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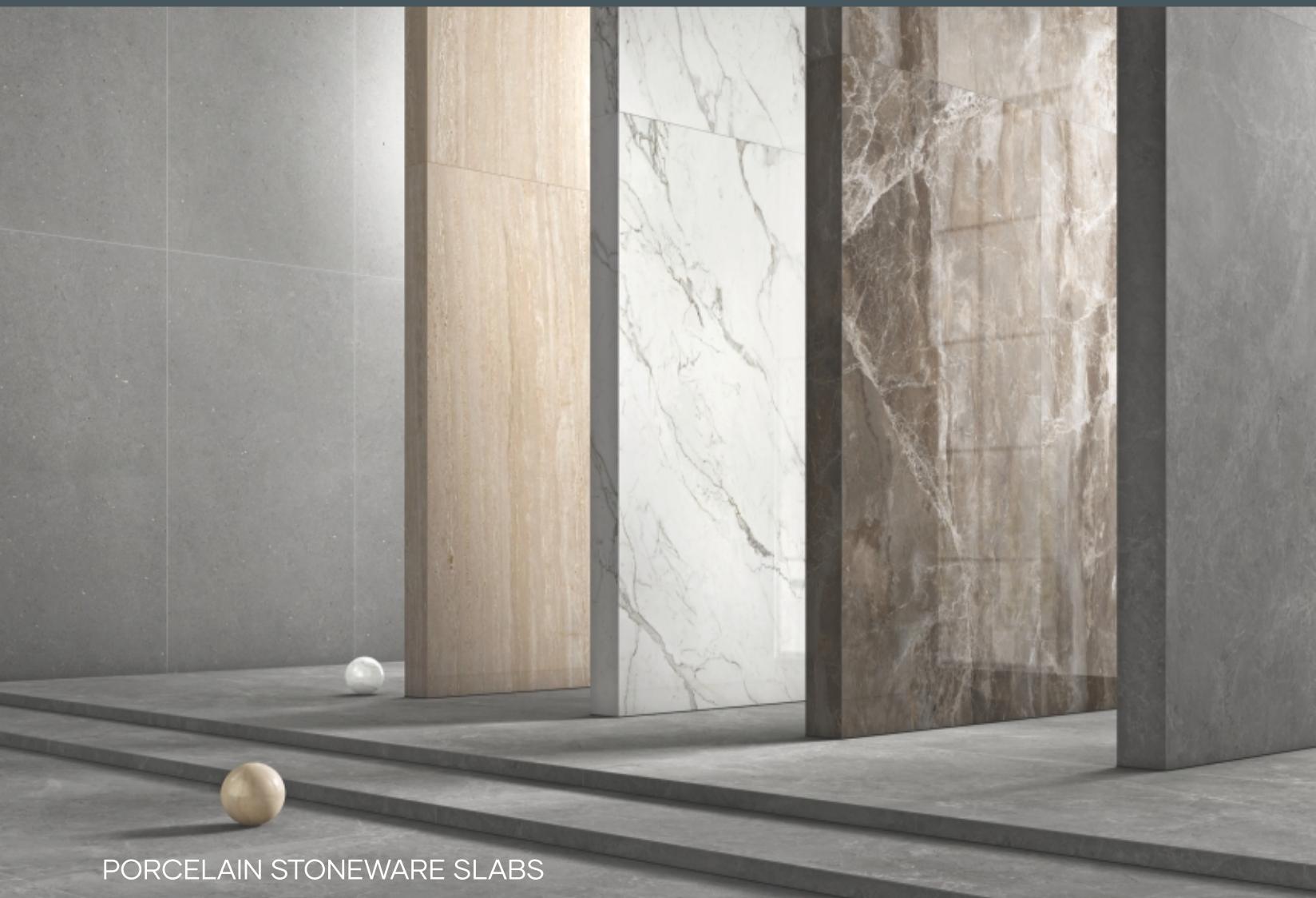
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GLITZ

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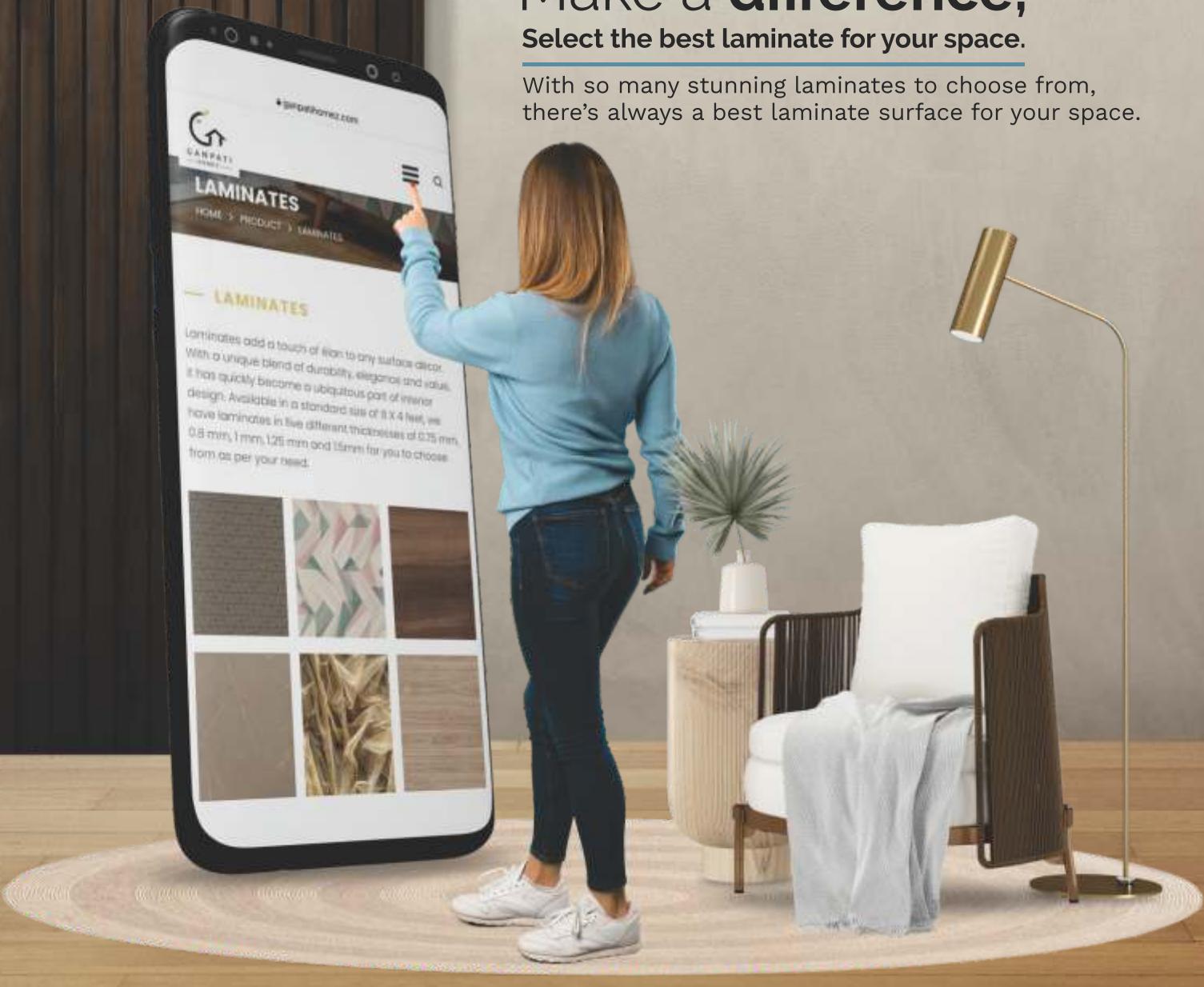
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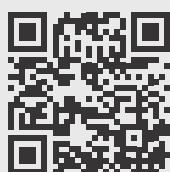
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From the editor

The famous German poet and director Johann Wolfgang von Goethe once said- "I call architecture frozen music." The projects featured in the June 2023 issue, with their harmonious designs, rhythmic geometries and artful accents, truly abide by the saying.

GLITZ was honoured to be a part of the silver jubilee celebration of IIID Vadodara, along with its apex body IIID which is celebrating its 50 years of commencement. It was also a pleasure to cover the 5-day program supported by IIID Raipur which was an enterprise to encourage creative professionals, a platform for corporate enthusiasts and artsy aficionados.

OMA's Ellen van Loon and Giulio Margheri, for SolidNature, designed an installation that explores the journey of natural stone from its geological formation to the finished product.

GLITZ interacted with Italy's Simone Micheli whose professional activity includes architecture, interior design, graphics and visual communications.

Jay Thakkar of J Architects brings a high grade of craftsmanship, exposed finishes and rustic décor to the design of the Vadodara home, which shines on the cover of this issue. Outdoor views, indoor plants and ample natural light and ventilation enhance the natural ambience of the Nashik residence, a self-home design Shital Sakhala of Disha Architects.

Amrita Jena of Furnish ME Architects designs the Patna office using innovative, locally-available materials and fixtures that adapt to changing external scenarios. A neat and clean geometric form becomes the basic sustainable tool for the design development of the Noida office design by Kapil Razdan and Seema Pandey of Studio Arquite.

Artsy interiors, a warm colour palette and eye-catching accents come together at the Mumbai home designed by Shilpa Kabra & Rajat Kabra of The DesignBox. The design of the Kolkata fitness studio focuses on the relationship between the visible and the unexplored, a sleek design by Monica Khosla Bhargava of Kham Consultants.

The Raipur home design by Khushboo Kakkar of BASICS Studio is built on two levels that experiences seamless play of volumes and openings. The choice for the Bhubaneswar home was to opt for neutral tones with accents and textures on surfaces and pops of colour via furniture, accessories, and artwork, a design by Suman Mishra & Ashish Deo of NASCENCE.

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

Stay positive and stay connected.

Naresh K Singh
editor.glitz@gmail.com

Have you ever had to cope with sewer gas smell?

