



INWARD LOOKING COURTYARD HOUSE

AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA

Plot Area: 1,080 sq ft

Built Up Area: 2,200 sq ft

Project Timeline: 2014 – 2016

Project Cost: INR 3,300 per sq ft

AMRUTA DAULATABADKAR ARCHITECTS AURANGABAD, AURANGABAD

Principal Architect: Amruta Daulatabadkar

Project Team: Mitali Parmar



The client having their ancestral roots in Harsul, Aurangabad, decided to redevelop the existing home which is located in a tightly packed vicinity. The site is 1,080 sq ft, with laws capping built-up at twice the plot area. This improvement, however, had to be done sensitively: projecting affluence through architectural form or material usage were anathema, as that would result in a certain disassociation from the social fabric of the locality.



The house is closed from all three sides, leaving only open access towards the north which faces the road which is at a 9' distance from the house. Needless to say that the formation will demand utmost privacy with no compromise of air and light. These challenges resulted in a staggered section concept instead of a continuum of spaces, placed at every half-level. This arrangement saved circulation areas, and, consequently, facilitated the creation of terraces at various levels.

The design of the front façade is an assemblage of the varied volumes, open and close, jutting out and sunken spaces, and a bold hue of white and black that uplift the charm of the house.



Above: Entrance Porch

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The house has an exciting entrance through a flight of stairs creating a raised floor experience. These stairs outwards create an *otta* – a gathering place, to keep the cultural connect alive. A white protruding cube above the stairs, accommodates the bedroom on the first level with windows facing north-west, which allows for privacy. A covered parking is formed in lieu of the first floor terrace.



Above: Internal courtyard and *pooja*



Above: Internal Courtyard

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The selection of material palette is based on the strict budget and portrays the sensitivity towards the context of the site's architectural language. The shades and texture of *shahbad* stone, *cudappah* stone, vitrified tiles, granite, and cement sheets give the house a bold and monochromatic look of slightly varying nuances. The wardrobe shutters made of cement sheets, internal shelving system fabricated from MS frames and cement sheets, artworks out of textiles, and formation of parapets from MS sheets, all these saved on construction cost and give a creative touch to the spaces. Wash basins have been customized in granite.



Above: Natural light illuminating the spaces

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Above: View of interlinked living, kitchen and courtyard

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The spatial programme that pivoted around a central hollow volume resulted in enhanced connectivity and interactivity. Visual linkages have been established on and across levels, creating a feeling of expanse and, at the same time, lending an explorative quality to the space.

Internally, expanses of walls deliberately shun cosmetic overlays, and in themselves become contributors to the almost stark aesthetic. The focus is on the way the materials could be used to create textural plays, and how large expanses of flat-painted walls would become a canvas for the dynamic choreography between sunlight and shadows.



Above: View of the skylight

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Above: View of the hollow internal volume

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Above: View of the bedrooms looking into the courtyard

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Above: A casual sitting space on the second floor



Above: Bathroom with skylight

Landing on the first floor, the space instantly disconnects with the external verities and is filled with its soothing aura. A deep open to sky courtyard occupies a central space allowing the facilities to be placed around it across the floors. The dining, pooja, living, a baithak – a lounge, kitchen, children's study, all get sufficient light and ventilation through the courtyard.



Above: First floor bedroom protruding on the façade

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Above: Second floor bedroom wardrobe with cement sheet shutters

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The kitchen space also gets light from the terrace placed above it. The placement of three master suites, one on each level, diagonally opposite to each other create a zigzag fashion.

The internal staircase block, which faces the road is shielded by granite louvers that give a filtered view of the person using it and offers a sense privacy. The palette also ropes in the contrast between the animate and the inanimate: a flourishing frangipani marks the plantation area at the edge of the plot, while its lifeless version paradoxically lends life to the central courtyard.



