

Inside Outside

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ALSO FEATURING

- Anju & Ashwin Lovekar
- Design Combine
- Pooja Reddy

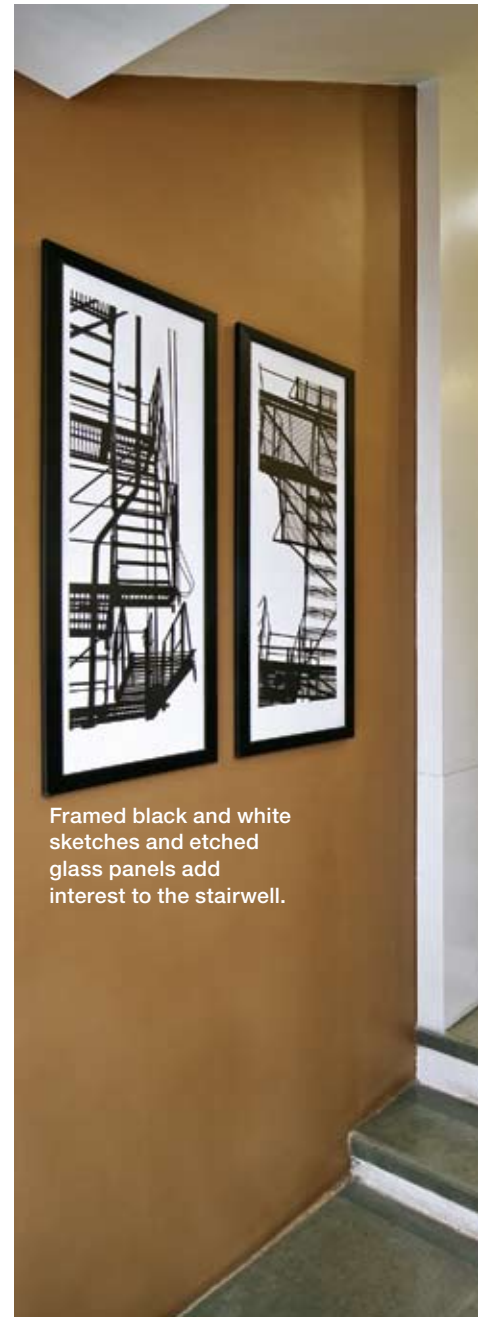
COVER STORY

Kiran Kapadia, Shobhan Kothari & Anand Menon make a strong style statement while designing a Mumbai apartment





The entrance sets the theme for the rustic interiors to follow.



Framed black and white sketches and etched glass panels add interest to the stairwell.

Studio Speak



The Lovekar Design Associates office-cum-studio is set on the ground floor of a stand alone bungalow in a quiet street off Pune's arterial Paud Road. Interestingly, the Lovekars had transformed the same space five years ago from a residence to an office for an engineering firm, till last year they found themselves taking on the premises on a long lease.

To convert the 1,200 sq ft residence into an engineer's office, they had designed the space keeping the client's work in mind. However, when they decided to shift their office-cum-studio here, they redesigned the



Main cabin: A neat wicker and teak wood square table in the centre offers a spot to discuss projects.



Cabin deck: The office cabin is edged with a lovely pool of water, a water cascade, a wooden Ganpati idol from Tamil Nadu, and plants soaking in soft sunlight through a pergola covered with a glass sheet.

There is a definite connect between the outdoors and indoors as is visible with this informal discussion deck.



The conference room is a well lit space that includes a pair of frog musician figures for an added element of fun.



Pergolas and slats bring in light and breeze along with shifting patterns of light and shadow.



Anju's desk is an old writing bureau, while Ashwin has a long work station.



The main cabin has the same personalised look and homely feel as the rest of the office

office to befit an architectural studio and reflect their personal aesthetics. The area was informally divided – with the studio to one side of the entrance and the conference room, a meeting area and their cabin on the other – to ensure privacy for the architectural team. However, the studio has an open plan, and transparent glass panels keep the two sections visually connected.