If you smell a noxious sewer-like odor inside your home, chances are it is sewer gas escaping from the drainage system. Sewer gas not only smells gross, the methane and bacteria it contains can be dangerous to your health, causing headaches or even more serious ailments. Even scarier, high concentrations of methane gas are combustible, which can cause an explosion. If you notice this distinctive foul odor, do not ignore it. The spread of sewer gases into the living spaces should be found out and fixed before occupants suffer ill health.



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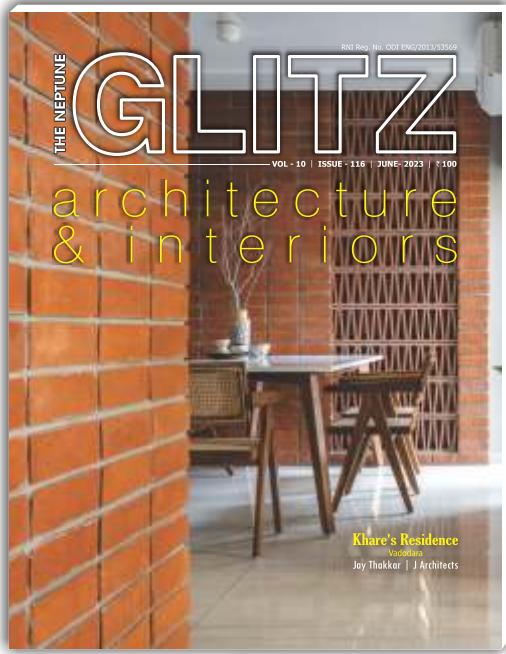
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Architects & Designers featured in this issue

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Simone Micheli

Jay Thakkar

Shital Sakhala

Amrita Jena

Kapil Razdan & Seema Pandey

Monica Khosla Bhargava

Shilpa Kabra & Rajat Kabra

Khushboo Kakkar

Suman Mishra & Ashish Deo

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Editorial Advisors



Soumyendu Shankar Ray

Soumyendu Shankar Ray has applied the design approaches he has taught for three decades, extensively in his practice -adventurous juxtaposition of the conventional and the cutting edge, and the conservative and the avant-garde. His work is striking in the exciting departures within disciplined geometries, and radical reinterpretations of the traditional aesthetic in contemporary materials. As former Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Biju Patnaik University of Technology, Odisha, and now the Director of the School of Architecture and Planning, KIIT University, he has consistently championed the contextualization of the architecture curriculum. □

Charanjit Singh Shah

Charanjit Singh Shah is an architect, planner & infrastructure expert with 5 decades of practice. He is an author, scholar, educationist, teacher, art & architecture critic practicing in creating sustainable green architecture. Prof Charanjit Singh Shah is the Founding Principal of Creative Group, Chairman of Smart Habitat Foundation and a Senior Advisor to Assochem GEM. □



Ramprasad Akkisetty

Ramprasad Akkisetty is the Founder and Managing Director of Christopher Charles Benninger Architects established in 1994 at Pune. He has been in the creative space for the past two decades, leading one of India's premier architectural firms and promoting South Asia's cultural milieu. As a Managing Director he has taken the small firm to Brand CCBA that stands today as an inspiration for young architecture practices that are seeking inspiration and creative innovation in the Sub Continent. □



Tushar Sogani

Tushar Sogani graduated in architecture from Malaviya Regional Engineering College, Jaipur, a pioneer & trend setter in modern high rise development for not only commercial spaces but also innovative residential buildings. He is the Chairman IIA, Rajasthan Chapter, Chairman Assoham GEM Rajasthan Chapter, and the Chairman Arcasia Committee on Green & Sustainable Architecture (ACGSA). □



Debatosh Sahu

Debatosh Sahu graduated in Architecture from the then BE College, Shibpur, West Bengal & did Masters in Urban Design from the Jadavpur University in the year 1989. Started the career working for the market driven architecture and slowly and steadily moved towards working for market driving architecture which is environment responsive and is built upon low carbon footprint. Ar. Debatosh Sahu is one of the Founder Partner and Principal Architect of "Espace" started at Kolkata in 1994, is now one of the leading architectural firms of the country. He is a Council Member of IIA, Chairman Assochem GEM, West Bengal Chapter and the past Chairman of ACGSA, 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. □



Samiran Banik

Samiran Banik, has studied architecture from Jadavpur University, Kolkata, but completed his graduation from The Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (R.I.A.I). A visionary designer, formulated the artistic architecture of participative design and believes in architecture that has the power of transforming lives and transgressing boundaries. A distinguished interior architect, planner, interior & landscape designer and a writer he considers art and architecture timeless. □

Sandeep Kumar Jha

Sandeep Kumar Jha, Architect and Urban Planner, graduated from School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi in 1994 and did his Masters in Urban Planning from BIT Mesra. He founded his firm "AXIS" at Ranchi. He has been a visiting faculty member at the Dept. of Architecture, BIT Mesra. He is the founding Chairman of the Jharkhand Chapter of The Indian Institute of Architects. His field of interest is sustainable, Vernacular Architecture and its Contemporary adaptations. □





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CONTENTS

ISSUE-116 | JUNE - 2023

08 From the editor

12 Editorial Advisors

82 Subscribe Today

EPISODE

26

IID Vadodara, Vadodara

IID is celebrating its 50 years of existence while its Vadodara chapter completed 25 years

28

Mutual Grounds, IID Raipur

A 5-day program combining the idea of exploring and experiencing



30

SPOTLIGHT

30

Beyond the Surface, Italy

A textural, educating and intriguing exhibition installation

Ellen van Loon & Giulio Margheri | OMA



FACE-TO-FACE

36

Simone Micheli, Italy

Knowing more about his creations' strong identity and uniqueness

Simone Micheli | Simone Micheli Architectural Hero



42

PROJECTS

42

Khare's Residence, Vadodara

A rustic material palette with two colour tones

Jay Thakkar | J Architects

48

Cloud 9, Nashik

A sense of openness unfolds on stepping into the residence

Shital Sakhala | Disha Architects

54

GSK Zonal Office, Patna

Defining the client, their brand and their work stylishly

Amrita Jena | Furnish ME Architects



48



54



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CONTENTS

ISSUE-116 | JUNE - 2023



PROJECTS

58

Arquite Office, Noida

Beyond rigid rules of traditional monofunctional offices
Kapil Razdan & Seema Pandey | Studio Arquite

64

Contemporary Luxury, Mumbai

For a modern Indian family rooted in traditions
Shilpa Kabra & Rajat Kabra | The DesignBox

70

The Camp, Kolkata

A fitness studio where brutalism and function come together
Monica Khosla Bhargava | Kham Consultants

74

Swarna Home, Raipur

An interplay of art and texture, embodying a minimalist aesthetic
Khushboo Kakkar | BASICS Studio

78

Akash Villa, Bhubaneswar

A residence that defines vibrancy and subtle opulence
Suman Mishra & Ashish Deo | NASCENCE



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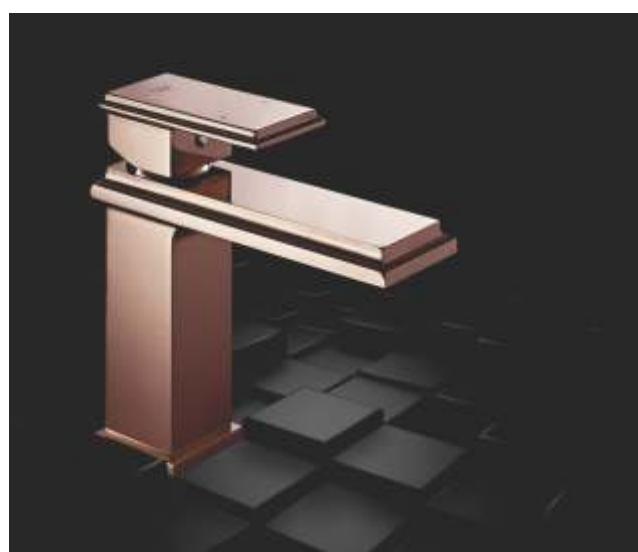


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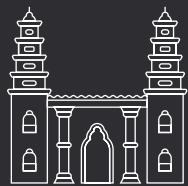
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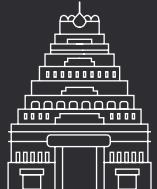
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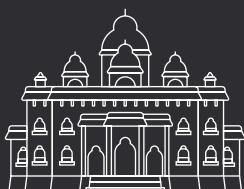
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IID is celebrating its 50 years of existence while its Vadodara chapter completed 25 years (silver jubilee) on 17th May 2023. IID Vadodara Regional chapter is a part of bigger apex body having architects, interior designers, consultants, civil and interior contractors, traders and students as its members. The apex body, Indian Institute of Interior Designers (IID) is a national body comprising of 32 chapters/centres pan India.

Currently headed by Birju Dikshit, the Vadodara chapter has witnessed the leadership of Karan Grover, Dipen Gada, Rahul Dalvi, Hitesh Modi and Anirudha Dehade. It works towards building fellowship with community and enhancing knowledge through lecture series. For fellowship, it organises events like IDL cricket tournament and family picnics and to enhance knowledge events like Abhigyanam (knowledge series) where a prominent

Celebrating Oneness

IID VADODARA CHAPTER





Indian architect is invited to share his knowledge and experience through presentation and Sparshan, where they walk along with guest architect on his site to gain knowledge through feel and touch.

The glimpses are of one of such knowledge series where Dhananjay Shinde from Nasik and Sandeep Shikre from Mumbai were the guest speakers, of which one works on basic material palette while other on high rise, but both are based on sustainability and going green. Usually duo speakers are invited working in two very different philosophies in life. In the past too, they had a duo of Uday Andhare and Anand Menon from Mumbai where one talked about building with lime while the other on high end projects.

The chapter constantly tries to work for the betterment of the fraternity and shall continue the same in future by incorporating various programmes and reinforcing the present ones. ☺



Episode

Designers' Retreat

You live some. You learn some.

Mutuals curated their very first Architects and Interior Designer retreat in Goa in association with Basics Architecture, Meraki & Co., Studio Anjor, and Swapnil Jaggi Architects.

The residency program was supported by IIID Raipur Centre and co-sponsored by A-class Marbles and Aquant India. The 5-day residency program was hosted in a beautiful architecturally conceptualized villa in Goa with an exclusive count of 15 attendees.

