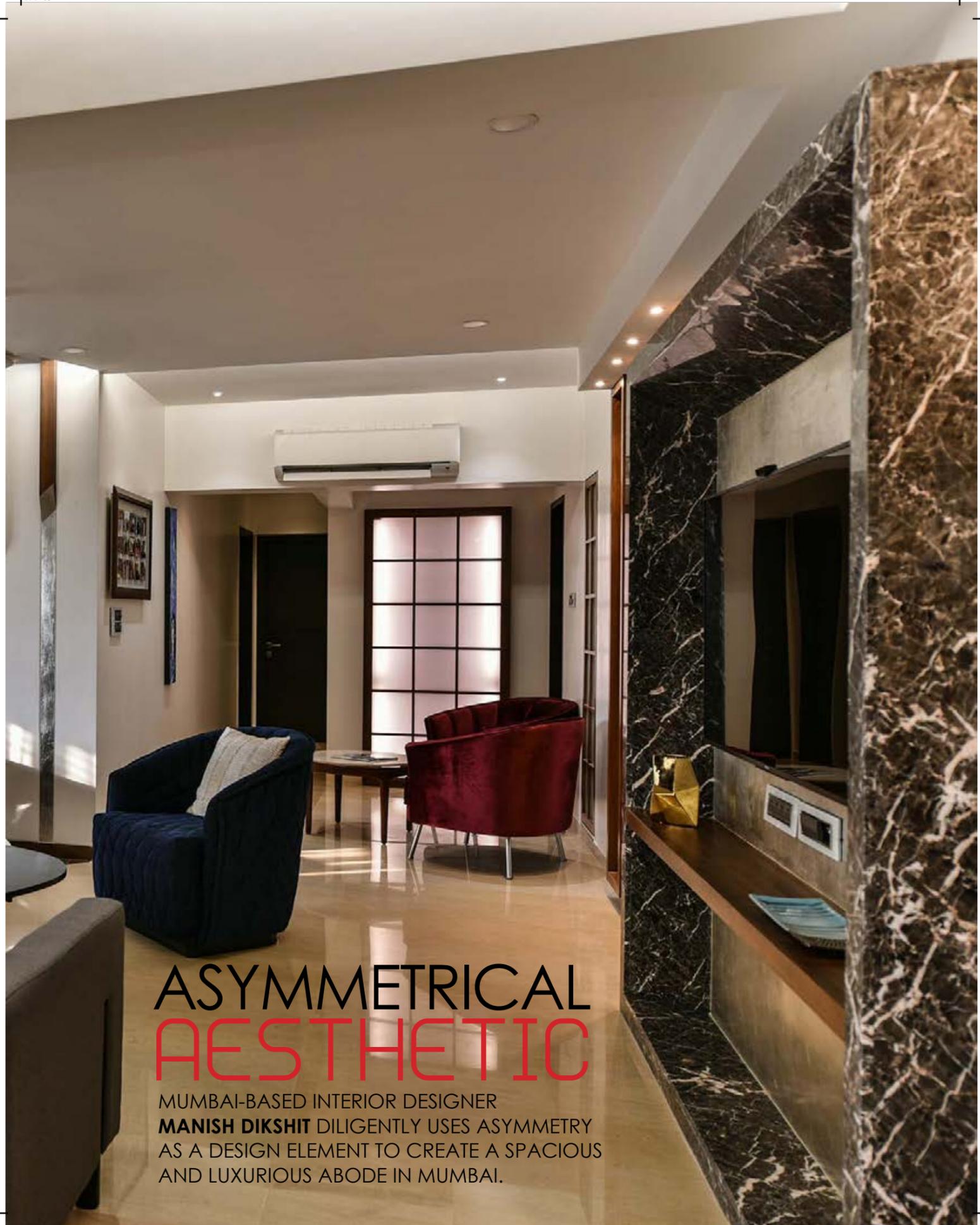


Creative solutions turn the living area into an eclectic space.



ASYMMETRICAL AESTHETIC

MUMBAI-BASED INTERIOR DESIGNER
MANISH DIKSHIT DILIGENTLY USES ASYMMETRY
AS A DESIGN ELEMENT TO CREATE A SPACIOUS
AND LUXURIOUS ABODE IN MUMBAI.



