

THE NEPTUNE

GLITZ

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From the editor

Architecture is at its most meaningful when it inspires dialogue- between people and place, memory and modernity, material and emotion. In this issue, we celebrate projects and conversations that remind us that thoughtful design is not only about creating spaces, but about enriching the way we experience the world.

We begin with two compelling interviews that frame the spirit of this edition. In Building Cultural Bridges, globally acclaimed architect Kulapat Yantrasast of WHY Architecture shares his vision of museums as living bridges between cultures, generations, and ideas, offering profound insights into the future of cultural storytelling. In Stones as Stories of the Earth, Anand Reddy MG, Founder and CEO of HMG Stones, reflects on transforming natural stone into an enduring medium of art, craftsmanship, and architectural expression.

The cover features The Brick Veil in Ahmedabad by Ronak Patel, Naiya Patel, and Jinal Patel of VPA Architects, where layered brick screens and landscaped thresholds create a tranquil urban sanctuary. Terrace House by Badrinath Kaleru and Perna Kaleru of Studio Ardete demonstrates how architecture can be shaped around views, nature, and quiet reflection. In Goa, Estate de Marissa by Amey Dahanukar of ARA Designs seamlessly blends vernacular wisdom with contemporary tropical living.

The issue also presents a refined Kolkata residence by Kaushik Wadhwana and Jasmine Doshi of DWG Design, where understated luxury is achieved through balanced proportions and meticulous detailing. In Jaipur, Gyanendra Singh Shekhawat of IDEAS breathes new life into the historic Sawai Man Mahal, preserving its regal legacy while embracing contemporary luxury hospitality. Under the Jamun Tree in Khandala by Aarti Somani and Kruti Sheth of a&k Design Studio embraces wabi-sabi principles to create an immersive and adaptable home.

Workplace design finds elegant expression in the Emperador Singhania Office in Kolkata by Bipratip Dhar of Epsilon, where natural light and panoramic views become integral to the architectural experience. In Ahmedabad, House with Brick N Arch by Krishnakant Parmar and Vipuja Parmar of UA Lab celebrates exposed brick, rhythmic arches, and climate-responsive design. Completing this edition is The Harmony Home in Chennai by Chandhana Ramesh of Empatio Architecture, where modern minimalism is softened by natural materials and artisanal craftsmanship.

As we celebrate these remarkable works, we warmly invite architects, interior designers, and landscape designers to submit their finest projects for the GLITZ Design Honour Awards 2026 and become part of India's evolving design narrative.

Hope you savour this issue! We will be waiting for your feedback...

Stay positive and stay connected.

Naresh K Singh
editor.glitz@gmail.com

“
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WE LOVE
NEVER GO
AWAY, THEY
WALK BESIDE
US EVERYDAY;
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UNHEARD,
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LOVED, STILL
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AND VERY
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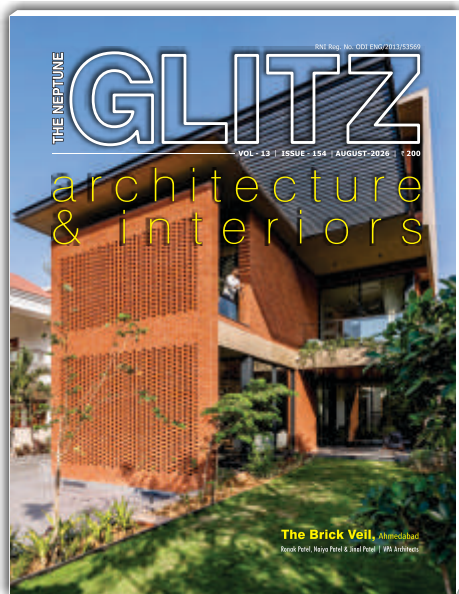
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Badrinath Kaleru & Prerna Kaleru

Amey Dahanukar

Kaushik Wadhwana & Jasmine Doshi

Gyanendra Singh Shekhawat

Aarti Somani & Kruti Sheth

Bipratip Dhar

Krishnakant Parmar & Vipuja Parmar

Chandhana Ramesh

This issue consists of total 84 pages including cover

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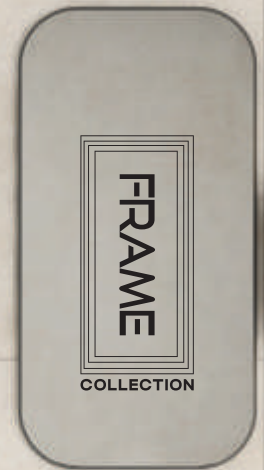
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Editorial Advisors



Soumyendu Shankar Ray

Soumyendu Shankar Ray has extensively applied the design approaches he has taught for three decades in his practice, which includes the adventurous juxtaposition of the conventional with the cutting edge, and the conservative with the avant-garde.

His work is notable for its exciting departures within disciplined geometries and radical reinterpretations of traditional aesthetics using contemporary materials. As the former Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at Biju Patnaik University of Technology, Odisha, and now the Director General of the School of Architecture and Planning at KIIT University, he has consistently championed the contextualization of the architecture curriculum. □



Kamal Periwal

With a legacy spanning more than three decades, Maheshwari & Associates, founded by Kamal Periwal, has solidified its position as a leading force in the architectural design industry. The studio has offices in Mumbai, Kolkata, and Ahmedabad, demonstrating its

commitment to crafting designs that address the needs of both cities and communities. The firm has extensive expertise in master planning projects, luxurious bungalows, residential housing, and commercial and retail projects of varying scales. □



Sunil Maniramka

Sunil Maniramka is the Principal Architect at Maniramka & Associates, an architectural and interior design firm based in Kolkata. A graduate of Bengal Engineering College (now IIST) in 1993, he has led the firm in completing over 585 projects across

India, Bhutan, and Nepal. These projects span various building typologies, including high-rise apartments, residential complexes, hospitals, schools, factories, temples, and more. Known for their expertise in housing complexes and temples, the firm's "Fortune Township" won the Best Affordable Housing Project Award by CNBC Awaz in 2019. Maniramka is also the past Chairman of the Indian Institute of Architects, West Bengal Chapter. □



Prashant Sutaria

Prashant Sutaria, Principal Architect of PSA, Mumbai, and Co-founder of the Centre of Living and Planning for Tomorrow, has over three decades of experience shaping India's architectural landscape. His practice has earned 15 international and 13 national awards.