The space was opened and revitalised by bringing in glass windows, doors and panels and doing away with unnecessary walls and partitions while adding solid colours to the others; incorporating margins

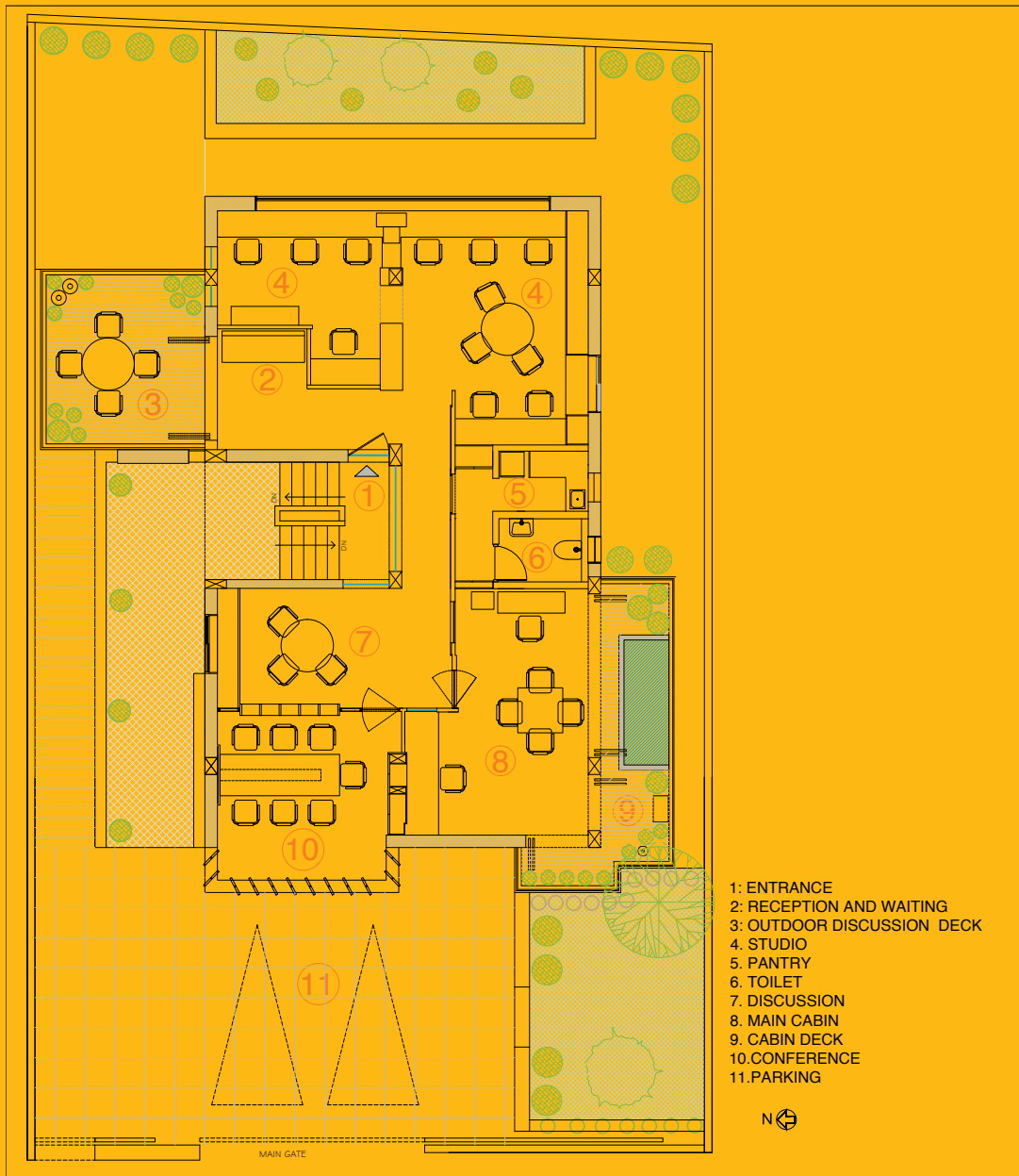
FACT FILE:

Design team: Lovekar Design Associates

Architects and Interior Designers: Anju and Ashwin Lovekar

Associate Interior Designers: Sonia Bhat, Mrunalini Dusange, Kasturi Balel.

