



# TIMELESS INTERIORS

INDIA | DUBAI | SINGAPORE

Essay by | Dipen Gada



## FOREWORD

BY DIPEN GADA



*Muses no more what ere ye be  
In fancies pleasure room  
But sing (by truth inspir'd) wi' me  
The pleasures of a home*

These lines by **John Clare** emphasize and rightly so, reiterate the feelings of tranquillity one experiences in home, sans external concerns. A house is one of the most personal endeavours an architect can pursue to give shape. One ponders, identifies, dreams about a space that's their own. For the home dweller, it is their space of comfort and belonging. Their Zen. An accumulation of their encounters, these dreams are meant to be realized in accordance with their convictions.

Earlier notions of a house were conceived by individuals themselves. With exposure due to travel and limited to personal experience, art and paintings, unlike the internet revolution that predominates today, designing a home was an extremely intimate approach. With advancement towards modern times, design by elimination took over and eradicated replication of ornamentation and typical housing to a very large extent. With an upsurge in materials, difference in design styles, technological developments the need for expertise in these areas is required. With less time, more financial resources and the desire to be guided by the sensibility of a designer is in demand. The designer is bestowed with the responsibility of bringing the clients' dreams into reality, either by solving problems or controlling the final conclusion by maintaining harmony amongst spaces and all elements.

Design in the Indian context has seen a dynamic shift. Despite facing certain shortcomings regarding skilled labour, we are finally at par with international standards. These kinds of challenges in a designer's career drives them to produce designs that are worth a talk, compelling them to come up with new design ideas. Interior design has primarily been the process of spatially planning the character of a space by understanding the psychological needs of the inhabitants. In reference to the Indian context, designers tend to absorb and understand the dynamics of the culture, the tradition and the habits, enveloping it to create a perfect cocoon to reside in.

Travelling has been the crux of an evolved designer. A well-travelled designer not only has an enhanced eye for detail but also has the push to influence their designs according to their various observations hence creating a new design vocabulary and style of their own. During the course of travelling a designer develops a taste for an enhanced design language that creates an end result which is in unity and symmetry. We designers are often mistaken as decorators, as interior designers and architects we not only decorate a space but also look at major life activities. Our approach to design is a very intimate and experiential. Factors of comfort, functionality, form, and aesthetics help in enhancing the living condition of a person. Design is not something that can be seen as decor. It is an experience, crafted by careful consideration of functionality, form, comfort and aesthetic. A stylist or decorator has a great sense of texture and eye for detail, but it is the job of the designer to follow a more holistic approach of experiencing the space in totality. As designers we aim to create a space

that is vocal in itself and has its own characteristics. All design solutions are attempted by the designers' experiences and understanding post dialogue with client. Every design is contextual and has its own pros and cons.

This book is a marvellous combination of senior design studios like **Studio PKA, S+PS Architects, The Orange Lane**, to trendy designers like **Fadd Studio, DaMilano Studio, ADND, Untitled Design Consultants** along with young practices such as **Muselab, Cross Boundaries, Usine Studio, A + T, etc.** They provide a sense of transformation and a freshness, which is a visual treat to all. Balance between luxury and overstate has been distinctively achieved by **Studio Yamini**, as we see in the Nopany house. **Sneha Divas Atelier** has observed how subtle colours and the material pallet not only add to the mood of the space but also enhance the living experience of the space in terms of bespoke furniture and plush furnishing. Ostentatious design has been decoded with simplicity in the works of **Shroffeleon studio**, wherein we observe the use of neutral coloured mood boards and basic shapes, with the waterfall in the centre of the house binding the space in serenity and simplicity.

The book holds balance by showcasing muted yet powerful designs like the work of Kalpak Shah, Design Work Group and also displays works that redefine opulence such as the works by Sanjyt Singh and Untitled Design Studio, an international presence is also marked by the dynamic works of Robin Tan and Phillip Olmesdahl. This amalgamation, of the typical and traditional Indian element, along with tastefully chosen modern influences exemplifies the current living situation of the modern Indian. This fusion, although a result of varied effects, in the end successfully generates a personalised touch, based on the dreams of the client and aspirations of the architect and interior designer.