The group included students, professionals, artists, and more who were associated with the architectural and design industry. The retreat came with a lot of adversity



Pen and Ink by Khushboo Kakkar



Textures with Asian by Basics Architecture, Khushboo Kakkar

since everyone came from various parts of the country Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chhattisgarh, Goa, and more.

These 5 days were filled with various workshops, sessions, activities, and excursions curated to focus on uplifting the skills of a designer.





Music Abstraction Therapy by Vaibhav Shivedasani



Drawing design inspiration from Travel by Swapnil Jaggi

From Pen and Ink sessions to defining textures to documenting space to music abstraction therapy to taking travel inspiration in the design and to branding and communication in the market; the program was filled with insightful events.



Documenting Spaces by Anmol Shrishrimal



Branding and Communication for Designers by Maheroo butt

They indulged in a lot of conversations that will help people develop better interpersonal relationships, communication skills, emotional quotient, observation and execution of ideas, address their vulnerabilities, get out of their comfort zone, and experience the real world. ☺



Documenting a Voyage

Milan, Italy

Photograph by Marco Cappelletti, Courtesy of OMA and SolidNature

For its second participation at the Milan Design Week, SolidNature commissioned OMA to design an installation that explores the journey of natural stone from its geological formation to the finished product.

Located in the 19th-century Casa Maveri in the Brera District, the exhibition is divided in two sections: an underground sequence of





rooms showcasing the processes through which stone is formed, extracted and processed; and an open-air collection of stone furniture in the palazzo's garden, designed by invited artists.

“This year's exhibition is about nature's power; it gives an impression of the processes of compression and solidification that led to the formation of natural stone as we know it today.”

Ellen van Loon, Partner, OMA





“ The installation gives a taste of the different potential treatments, applications and approaches of designing with natural stone.”

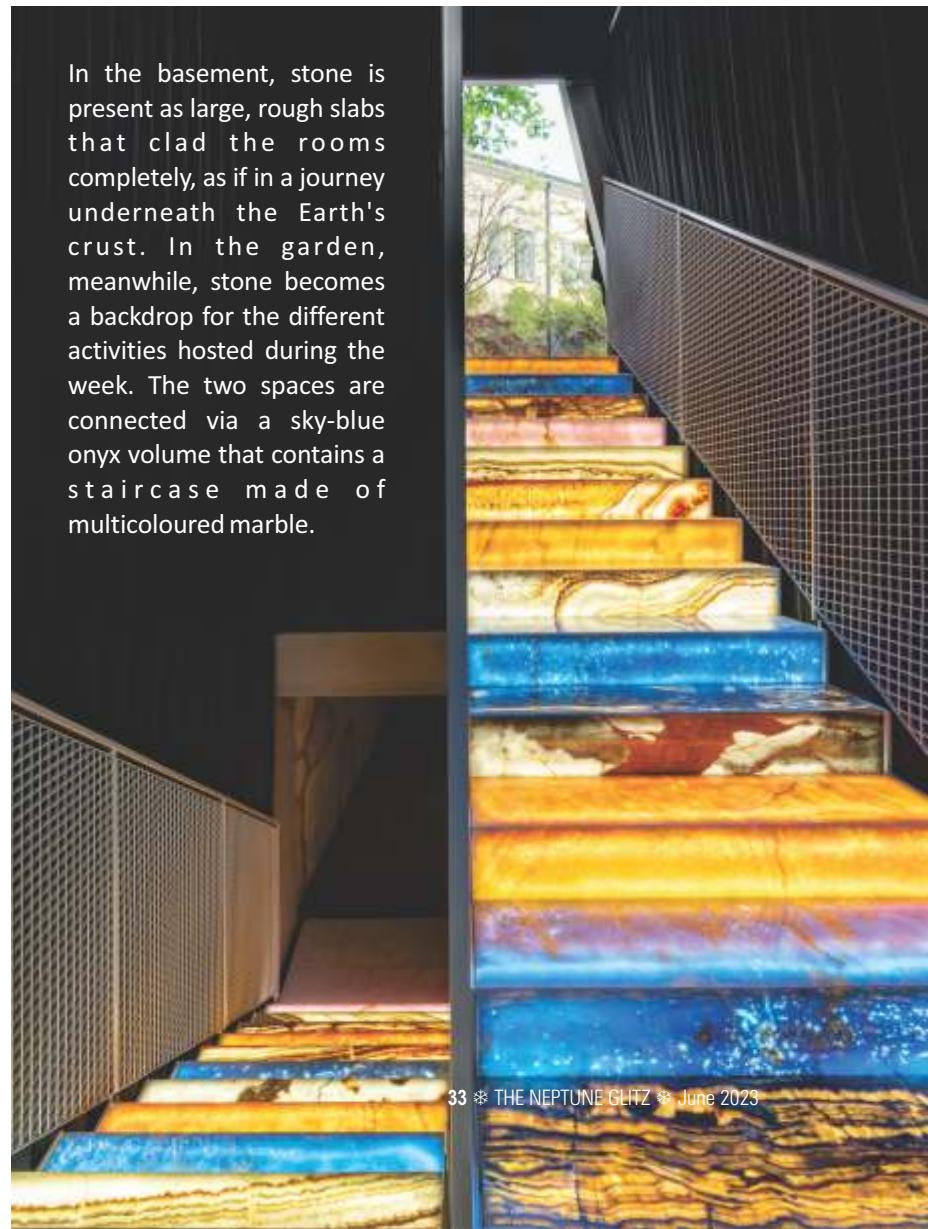
Giulio Margheri, Associate, OMA



FACT FILE:

Name of Project : Beyond the Surface
Project Type : Exhibition
Location : Milan, Italy
Area : 500 sqm.
Year : 2023
Client : SolidNature
Designers : Ellen van Loon and Giulio Margheri
Photograph : by Marco Cappelletti,
Courtesy of OMA and SolidNature

OMA is an international practice operating within the traditional boundaries of architecture and urbanism. AMO, a research and design studio, applies architectural thinking to domains beyond. OMA is led by eight partners – Rem Koolhaas, Reinier de Graaf, Ellen van Loon, Shohei Shigematsu, Iyad Alsaka, Chris van Duijn, Jason Long, and Managing Partner-Architect David Gianotten – and maintains offices in Rotterdam, New York, Hong Kong, Doha, and Australia. AMO often works in parallel with OMA's clients to fertilize architecture with intelligence from this array of disciplines.



In the basement, stone is present as large, rough slabs that clad the rooms completely, as if in a journey underneath the Earth's crust. In the garden, meanwhile, stone becomes a backdrop for the different activities hosted during the week. The two spaces are connected via a sky-blue onyx volume that contains a staircase made of multicoloured marble.



“ We are excited to be working with Ellen and Giulio again for the second installation of our presence in Milan, and to continue to develop our longstanding relationship with OMA.”

David Mahyari, CEO, SolidNature



SolidNature is in pursuit of monumental wonder. This expresses their constant search, fearless focus and endless curiosity to reveal the treasures of the earth. Founded in 2011, this boutique natural stone and design brand is renowned for creating luxury interiors and exteriors for high-profile projects around the world. They make the impossible possible through experience, creativity and ingenuity, working with some of the most influential names in design, fashion and culture.

Beyond the Surface follows on from Monumental Wonders, SolidNature's first installation designed by OMA, which took place at Alcova during Milan Design Week 2022. 





Tete-a-Tete

In 1990, Simone Micheli founded the architectural studio with his name and in 2003 he founded the Design Company "Simone Micheli Architectural Hero". His works of architecture, contract, interior design, exhibit design, graphic and communication are strictly linked to the world of the sensorial glorification. He takes care of experimental events for some of the most qualificated international fairs. He shows his projects in the most important world-wide exhibitions about architecture and design.

In Conversation with **Simone Micheli**

Simone Micheli Architectural Hero, Italy

In a special interaction with Kritika Juneja for GLITZ, Simone Micheli talks about his design philosophies, inspirations, ideas and projects. Excerpts are here...

G So, to begin with, could you tell us about your early brush with architecture?

How has your background and upbringing influenced your design principles? How did the name Architectural Hero come about, what inspired it?

Immediately after graduating in architecture I started my design research linked to expressiveness and



Kritika Juneja

Ar. Kritika Juneja an Architecture Journalist with GLITZ architecture & interiors magazine and Founder Arch Valor, has an aim to bridge the gap between creator and the creations, thus uplifting art, architecture and critics and Tete-a-Tete with architects is yet another step to develop a cross-cultural dialogue and bring the local architects, artists across the globe and their philosophies to light.





Architectural Hero is the portrait of our doing: we fight day after day with systems, stereotypical intellectual logics, and public administrations to allow the realized project to remain in perfect coherence with the project dream.

content with the desire to build a path full of uniqueness and wonder. My intellectual roots are linked to my father and mother, immersed in the world of art, to Giovanni Michelucci and Bruno Zevi, my real mentors, known during my university studies, to my spasmodic love for Renaissance artists.

The name of the company founded by me and my wife Roberta in 2003, Simone Micheli





Q What is your idea of good design?

The concept of good design is form and function that are perfectly interpenetrated, from an ergonomic and aesthetic point of view. The integration of function with form, and vice versa, leads to a deep understanding of the creative flow, a complete fusion between the parts that allows obtaining an object tending to perfection.

Q It seems as though you have a lot of hotel projects under your belt, what drives your choice of projects?

My design choice is always connected to the idea of creating works of art capable of transforming "experience into memory". The main will is to qualify life through visions full of



distinctiveness, sustainability and consistency. The desire is to overcome the barriers of the known real and skip the prevailing stereotype.

G In general, what is your take on architecture that emerges from India as also the rest of the Asian countries?

Compared to other parts of the world, there are a lot of differences. When one architect relies on the project, the rules change, otherwise, the story is quite the same everywhere.

G How could you define luxury?