Text: Marina Correa
Photographs: Prashant Bhat

Designing an apartment comes with its own set of challenges, and more so, when two apartments are joined to form a cohesive whole. Issues like double kitchens, balconies, odd corners and asymmetrical space have to be skillfully handled. In this case, the client having lived in Rajasthan, wanted a spacious abode and **Manish Dikshit**, design principle, **AUM Architects** rose to this challenge and provided a 'bungalow-like' feel in a 1,266 sq. ft. area apartment in Jogeshwari, Mumbai.

Since the client desired an urban charm along with a touch of ethnic sensibilities, Manish decided to eschew traditional Indian motifs in favour of contemporary elegance with a dash of ethnic chic, as seen in the laser-cut headboard of the master bedroom and gold tints in the living room. Manish approached the project by planning the layout based on their requirements and then added flourish through an aesthetic appeal.

By combining two apartments, the living room is transformed into a long, irregular shaped space. Various Zones for different functions are culled out: a breakfast counter snugly fits into a niche; a formal dining space, a living area with seating and a cosy corner seating near a window make this a spacious eclectic space.

The large window on entering the apartment was an odd challenge that was creatively overcome by camouflaging it to look like a niche. By framing the window in marble, using wooden blinds, crafting an end-to-end console, placing an attractive ceramic and gold lion along with some artefacts with spot lighting above accentuates the area making it look like a niche indeed.



2
 A cluster of hanging lights above the dining table adds charm, whilst a breakfast counter fits into an oddly shaped niche.

"Our design sensibility was to have organized chaos – facing challenges head-on and turning them into aesthetic elements," explains Manish about his design concept. A series of deep beams were effectively handled by way of a multifaceted false ceiling that wrapped around these beams.

The asymmetric space is defined by various type of seating arrangement: a low-back three-seater, and a two-seater with a unique back and a single seater. An admirable feature in this area is a fixed seat near the window, which is skillfully crafted from the wooden ceiling flowing down and forming a seat, while it also continues on the opposite wall to form a wall treatment in wood and chamfers into gold leafing. Underneath, a strip of wooden flooring distinguishes this area from the remaining seating area covered in marble.

A geometric wooden partition above the shoe rack partially screens the breakfast counter; two dark blue upholstered dining chairs and the other four in grey adds a touch of whimsy, whilst a cluster of lights in glass with gold and white accents becomes the focus point in the dining area.

A marble frame encases the television unit with just a sleek ledge created for functional requirements. A combination of wood, marble and gold leafing heightens the aesthetic with the pattern extending along the entire wall.

The linear kitchen forms an extension to the breakfast counter. Pristine stone Q4 white platforms act as a good contrast against the wooden tiled dado and flooring. A subtle taupe laminate finish for the shutters and natural light and ventilation from the window suffuses the kitchen with a bright and airy vibe.

The warmth of wood envelopes a goldish-beige laminate infusing the teenage son's room with a fun and youthful vibe. The headboard is in two overlapping parts: one that runs from the ceiling to form the television panel finished in laminate, whilst the other overlapping part is finished in coloured lamination. "Instead of the typical bedside lamps, we integrated ambient light into the headboard, making the design an attractive feature in itself." says Manish.