As change has been the constant need of the hour, we observe through this book how beautifully designers have taken core Indian design elements and transformed them into something that not only replicates the heritage of Indian design but also adds weight to the modern vision of the generation. The projects discussed here drive us to observe many ingredients that brew up an overview of the current state of interior design in the country. The current generation of designers mentioned in this book demonstrates the adaptation of a perfect symbiotic relationship between the functionality and the aesthetic aspect of a residential space. It is the designers intricate planning, the framework and the experience which incorporates the client's designs, the functional requirements, the structure and the budget. With the coming together of these carefully planned points, ranging from the tiniest of details to extremities, the project enters culmination.

What better pleasure could a home owner achieve, than to possess a space made up of hopes and dreams, a personal sanctuary, that is as intimate that a person could get to a built space.

*"What joys will in his bosom rise  
to think he owns a home..."*

and what better pleasure, could a designer hold, than to have fulfilled this dream.

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## MANISH PATEL PENTHOUSE



**DIPEN GADA**

**DIPEN GADA & ASSOCIATES**

Dipen Gada & Associates, popularly known as DGA, began as a very modest interior design firm. Gradually with time and every project accomplished, DGA evolved from an exclusive interior design firm to a civil and architectural planning firm and attained the position as one of the respectable and admired firms of India.

Since its inception in 1993, DGA has made its presence felt through innovative, minimalistic and timeless designs. The principal designer and founder of the firm, Mr. Dipen Gada holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from M.S University, Vadodara, Gujarat.

The firm strives to maintain a balance between aesthetics and functionality in all its designs. There is a constant search of exploring the uncharted and concluding beyond the conventional.

DGA aims to leave an influence on the globe through responsive and responsible architecture. The projects are taken up on a very selective basis where the firm is involved right from architectural conceptualization to interior designing.



The nine ceramic pieces by Vinod Daroz adds a touch of elegance to the perfect backdrop of the wall. While on the next wall, the double high glazed surface provides extended view of the city. Overall the space offers calmness to the house.

As we step closer into the living room, a well-articulated staircase manifests with bare concrete wall that forms the backdrop for the splendid human figures that are seen as if climbing up the wall. These intriguing human figures are carved out of fibre and seem to scale the wall that signify the upward journey as conceptualised by Dipen Gada himself. The interconnectedness of staircase with above areas allows for a grand and seamless living space.

The ground floor encloses dining area, kitchen, two bedrooms and exclusive pooja area. The dining area is yet another fascinating space with seven elegant pendants that is a combination of illumination and curling creepers in glass holders hanging above the customised dining table with mother-of-pearl inlay. The painting on the adjacent wall by Heeral Trivedi adds to the aesthetics of this space. The kitchen is airy, bright, functional and all in white, its size permitting the luxury of an island. It is specially tailored on site as per client's requirement.

The parents' room adopting an age-appropriate aesthetic. A small 12 inch x 12 inch painting has a large silk mount frame creating

soothing atmosphere. The pooja room next to parent's bedroom has a marvellous gold leafing at the backdrop of the god's idol, which creates a pious environment for meditation. The entire floor has inserts of many outdoor sit out space, semi covered with concrete and wooden clad M.S. pergolas. The client enjoys a comfortable balance between built-up area and green space.

The staircase leads up to this wide passage that becomes the perfect display of the spectacular paintings by Arunanshu Chowdhury. There are lavish bedrooms attached with large dressing and toilet areas, each with a distinct identity of its own. It also enclose the home theatre and meditation area, occupying a total of 3500 sq ft area.

The daughter's suite is in blue, black and white tones. The portrait on the wall behind the bed proclaiming right of ownership. The adjoining room is a meeting place for the friends of this student of architecture, so that they can study together. A drawing board supports their academic activity, while capacious 'pockets' on the side of the sofa provide storage space. Two chairs are upholstered in blue denim, adding a young vibe to the space. The bathroom is also in blue theme. A wall behind the wash basin hides away the shower and WC from immediate view.

OPPOSITE | MULTICLASS, SUPER CALM DINING SPACE KEEPING HOOKED UP BY ITS UNIQUE ACCESSORIES AND OUTLOOK.  
BELOW | INTELLIGENCE WITH DECENCY WELL DRAPED IN THE DARK SHADE SPACE ROUSING ALLURE AND CRAVE.