The luxury in the past was associated with precious materials such as gold, steel, marble. The luxury of today is completely different. The





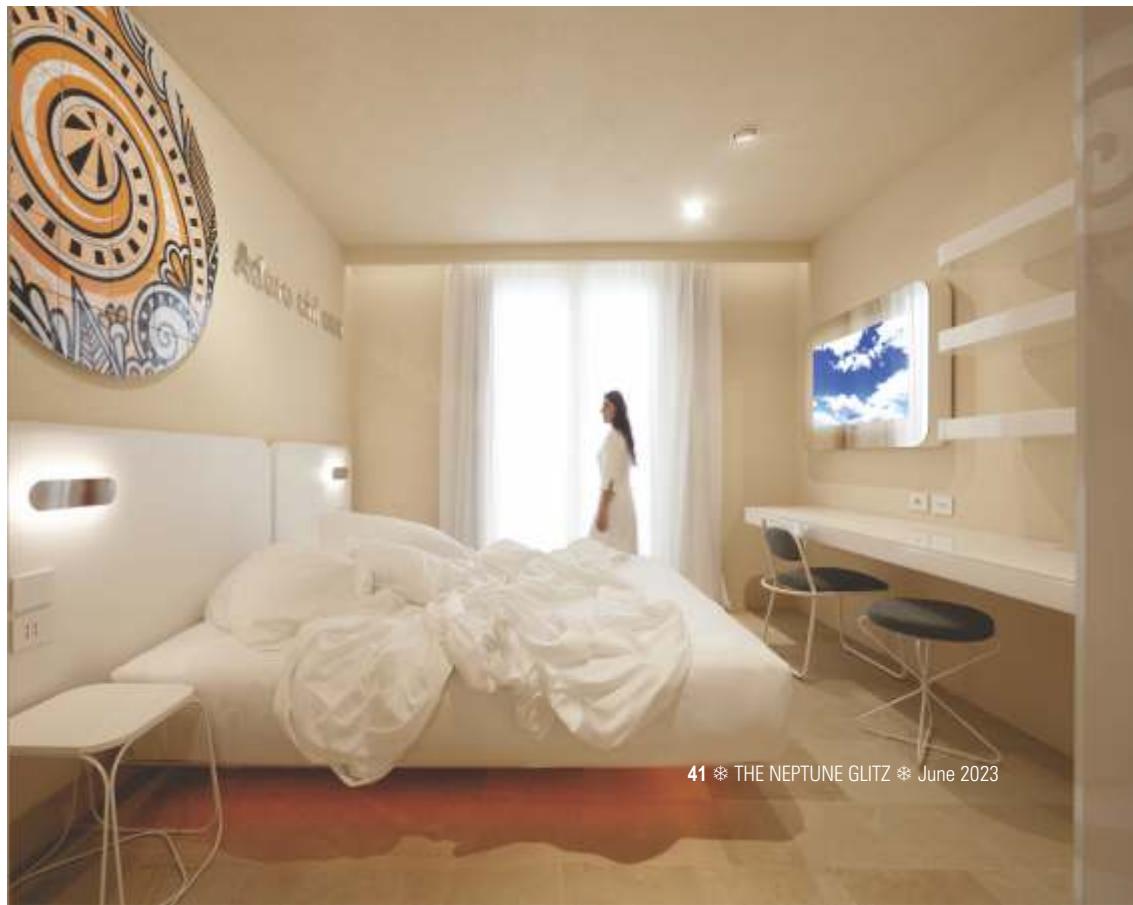
luxury of today is an expression of new relationships between man, space, and time. Considering that we have spent time together already, we decide to stay for one hour to conduct an interview and converse with each other, which is no less than luxury to me. Today, luxury is the time we choose to spend together, whether it is observing clouds in the sky, listening to the sound of the sea, watching a movie or practicing and improving my yoga.





Q How would you like the world to know you when you hang up your boots?

For my creation, I design it to remain in the minds of the people like simplicity, not to be seen as a big man. One of my primary ideas is to realize a project that transforms complexity into simplicity. So the most memorable story for me is that people remember me for my simplicity. ☺





A TALE IN TWO TONES

Gotri, Vadodara

Being an art enthusiast, the owner agreed upon a rustic look with a play of brick and clay jalis in subtle ways. Thus, the concept was narrowed down to an industrial material palette with not more than two colour tones.

Each area has a different vibe. One will be welcomed at the minimalist entrance by nine Clay men-inspired art pieces crafted by a local artisan with a backdrop of RCC textured wall. Layered with calming colours, earthy walls and custom-made rustic furniture, the living room





and dining room share a very similar vibe. The cactus green coloured sofa layered with mustard yellow cushions add a fresh hint of colour to the space.





All other furniture is customized in ply and wicker, the dining with Corian table top. This space blends beautifully with the single-toned kitchen finished with acrylic sheets and black lacquered glass shutters with black profiles.

Since there was no provision for a pooja room, the store room connected to the kitchen was converted into a pooja room. Its entry was shifted to the front side after diverting the main electrical line which ran through the front wall. The glass door was then flushed with the fluted paneling on the wall. The mandir console finished with a Corian top was given an aesthetic backdrop of Kalakarihaath wallpaper.





The owner wished to take the brick concept to his bedroom as well; hence, the master bedroom has a very strong identity. Following the no wooden flooring brief, the existing wood finish tiles were changed to RCC texture finished ones. Complementing the exposed brick walls, the study, dressing unit and TV ledge were interestingly designed with a metal framework and zero wall paneling. Collaborating with yet another local artisan, the striking wicker bed was made to order and surprisingly painted grey to maintain the colour palette. The wardrobe was designed similarly.





The main idea for the son's room was to make it timeless yet playful enough for his age. After many samples, a perfect light blue colour was finalised. The study space has a fascinating display wall with storage. Keeping it single-toned, the wardrobe, the TV ledge and the study unit are all painted in the same blue colour but the backdrop is RCC textured continuing the primary concept.



FACT FILE:

Name of Project	:	Khare's Residence
Project Type	:	Residential
Location	:	Gotri, Vadodara
Year	:	2022
Area	:	2000 sqft.
Design Firm	:	J Architects
Principal Architect	:	Jay Thakkar
Design Team	:	Jay Thakkar, Kruti Shah, Ashini Desai
Photographer	:	Murtaza Gandhi



Jay Thakkar

J-Architects have made their mark in the city with a distinguished portfolio of projects in various scales and typologies. Founder and principal designer of the firm, Jay Thakkar is very determined with his concepts- minimalism, proportions and clean straight lines. His priority has always been understanding his clients, then their needs and delivering a design which fits their budget and not what he wants them to have. He believes that anybody can design, but only an architect can design with a plan. He promises intelligent guidance to his clients, ensuring their spaces are straightforward yet unique and yearn for timelessness.

The two guest bedrooms were briefed to be different from the ongoing theme and so different material palettes can be witnessed. One room is designed in a rich olive green tone with monochromatic kitkat highlighter tiles for the headboard. The other can be seen in bold black satin paint and veneer finish making it stand out. ☺

Courtesy: J Architects



Simple, Sustainable & Striking

• Nashik

Cloud 9 is a residential project of a stand-alone building in the waterfront area of Nashik. Cloud 9 is of ground plus eight floors and of one-floor one-residence concept. As it spans nine levels in all and offers a holistic living environment, it was named Cloud 9. The west face of the building has an interesting façade created by the attractive scheme of the terraces and railings of each floor; the other sides have simple concrete finished facades; and each four-bedroom flat has spacious light-filled, well-ventilated interiors.

Eight families, known to each other, took up residence in Cloud 9 in a spirit of community living while enjoying their own private homes. Shital designed one flat as his family home and this residence echoes the essence of the building's architectural ethos and integrates the spirit of sustainability in its interiors.

In keeping with the city's fast growing profile, Shital designed Cloud 9 with contemporary lines



and in response to the riverfront site he designed it to offer views of the river and city from sit-outs, terraces and balconies; enjoy ample natural light and ventilation (achieved by large windows); and integrate nature as a part of the living experience through outdoor and indoor landscaping.

The building's mass and window openings were shaped and sized to best capture the breeze to optimize the cooling effect. Each flat has a large cantilevered deck that offers a panoramic view of the city and mitigates heat gain.

The construction used green materials to integrate sustainable features into the structure. Among them are the use of AAC blocks, an electrical solar grid, solar reflective tiles for high heat reflectance on terrace, double glazed windows, permeable paving and rain water harvesting for ground water recharge.

The ethos of the architecture extends into the interiors of Sakhala's residence to creatively address the requirements of members of three generations of the family. All spaces of the apartment are planned considering norms of



Vastushastra, have modern amenities, and have been planned by minimizing the use of materials and dependence on artificial lights and air-conditioning.





A sense of openness unfolds on stepping into the residence. Spacious contiguous living, dining and kitchen areas; a pooja room with an adjoining foyer and projecting deck; four spacious bedrooms with attached walk-in areas, well-equipped bathrooms and terrace or balcony offer well-thought common and private areas. The drainage and air-conditioning services are routed in toilet duct shafts, facilitating ease of maintenance and approach.



The floor space has been maximized by minimizing passages. A simple material and colour palette, and artwork has been created on-site with use of leftover material such as tiles, plywood and veneer, has minimized the use of materials. In addition, decorative elements have been done away way and materials such as concrete slabs have been left bare and minimal creating a warm, raw, organic ambience and modernistic aesthetic in the interiors.

The views of the city, river, mountains and sky; the presence of plants; and most of all the ample natural light and ventilation enhances the natural ambience, with artificial lighting required only after sunset. Natural light washes across the exposed walls and creates a play of lines when falling through the fins/slats creates an atmospheric ambience in the interiors.



