Designing with
respect to climate

Architect **Dipen Gada** believes in reducing the carbon footprint along with respecting earth's natural ecology. He incorporates sustainability at the design level itself to consume less energy. This design attitude is particularly evident in one of his residential projects in Vadodra.

The design response of Lambhvella Residence to the site is bold and minimalist. Vadodra based architect Dipen Gada, founder of Dipen Gada & Associates, defines the architecture of this project with simple clean lines in contemporary style. The material usage is minimal. The flooring used in the entire house is mirror polish Kota, while passage, living & family room is finished using river finish Kota. Grey Kota stone and exposed concrete wall make it very basic and earthy.

Design Elements

The house has balanced proportions in size and shape with its simple geometry of white rectangular shell easily noticeable within the natural surroundings. The footprint of 6700sqft nestles in the plot area of 94,600sqft. All the areas open up to beautiful scenarios of nature. The north-south orientation, more openings on east and blank wall on west has proved to be blessing in soaring summers of Gujarat. All day activities areas are planned to be located on the eastern side of the house.

The contemporary style prevails throughout the design of house's interiors, décor, furniture as well as landscape. But, the right pinch of traditional sensibility added to the contemporary flavour of the space, redefines the meaning of Indian modernism.

The dense plantation of mango, palm & coconut trees pioneered the placement of the house. Dipen Gada's love for nature gave the design venture, a platform which overlooks the entire green premises.

The Plan

On entering the house, the voluminous foyer frames grand welcome to the guest from the center of the shell. The east facing orientation fills the foyer with the morning light. A lily pond with mushroom shape fountain and one Champa tree on either side of the entry provides visual warmth. Exposed concrete walls with horizontal wooden texture add a spark to this drama. On the western façade, the staggered planning of windows helps the breeze to flow inside and the blank west wall to protect the house from heat.

The long corridor of the house forms the spine of the entire planning. This corridor leads to living and pooja room on one side and family, day bedroom, guest bedroom, kitchen and other utilities on another side. The semi public and private realm are separated by the flight of stairs leading to the first floor.

The living opens up into semi opened double height courtyard, which is covered by dot matrix

geometric screen and overlooks the nature. This northeast-located space provides a very pleasant atmosphere for sitting. Above the living room, the semi-covered terrace with multi-coloured Kota flooring proposes an exciting dialogue with courtyard below.

The corridor of the other end flows seamlessly towards family and dining room. The experience travelling through passage is incredible. A 16' feet high leaf shaped design is casted in the concrete of passage wall which starts from ground floor and ends on first floor. The leaf is covered with German silver handmade panels with a pattern of embossed veins of a leaf. This installation is complimented with changing play of light and shadow during the entire daytime.

The monotony of the double height family room is offset by a warm ochre yellow colour sofa with ceramic exclusive art on the wall, lots of coloured motifs in the furniture and the spontaneous sciagraphy created by the east facing window.

The spacious bedrooms are designed very basic and functional with minimum requirement. The huge sizd dresser manages all storage. The highpoint of this residence is the large common bathroom fitted with a Jacuzzi, a steam cabin and a rain shower. The materials are richly textured with a sensible mix of colours and accents in earth tones.

Photography: **Tejas Shah**
Text: **Hiral Shah**