#### FACT FILE

LOCATION OF PROJECT  
VADODARA

BUILT UP AREA  
7000 SQ. FT + 3500 SQ. FT OF  
TERRACE GARDEN

ARCHITECTURE FIRM  
DIPEN GADA & ASSOCIATES

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT  
DIPEN GADA

DESIGN TEAM  
DIPEN GADA  
GOPAL PATEL  
ARPIT JAIN

PHOTO CREDIT  
TEJAS SHAH  
PHOTOGRAPHY

YEAR OF COMPLETION  
2013

### MANISH PATEL PENTHOUSE

Situated in the prime location of Baroda, the penthouse of Mr. Manish Patel is no less than a villa on a level with vast spaces syncing with each other seamlessly. An art piece in itself, the penthouse comprises 7,000 sq ft of two floors and 3,500 sq ft of terrace garden; that accommodates a large double height living area with a luxurious kitchen, dining and four sprawling bedrooms.

The main door with patina finish brass plate and sesame wooden battens running across the door with a carved-in handle, hints at the details and customisation that the project explores inside. As you enter, the small foyer has a mirror on one wall giving an illusion of a bigger space. An asymmetrical graceful bench provides seating for two and a glance of the house.

A step forward into the house and the mystery unfolds as the expansive layout of the house reveals itself. There is a marvellous sculpture that welcomes into the classic double height living room. This dramatic sculpture from Ashit Das is from his "Parchhai" series that makes an eloquent statement with a vertical glass alongside depicting a female figure etched in glass as contrary to the male sculpture together symbolises the eternal male-female equation. The huge living space with burnt granite wall suspends intriguing art on it.

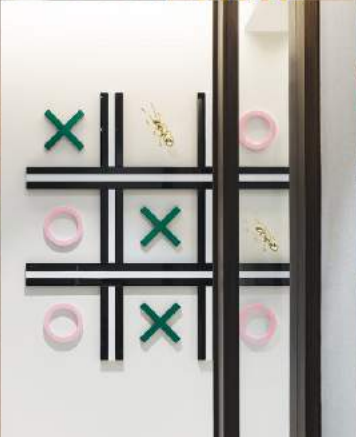






ABOVE | NON-ENDING ENERGY BOOSTER LIVING SPACE EXPERIENCING PROMPT OUTER VIEW SHARING A HAPPY SPACE.  
BELOW | IMPECCABLE TASTE OF THE LIGHT YELLOW HUE OF BEDROOM WITH PARALLEL DOWN TO EARTH SERENITY.  
OPPOSITE ABOVE | AMAZE MENT OF LARGE SPACES UTILIZED WISELY WITH MILD RELAXING SHADES.  
OPPOSITE BELOW | QUITE A SMOOTH, POLISHED ROOM ENTITLED TO UTMOST TRANQUILITY.









## Timeless Interiors | India | Dubai | Singapore Essay by | Dipen Gada

This book captures an elegant and dreamlike venture of houses designed by the best of designers and architects to pour out an amalgamation of functional quality with the pinch of modernity. Each one is typically distinct and unique in its own way, yet tied together with a rope of rejuvenation, decency and class.

From eclectic trinket-filled sitting rooms, to expansive, minimalist open-plan living, this book offers a stunning array of intriguing interior spaces for all tastes and styles.

### Featured Designers And Architects

Atelier Design N Domain (ADND), Studioyami, Sanjyt Singh Interior Design, Dipen Gada & Associates, A+T Associates, Usine Studio, Studio PKA, The Company of Design, Sneha Divias Atelier, Studio - M Design, The Crossboundaries, Damilanostudio Architects, Moriq Interiors and Design Consultants, Saota, Shroffleón, Aayam Architects, F+S Design, LOC Design House, Muselab, I Heart Homez, UN Design, Design INC, Studio Course, Studio Nishita Kamdar, Untitled Design Consultants, Fadd Studio, Design Ritmo, AV Fourth Dimension, The Orange Lane, DA Namah Design Studio, Studio Course, 1 Leapingfrog Studio, P I Designs, Zero 9, Design Work Group, The Interior Workshop, P & D Associates, Vipul Patel Architects, R+R Architects, Wallflower Architecture + Design, OCA India, S+PS Architects, Studio Osmosis, Amit Shastri Architects & Interior Designer



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