While a common ethos of grey flooring and walls defines the interiors, each room is distinguished by its distinctive details of materials, colour palette, artefacts, furniture and furnishings, accent walls featuring art by local artisans or artists and ample storage to keep spaces uncluttered. The living room has a splash of orange infusing it with verve, the parent's bedroom is done up in beige and brown tones,



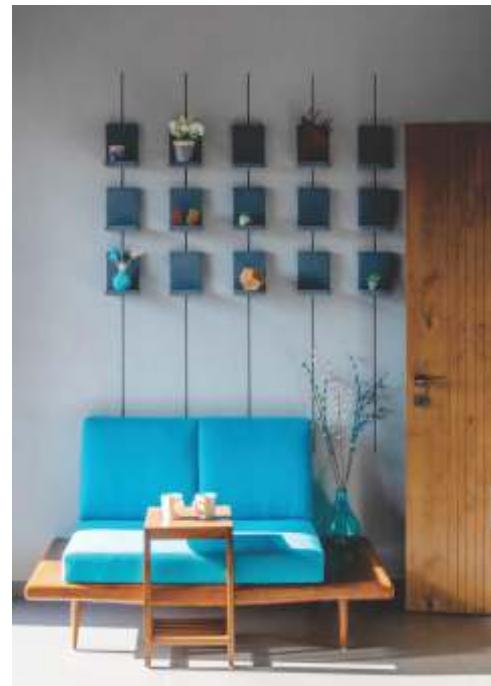
FACT FILE:

Name of Project	:	Cloud 9
Project Type	:	Residential
Location	:	Nashik
Area	:	25,000 sqft.
Year	:	2022
Design Firm	:	Disha Architects
Principal Architect	:	Shital Sakhala





the master bedroom with yellow, the daughter's bedroom with peacock blue hues and the son's bedroom with a pastel green tint. Of the wall art, a spiraling circle with a meditative aura painted in the master bedroom and philosophical phrases engraved on the ceiling of the son's bedroom stand out most.





Shital Sakhala

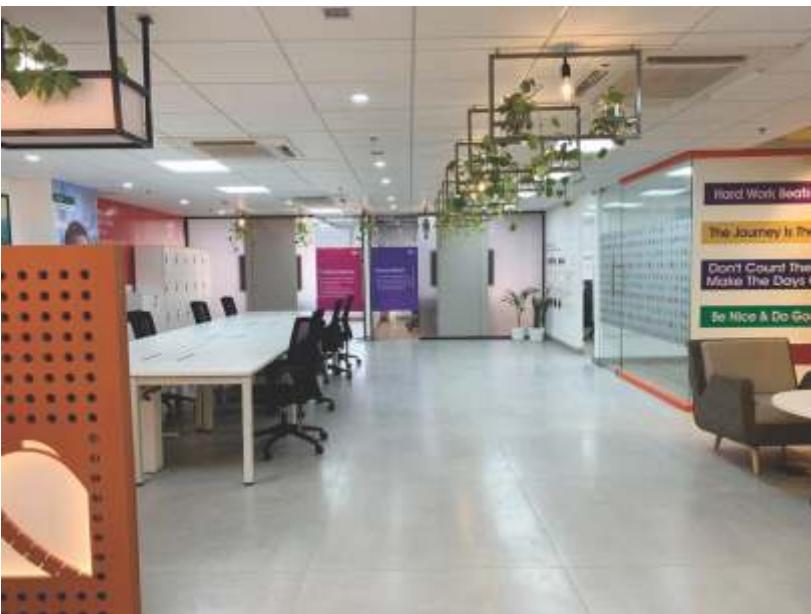
"We design buildings and spaces with a contemporary minimalist expression. We prefer spaces with a sense of openness and filled with natural light and ventilation. We make maximum functional use of space and minimize carbon footprint. For us, it is essential to integrate functionality with aesthetics, while respecting the client's budget. This philosophy is reflected in form, function and expression in Cloud 9."

The kitchen dons a sleek look with a smart breakfast counter with an overhang partition unit and glass panel for privacy, neat counters and cabinets for gadgets. Walnut wood veneer is used as a contrast with the grey texture paint for the major areas in the house. Patterned tiles have been used in the passages to elevate the experience of moving between spaces. ☺

Courtesy: Disha Architects



Project



Dealt Deftly

Patna

The designers, for the office space, wanted to create something that defines the client, their brand and their work but allocates their office contextually. The space had to bear the binary responsibilities of making the office an inviting workplace for the employees.

The brief and aim was to create an open concept office where team - and community-building was crucial. With vibrant colours and wall art, the designers have tried to

capture the co-existence of Bihar's aesthetics and culture. The cafeteria wall represents the rich heritage motifs arts and culture of Madhubani art, a sentimental art form of Bihar. The interior spaces were thoughtfully kept well lit to make them seem bigger and spacious.

Sustainable measures including the use of local materials, local arts and local folk was evident in the design





Amrita Jena

Amrita Jena, principal architect of the firm is practicing architecture under the practice name of Furnish ME Architects from past more than 6 years, having done almost 100-150 projects throughout 14 states across India, ranging from the field of healthcare, luxury residence and architecture, corporate projects and

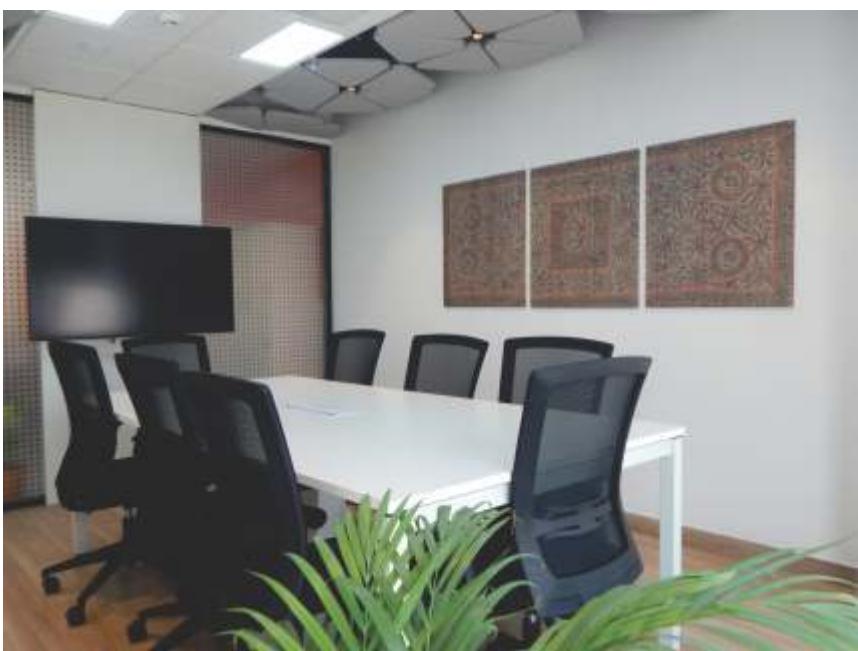
urban design projects including crematorium, temples etc. Her USP is to create something out of the box and to create something new which is not only cost-effective and sustainable but also solves the new challenges in future.



of the office space. In order to maintain indoor air quality, low-maintenance houseplants like areca palm and money plant are integrated in the design throughout the workspace, cafeteria and reception to reinforce the health and wellbeing of the healthcare client.

As part of building a cultural shift, 5 boxes with anger, sad, happy excited etc. were hung on the wall near the reception to depict their





mood, thereby implying mental well-being of the employees. The project's ability to adapt to changing external scenarios was enhanced by adding automated doors, smart fixtures etc. Innovative, locally-available materials were used in the project. ☺

Courtesy: Furnish ME Architects

FACT FILE:

Name of Project	:	Glaxo Smith Kline Zonal Office
Project Type	:	Corporate Office
Location	:	Patna
Area	:	3000 sqft.
Year	:	2021
Design Firm	:	Furnish ME Architects
Principal Designers	:	Amrita Jena
Design Team	:	Akshay Kapoor, Arqam Khan



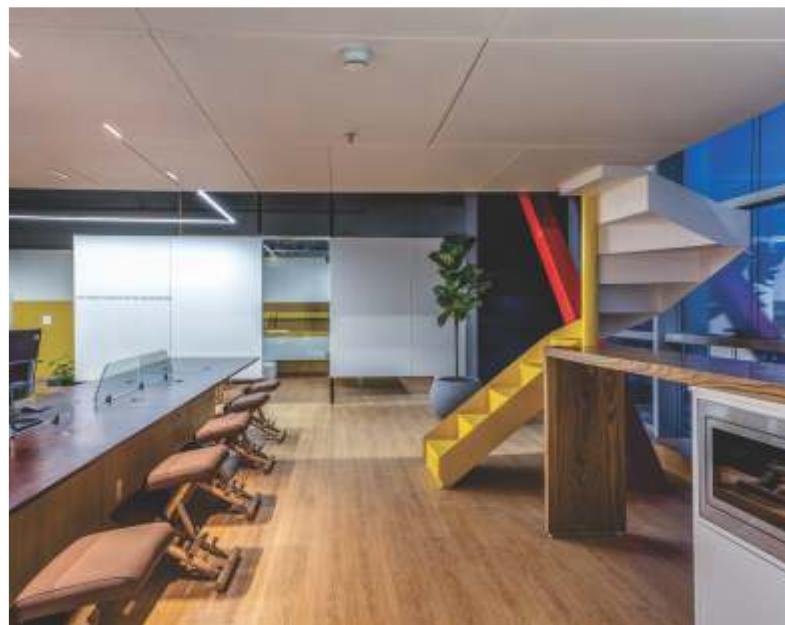


Aesthetics Meets Functionality

Noida

Studio Arquite's new Noida office corresponds to the next-generation entrepreneurial mindset that does not conform to the rigid rules of traditional monofunctional offices. By keeping it simple and adaptable to the employees' needs the office corresponds to the four principles – transparency, flexibility, sustainability, and minimalism, thereby decluttering spaces.

The play of proportions both at vertical and horizontal levels, a sincere dialogue between aesthetics of form and the practicality of function along with the simplicity of the material, all contributed to shaping the space.



