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## Vadodara: Bright colours and concrete merge and give rise to an earthy, contemporary home

*A light-filled bungalow in Vadodara designed by Dipen Gada & Associates reins in colour and has an inherently stylish appeal*

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PUBLISHED: JAN 19, 2021 | 07:30:49 IST

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*Dipen Gada's well deliberated use of colour retains the timeless quality associated with his work*

“A young couple with two small children came to us with many hopes: an important component of the brief was the wife’s preference for bright colours,” says Dipen Gada, Principal Architect of the eponymous firm. “She wanted a colourful home and was averse to a dull, muted palette. To meet this expectation, we had to tread a fine line to retain elegance and avoid crossing over into an excessive splash of bright tones. It helps that the home is flooded with natural light for a large part of the day, making it a bright space.” The

list.

### Exterior

Displaying a strong architectural language, the front of the house displays two skewed concrete blocks. “These follow the periphery of the plot, so that the lack of symmetry is not immediately evident to the eye,” says Gada. Unbaked clay tiles on the elevation add a contrast to the grey of the concrete, with their bold Madder red.

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## Entrance

This is an impressive double height volume. Greeting visitors is a large sculpture standing in the centre of a lotus, cut from 12mm metal. Conceptualised by Gada and Prashant Gurjar of Dipen Gada & Associates, it is fabricated by Mehul Panchal. The figure has a backdrop of a ceramic tree by Devesh Upadhyaya on the wall behind, its height going up a majestic 19 feet. “The vibe of this tableau is a meditative one, symbolic of a peaceful soul,” says Gada.





**Foyer**

This small space is separated from the living room by means of a partition in fluted glass. A small cabinet holds shoes, while it provides seating.





Marble Company, customised using a smaller aggregate than customary, so that it looks seamless. “This was more cost effective option than marble,” says Gada. In an interesting relief from the white expanses which flow through the spaces, Gada has used broad bands with diagonal stripes which function as borders, circumventing the walls at floor level to create a bold visual statement.

In the living room, a blue wall acts as a backdrop for an artwork symbolising Shiva’s third eye, known in Indian mythology as Shiva Bindu or Trinetra.

The dining and family areas are double height. Printed panels on the ceiling in black and white, multitask efficiently, and add visual interest to the volume by drawing the eye upwards and also absorb sound. “Echo is an issue in minimal spaces,” says Gada. “Even normal conversations can sound strange.” The artwork on the wall is by Vikas.

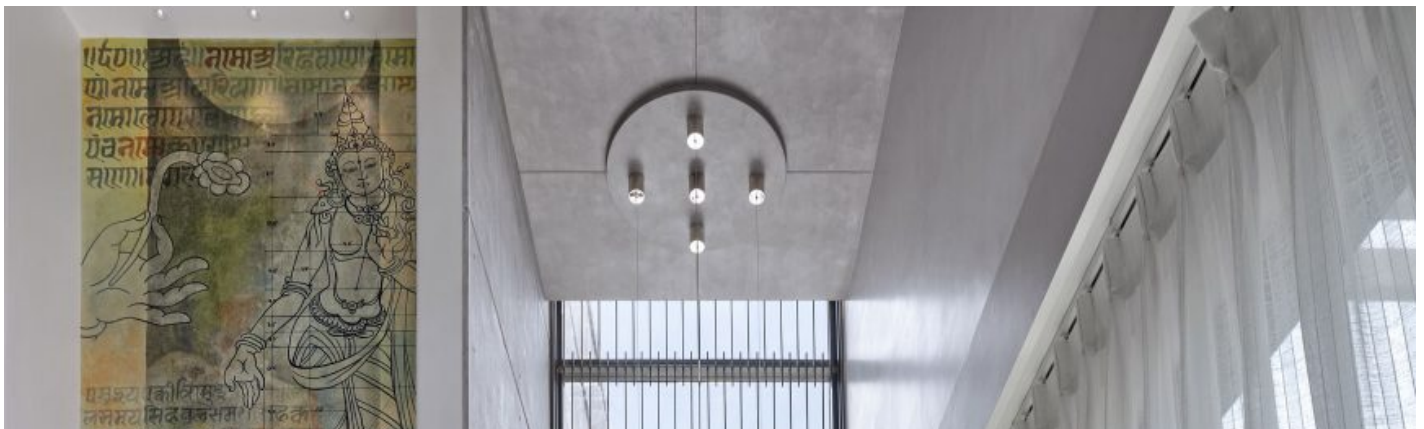
The dining table has a marble top, seating provided by two benches and four chairs. A sleek metal swing is suspended between the dining area and the family room, its seat upholstered in a black and white houndstooth patterned fabric, while the cushions sport a bold chevron. Veneer on the ceiling adds warmth to the space.





### Puja Room

Adjacent to the family room, the puja room also enjoys a double height ceiling and is tucked away in an alcove. Light floods in from the grilled window behind the deity, casting long patterns of light and shadow on the floor in a slow moving scene.





*The muted setting gives the puja space a quaint quality*

## **Kitchen**

Cheery yellow shutters on the cabinets provide a punch of energetic colour. “Most of the heavy-duty cooking takes place in another utility kitchen. Here, we’ve left the walls bare,





*The kitchen is a modern, functional space*

## **Staircase**

This RCC structure has wooden treads, the adjacent wall with micro-topping and brass strips. Multiple light pendants of different lengths cascade down the stairwell, providing illumination as well as visual interest at each level of the bungalow. At the top, a skylight with a large six foot diameter sets the entire stairwell aglow, drawing light into the interior spaces.



Playroom cum Guest Room

stripes which run selectively over the floor, walls as well as the counter of the wall



*The guest room is a multipurpose space*

### **Master Bedroom**

In the foyer of the master bedroom, portraits of the family are mounted diagonally on the wall, echoing the direction of the stripes on the flooring. Further inside, a cement sheet on the bed back has two CNC leaves. A study table across the room is backed by an RCC wall.





### Children's Room

With adjustable tables, a bunk bed, slide and a bath in pink and blue, the pale palette of this bedroom is an unusual contrast to the customary riot of colours which one would expect to see in such a space.

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a spa-like ambience, it provides Gada’s signature fantasy element, in which to relax and unwind. “I feel a space such as this is essential, in which to rejuvenate,” he says. On the same floor, a home theatre with a bar has the dark wood tones which such a space requires. Fabric panelling on the ceiling takes care of acoustics. “Of necessity, the colour palette contrasts with the rest of the house, which is light filled,” says Gada.

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Gada’s well deliberated use of colour retains the timeless quality associated with his work.

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