Above: Top floor bedroom

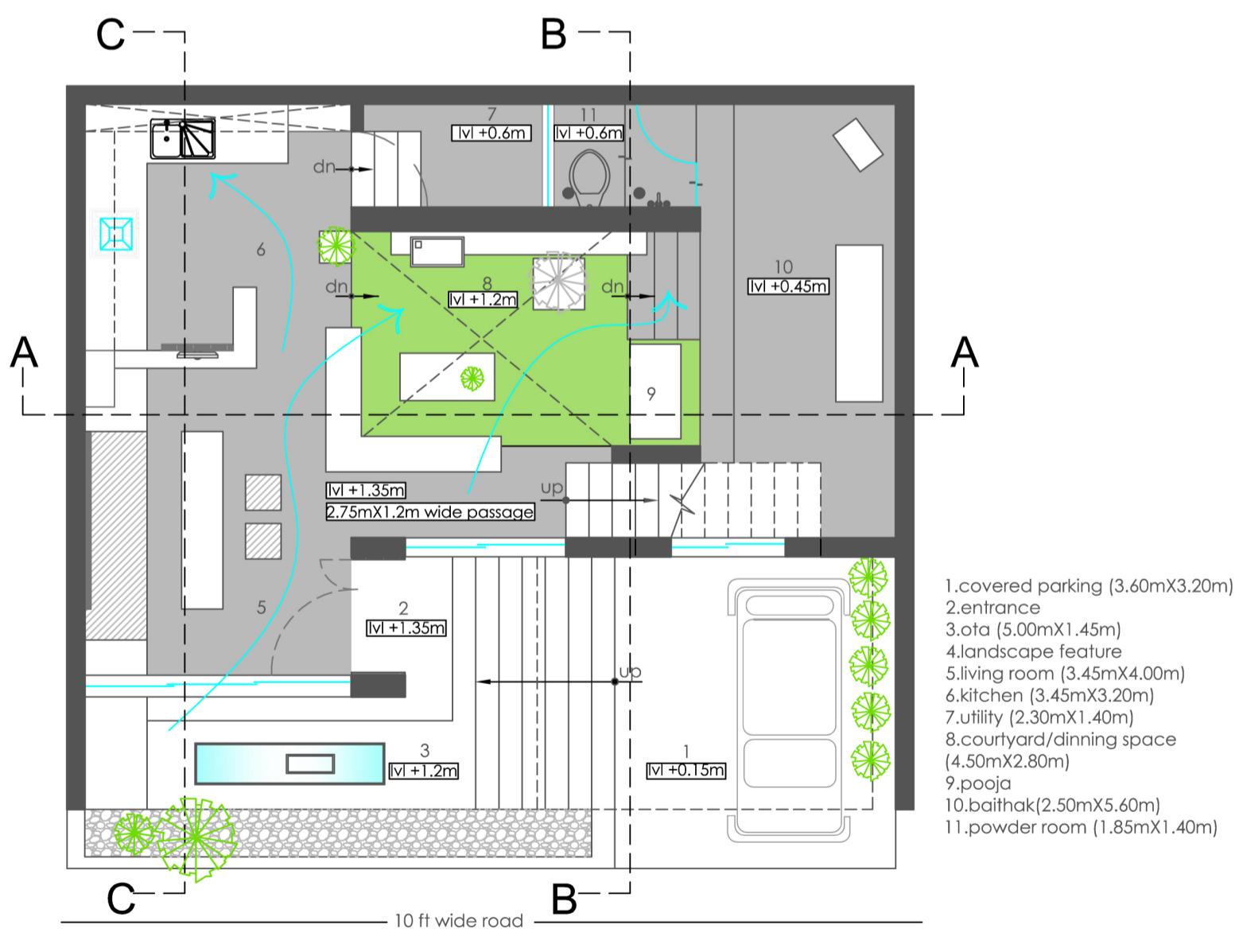