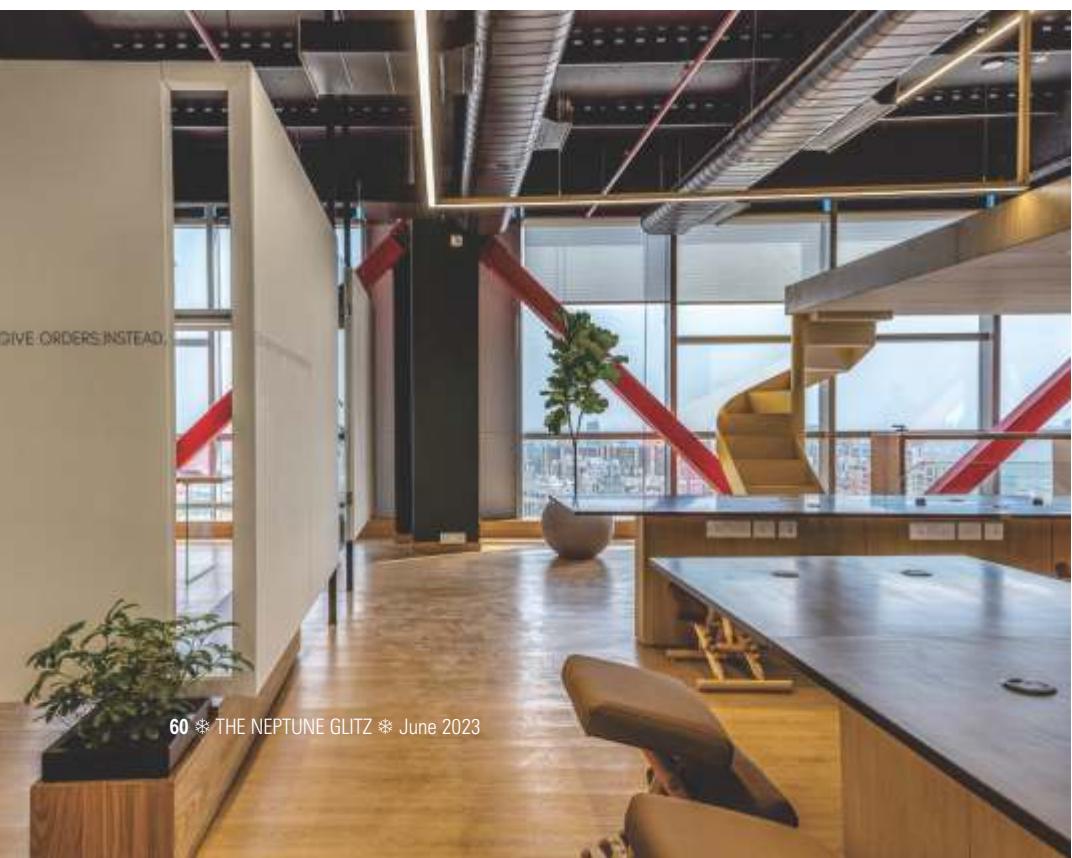
The 1500-square-feet floor plate differs from the typical cabin and cubicle design. It follows an open plan – in terms of layout, communication, and work too. Clean geometric forms become the basic sustainable tool for design development.

Large islands equipped as workstations anoint the office offering flexible seating, while comfortable cushioned stools substitute work chairs augmenting space. A multi-functional island anoints the mezzanine – a space for informal meetings or dining or an impromptu gathering. Besides, the layout accommodates a glass-encased conference room and a very un-executive executive room.





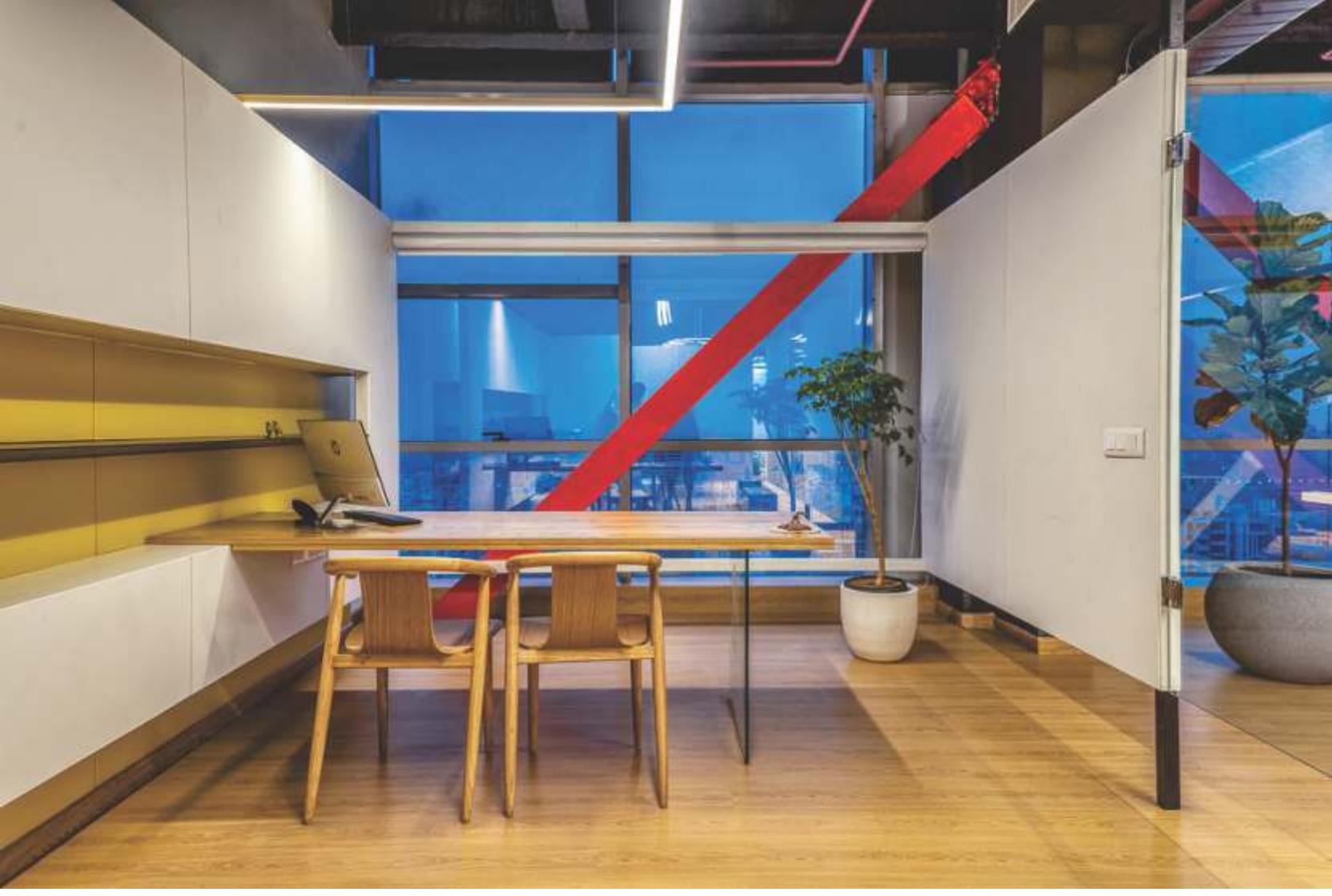
Floating pods, designed as rotund inserts, act as mini private spaces and constitute the highlight of the office. Not only do they break away from a traditional layout and infuse a fun element, but also become the cynosure of all eyes, adding an element of intrigue.





With spaces stylised to surrender to the adjoining city skyline, a beautiful interplay of light and shadow adds to a functional material palette of MDF and metal in the floating partitions, an all-wood flooring ensuring seamlessness, and tinted glazing on the large floor-to-ceiling windows with frosting at the level of the lintel.





FACT FILE:

Name of Project	:	Arquite Office
Project Type	:	Office
Location	:	Noida
Area	:	1500 sqft.
Design Firm	:	Studio Arquite
Principal Designers	:	Kapil Razdan and Seema Pandey
Text Credits	:	Kritika Juneja

Prioritising the right kind of energy to enhance productivity, primary hues like red and yellow highlight the raw industrial nature of the exposed structural members and add vibrancy to the otherwise neutral palette, whilst an





Kapil Razdan

As the brainchild of Kapil Razdan and Seema Pandey, Arquite is an eclectic fusion of global contemporary design and heritage art, melding the past and present beautifully to create a singular narrative for design in interiors and furnishings. Arquite is recognised as a multi-disciplinary design firm, specialising in delivering turnkey solutions and customized range of furniture and furnishings. Arquite's diverse and imaginative portfolio delivers interior design and consultancy services for varied types of projects.



exposed ceiling furthers the idea of transparency. A touch of quirk in the choice of light fittings adds an oomph factor.

The office stands out for its fluid layout, floating volumes, and keen sense of detail. Combined with minimal use of material, it defines functional aesthetics in the face of a fast-paced scenario where change is dynamic. 

Courtesy: Studio Arquite





Artsy Elegance

Lower Parel, Mumbai

An Indian home with a contemporary touch, this four-bedroom-hall-kitchen apartment at Indiabulls Sky strategically meets all the requirements of its inhabitants without compromising on aesthetics.

A modern space with pockets of traditional grace that speak volumes about the people who reside here, this apartment has been designed in a warm and woody colour palette that brings in a pleasing synergy. Bone inlay furniture - famous across India, marble carvings, mother-of-pearl elements and the use of vibrant colours complemented with warm tones, lend the house an inviting appearance. Colours have been used consciously to keep the place spirited but not too colourful while most of the furniture has been procured from across India, a key feature of their interiors.



The 24ft x 24ft living room – a perfect square, gave the architects room to experiment. But all the family wanted was space for more people and less furniture. So what you now see is a spacious room equipped with a projector screen and floating seating that can accommodate guests effortlessly. The windows on three sides have the most mesmerising views of the city, along with an eight-seater dining table, a cosy coffee nook and flexible seating space that allows for easy rotation, making this space comforting, to say the least. The coffee nook is neatly tucked away in a corner of the living room, with a marble-carved table top and high chairs that overlook the Bandra-Worli sea link. The perfect spot to sip coffee, unwind and relax, this secluded corner blends well with the rest of the interior adding a nonchalant symmetry to the space.





Shilpa Kabra & Rajat Kabra

The DesignBox is a young design firm led by Shilpa Kabra & Rajat Kabra and they endeavor to produce distinctive & functional spaces to fulfill every client's individual need & enhance the community. The founders challenge members of the firm to strive for professional excellence. The underlying philosophy which guides the team is the dedication and commitment to provide highly functional design solutions utilising quality materials in a creative and economical manner. As architects, they strive to improve the built environment, taking pride in each of their assignments.

The clients, who are a traditional Marwari family, had a very important and specific requirement of creating a 'Seva Room' that could house their beloved Lord Krishna's idols and other accessories. This room also needed to have a kitchen top, a sink and enough space to store things needed for their daily prayer meet. This requirement had the architect worked up for several days but the result is a fabulous and serene space that meets the prerequisites beautifully.

