

INDIA'S FIRST WASHROOM MAGAZINE

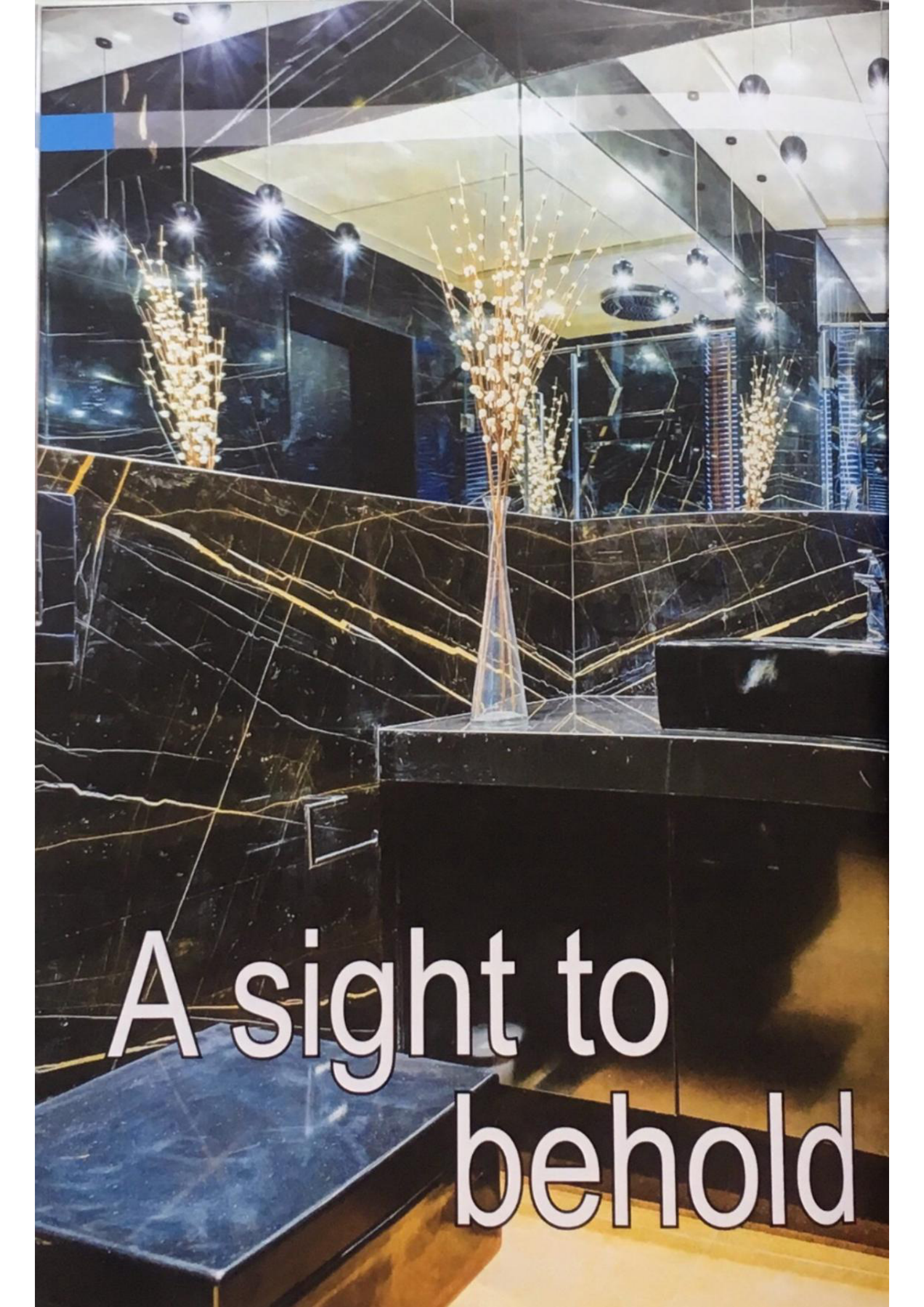
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WASHROOMS AND BEYOND



- THE FIFTH DIMENSION
- BEING LED FROM THE FRONT
- ATTENDANCE SOARS AT CERSAIE 2016
- TILE TATTLE

A photograph of a modern interior space. The background is a wall made of black marble with prominent yellow and white veins. In the foreground, there is a glass display case. Inside the case, a clear glass vase holds several dried, golden-brown flower stalks. The ceiling is white with several small, round, recessed lights. The overall lighting is warm and modern.

