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home

KITCHEN SPECIAL

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WHAT'S COOKING?

Top trends and designs to
help create the perfect space

NEW DESIGN RULES, LAUNCHES, INNOVATIVE GADGETS



HOME | ARCHITECTURE



A statement chair in steel and leather in the living area

Photographs by AVNEESH KUMAR

NEW LEASE OF LIFE

An old bungalow in the Capital gets a contemporary makeover in the hands of Delhi-based Studio An-V-Thot Architects

By RIDHI KALE



Interesting art and bright textiles make up the family lounge



Architects Ankita Sweety (right) and Pratyosh Chandan

Picture this. The year is 1980, the location, a peaceful residential colony in the western part of Delhi (in Kirti Nagar), where sits a quiet home, secluded from the hustle bustle of city life. Cut to 2013, the neighbourhood has become chaotic; the house now sits next to a busy road and bears the stamp (and ravages) of time. That's when the homeowners decided to bring in the experts, architects Ankita Sweety and Pratyosh Chandan of Delhi-based Studio An-V-Thot Architects. Giving the old bungalow a new look wasn't their only challenge as the client (CM Jain) was the owner of the first and second floor, while the ground floor belonged to someone else. "It is a duplex, where we had to de-clutter the place to bring in an open plan and let the house breathe," explains Sweety, adding, "Over the years the family had expanded, but the space did not factor their needs. It was a challenge because of the limitations of the old building, but with careful study of the structure, we were eventually able to dismantle walls that were not needed. Dismantling was tiresome as there were a number of stone domes and stone wall cladding as well. Stone was present in one form or another in almost every area of the home."

DECODING THE LAYOUT

As you enter, a giant white wall of *jali* greets you. This acts as a partition between the dining and the lobby, which then travels vertically to become the railing on the

first floor. "This was made using wooden frames holding square laser cut MDF boards painted in white duco," says Chandan. The lower floor has a living room, a lounge adjacent to a double height lobby, a kitchen overlooking the dining area, a powder room, master bedroom with a walk-in dresser and closet. A terrace-cum-courtyard has been pulled inside to touch the inner parts of the floor, which can also be opened up completely to become a part of the master bedroom. The second floor has a foyer, the newly wed's bedroom-cum-lounge, guest room, family lounge, massage and meditation room, multipurpose room and a powder room.

LIVING IT UP

There are two living rooms. One is formal with dark wood flooring and dark brown leather sofas. It has a false ceiling with wallpaper wrapped floating roof

combined with linear bands of wooden frames. The rich ambience has been enhanced using a large back lit wall hanging. The other is more like a lounge and in contrast has a relaxed spatial feel with grey sofas and bright cushions. Another interesting space on the first floor is the master bedroom. It was constructed by combining two bedrooms from the previous plan. The focal point here is the courtyard with a vertical garden. "The master bedroom is placed at the rear of the house, which faces south west, to bring in indirect sunlight resulted in the creation of a small courtyard-like space. It is a private outdoor terrace that can also become a part of the bedroom with the help of three panelled UPVC sliding doors," says Sweety. The bedroom houses a private sit out area, a study and a walk-in dress-cum-closet, which leads to the private washroom equipped with a Jacuzzi and steam.



The kitchen has a wide island counter



The formal living room (left); a small courtyard attached to the master bedroom (below)



DINE A DOZEN

In the dining, what sets the dining table apart is that it is fashioned as a glowing square box of back lit, laser cut corian with a glass on top. The laser cut corian design is repeated on the ceiling as well. The back wall of this area is covered with sky blue patterned wallpaper that has three vertical niches with glass mosaic clad inside them. The dining area is connected to the kitchen. The cook room has a wide island counter and the colours here are a mix of light and dark grey. The kitchen also has an attached service balcony.

A HOME WITHIN A HOME

One of the most important spaces on the second floor is the newly wed's bedroom. "The idea was to create their room in such a way so as to accommodate a complete home within it where they can cater to their guests, work at the study, read at the library and enjoy the lounge and private sit-out in the terrace." says Chandan. This was

achieved through linear extension of the existing room so as to accommodate a living area within it's periphery. "A study was fashioned such that it turned into the wall, extending to the ceiling and finally dropping at the floor while becoming a library with show compartments. With this, the room was visually divided into two halves, where one was the bed area and the other a lounge," adds Sweetie. Further, a separate pocket was attached to the bed area, which is used as a walk-in dressing room; this also opens into a private terrace.

OTHER SPACES

The multipurpose room is currently being used as a gym, while the family lounge has a relaxed feel. Adjacent to this is a fairly small meditation room opening up to the north east side of the house, bringing in uniform day light. Designed to suit the needs of its inhabitants, this home is a marriage of form and function, drama and design.

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