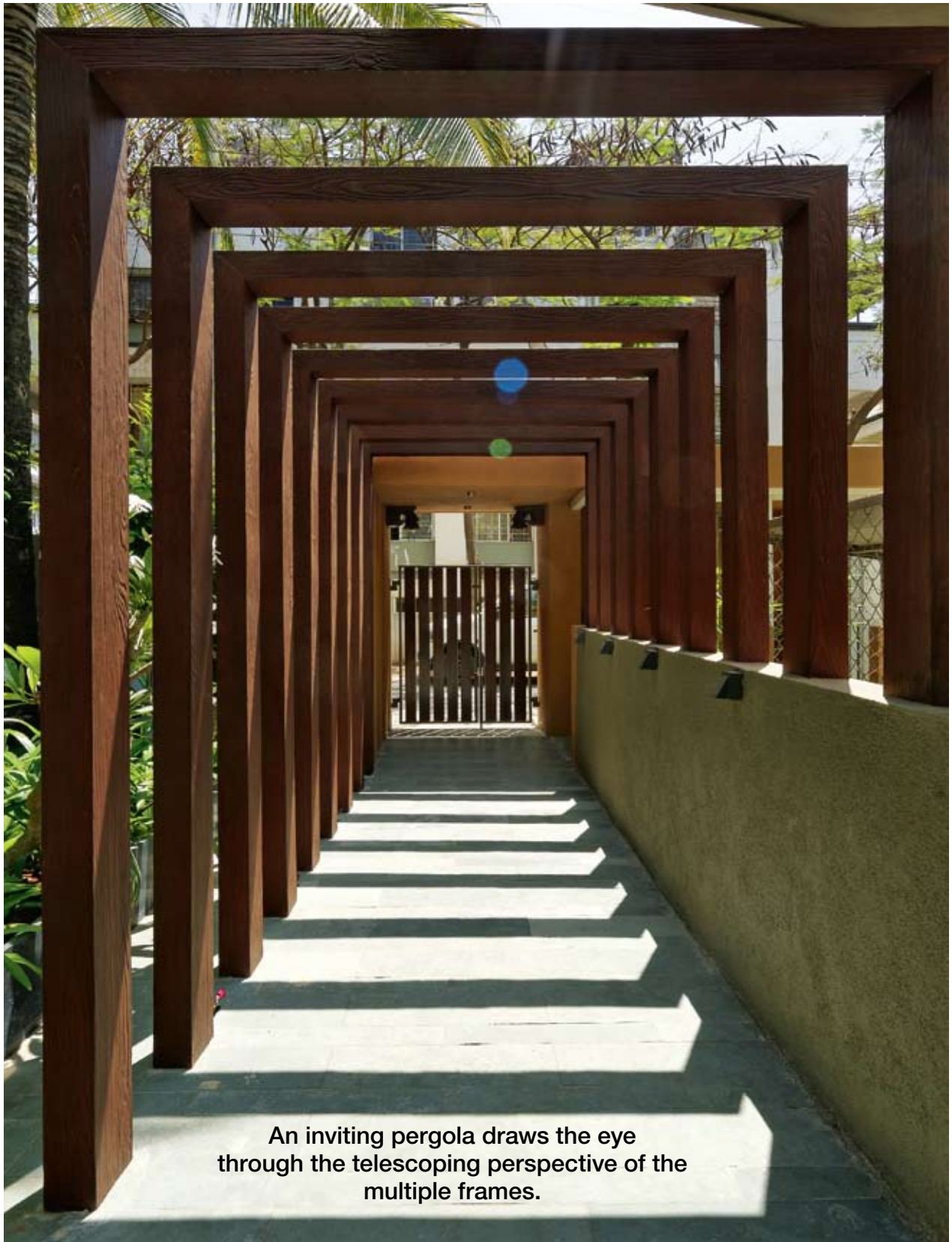
Design Terra: Landscape Architects Vikas and Vandana Labba