Co-author of the Manual of Architectural Practice (Council of Architecture, 2020), he advocates for design that uplifts humanity. A National Executive Council member of IIID, former Mumbai Chapter Chairman of Focus, and core member of IGBC Mumbai, he actively promotes sustainable and progressive architectural practice. □



Debatosh Sahu

Debatosh Sahu graduated in Architecture from the then BE College, Shibpur, West Bengal, and obtained a Masters in Urban Design from Jadavpur University in 1989. He began his career working in market-driven architecture and gradually transitioned towards

environmentally responsive architecture with a focus on low carbon footprint. Debatosh is a Founder Partner and Principal Architect of "Espace," established in Kolkata in 1994, which has since become one of the country's leading architectural firms. He serves as a Council Member of UIA and IIA, Chairman of ASSOCHAM GEM West Bengal Chapter, and has previously chaired ACGSA, the ARCASIA Committee for Green & Sustainable Architecture. □



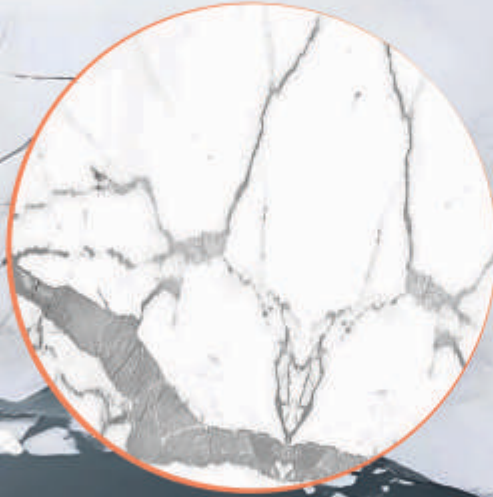
Ramesh Chandra Swain

Ramesh Chandra Swain graduated in Architecture from VNIT Nagpur in the year 1979. He is the founder and Principal Architect of Creative Architects Combine Pvt. Ltd., one of the leading Architectural Firm based at Bhubaneswar. The firm was

established in the year 1980 with a mission to improve the built environment and its area of operation by using appropriate technology. He has been contributing immensely in the field of Architecture for the last 4 decades. □

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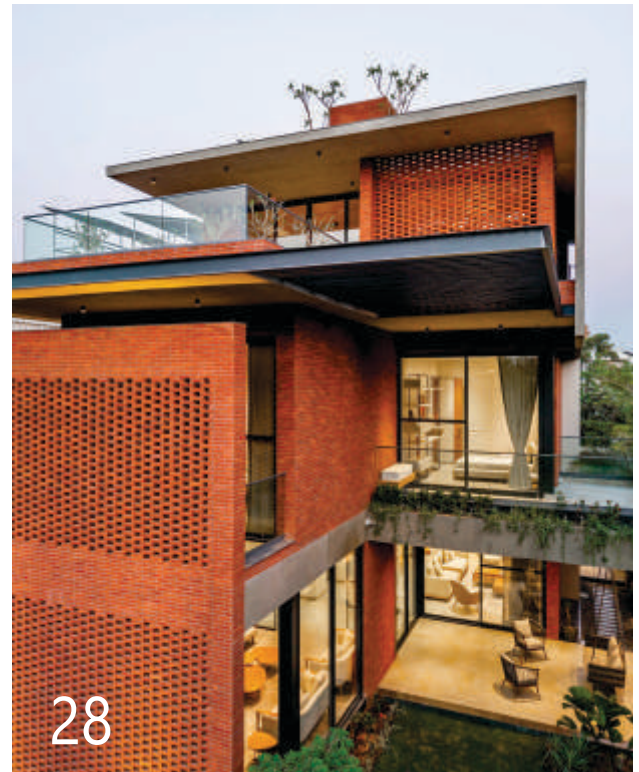
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ABOUT THE AWARD

GLITZ Design Honour for Creative Excellence 2026 Awards, instituted by GLITZ architecture & interiors magazine, recognises outstanding talent in the field of architecture, interiors and landscape design, celebrating the innovative and visionary minds that shape our built environment.

GLITZ architecture & interiors magazine takes the pleasure of inviting entries from the architects and designers for the 11th edition of GLITZ Design Honour 2026.

The award focuses on designs being original, innovative, contextual & sustainable.

A distinguished panel of jury comprising of eminent architects and designers will evaluate the entries and the winners will be revealed at the gala Award Ceremony in Kolkata.

Entering and participating is simple. All entries have to be submitted ONLINE only. Your entry stands valid only when it meets all the eligibility criteria.

AWARD CATEGORIES



ARCHITECTURE

- Architecture - Hospitality
- Architecture - Institutional
- Architecture - Office & Retail
- Architecture - Residential (Multi Dwelling)
- Architecture - Residential (Single Dwelling)



INTERIORS

- Interiors - Hospitality
- Interiors - Institutional
- Interiors - Office
- Interiors - Residential
- Interiors - Retail



LANDSCAPE

- Landscape - Small Spaces
- Landscape - Large Spaces

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1. The entries will be received directly by online submissions at www.glitzmagazines.in / e-mail: glitz.design.honour@gmail.com
2. The entries will be checked for completeness and for satisfaction of eligibility criteria.
3. All complete entries will be coded for anonymity and made ready for the jury.
4. The first jury will evaluate the entries and nominate 5 Finalists under each award category.
5. The Finalist entries will be presented to the FINAL JURY for the ultimate selection of the winners of GLITZ Design Honour 2026.
6. The winners will be announced & honoured at the gala award ceremony.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Architects / Designers / Design Firms / Organizations with a registered address and who conduct business / have operations in India are permitted to participate.
2. Only Completed Projects during the last 3 years are eligible for nomination under respective award categories.
3. An Architect / Designer can submit up to 3 entries per category.
4. A registration fee of Rs. 5000/- for each entry shall be payable.
5. The participants must submit evidential document / declaration about the project.

SUBMISSION CONTENT

- Design brief
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- Architectural drawings:
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 - Floor Plans
 - Sections
 - Elevations
- Actual photographs (3D renderings are not applicable)
- Technical details / analysis

SUBMISSION FORMAT

- Maximum of 6 (six) A3 size sheets in **Landscape Format** in high resolution PDF.
- Sheets must contain the name of project, location & sheet number. (Name of participant/design firm is NOT to be mentioned on the sheets. The received entries will be coded for anonymity for jury.)
- A separate word file must contain the architect/designer's profile, design brief & project details.
- Architect / designer's profile photograph must be attached separately.
- The PDF sheets, word file & photographs, together, should be put into one folder titled "Category name_Project name_Location_Name of Architect / Designer / Design Firm"
- Submit by uploading your project as .zip folder (max. upload size - 50MB).



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Building Cultural Bridges



Kulapat Yantrasast

WHY Architecture

A conversation on architecture, heritage,
and museums as living cultural landscapes

Born in Bangkok and trained under Pritzker Prize laureate Tadao Ando, Kulapat Yantrasast established WHY Architecture in Los Angeles in 2004. Over the past two decades, he has emerged as one of the world's leading museum architects, known for projects that merge cultural sensitivity with contemporary design. With offices spanning multiple continents, WHY has become internationally recognised for designing institutions that are deeply rooted in local history while embracing contemporary innovation. Sustainability, public engagement, and cultural storytelling remain central to every project undertaken by the practice. As Kulapat describes it, the firm's mission is driven by the belief that design can improve people's lives, especially through civic and cultural buildings experienced by generations.

On 23 July 2026, the Thai Experience Centre (TEC), under the Royal Thai Embassy in New Delhi, in collaboration with Humayun Museum and WHY Architecture, hosted Creative Talk: Museum as Bridges and Crossroads at the Humayun's Tomb Museum Auditorium. The event brought together architects, students, policymakers, and cultural enthusiasts for an engaging dialogue led by internationally acclaimed architect Kulapat Yantrasast, Founder and Creative Director of WHY Architecture. Centred around the evolving role of museums, the session explored how cultural institutions can move beyond preserving artefacts to become dynamic spaces that foster dialogue, empathy, and shared identity.

