

Succor in the Urban Jungle





A latticed main door allows a preview of the inner sanctum of the home, which too utilises the eclectic approach.

Traditional Indian prints and colours vie with the ultra modern treatment to the floors and walls in this spacious living room

It is this lucky family, which in a concrete jungle like Mumbai, has a house located amongst verdant, green locales. Then again, the family is used to global travel and constitutes that section of society, which prides itself as being a citizen of the world. The design called for respect of these two main aspects - allowance for the green world to enter within and the global world to find an expression within the interior. Manish Dikshit, who prides himself as being an Interior Architect, met the challenges successfully -



Manish R. Dikshit has established his firm, Aum Architects after gaining over six years of experience with renowned architects such as Hafeez Contractor and Nozer Wadia. He has even worked as an architect with D.I.D Consultants. Throughout his career Mr. Dikshit, who prides himself as being an Interior Architect in Mumbai, has been involved in the preliminary design for various projects both commercial and residential. He is also a guest lecturer at the Rachna Sansad Institute of Interior Design.

Manish's clients is a Chartered Accountant by profession and working with a multi-national bank. He travels a lot, especially to far east Asian countries and it is during these travels that he has collected a variety of



The living room doubles as a home theatre with the large screen in main focus. Well thought out selection and placement of artifacts add a touch of class to the space.





An unusual setting as any, this space uses the traditional Hindu ambience and offsets it with the modern, chaotic sculpture arrangement in the form of weeds. In between it all, the dining room serves its functional need.



The egg shaped mirror and wash basin set tangentially and cantilevered over the edge of the counter top makes this bath sassy and sharp. The glass chamfered around the wash area serves to protect the walls and demarcate the space.

interesting artifacts. This vast collection of artifacts, was one of the main areas of focus for the design of this house. The client's mother, a son and a daughter and his wife in all constitute 5 member family. The children being in the growing, preteen years of 10-12 respectively their room and bathroom needed to be lively and colorful," says Manish.



Calm golden browns proclaim a mellow mood, which permeates through this bedroom. The colour and furniture choices make it rich and tastefully done.



Large wardrobe space done in calm and subtle materials is the best option for a space such as this, as it does not subtract from the regality



The rose red tiles and the swirled basin give this bathroom a romantic edge.

Although Manish's own approach to design has mostly been minimalist design with geometric elements to create a contemporary ambience, in this case, a touch of the Indian element can clearly be seen. Explains Manish, "The Indian element was factored in along with modern design element, evolved into the most elegant form." This became necessary as always happens with people who travel the globe. Even so, as Manish points out, "Simplicity was the one word we were briefed with."

Most of the design is kept simple and straight forward, with all the furniture and materials arrived at in keeping with functional and requirements of convenience.

In Manish's words, "All the furniture including loose furnitures were customized and designed by our design studio. Graphic images were created including the colour in which the furniture will be done, before finalizing each of the elements and execution of the design. Most of the materials used were in the branded form, including the electrical fittings and wood."



Rich reds and earthy finishes are complimented with a smart selection of art work - on the whole, very down-to-earth.



The bedroom is set back from the entrance space. A niche neatly holds the wardrobe.



Swirls of blue - the band serves as a great added focus to this bath without much ado.

It can therefore be seen that the furniture is well within the functional needs of the design and in keeping with the overall ambience of the home.

The design has very elaborate colour schemes, using a rich palette for the bedrooms and their matching baths. The living room is also very richly worked out. When asked about how the colour palette and design schemes were worked out and the part played by the client in this process, Manish candidly informs us that –

“Colours had been derived as per personal choice of the

client. Shades of the various colors were planned by our team of designers to avoid making the individual rooms loud.

Here, the client’s openness to new and vibrant ideas was a plus point to achieve this harmonious design. Always, the best results are achieved when the client believes in their designers, in any project.”

But over and above all the details given to the interior spaces, the main achievement of this design has been the display of the vastness of the spaces and their



Poseidon blue - the colours of the ocean wash over this room giving it a serene yet exciting decor.

openness, as well as designing with sensitivity to the lush surroundings of the home, and allowing these to contribute to the inner ambience.

Manish explains this process the best when he says –

“Being a typical apartment in the crowded urban jungle of Mumbai, the need was to emphasis the size of the house. Moving the internal walls in the line of the beam in

Bright and checkered wardrobe laminate patterns add flavour to this bedroom.



places to create the much needed depth in the living room was achieved by our planning, thus enlarging the living space.

The house is located within Tata Institute of Social Sciences compound, off Sion-Trombay Road in Deonar (an eastern suburb of Mumbai). With a beautiful, mountainous view around and a lot of greenery, functional provisions of insect proof windows required to be installed, provided without disturbing the view. Extra care has been taken to take care of all the needs, while giving a view from each sitting space of the house.”



Large, clean and simple - this bath uses the yellow pinstripe to give the room a fresh, lemony feel



The pinstripe and the lavender are a great combination - both used to demarcate different areas in the confined space



Green is both a soothing as well as an invigorating colour at the same time. This young room is set to energize the occupant.

Reed green texture and colour is ideal for a bathroom - it gives it a fresh and clean appearance.



Sunny, smart, functional - all these adjectives best describe this well planned and laid out kitchen with large window space.



Simple settings and classical displays make this space an area which holds the eye and allows it to wander over the individual pieces at length.

- Ar. Manish Dikshit
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