and outdoor spaces; adding slats and pergolas along the sides to connect the indoors with the outdoors; creating cut-outs in partitions to 'see spaces beyond'; and designing open shelves for books and artefacts. The pergolas and slats also bring in light and breeze along with shifting patterns of light and shadow akin nature's art work. Posters, sculpture, paintings, tracks to hang paintings which function as a 'changing gallery' and quirky artefacts add interest. A charming sit-out, framed by a pergola with glimpses of greenery, is a lovely spot for a break from work or an informal discussion.

Anju and Ashwin's cabin was earlier partitioned into two sections, but they merged it into one space. 'For twenty years we have worked in the same chaos, and thought we would like to continue the same way,' Anju quips. Reflective of their preferences, Anju's desk is an old writing bureau, Ashwin has a long work station, while a neat wicker and teak wood square table in the centre offers a spot to discuss projects. More like a home office with books, artwork and personal objects, their cabin is edged with a lovely pool of water, a water cascade, a wooden Ganpati idol from Tamil Nadu, and plants soaking in soft sunlight through a pergola covered with a glass sheet. At one corner the grill is staggered to go around a tree growing in the garden, whose branches slip through the grill while its flowers fall inside!



**An inviting pergola draws the eye
through the telescoping perspective of the
multiple frames.**

Warmth & style



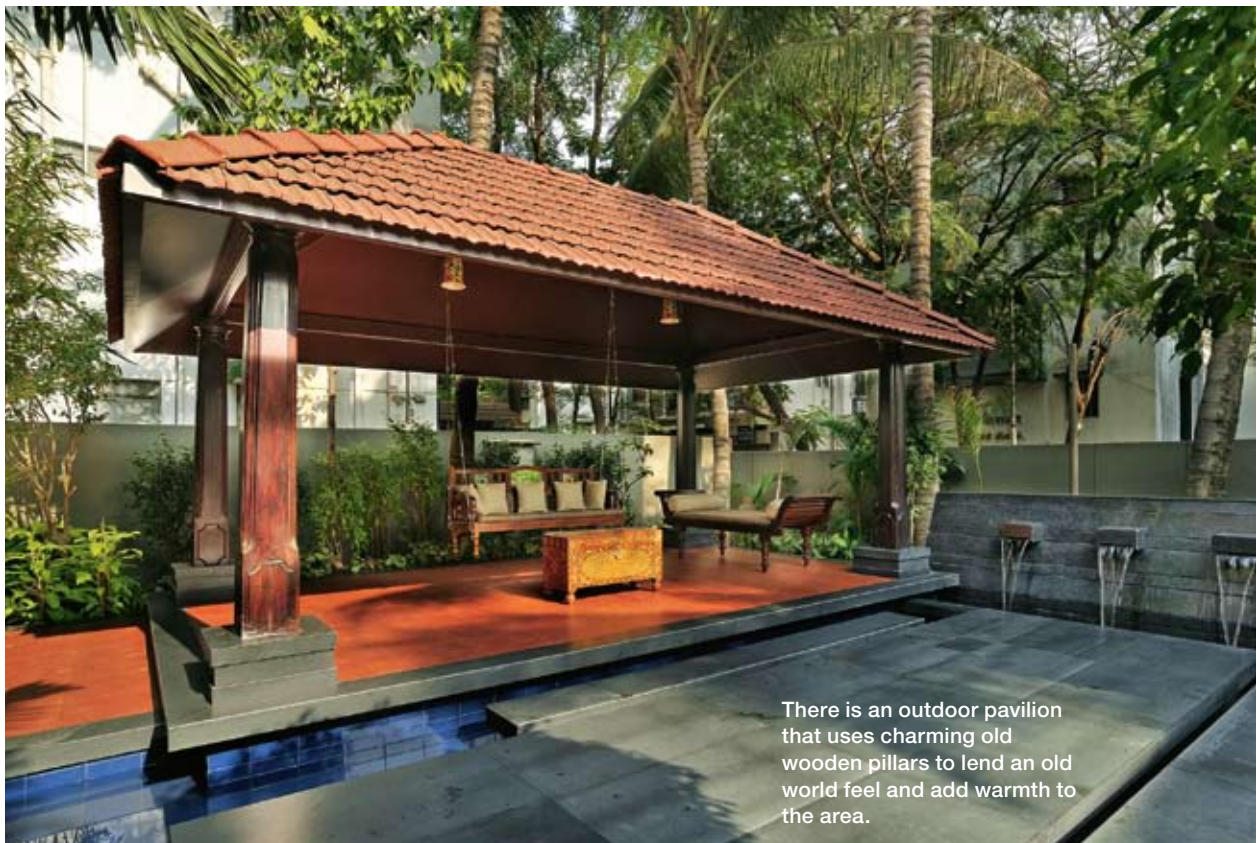
The Lovekars had earlier worked on builder Nilesh Bandal's corporate office and now, when he wanted someone to redesign the interiors of his 5,000 sq ft bungalow, the Lovekars were his natural choice. The spacious, two-level residence was nearing completion so the architects had to bring in elements that would infuse warmth and create an ambience and style that would complement the surroundings rather than seem imposed on the architectural fabric of the structure.