Rather than presenting museums as static repositories of history, Kulapat Yantrasast described them as "cultural playgrounds"—spaces where people actively engage with history, imagine different futures, and understand diverse cultures. Drawing from his extensive experience designing museums across the world, he argued that museums should function as both bridges connecting people, cultures, and ideas, and crossroads that reflect changing social values across generations.



The discussion resonated deeply with the audience, encouraging architects and young designers to think of museums not merely as buildings, but as civic spaces capable of inspiring curiosity, dialogue, and cultural empathy. The session also highlighted the growing cultural partnership between India and Thailand through architecture and design.

Q. You describe museums as "bridges and crossroads." What does that philosophy mean to you?

Kulapat Yantrasast (KY): Museums should not simply preserve history—they should connect people, ideas, and cultures. I see them as cultural playgrounds where visitors discover the past while imagining the future. They become places where different generations and societies can understand each other.

Q. The Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum is poised to become the world's largest national museum. What does this project represent for you?

(KY): It is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I hope this museum becomes a cultural symbol for the people of India. More importantly, it allows us to redefine our relationship with history and heritage so we can continue to grow and thrive into the future.



Q. How does designing the Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum differ from working on institutions like the Louvre?

(KY): The Louvre builds upon centuries of history. With YYBM, we begin with a fresh vision for the twenty-first century. It gives us the opportunity to conceive something entirely new while celebrating one of the world's most inspiring civilisations.

Q. Technology is rapidly changing museum experiences. How do you see it shaping future cultural institutions?

(KY): Technology allows museums to become more immersive and engaging. It brings objects alive through interpretation and storytelling while opening possibilities for entirely new visitor experiences. But technology should always support the story, not replace it.





Q. WHY Architecture has grown into an internationally recognised practice. What keeps your team aligned despite working across continents?

(KY): Our mission is simple: we believe design can improve people's lives. We work on cultural and public buildings that will influence generations, so we take that responsibility seriously while encouraging creativity at every level.

Q. Looking back, what have been the defining milestones in WHY's journey?

(KY): Our first major milestone was completing the Grand Rapids Art Museum—the world's first LEED Gold-certified museum. The second was expanding internationally, allowing our team to become more diverse. The third is undoubtedly being selected to design India's new National Museum. It is both an honour and a tremendous responsibility.

Q. What role do museums play in shaping the future of cities?

(KY): Museums are central to cultural life. They connect communities within a city while also connecting that city to the rest of the world. We believe museums should be conceived holistically because they hold the key to cultural connection at both local and global scales. 



Stones as Stories of the Earth

During an exclusive Media FAM Visit, GLITZ Architecture and Interiors immersed itself in the world of HMG Stones—a 38-year-old Bengaluru brand redefining natural stone as design-led stories of the Earth rather than mere commodities. From exploring the Meghaphone by HMG and Sankey Road Experience Centre to witnessing precision engineering at its Hosur Road facilities, Glitz got a firsthand look at how HMG curates the top 10% of the world's rarest stones. The visit concluded with a candid, closed-door conversation with Founder & CEO Anand Reddy MG on his journey, design philosophy, and vision for luxury spaces.



In Conversation with **Anand Reddy MG** Founder & CEO, HMG Stones

Anand Reddy MG, Founder, CEO, and Visionary behind HMG Stones, did not initially plan a life in stone. A deeply passionate cricketer during his school years, a systemic setback redirected his intense drive and ambition toward business. Driven by a desire to reach the pinnacle of an industry on his own terms, he stepped into the stone trade four decades ago. Starting from ground zero, Anand built HMG Stones into a globally connected, design-led stone curator. Today, along with his team of stone experts, he personally hand-selects raw blocks from the top 10% recovery of quarries worldwide, shaping India's luxury architecture landscape through uncompromised quality, design innovation, and sustainable practices.



Q: Name one stone you believe every architect should experience in person.

Anand Reddy (AR): Quartzite.

Q: A material you genuinely enjoy pairing with natural stone?

(AR): Corten Steel. I love materials that are deeply natural—wood, chrome, and Corten steel. Corten steel changes its colour season-wise; it bleeds differently over time, and that natural evolution is remarkable.

Q: One quality every young architect should cultivate today?

(AR): Flexibility with design and futuristic thinking.

Q: Three words that define HMG Stones?

(AR): Passion, credibility, reliability, and innovation.



"You ask me the date of birth of a stone block – I don't know it. You ask me the expiry date – I can't give you one. It ages like fine wine."



Q: Marble or Granite?

(AR): It's like picking between both your eyes.

Q: Minimalist interiors or richly expressive spaces?

(AR): Minimalistic.

Q: Raw, natural finishes or polished surfaces?

(AR): Raw and natural finishes.

Q: A rare exotic stone with dramatic veining or a timeless classic?

(AR): Both have their own beauty, depending strictly on their application.

Q: Design driven by emotion or design driven by functionality?

(AR): Design driven by emotion, but executed by functionality.

Q: Natural stone is one of humanity's oldest building materials, yet it is often reduced to a mere surface finish today. How should designers rethink its role in contemporary architecture?

(AR): Architects must understand that stone is a product millions of years in the making. It has weathered every storm imaginable, bringing beauty in all its imperfections—which is precisely what makes it perfect.

While manufactured materials only come with a story of what temperature was used to bake them or what grade formula was mixed, natural stone carries the story of the Earth. It has interacted with vegetation, insects, animals, and now human beings. It is the only material in a building that truly excites you; everything else is artificial or processed.



Q: HMG positions itself as a stone curator rather than a supplier. What does curation mean when selecting for high-end projects?

(AR): Curation is about understanding *how* to use the material. Every piece of the Earth holds value, but its true worth comes out based on where it is placed and how it is applied. The finish you choose brings out the character of the stone; a single finish can alter the entire look and feel of a space.

Secondly, curation happens at the quarry face. When a quarry owner unearths 100 blocks, only five or six top blocks are the true "jewels" of that lot—extracted from deep within the quarry. Even within those blocks, our expertise dictates the angle, direction, and precision of the cut to yield the highest visual and structural quality. Once we identify and block a specific bench in a quarry, that exact design and character will never be available to anyone else in the world. That is curation.





Q: How do you balance access to the world's rarest stones with responsible sourcing and environmental stewardship?

(AR): By sourcing only the top 10% of a quarry's yield, we actively discourage the over-mining of commercial, unsellable material. Furthermore, technology plays a major role. In our processing facilities, we use advanced slim wire sawing machines with a 0.55 mm wire. This precision cutting drastically minimizes material wastage and saves roughly 15% of the stone ecology during processing.





About HMG Stones

Headquartered in Bengaluru, HMG Stones is a pioneer in design-centric natural stone curation. Renowned for its state-of-the-art Experience Centres—including the iconic Meghaphone by HMG and the Sankey Road Experience Centre—the brand shifts the buying experience from traditional stone yards to immersive design galleries. Backed by precision manufacturing units on Hosur Road (Factory I & II), HMG employs advanced processing techniques—such as ultra-thin 0.55 mm wire saw technology—to maximize yield and reduce ecological waste by approximately 15%.

Q: If you could shatter one persistent misconception architects or clients hold about natural stone, what would it be?

(AR): The myth that you can get natural stone completely free of pinholes, cracks, or fissures.

All natural stone possesses these traits—it is the inherent, geological composition of the material. Those variations are not flaws; they are the natural signatures of millions of years of heat, pressure, and mineral formation.