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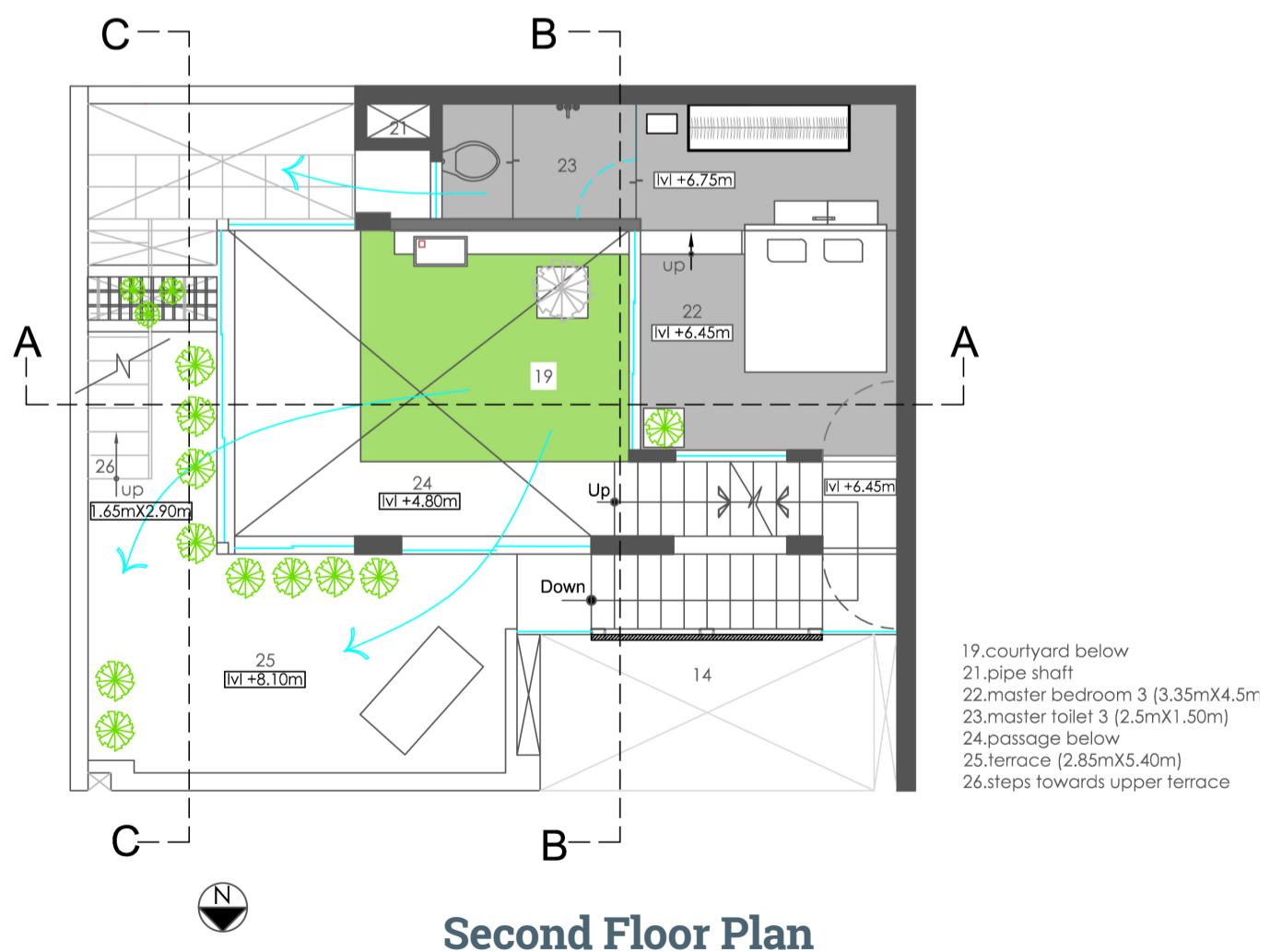
