been redefined as a private space to relax and unwind. Due to the recent culture shift in the notion of washrooms, we are really fortunate that our clients understand our design philosophy. They usually come with a brief of a large, clutter-free washroom with space for all toiletries. They want it to be maintenance-free, well ventilated and elegantly designed. A boutique style washroom with spa-like grace is what excites me the most. It would leave anyone rejuvenated and give a luxurious bathing experience."

Beyond design

Functionality and anthropometrics are other aspects of washroom design, which lead to the feasible use of available space. The common challenge of the design of any bathroom is providing enough storage space. "The use of built-in shelves and cabinets to avoid clutter is a must," explains Gada.

Clean lines, textured surfaces and soothing colour palettes can transform a bathroom into a unique and luxurious space. Rashmi Karanjekar discovers this at 'L' house designed by Dipen Gada.



He added that the furniture should be such that it doesn't disrupt the harmony of the area. To create an illusion of a bigger space, wall-hung fittings for basins and water closets and a large mirror can be used. According to him, usage of seamless material is a preferred choice. "Usage of tiles is avoided to decrease the number of joints."

He added that the balance of cost is kept by using the correct quantity of materials. For instance, the shower or wet area has fully-clad walls, while the dry one with the basin or water closet is only clad up to four feet.

Lighting is also crucial in setting the ambience and mood. Placement of window and light fixtures are therefore very important. Gada says, "The real magic lies in the combination of skylight and parabola."

A touch of style

The 'L' house at Vadodara, designed by Gada and his team, is an ideal reflection of his design philosophy. The residence reveals simplicity, minimalist design and clutter-free space with few colour palettes. Though subtle, each washroom design defines elegance and class.

The real essence lies in a design that creates a feeling of comfort in the washroom. Each space is connected with nature in terms of skylights, earthy colour palettes and natural materials.

The most attractive feature of the house, the 'Fantasy Bathroom' as it is termed, is a huge space with a Jacuzzi, sauna and shower cabin. The whole space has a Moroccan-inspired theme with white Shon Mosaic flooring and blue and white furnishings.

Gada adds, "While designing any washroom, the material palette should be rich in texture with a sensible mix of colours. Indian marble, Indian Pattern Stone, Italian marble and Kota are the

preferred choices. Our love for rustic and Mediterranean colour palettes and themes with a contemporary twist never fail to deliver on that count."

The bathroom has been diligently divided into wet and dry spaces with a wall partition. The freestanding wall with a finish of epoxy grout, acts as an element that divides the sauna and Jacuzzi. The latter has been placed on a platform at a height from the ground level, and the sunken area is filled with white-coloured pebbles. To complement this setup, there is a planter to add a touch of green to the space.

Also, a part of the wall in the dry area displays a strip of handcrafted mosaic tiles at a level of four feet from the ground. A skylight above the Jacuzzi provides natural illumination. Another highlight is the vanity area with decorative lighting and a traditional mirror.

Other bathrooms

The bathrooms at L house have clear lines and very few distracting elements. The other bathrooms, like the master bathroom, are an amalgamation of simplicity and opulence. The walls have been clad with white Satvrio marble, which continues on to the flooring. The same marble has been used for the countertop; a mirror with a white frame is placed above it. The shower cubicle ends with a bunch of planters, adding a dash of natural green to the space.

The son's bathroom has a basic and clutter less design. Here, the wall is the highlight having a bright and playful finish, with yellow tiles adding a certain spark to the area.

Apart from a luxurious bathing experience, a boutique style washroom with spa-like grace does leave one rejuvenated and refreshed. How architecture and design can elevate moods; this design by Dipen Gada amply underlines that fact.



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