

# Inside Outside

THE INDIAN DESIGN MAGAZINE

[www.insideoutside.in](http://www.insideoutside.in)

ISSUE 348

JUNE 2014

₹ 100

**Profile: Anupama Kundoo**

**An office designed in Pune by Anjali and Ashwin Lovekar**

**A boutique hotel in Kochi by Joerg Drechsel**

**A villa in Dubai by Devjani Cox**

**COVER STORY Dipen Gada designs a penthouse in Vadodara**



Easy seating with glass backs to bring in lightness and offer uninterrupted views of the outside and the travertine marble wall make the reception a restful space to wait and enjoy the outdoor views of the landscaped terrace seen through floor to ceiling glass panels.

Pune-based architects Anjali and Ashwin Lovekar of Lovekar Design Associates believe a design solution is a reflection of the designer's personal way of looking at things and life in general, plus a response to the requirements of the client. Their philosophy is reflected in their recently completed office for f5 Realtors, a Pune-based real estate company.

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iven a corner site on the top floor of an eight storey building to design the head office of f5 Realtors, a Pune-based real estate company, architects Anjali and Ashwin Lovekar along with their associate designers Sonia Bhat and Mrunal Dusange, brought their indelible matrix of a simple plan, integrated spaces, uncluttered work areas and a play of materials to design a 3,000 sq ft office that is functional, smart, open and inviting.

Capitalising on the location, the architects decided to create an office that fosters a sense of cohesion between the interiors and the landscaped terraces and between the team as well. So drawing from a palette of fresh colours, earthy elements, glass walls to bring in outdoor views, design elements flowing from one space to another and patterns recurring in different spaces, they created an office infused with freshness, natural light and breathing spaces. In keeping with their philosophy of integrating spaces, the work stations are placed in the centre of the office with the directors' cabins and the administrator's cabin around it and the open to sky terraces within easy access of all staff. And these steps move the design away from the typical ambience associated with a builder's office and dilute the sense of hierarchy that often features in a work space.

The design philosophy is manifested on stepping into the office as floor to ceiling glass panels edging the reception area offer expansive views of the city, while





An informal meeting room dons an outdoor look as it has plants, a channel of polished stone, smart plastic furniture and a spiral staircase leading to the terrace upstairs.



(Left and far right) A stretch of ribbed wooden panelling running from floor to ceiling and across the ceiling, a play of textures, colours and set-backs add interest to the passage that runs the length of the office.





(Centre) Pendant lamps – along with recessed LEDs – ensure even lighting in daylight tones.

a discreet glass door invites one to step into an adjoining landscaped terrace. Easy seating with glass backs – to bring in lightness and offer uninterrupted views of the outside and the travertine marble wall – make the reception a restful space to wait and enjoy the outdoor views. A channel of smoothed granite pebbles adds a landscape element to the space and enhances its semi-outdoor ambience, and the slightly raised floor, of black leather finished granite, demarcates it from the lower carpeted passage that leads to the office area.

‘The passage, running 50 feet across the length of the office, takes on the role of a well-defined spine with an informal meeting room, conference room, utility area, cabins and work stations on its side.’ A play of textures, colours and set-backs derived from white columns alternating with inset glass panels, slightly recessed cabins, a stretch of ribbed wooden paneling that runs from floor to ceiling and across the ceiling of the passage, the warmth of wood, the verve of the blue carpet and the smoothness of painted MDF panels unshackles the passage from being just a functional corridor. Concealed lighting – set in a slit running the length of the wooden element on the ceiling – guides the eye to the far end and visually lengthens the passage making it an axis with an identity of its own. Another floor to ceiling glass panel at the reception end of the passage and another similar glass door on the far end that leads to another larger open to sky terrace, enhances the dynamics.

All areas – from the directors’ cabins to the work stations and utility spaces – are simple, neat



**Architects Anjali and Ashwin Lovekar along with their associate designers Sonia Bhat and Mrunal Dusange, designed the head office of f5 Realtors in Pune.**



**FACT FILE:**

**Project Name:** Office for F5 realtors

**Owner:** F5 Realtors

**Architect:** Lovekar Design Associates

**Year of Completion:** 2014

**Cost:** Approximately 80 lacs

**Location:** Shivajinagar, Pune



The directors' cabins are simple, neat and functional. The wall as well as the unit has storage which is not obvious as the cabinets and drawers are designed without handles.






## office



and functional, and rendered with straight lines. Storage takes the form of cabinets and drawers flush with partitions, and are designed without handles. Minimal counter tops ensure surfaces and spaces remain clutter-free. Glass panels, both on the interiors and exteriors, bring in ample natural light, connect spaces, keep staff connected without being intrusive and create a sense of lightness and openness. While the meeting of outdoors and indoors, along with the glass panels ensure ample natural light, pendant lamps, along with recessed LEDs in the floor and ceiling also functioning as highlighters, ensure even lighting in daylight tones, with options for putting on only those lights that are required.

Within this simple and straightforward idiom are interesting ele-

ments. Access to the rooftop terrace is offered through a flowing spiral indoor staircase that adds a dynamic element to the interiors. A thick beam in the reception terrace has been camouflaged and made part of a pergola thus creating an attractive feature. Mirror surfaces one side of a blocky column in a director's cabin reflecting and lengthening a long art work and dissolving the column's bulk. Another column at the larger terrace transforms into a design feature with the addition of greenery and three slim columns. Stretching along the conference room and two directors' cabins, this terrace is an oasis of quiet and a soothing sight even when just viewed from the inside. And thus, the office enjoys an environment that is aesthetic, efficient and refreshing. 

A landscaped terrace, stretching along the conference room and two directors' cabins, offers a wonderful spot to enjoy a quiet moment, the expansive views and the breeze. The terrace is a soothing sight even when just viewed from the inside.