Another room that was tough to remodel was the unconventional kitchen which was strategically redesigned by separating the utility space to provide adequate space for every function without anything being intertwined.





The client was keen on keeping the bedrooms open and functional allowing enough room for daily activities. Thus, space planning and optimum utilisation of odd corners were a prerequisite.

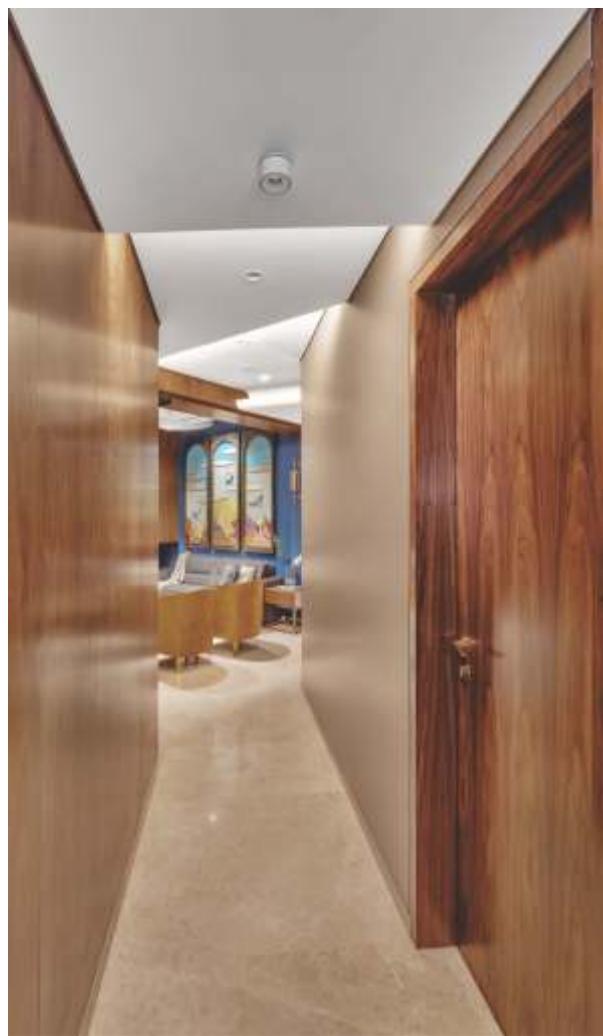
The bedrooms are designed using a lot of wood that lends a warm tonality to the space with minimal yet understated sophistication. The combination of beige, white and gold colours throughout the interiors makes the rooms look open and luxurious.

The client's teenage daughters demanded a colourful room which still needed to sync in with the interior of the rest of the house. Blush pink along with grey and yellow hues used intrinsically helped achieved the desired look and a trendy vibe, which is much appreciated.





The highlight of the house though is their eye-catching guest room- a well-planned area that was initially an oddly-shaped space resembling the letter 'Y'. This 'Y' started with the entrance of the house leading to a long passage, making it a boring walk to the bedrooms and sitting room situated on either side. A deliberate effort by the architect has resulted in a space that adds a pop of colour to a rather toned-down aesthetic. With bright blue walls and a contemporary art piece that depicts a gorgeous sunrise, this space is now the family's most occupied and cherished space. A TV room that artfully converts





FACT FILE:

Name of Project :	Contemporary Luxury
Project Type :	Residential
Location :	Lower Parel, Mumbai
Area :	2250 sqft.
Year :	2021
Design Firm :	The DesignBox
Design Team :	Shilpa Kabra & Rajat Kabra
Photographer :	Shilpa Kabra

into a guest bedroom through an 11.5 ft. single sliding shutter that camouflages seamlessly into its surroundings, this is the most creatively-inclined space designed with a great sense of style.

The designers, Shilpa & Rajat, responsible for the

transformation of this space into a gorgeous home for a modern Indian family rooted in traditions, state, "This house has a well-defined place for every activity which makes it the house of one's dreams". Truly then, the artsy interiors, warm colour palette and wonderful accents are only the cherries on top of the cake that make it even more desirable. ☺

Courtesy: The DesignBox



Amp It Up!

Kolkata

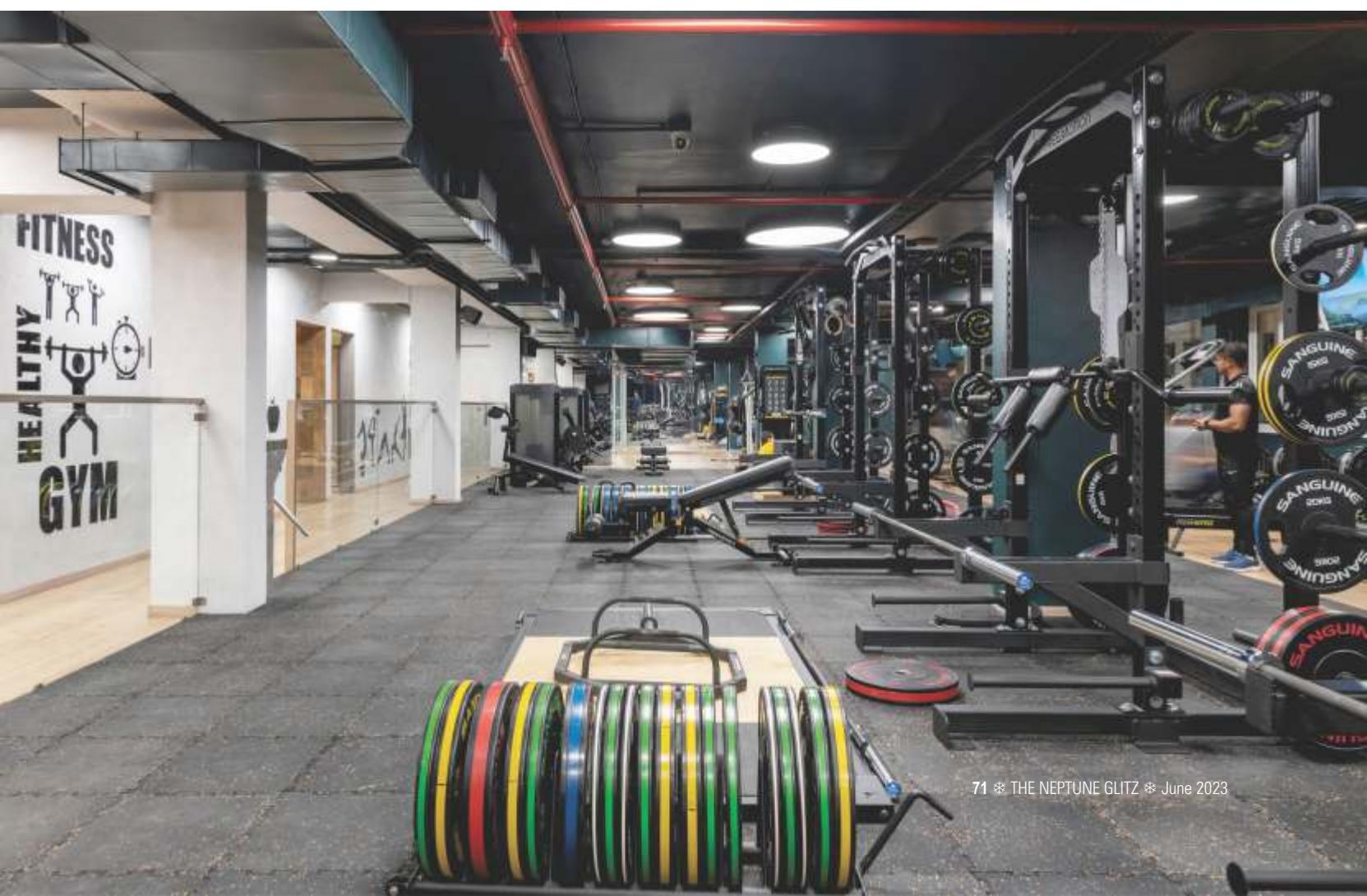


A brutalist and functional aesthetic is used to design 'The Camp', which like its name, is not just a mainstream fitness studio. Fitted with the best equipment, ranging from those essential for professional athletes to those which can be adjusted to a wheelchair user, it is a holistic health club for those who train for overall mind and body fitness.

The design focuses on the relationship between the visible and the unexplored. To the eye, the 5000 sqft space seems expansive on entering, but the workout arena

is clearly demarcated from the service zone, not just by the glass fence and turnstile entry- but through architectural detailing. The materials, colour and textures divide the areas, with the workout zone in forest green and a starry black rubberised floor, distinctively standing out as the raw, minimalist aesthetic. In comparison, the reception lobby, consultation chamber and changing rooms are in a contrasting lighter concrete texture with intermittent graphic elements. The floor and furniture, in warm elegant oak also contrast with the activity zone. This same sense of elegance and calm is extended to the yoga studio which also multi functions as a space for pre-natal, post-natal sessions and dance.







Larger than life images of Superman and Wonder woman printed on glass, form the graphics distinguishing the men and women's changing rooms. The icons aren't selected arbitrarily- they depict the strength and vitality that people are capable of harnessing. Strength is also depicted through materials like ropes used to design the reception table and a rock wall as the backdrop.

Light is a huge source of energy and is an important design element in this space. While natural light from the large windows on the east and west walls is adequate during the day-





Monica Khosla Bhargava

Architect, Urban Designer, Artist and Theoretician, Monica Khosla Bhargava is a contemporary architect who has been innovational in the fields of Architecture, Urban Design and Interiors. The design approach at Kham is strongly driven by ideas and theoretical insights, particularly about the city, habitat, time and detail. The firm's vast experience in architecture, interior and urban design has created a rostrum for inter-disciplinary elements of built environment professions including climate, landscape, installation art, civil and structural engineering to move towards a sustainable and holistic architecture.

more importantly, the design of artificial lights is notable, in its attempt to create a glare free environment.