Q: What is your message to the modern generation of architects looking to innovate?

(AR): God is the greatest architect; an architect cannot "invent" a natural stone, but must adopt it as nature created it and design around its beauty.





My advice is to explore new finishes, textures, and emerging natural materials like rare quartzites and onyxes. Natural stone isn't just a physical element; it carries natural minerals and energy that bring positivity, warmth, and timeless character to a space. Look beyond price points, embrace the natural story, and let the material elevate your design. ©

Courtesy: HMG Stones



Project

Quiet Thresholds

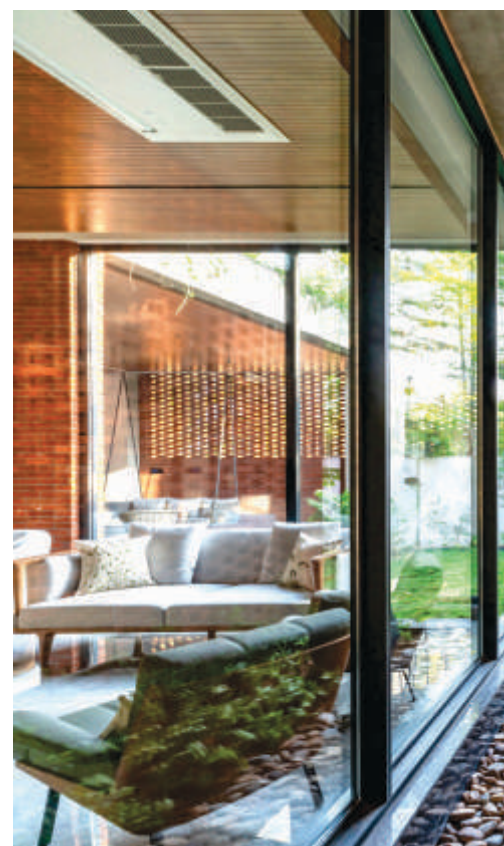
The Brick Veil, Ahmedabad



Set within a dense residential neighbourhood in Ahmedabad, The Brick Veil by VPA Architects explores how architecture can create privacy, comfort, and environmental responsiveness through a restrained palette of brick, concrete, and light. Designed for a west-facing linear site, the residence transforms climatic constraints into opportunities, where every architectural gesture is guided by the interplay of shade, ventilation, and sensory well-being.

The home's defining feature is its porous brick screen façade, which acts as a protective veil between the bustling street and the private interiors. Rather than relying on solid walls, the layered façade filters sunlight, softens heat gain, encourages natural ventilation, and reduces external noise—a thoughtful response to the client's hyperacusis condition. Throughout the day, shifting patterns of light and shadow animate the interiors, giving the house a constantly evolving character.





The arrival sequence unfolds gradually through landscaped thresholds, exposed brick walls, and a pixelated metal gate before opening into a sheltered outdoor living space beneath deep cantilevered overhangs. Creeper-covered trellises, floating slabs, and verandahs blur the boundaries between architecture and landscape, creating a calm transition from the public realm to the private home.

Inside, the ground floor follows an open-plan arrangement where living, dining, family, and kitchen spaces revolve around a central passage and an elevated dining area illuminated by carefully positioned southern openings. A contemporary mandir serves as the spiritual heart of the home, while upper levels accommodate private bedrooms, a shared study lounge, terraces, and flexible recreational spaces that remain visually connected through a dramatic double-height dining volume.

FACT FILE:

Name of Project	: The Brick Veil
Project Type	: Residential
Location	: Ahmedabad
Built-up Area	: 6,880 sqft.
Design Firm	: VPA Architects
Principal Designers	: Ronak Patel, Naiya Patel & Jinal Patel
Photographer	: Inclined Studio





Ronak Patel, Naiya Patel and Jinal Patel

Led by Ronak Patel, Naiya Patel, and Jinal Patel, VPA Architects is a multidisciplinary practice that brings together architecture, interiors, and landscape design under one collaborative vision. The studio creates thoughtfully integrated environments where design, nature, and functionality coexist seamlessly. Through a context-driven and detail-oriented approach, VPA Architects delivers contemporary spaces that are refined, sustainable, and tailored to enhance the everyday experience of their users.





The Brick Veil demonstrates how thoughtful design can transform climate, context, and personal needs into an architecture of quiet elegance. Here, brick becomes more than a building material—it becomes a living filter that shapes light, air, privacy, and everyday experience. 🏠

Courtesy: VPA Architects

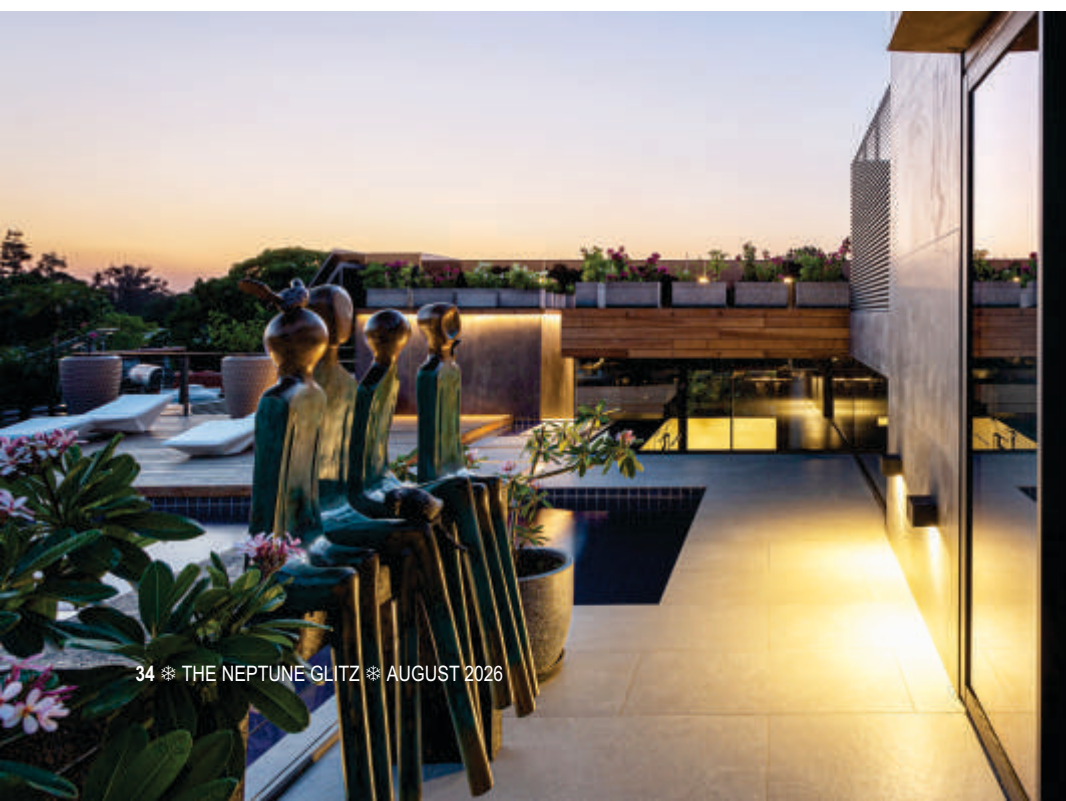
Materiality reinforces the home's timeless character. Exposed brick, fair-faced concrete, pinewood-patterned RCC, metal framing, and soft earthy interiors create a composition that is tactile yet understated. Carefully curated artwork, geometric lighting, and handcrafted details add warmth without overwhelming the architectural language.