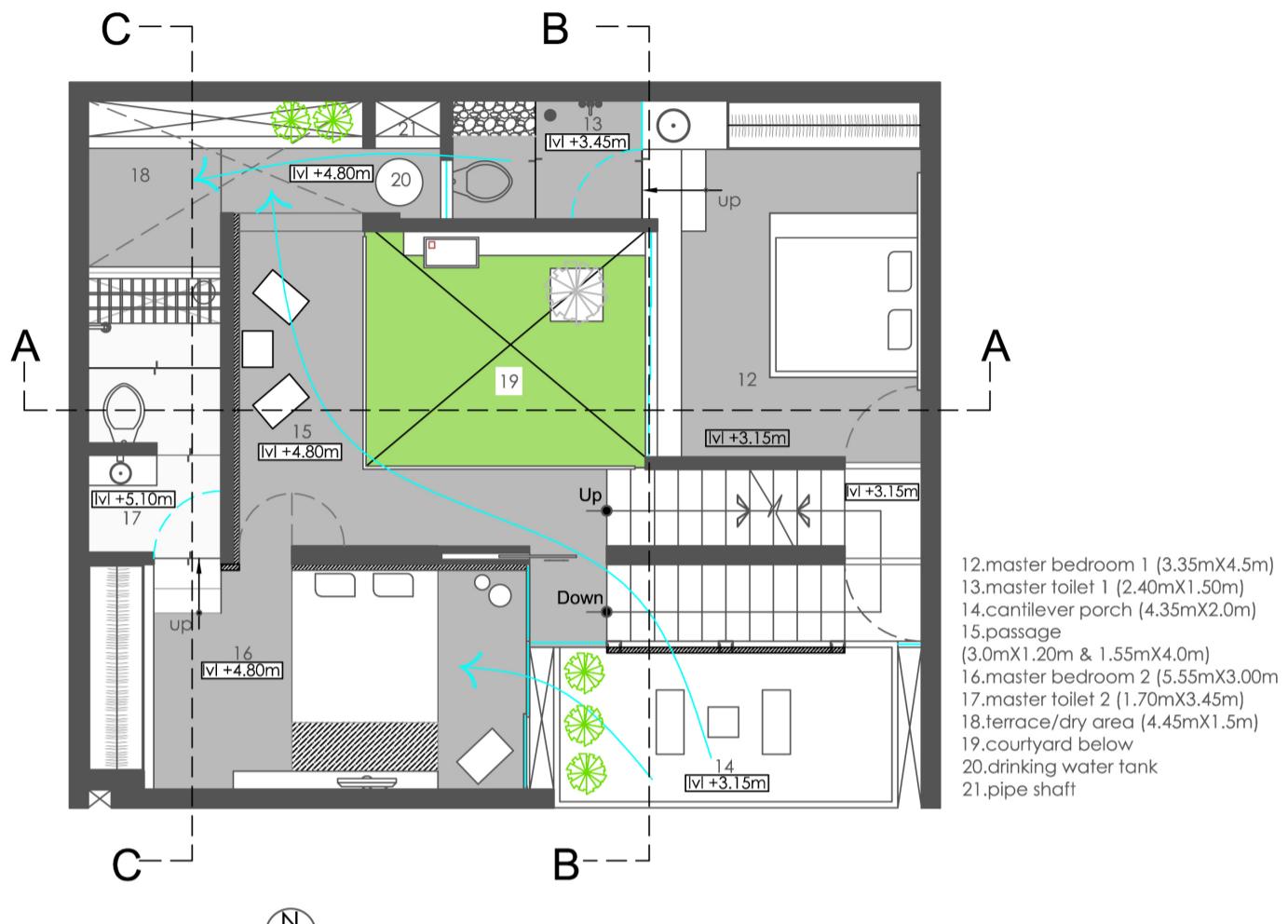
Above: View of the top floor bedroom