FACT FILE:

Name of Project	:	The Camp
Project Type	:	Fitness Studio
Location	:	Kolkata
Built-up Area	:	5000 sqft.
Design Firm	:	Kham Consultants
Principal Designer	:	Monica Khosla Bhargava
Photographer	:	PHX India

This's imperative in a gym where workouts involve lying on your back and looking at the ceiling. The circular diffused lights in varying sizes placed randomly also form an interesting roof pattern.

The overall design reflects the proactive attitude of the fitness studio, expressing its strength and inclusivity- at the same time continuing to motivate and engage its audience. 

Courtesy: Kham Consultants





Mindful & Minimalist Raipur

The Swarna home is a conversation between art and tradition. The pale washes of white and pops of green create and interplay between visual art and texture that embodies a quaint minimalistic aesthetic. The home is built on two levels that experiences seamless play of volumes and openings.

One side of the entrance foyer is a living space that has been done up in hues of grey and green layered with burnt tones of wood. The furniture includes a sectional sofa in emerald with a centre table stained in black and brushed brass. The clean lines at the back with handmade panels highlighted in gold complete the backdrop of the sitting space. The geometrical partition bifurcates the living and dining space.







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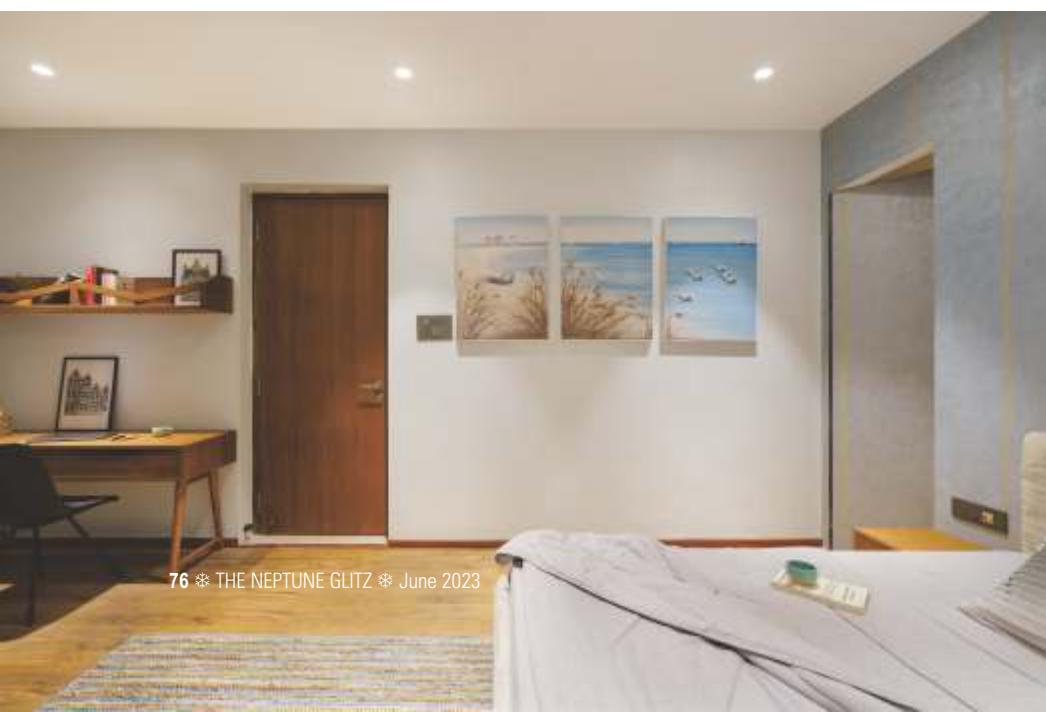
Name of Project : Swarna Home
Project Type : Residential
Location : Raipur
Area : 3000 sqft.
Year : 2022
Design Firm : BASICS Studio
Principal Designer: Khushboo Kakkar
Photographer : Siddhesh Shah
Photography



Khushboo Kakkar

BASICS Studio are a team of young design enthusiasts with expertise at different aspects and a mutual inclination towards sustainability, materials that are environmentally safe, creating an experience with their design rather than flooding an empty space with various materials and forms.

The team focuses on taking inspiration from the past i.e. practicality, building for the present i.e. the context, surrounding, and client requirements, and sustaining into the future with the use of sustainable building materials so that a building can breathe reducing the carbon footprint.





The designers wanted the bedrooms to be imposing yet minimal. The parents' bedroom dons an all-beige aesthetic and opens to the outdoor landscape.

The master bedroom is an amalgamation of tropical elements and cosy layers. The showstopper of the room- the bed back wall- is an earth wall covering done inside the three arches. The opposite wall has a study space made out of solid wood and stained in green and blue.

Predominant use of sea green complements the soft furnishing in linen and light fixtures crafted in brass and glass balances the composition. 

Courtesy: BASICS Studio

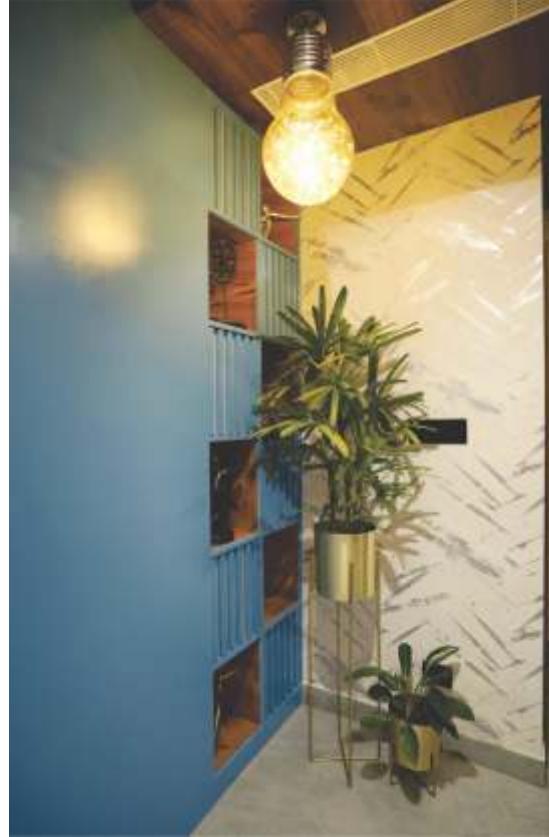


Exclusively Luxe

Bhubaneswar

Tucked away in the suburbs of Bhubaneswar, in a newly developed condominium complex, the project is a sprawling family home that packs a punch and is a picture of modern luxury. Spanning across 3 levels and a terrace with private access to the basement, this 4-bedroom home defines vibrancy and subtle opulence for its occupants.

The house opens to a contemporary living room on the 1st level, with neutral tone surface treatments—primarily accentuated by shades of blue. All the furniture was custom made for the clients, as were the finishes. To add contrast and vibrancy to the room, the L-sectional was customised in a brassy orange hue. Boho-inspired decorative metal plates form the central wall hanging, blending well with the neutral-toned, silver accent wallpaper in the background.



The living room expands into an open dining area with different shades and accents of wood throughout to give the room a regal feel. Custom grey suede-upholstered chairs and an epoxy resin ocean-inspired table are the focal points of this room, forming the dining table. A dark wood and glass paneled bar faces opposite to it. A painting of the ocean at night is an addition to the ocean-inspired table, giving each of them a common theme.





The client's requirement included designing the kitchen with Vastu considerations and maintaining efficiency all along. The white marble flooring, modular cabinets with an acrylic finish, and dedicated built-in spaces for the appliances make the visual flow seamless. The quartz countertops add a sleek and sophisticated look. The orange backsplash, although a Vaastu essential, brings in the hue amongst the whites and adds a bit of fun to an otherwise functional space.



For the master bedroom at level 1, the space uses an all-over beige scheme to give it a soft, relaxing, and welcoming sense. The neutral colour palette, a preference of the client, creates a calm, understated uniformity throughout the space.

Level 2 expands into the bedrooms of the children, an expansive lounge, a media room, and a furnished terrace. The rooms and the styles are more in sync with the children's requirements. The lounge is an eclectic mix of a variety of patterns and materials.





Among the two bedrooms of the siblings, one acts as a man den—with a variety of elements coming together to form a more ornate décor and the other, acts as a subdued picture of modern luxury with a pastel and gold scheme running evenly, throughout the room. Both rooms were designed to achieve their unique styles and captures the personalities of the occupants as well.

The son's bedroom is designed to accommodate the relatively dark palette preference of the occupant, with coordinated wood finishing throughout the room, wide plank wood walls, and embellished lighting—while keeping the space bright.

The daughter's bedroom, on the other hand, is designed in a refined theme to exude muted and elegant warmth. Detailed with shades of pastel green with mixed gold accents and a warm wood ceiling and wardrobe, the room's entire aesthetic is feminine and modern.



FACT FILE:

Name of Project	:	Akash Villa
Project Type	:	Residential
Location	:	Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Built-up Area	:	6441 sqft.
Year	:	2022
Design Firm	:	NASCENCE
Principal Designers	:	Suman Mishra Ashish Deo
Design Team	:	Ashish Karan Simran Mohanty Shubhrajit Swain
Photographer	:	TWM Films
Text Credits	:	Satarupa Panda





The terrace on level 2 is a modern mix of artificial grass decor utilised with geometric triangles to give this space its unique appearance. The visual is elevated by the use of warm lighting, statement wall pieces, and pastel furniture for a more inviting and bright space.



Suman Mishra & Ashish Deo

Suman Mishra graduated as an architect from College of Engineering and Technology, Bhubaneswar. Within a short span of few months, he went on to realize his dream and established NASCENCE along with Ashish in October 2010. His design philosophy is guided by a basic saying 'less is more' and believes in the novelty of a design. He is sincerely particular that his philosophy is put to test at NASCENCE.

Ashish Deo earned his diploma in Interior design from The Academy of Interior and Fashion Technology, Bhubaneswar. He knows how to deliver visual, tactile and emotional warmth to a design. Ashish shares the responsibility of design development and, on site construction with his extensive and varied experience.

The open terrace on top boasts a tranquil outdoor space with dedicated seating through a pergola, lounge furniture, and a hanging stand swing. This project, through many sustainable processes and efforts, utilises the waste. The wall mural of a tree on the terrace, made up of leftover tiles and granite pieces, is the perfect addition that ties together all the elements of the space. ☺

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