Project

Elevated

Terrace House, Chandigarh



Situated in one of Chandigarh's most privileged residential settings, Terrace House is conceived as an immersive dialogue between architecture, landscape, and human experience. Occupying an 836 sqm. site bordered by a lush green belt and framed by distant views of the Shivalik Hills, the residence responds to its extraordinary context by placing nature at the centre of everyday living.



The defining gesture of the project is the relocation of the primary leisure zone to the rooftop. Rather than treating the terrace as a residual space, the architects transformed it into an elevated observation deck that captures sweeping views of the hills and surrounding tree canopy. A landscaped terrace garden and swimming pool merge visually with the greenery beyond, creating the illusion of an endless natural horizon and transforming leisure into an immersive experience.





Badrinath Kaleru & Perna Kaleru



Studio Ardete, founded by Badrinath Kaleru and Perna Kaleru, is a Chandigarh-based design practice known for transforming complex challenges into innovative architectural solutions. Guided by the belief that spaces should enrich human life and foster emotional connections, the studio combines art, technology, and research-driven design. Through advanced methodologies and a multidisciplinary approach, Studio Ardete creates distinctive environments that are experiential, contextually responsive, and forward-looking.

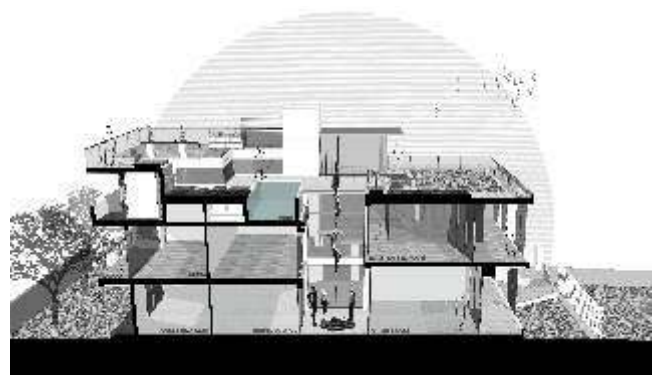
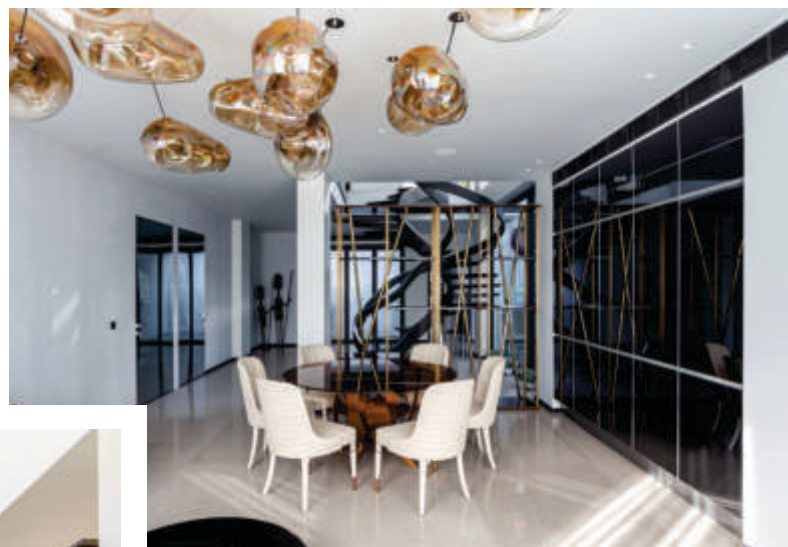
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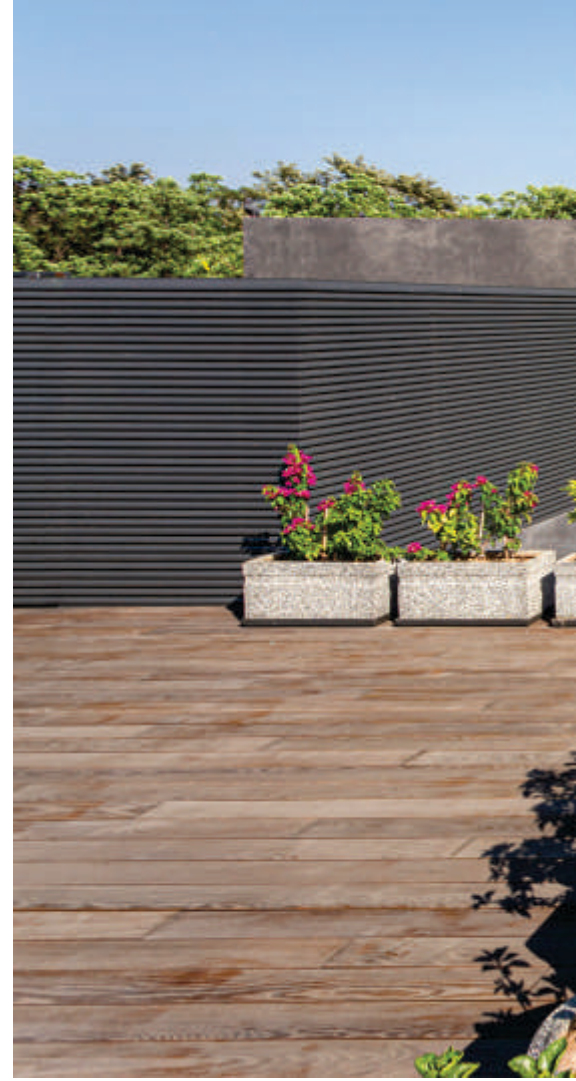
Name of Project	: Terrace House
Project Type	: Residential
Location	: Chandigarh
Site Area	: 836 sqm.
Built-up Area	: 796 sqm.
Design Firm	: Studio Ardete
Principal Designers	: Badrinath Kaleru & Perna Kaleru
Design Team	: Sanchit Dhiman, Anusha Sharma, Nancy Mittal, Abhimanyu Sharma
Photographer	: Purnesh Dev Nikhanj





The spatial narrative unfolds through a carefully choreographed sequence. On the ground floor, public, semi-private, and private zones are layered seamlessly, allowing spaces to overlap visually while maintaining functional clarity. Translucent partitions, large glazed openings, and internal courtyards establish a constant dialogue between occupants and nature. Elements such as pergolas, louvers, glass bricks, and carved openings modulate light, shade, and ventilation, ensuring the home remains responsive to its environment throughout the day.





The first floor accommodates three bedrooms, each connected to its own private terrace. These outdoor extensions create distinct spatial experiences while reinforcing the project's biophilic intent. Particularly notable is the trapezoidal master suite, strategically oriented towards the best views and designed to strengthen the occupant's connection to the landscape.

Materially, the house embraces honesty and restraint. Interior and exterior surfaces often flow seamlessly into one another, dissolving conventional boundaries. Reflective mosaic installations further heighten the experiential quality of the spaces, transforming occupants into active participants within the landscape.