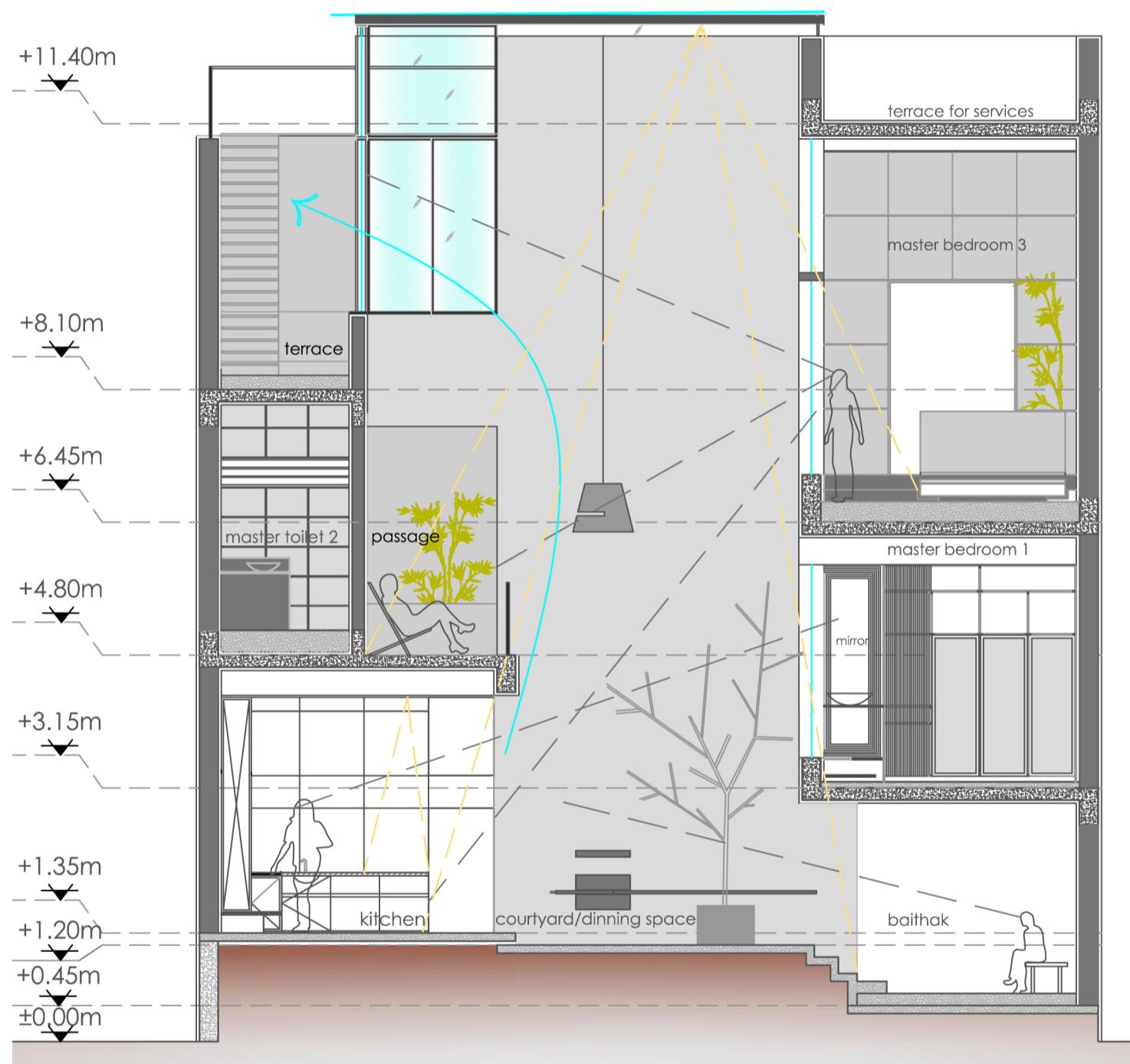
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The staggered internal spaces, double height volumes, fenestration and visual links further add an interesting dimension to the design. Use of the strategically placed courtyard and landscaped areas and its textures make it a fascinating space. Often the simplest space leaves the most profound of impact. This is what happens with the Inward Looking Courtyard House.



