

ARCHITECTURE

RESIDENTIAL
Homes that craft a contemporary identity through their design

PROJECT: APARTMENT ▼ ARCHITECT: MANISH DIKSHIT, AUM ARCHITECTS

TEXT: AZIZ AMIN
IMAGES: PRASHANT BHAT



Additional Info

- AREA: 1,396SQFT
- LOCATION: MUMBAI

A carefully chosen palette and striking design elements give this simple house a noteworthy appeal.

As per the request of the client, this house, for a family of four, was to be kept minimalistic and grounded. "Occasionally, we get clients who ask for simplicity. The challenge for such projects is to blend 'Indianness' with minimalism," says Manish Dikshit, who led the design team at Aum Architects to give this house its distinct character.

The 4BHK residence opens into a long passage that widens as it moves closer to the warm, sand-coloured kitchen, ultimately fanning out into a large living and dining area. Elements like wood and mirror are used in alternative vertical stripes to add the illusion of volume to this space.

The living room is an amalgamation of the old and new. A contemporary but minimalistic TV unit, made of marble that contrasts with the floor, breaks the continuity of the living room from the passage. Dikshit says, "The living-dining area was an elongated space divided by the passage that made it look small. The seating was planned to create the illusion of space."

The element of 'Indianness' comes in through various decor elements and accessories that enhance the look. The *mandir*, which was of prime importance to the client, features a laser-cut jali in a traditional South Indian design, with a gold background.



An unusual piece of art is fixed on the ceiling above the dining table. "We framed a traditional Kancheepuram silk saree, and fixed it as a band across the ceiling. A modern black hanging light above the dining table blends perfectly with this unique feature. The whole treatment is rather off-centre, which helps in partitioning the living-dining space." Customised, clean-lined furniture dominates the living space with carefully selected upholstery that blends in.

Each of the four bedrooms are tailor-made with the inhabitant in mind. The master bedroom has a sliding wardrobe, a bed with side tables, a reading accent chair and a dresser. "The highlight of the room is the grained veneer on the accent wall. Poppy yellow and sublime blue are used in the soft furnishings and decorative lighting. Lights are used more for aesthetic rather than functional purposes, to create an ambient overall look," says Dikshit.





FYI
The colours used in the daughter's bedroom are subtle, except for the study area, which is multi-coloured.

The son, the elder of the two children, wanted a spartan, open room. "The fact that his room was adjacent to the balcony was an added benefit," says Dikshit. A unique headboard is designed with a reading light provided for his love for books. A book unit is combined with his bed without breaking the seamlessness of the headboard. Ice grey and white oak predominate the space.

The teenage daughter was also given natural shades, but with bits of colour to suit her growing maturity. The headboard of the bed runs up to the ceiling, culminating into the dresser. Soft furnishings and a metal chandelier add lightness.

THE SPECS

- Wall-clad marble: Millennium Marble
- Wall-clad veneer: Timex
- Lighting fixtures: Teknolite
- Decorative lights: Deepam
- Furniture/ decor: Customised furniture from Royal Art Centre
- Soft furnishings, curtains and blinds: Sreeji Furnishing
- Hardware: Unique Enterprise



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The design is a paradox, merging striking elements without calling out for attention.

— Manish Dikshit, Principal Architect, Aum Architects