More than a residence, Terrace House is an exploration of observation, reflection, and coexistence—where architecture quietly encourages a deeper awareness of nature and self. 🌿

Courtesy: Studio Ardete



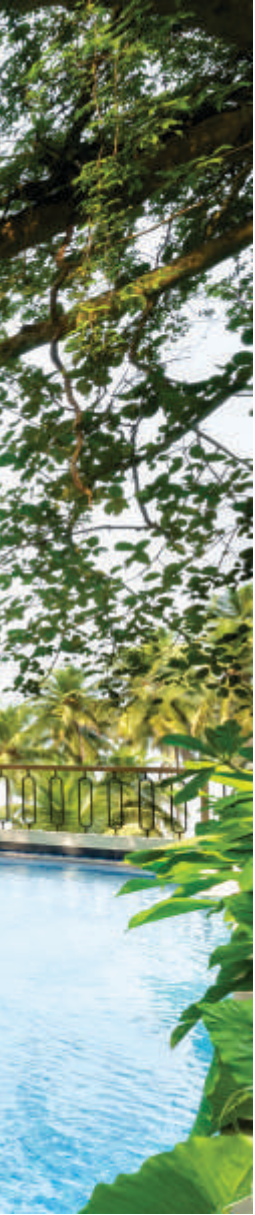


Enduring Roots

Estate de Marissa, Goa



Set amidst Goa's undulating landscape, Estate de Marissa by ARA Designs is a thoughtful interpretation of tropical living where vernacular architecture meets contemporary refinement. Designed by Amey Dahanukar, the 8,000 sq. ft. residence embraces its natural setting through a design philosophy rooted in material authenticity, spatial fluidity, and a deep respect for local architectural traditions.



Amey Dahanukar

Founded by Amey Dahanukar, ARA Designs is a Mumbai-based multidisciplinary practice known for its contemporary, context-sensitive approach to architecture and interiors. Combining urban design thinking with craftsmanship and sustainable principles, the studio has developed a diverse portfolio spanning luxury residences, hospitality, commercial, and mixed-use projects. Guided by a holistic design philosophy, ARA Designs creates timeless environments that seamlessly connect architecture, interiors, and the experience of place.





Rather than treating architecture as a purely functional exercise, the residence is conceived as a sensory experience. Every design decision responds to the site's terrain, climate, and cultural context, creating a home that feels inseparable from its surroundings. Carefully oriented to maximise natural ventilation, daylight, and panoramic views, the villa establishes a gentle progression from public gathering spaces to intimate private retreats.

The planning unfolds through courtyards, semi-covered verandas, and landscaped pockets that blur the distinction between indoors and outdoors. Decorative windows and arched openings frame carefully composed views while filtering sunlight and coastal breezes, creating interiors that remain naturally cool and visually connected to the landscape.

Materiality plays an equally significant role in defining the home's character. Locally sourced laterite stone provides thermal comfort and rich texture, while timber rafters, exposed wooden beams, and traditional clay-tiled sloping roofs pay homage to Goa's architectural heritage. Classical columns, ornamental railings, and Indo-Portuguese detailing lend the residence a timeless elegance without overwhelming its understated composition.







FACT FILE:

Name of Project : Estate de Marissa
 Project Type : Residential
 Location : Goa
 Built-up Area : 8,000 sqft.
 Design Firm : ARA Designs
 Principal Designer : Amey Dahanukar
 Photographer : Courtesy Isprava





The façade is animated through a rhythmic interplay of arches, windows, solid walls, and shaded balconies, allowing light and shadow to transform the architecture throughout the day. Every threshold, courtyard, and framed vista has been thoughtfully choreographed to encourage moments of pause and reflection.

More than a luxury villa, Estate de Marissa demonstrates how contextual design can create architecture that is both contemporary and deeply rooted in place. By celebrating local materials, climatic responsiveness, and traditional craftsmanship, the residence offers an enduring expression of Goan living where every space invites a meaningful connection with nature. ©

Courtesy: ARA Designs



Modern Grace

Kolkata Residence, Kolkata





Designed by DWG Design, this Kolkata residence presents a refined interpretation of modern contemporary luxury—one where elegance is achieved through balance rather than excess. Conceived by Kaushik Wadhwana and Jasmine Doshi, the home is defined by spatial clarity, meticulous detailing, and a design language that seamlessly connects public, semi-private, and intimate spaces.

The planning establishes a fluid relationship between formal entertaining areas, informal family lounges, and private retreats, ensuring that each space retains its individual character while contributing to a cohesive architectural narrative. This careful orchestration allows movement through the home to feel effortless, with every transition thoughtfully composed to enhance both functionality and experience.



Kaushik Wadhwana and Jasmine Doshi

Founded by Kaushik Wadhwana and Jasmine Doshi, DWG Design is a multidisciplinary practice recognised for its thoughtful integration of creativity, technical expertise, and sustainable design. Working across luxury residential, commercial, workplace, and hospitality projects, the studio creates context-responsive environments that balance innovation with functionality. Guided by a collaborative design philosophy, DWG Design continues to deliver refined, purposeful spaces that enrich user experience while responding sensitively to place and purpose.



A restrained material palette reinforces the residence's calm and sophisticated atmosphere. Soft neutral tones, refined textures, and carefully controlled lighting create a timeless backdrop against which bespoke furniture, curated artworks, and sculptural accents emerge as focal points. Rather than overwhelming the interiors, these elements introduce layers of personality and visual depth while maintaining the home's understated character.





Throughout the residence, proportion remains a defining principle. Furniture layouts are carefully calibrated to encourage interaction while preserving openness, creating interiors that feel generous yet intimate. Every room is designed as a distinct environment, responding to its intended use without disrupting the continuity of the overall design language.

FACT FILE:

Name of Project : Kolkata Residence
 Project Type : Residential Interiors
 Location : Kolkata
 Design Firm : DWG Design
 Principal Designers: Kaushik Wadhwana
 & Jasmine Doshi





Attention to detail extends beyond aesthetics into the everyday experience of living. Every material, finish, and decorative element has been thoughtfully selected to create spaces that are equally functional and visually enduring. The result is an interior that feels composed, timeless, and effortlessly elegant.

More than a showcase of luxury, the residence reflects a philosophy of thoughtful design, where harmony between architecture, interiors, and lifestyle creates a home that is both sophisticated and deeply personal. 

Courtesy: DWG Design

Project

Regal Revival

Sawai Man Mahal, Jaipur



Set beside the historic Rambagh Palace in Jaipur, Sawai Man Mahal is a remarkable example of adaptive reuse, where centuries of royal heritage are thoughtfully reinterpreted for contemporary luxury hospitality. Designed by IDEAS under the leadership of Gyanendra Singh Shekhawat, the project celebrates Rajasthan's architectural legacy while introducing the comfort and sophistication expected of a modern Taj property.

Originally established under the patronage of Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II, the palace has evolved through multiple chapters of history—from a modest royal pavilion to one of India's earliest palace hotels.



The latest transformation carefully preserves this legacy through interventions that respect the building's original architectural character while enhancing the guest experience.

Spatial planning prioritises openness and tranquillity. Expansive public spaces, landscaped courtyards, and intimate alfresco settings create a seamless dialogue between architecture and nature. Private courtyards attached to guest suites offer moments of quiet retreat, while mature trees have been retained as an integral part of the spatial composition. A temperature-controlled swimming pool, framed by a hand-painted mural, reinforces the project's connection to traditional Rajputana aesthetics.