A vignette of their design idiom is experienced at the charming gate that invites visitors to walk through a pergola, drawing the eye through the telescoping perspective of the multiple frames and guiding one towards the portico, even as the path offers glimpses of the garden. The entrance to the home is angled to avoid facing west in keeping with vastu principles; framed with wood, it briefly cocoons the visitor who then steps into a spacious double-height living room.

As the large residence has only four bedrooms – for Nilesh's parents, Nilesh and his wife Dhanashree, their son Vedant and for guests – and



The outdoor lobby is a dynamic space with an angled entrance at the end of an elevated granite walkway.

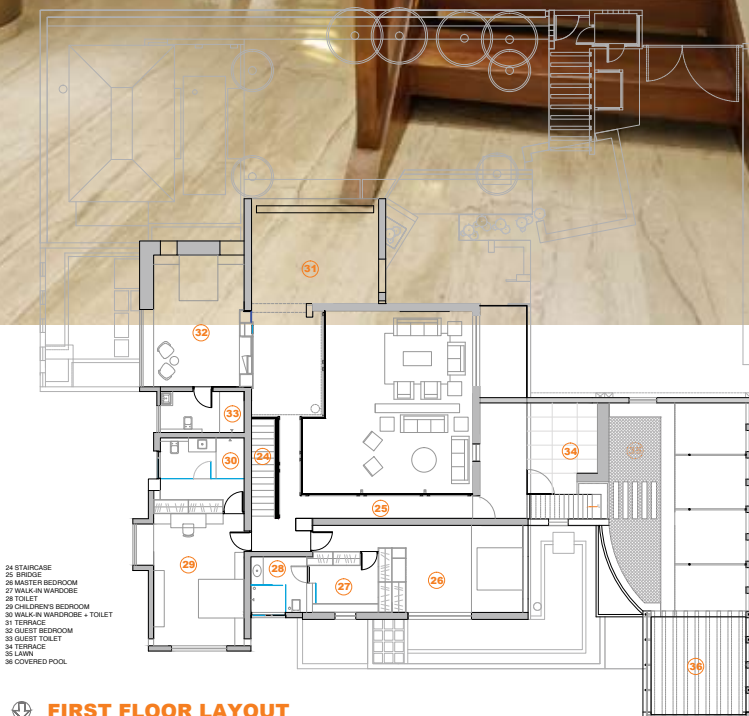


There is an outdoor pavilion that uses charming old wooden pillars to lend an old world feel and add warmth to the area.