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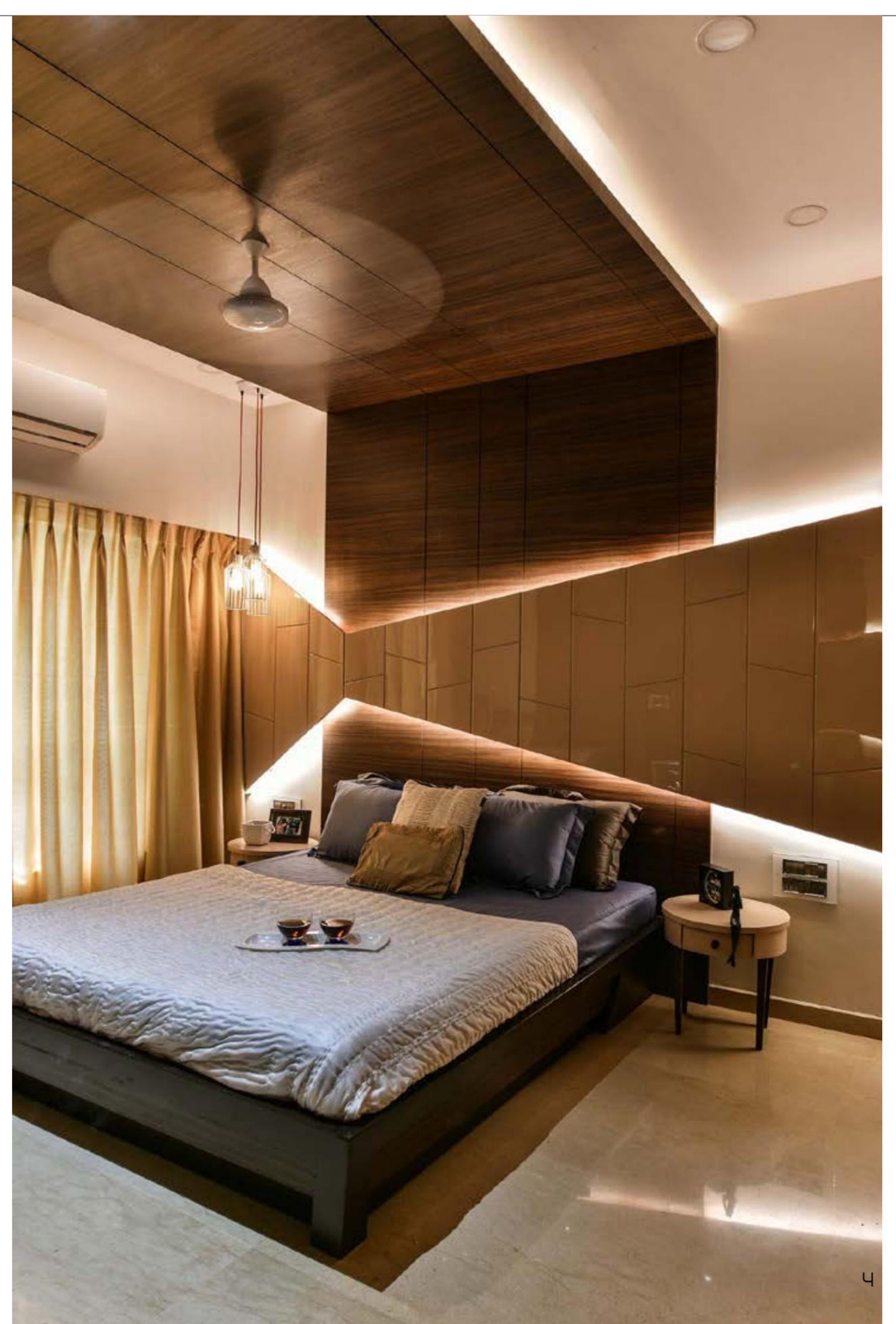
Jaali work forms the headboard in the elegant master bedroom adding a dash of ethnic flourish.

4

Asymmetrical panels in lamination intersect to form an intriguing design in the son's bedroom.



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4

Overall colours were kept neutral and they added a little punch of colour in the soft furnishing. A caged corner light adds to the decor of the room.

The common bathroom was done completely in champagne grey marble except for the countertop, and the insides of niches, which were anointed with white onyx lending an opulent touch. The door to the utility room was changed to a glass door to suffuse the bathroom with natural light.