The material palette draws deeply from Jaipur's architectural traditions. Araish lime plaster, intricate thikri mirror work, Yellow Jaisalmer sandstone, Ambaji White Marble, and Red Mandana stone create interiors rich in texture and authenticity. Muted colours inspired by Jaipur's iconic palette, antique brass detailing, embroidered fabrics, and handcrafted lighting complete the experience, celebrating regional craftsmanship with contemporary refinement.

FACT FILE:

Name of Project	: Sawai Man Mahal
Project Type	: Hospitality- Adaptive Reuse
Location	: Jaipur
Site Area	: 37,173 sqm.
Design Firm	: IDEAS
Principal Designer	: Gyanendra Singh Shekhawat
Photographer	: Jaideep Oberoi



Gyanendra Singh Shekhawat

Founded by Gyanendra Singh Shekhawat, IDEAS is a multidisciplinary design practice recognised for its contributions to architecture, urban planning, and heritage conservation. With a diverse portfolio spanning residential, hospitality, institutional, and mixed-use developments, the studio combines innovation with contextual sensitivity to create enduring built environments. Guided by a collaborative and research-driven approach, IDEAS continues to shape cities and communities through thoughtful, sustainable, and people-centric design.







Sustainability remains central to the restoration. Rainwater harvesting, an on-site sewage treatment plant, solar panels, solar hot water systems, zero-plastic initiatives, and energy-efficient climate control reduce the property's environmental footprint, while courtyards and landscaped greens improve thermal comfort and natural ventilation.

Sawai Man Mahal demonstrates how adaptive reuse can honour history without becoming static, creating a destination where heritage, craftsmanship, and modern hospitality coexist with remarkable elegance. 

Courtesy: IDEAS



Project

Immersive

Under the Jamun Tree, Khandala





Nestled amidst the verdant landscape of Khandala, Under the Jamun Tree by a&k Design Studio is a thoughtful transformation of two adjoining villas into a single, expansive weekend retreat. Designed by Aarti Somani and Kruti Sheth, the 11,000 sq. ft. residence is anchored by a majestic jamun tree that overlooks the garden, inspiring a design narrative rooted in tranquillity, nature, and understated luxury.





The project emerged from a unique challenge. As part of a gated community, the villas could not be structurally merged by removing walls. Instead, the designers responded through strategic spatial planning, creating a fluid connection via a glass-lined walkway that preserves the individuality of each structure while allowing them to function as one cohesive home. This intervention becomes both a physical and visual bridge, reinforcing a sense of continuity throughout the retreat.

FACT FILE:

Name of Project : Under the Jamun Tree
 Project Type : Residential
 Location : Khandala, Maharashtra
 Built-up Area : 11,000 sqft.
 Design Firm : a&k Design Studio
 Principal Designer : Aarti Somani & Kruti Sheth
 Design Team : Yatish Thoke
 Photographer : Kuber Shah





At the heart of the residence lies an expansive living area featuring a multifunctional bar-cum-self-cooking counter designed for entertaining. This space opens seamlessly onto the pool deck, where the landscape becomes an extension of the interiors. A glazed conservatory further enhances the connection to nature, ensuring year-round usability even during Khandala's prolonged monsoon season.

Drawing inspiration from Zen philosophies and the principles of wabi-sabi, the interiors celebrate natural materials, subtle textures, and the beauty of imperfection. Terrazzo flooring, oak wood cladding, stone panelling, and concrete finishes establish an earthy palette that feels calm, timeless, and deeply connected to the surrounding landscape. Large glazed openings blur the boundary



between indoors and outdoors, allowing natural light and greenery to become integral parts of the spatial experience.



Kruti Sheth and Aarti Somani

Founded by Aarti Somani and Kruti Sheth, a&k Design Studio is a boutique interior design practice known for crafting bespoke and thoughtfully curated spaces. Combining over two decades of design expertise, the duo creates interiors that balance functionality, elegance, and individuality. With a portfolio spanning residences, offices, and commercial environments, the studio's work reflects a commitment to timeless aesthetics, fine craftsmanship, and personalised design solutions tailored to modern lifestyles.





What distinguishes the project is its celebration of Indian craftsmanship. Every artwork, lighting fixture, furnishing, and decorative object has been custom-crafted by local artisans, transforming the home into a living gallery of contemporary Indian design. 

Courtesy: a&k Design Studio





Following Light

Emperador Singhanian Office, Kolkata

Occupying the fifth floor of a landmark commercial building on Kolkata's historic Chowringhee Road, Emperador Singhanian Office, designed by Bipratip Dhar and the team at Epsilon, reimagines the contemporary workplace through the interplay of daylight, panoramic views, and thoughtful spatial planning. Overlooking the vast expanse of the Maidan, the office enjoys uninterrupted vistas of the Victoria Memorial, Vidyasagar Setu, Eden Gardens, and the Howrah Bridge, transforming the city's skyline into an ever-changing architectural backdrop.



Designed for a family-owned business, the project balances hierarchy, collaboration, and privacy within a clear organisational framework. The planning responds simultaneously to Vaastu principles and functional requirements, positioning the executive suite along the quieter south-western edge to capitalise on the finest views, while the open office extends as a linear arrangement of workstations, senior cabins, and collaborative spaces. An intimate meeting room adjacent to the reception allows visitors to be accommodated

without interrupting the office's daily operations, while the conference room seamlessly supports executive functions.

Natural light forms the defining design element. Open on three sides, the floor plate captures sunlight throughout the day, significantly reducing dependence on artificial lighting while creating a constantly evolving spatial atmosphere. Carefully positioned mirrors visually widen the relatively narrow plan, multiplying daylight and enhancing the perception of openness.





Materially, the office adopts a restrained palette of Michelangelo marble, warm wood veneers, glass, and metal. Exposed ceilings reveal mechanical services, transforming functional infrastructure into an industrial-inspired design feature. Geometric suspended lighting animates the open workspace, while executive cabins introduce richer textures, layered ceilings, and carefully framed views that reinforce a sense of calm sophistication. Vibrant contemporary artworks punctuate the otherwise muted interiors, adding moments of colour and personality.

FACT FILE:

Name of Project : Emperador Singhanian Office
 Project Type : Office Interiors
 Location : Kolkata
 Built-up Area : 3,160 sqft.
 Design Firm : Epsilon
 Principal Designer: Bipratip Dhar
 Design Team : Niharika Valechha, Jayati Mondal



Bipratip Dhar

Founded by Bipratip Dhar, Epsilon is a multidisciplinary architecture and interior design practice recognised for its context-sensitive and sustainable design approach. With projects spanning residential, hospitality, commercial, institutional, and corporate sectors, the studio combines creative innovation with technical excellence to deliver thoughtful, user-centric environments. Guided by a philosophy that balances functionality, cultural relevance, and environmental responsibility, Epsilon continues to craft architecture that is both enduring and meaningful.







The result is a workplace that moves beyond conventional office design—an environment where architecture harnesses natural light, urban views, and thoughtful planning to create a refined setting for productivity, collaboration, and growth. 