Ground Floor Plan

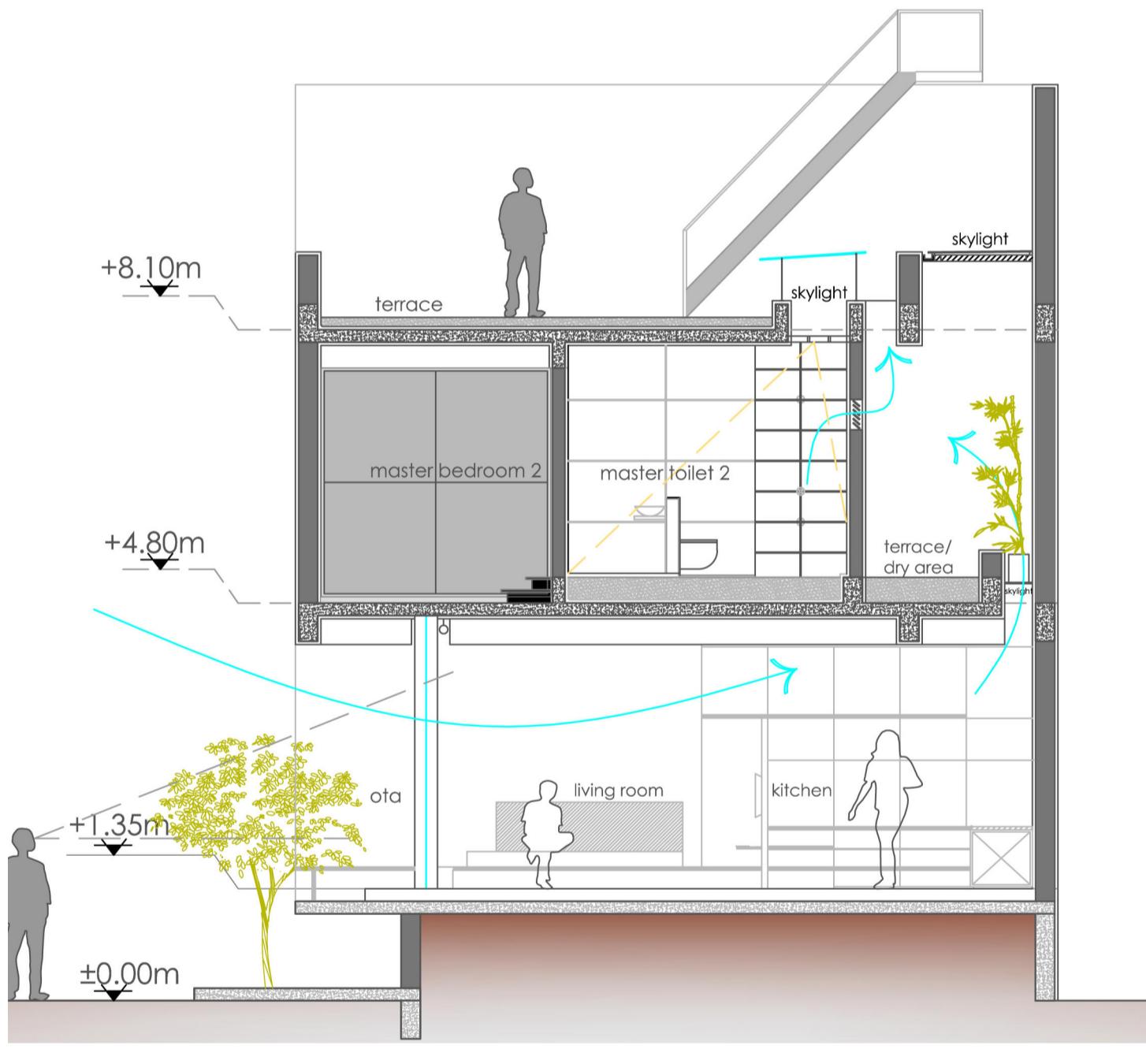


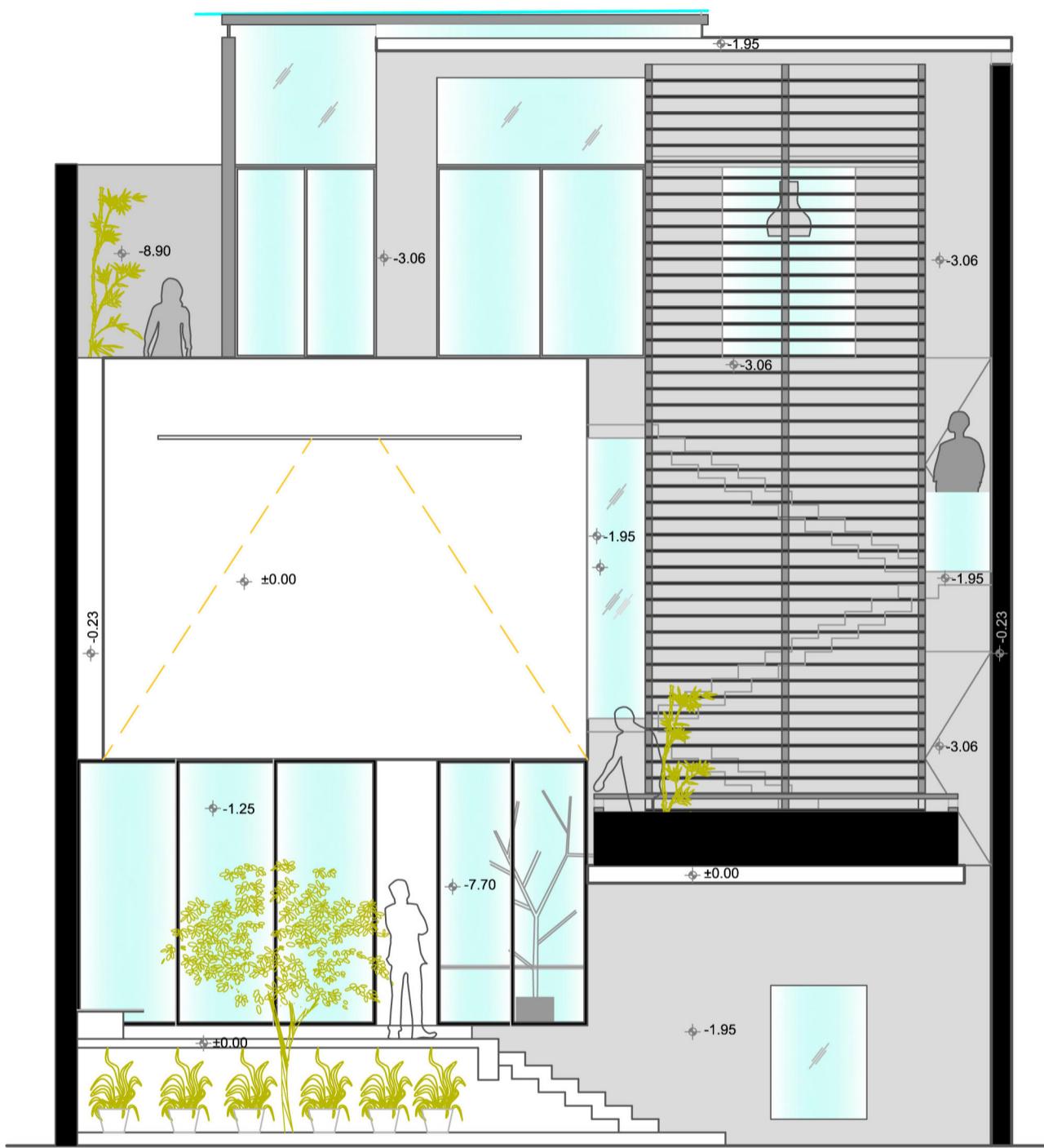


section A-A



section B-B





Front Elevation



PRODUCT & MATERIAL APPLICATIONS

Roofing: Customised from Vishvakarma Works

Cladding: Local Stone Kadappa, Shahabad, Granite from Surana Stone & Soni Marbles

Windows: Jindal from Vishvakarma Works

Tiles: Kajaria

Lighting: Philips

Colour: Asian Paints from Yusuf Paints

Sanitaryware & Bath Fittings : Cera

Furniture: Customised

Furnishing: D'Décor from Ramu Furnishings & Rajdhani Furnishings

Carpets & Rugs: Customised

Hardware: Hettich from Barkha Hardware

Modular Kitchen: Customised

Kitchen Sink: Nirali

Veneer: Timex

Laminate: Merino

KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Structural: Anil Datar

Civil: Gulab Constructions

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

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