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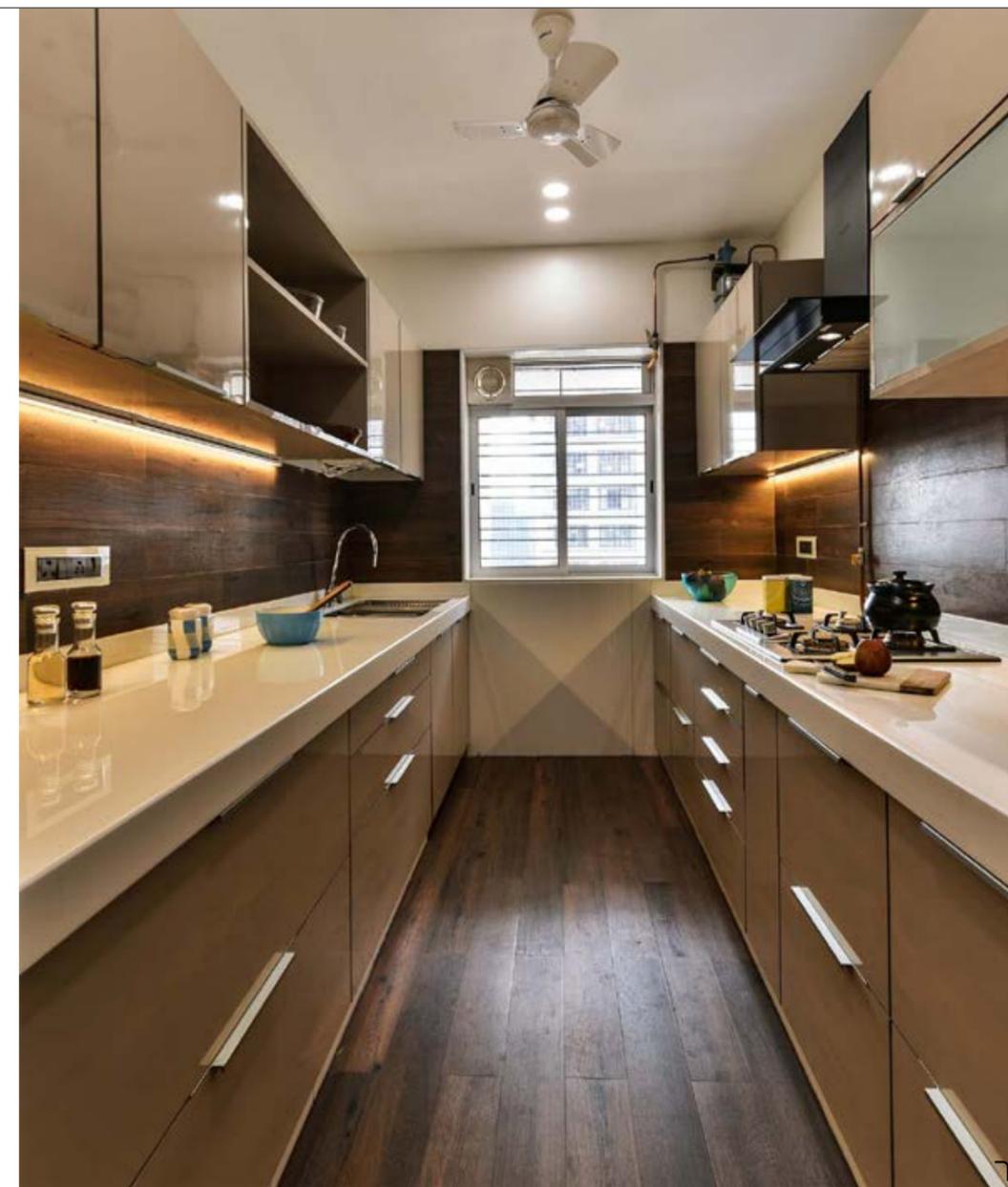
The walk-in wardrobe of the master suite is done up in mirrors to create an aura of spaciousness.

6

Reflections of a niche as seen in the mirrors of the walk-in wardrobe section.



6



Warm and subtle tones are used to wrap the linear and functional kitchen.

The master bedroom suite was formed by combining one of the smaller bedrooms (the original house came with) to cull-out a walk-in wardrobe area. The suite is infused with meticulous detailing in terms of sourcing materials, unique technical innovations and artistic style statements. In order to visually make the room look bigger, a glass wall was inserted between the master bath and bedroom. A back-lit customized headboard comprises of a laser-cut panel with geometric motifs, the single seater is finished in deep maroon velvet with gold leafing details, which adds a hint of glamour. The television is encased in a wall laminate, whilst two hanging lights flank the unit functionally.

The walk-in wardrobe is partly finished in mirror to create an illusion of spaciousness as is the full-length mirror panel. Overall, making the home a pleasing and luxurious abode for the homeowners. ■



AR. MANISH DIKSHIT

Aum Architects, is spearheaded by Ar. Manish Dikshit. Their forte lies in optimizing limited resources to design buildings and interiors that are functional and aesthetic. From designing kindergartens to townships, Aum undertakes a wide range of projects.

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