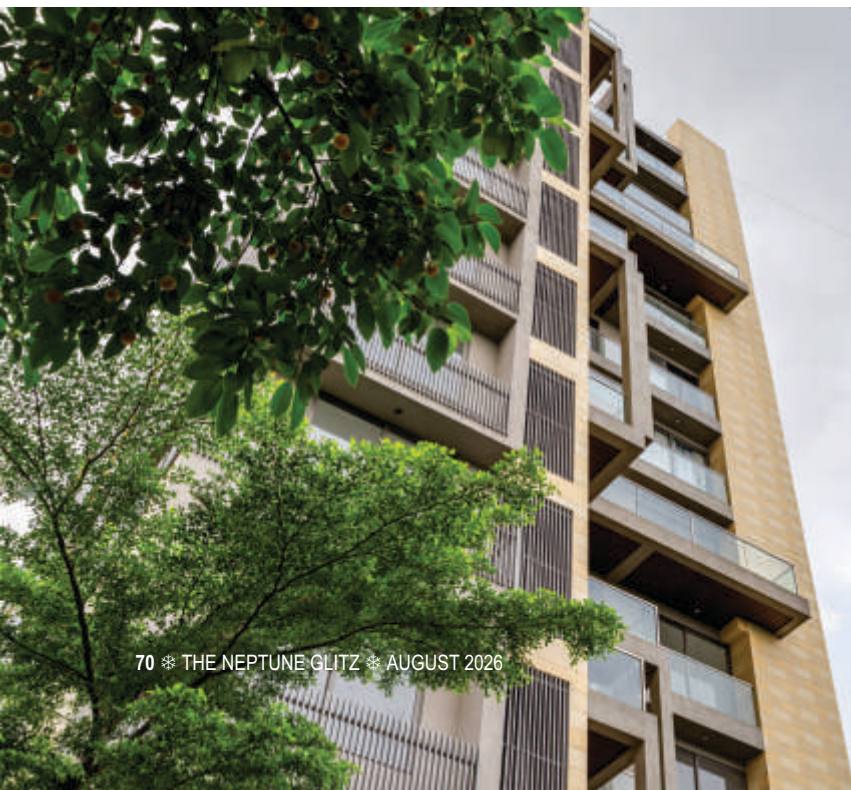
Courtesy: Epsilon





Earthbound

House with Brick N Arch, Ahmedabad



Designed by UA Lab (Urban Architectural Collaborative), House with Brick N Arch explores how architecture and interiors can work in harmony to create spaces that are both climatically responsive and emotionally grounding. Located within the Sepal Elegant 5 residential development in Ahmedabad, the project combines a thoughtfully articulated apartment block with a minimalist residence designed around light, movement, and material honesty.

The architectural identity of the building is defined by its interlaced balcony system. Rather than aligning balconies vertically, the design staggers them across the façade, creating a rhythmic composition that reduces the visual mass of the building while generating generous shaded outdoor spaces. This strategy responds directly to Ahmedabad's hot, dry climate, with deep overhangs protecting glazed surfaces and naturally cooling the interiors. Detached on all four sides, the building ensures every apartment enjoys three-sided exposure, allowing abundant daylight, cross ventilation, and uninterrupted views.



Vipuja & Krishnakant Parmar

Founded by Krishnakant Parmar and Vipuja Parmar, UA Lab is an Ahmedabad-based multidisciplinary design studio known for its context-driven and climate-responsive architecture. Combining expertise in architecture, urban design, landscape, and interiors, the practice creates meaningful spaces that prioritise community, materiality, and human experience. Through a research-oriented and collaborative approach, UA Lab continues to deliver innovative, sustainable environments that seamlessly connect people, place, and the built form.





Inside, the residence embraces a language of quiet minimalism inspired by the client's desire for a calm, open environment centred around everyday wellbeing and yoga practice. Exposed brick becomes the defining material, introducing warmth, texture, and authenticity while eliminating the need for decorative excess. Seamless flooring, integrated wooden elements, and a restrained material palette reinforce the home's sense of clarity and tranquillity.

FACT FILE:

Name of Project : House with Brick N Arch
 Project Type : Residential
 Location : Ahmedabad
 Built-up Area : 4,300 sqft.
 Design Firm : UA Lab (Urban Architectural Collaborative)
 Principal Designers: Krishnakant Parmar & Vipuja Parmar
 Photographer : Maulik Patel / Inclined Studio







The most distinctive architectural gesture is the recurring series of brick arches that replace conventional doorways. Rather than simply dividing rooms, these curved openings frame views, soften circulation, and establish a gentle rhythm throughout the home. The arches create subtle thresholds between living spaces, preserving openness while introducing moments of discovery and spatial intimacy.

Together, the architecture and interiors demonstrate how thoughtful planning, climate-sensitive design, and honest material expression can transform apartment living into an experience that feels calm, connected, and timeless. 

Courtesy: UA Lab



Project

Coastal Calm

The Harmony Home, Chennai



Perched on the sixteenth floor in Chennai's Thiruvannamiyur neighbourhood, The Harmony Home by Empatio Architecture is a refined exploration of contemporary living rooted in warmth, material honesty, and a deep connection to its coastal setting. Designed by Chandhana Ramesh, the 1,700 sq. ft. residence embraces sweeping sea views while creating interiors that feel calm, intimate, and timeless.

The homeowners envisioned a space that would offer comfort without excess—an environment defined by soft neutrality and abundant natural light. The existing dark marble flooring became the foundation for a carefully curated palette of earthy textures, muted tones, and handcrafted elements, resulting in a home that balances modern minimalism with eclectic character.



Founded by Chandhana Ramesh, Empatio Architecture is an award-winning design practice recognised for its sustainable and context-driven approach to architecture and interiors. Combining artistic sensibility with technical expertise, the studio creates bespoke residential, commercial, retail, and institutional spaces defined by innovative detailing and environmental responsiveness. Guided by a philosophy of meaningful, functional design, Empatio Architecture continues to craft timeless environments that enrich everyday living.

Chandhana Ramesh





FACT FILE:

Name of Project	: The Harmony Home
Project Type	: Residential- Interiors
Location	: Chennai
Built-up Area	: 1,700 sqft.
Design Firm	: Empatio Architecture
Principal Designer	: Chandhana Ramesh
Photographer	: Phosart Studio
Text	: Pratishtha Rana

The spatial journey begins at a softly lit entrance foyer, where fluted glass introduces filtered daylight into a flexible study and yoga studio. Throughout the residence, arched openings, tactile materials, and subtle transitions encourage effortless movement while maintaining a sense of openness. The living room becomes the social heart of the home, enriched by exposed timber rafters, tropical mural wallpaper, raw concrete finishes, cane, ashwood, and oak, creating a dialogue between contemporary design and nature-inspired warmth.

The adjoining dining and kitchen spaces continue this understated aesthetic with clean lines, farmhouse influences, and restrained detailing.





repurposed into bespoke furniture, including a carved South Indian panel transformed into a freestanding vanity mirror. Fabric-panelled wardrobes and handcrafted details subtly reference the city's architectural character, reinforcing a strong sense of place.

In the private quarters, the master bedroom introduces sage green accents and a relaxed bohemian mood, while the remaining bedrooms adopt organic materials complemented by contrasting blue highlights

What distinguishes the home is its thoughtful integration of Chennai's cultural identity. Vintage artefacts have been





The Harmony Home demonstrates how restrained design, local craftsmanship, and flexible planning can come together to create a residence that feels deeply personal, effortlessly elegant, and enduringly connected to its surroundings. ©

Courtesy: Empatio Architecture





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