A pergola casts shadows on the green walls of this outdoor space, creating the most unusual pattern.

The Lovekars have followed a clean sense of aesthetics throughout the bungalow. Quirky elements like this set of three ducks add interest below the staircase.



FIRST FLOOR LAYOUT



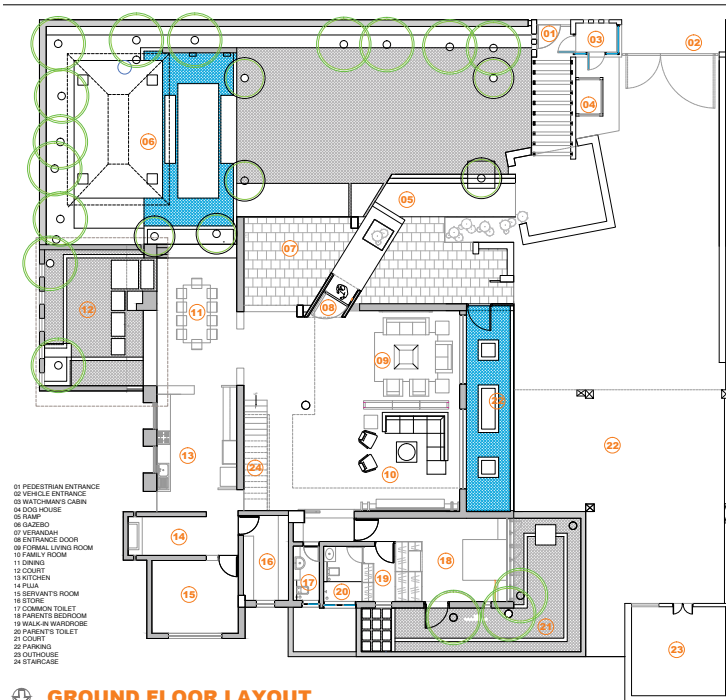
A blend of lighting options brings warmth and functionality – the living room has pendant fabric lamps, uplighters, table lamps and recessed LEDs casting warm indirect lighting as daylight fades.



Living room: A vast floor to ceiling 22 ft high stone clad wall, with small angled cut-outs framed with wood and set with lights, connects the two levels even as the lit niches add a design element to the interiors.

a living area with a 22 ft high ceiling, its space and volume were discreetly managed to create a sense of warmth and cohesiveness by highlighting the flight of stairs leading upstairs and the bridge across with wood, veneer and recessed lighting. A vast floor-to-ceiling stone clad wall section in the living area, with small angled cut-outs framed with wood and set with lights, connects the two levels even as the lit niches add a design element to the interiors. Green lawns on two sides, an outdoor pavilion with old wooden pillars, a lovely landscaped water body with plants, Buddha statues and a quiet private garden for the parents, are enjoyable spaces which also soothe the senses when viewed from inside.

The dining room brings the outdoors inside, as it overlooks a cozy garden and gazebo. The Roman blinds can be drawn for a more intimate setting.



The judicious use of wood and veneer, walk-in closets with ample storage space, simple built-in beds with ledges or a deck, airy and bright bathrooms, and cupboards and cabinets without handles create spaces that are easy to maintain. Colour in the form of yellow walls in the master bedroom, a palette of greens, yellows and blues in Vedant's room and a colourful mosaic of blues in the jacuzzi add an easy dash of vibrancy. A blend of lighting options brings warmth and functionality – the living room has pendant fabric lamps, uplighters, table lamps and recessed LEDs casting warm indirect lighting as daylight fades. And it is this warmth of soft lighting and wood, together with the comfort of easy spaces that creates a home that is spacious and cosy, enjoyable and easy to maintain. 