A sight to
behold



MY SPACE

G. A. Bhilare and family, residing in Pune's upmarket locality in a 3000 square feet apartment, assigned Pune-based architectural firm, Lovekar Design Associates, to design their entire residence. Simple, attractive and modern style were the parameters taken into account for the design of the space.

Bold design

The young son's washroom occupied a space of 10'0" x 6'0" and was covered with black Nero Noir marble in continuation with the colour scheme of his room.

Black, apart from being a bold shade, also goes with almost any other colour. The space was a simple rectangular washroom starting with the WC in the centre, the shower on the left with an enclosure to provide privacy, and a washbasin counter to the right.

To add visual appeal to the simple and functional counter, a thin see-through vase was placed with some beautiful white flowers on the left of the washbasin. This feature could be changed at any point in time, with the user free to make changes according to his choice and preferences.

The use of a single black colour of marble till the WC flush valve height with a texture of random lines over it added more beauty to the washroom. To make the space look larger and wider, a clad in the mirror was installed till the false ceiling.

"As an apartment usually puts a restriction on services, hence a functional layout works the best in the long run. Ventilation arrangements were made by designing a window that opens out into a duct on the shower side. Rust vitrified anti-skid tiles are used on the floor to complement the colour in the marble," says Principal partner Anjali Lovekar.

"In our practice of 25 years we have seen a transformation in attention towards washroom

Architectural firm Lovekar Design Associate's design for washrooms in G. A. Bhilare's residence is simple yet bold with a touch of glamour, discovers Aishwarya R Khokle on a visit.



designing. Almost all residences provide a washroom per room. Depending on the user of the room the washrooms too demand special attention in terms of facilities and function. Although private in use, these spaces are treated at par with the rest of the home decor and are expected to become an experience while in use," she adds.

Personalised space

The choice of washroom accessories, storages and furniture depend mainly on the user and his taste. Apartments having a common washroom cannot be personalised as the number of people using it have different tastes, which makes it difficult to zero in on one.

This one being a boy's washroom asked for minimum storage with drawers for toiletries, towels, and nightwear. The laundry bin and waste bin are accommodated under the washbasin.

Technology in design

Bhilare and the architectural firm both decided on the use of LED lights in the space. The evenly lit up warm white LED lights inserted into the false ceiling added a hint of glamour and accent lighting when the ceiling lights were turned off.

Hanging eyeball black droplights over the washbasin counter were placed at a height where light falls on the face and reflects clearly in the mirror placed end-to-end on the wall. The bold black half marble and half mirrored wall with the lighting gives an altogether different look to the space.

Some essentials

The resourceful use of water-efficient plumbing was one aspect given due weightage in the design. "Excellent plumbing is imperative as it is a permanent feature once done with.

Non leaking, clean, dry and hygienic washrooms are a sign of a

well executed project. Leaking pipes become moist and can develop into a fungus making the place unhygienic. It is a sign of insensitivity shown towards wasting the water resource. As for the principles, we believe that moderate use of water and recirculation of water used on the premises is the need of the day. It is extremely essential to have a trained plumbing team who is aware of the green principles for the benefit of the entire development," says Lovekar.

Icing on the cake

"The entire residence has been done to perfection in high end materials and finishes with walls, carpet, flooring, ceiling, lights etc. The rest of the house has marble, anti-skid vitrified tiles and wood flooring. Therefore, the marble and vitrified were continued into the son's washroom too, to keep the consistency," says Lovekar.

When asked regarding the clients fixed ideas and wants, she says, "At least in our case the client's have been extremely co-operative to our take on the toilet designs. Although with a lot of choice available for materials, sanitary fittings, fixtures and faucets, we do have to make visits with the clients to the various stores that showcase all of it. And while function is of foremost importance, aesthetics is something the clients normally leave to us. It is an essential part of the rest of the project and hence designed and developed alongside and not in isolation."

Common washbasin area

In addition to this, an independent washbasin area accessible from the dining area was designed keeping in mind the efficient use of space.

"Since this area is very small, we decided to use a full height mirror on the wall so that it reflected multiple times to create an illusion



Anjali Lovekar

of space. The marble floor and splashboard along with wooden ceiling and white artificial stone counter stands out prominently against it."

Since it was just a hand wash counter, there are only necessary elements added to it like a napkin holder, soap dispenser and a bin under the counter. The passage has occupied a small area of 4'6"x3'6" with a marble of Green Chagrin in continuation with the look of the dining area.

Since the ceiling here is kept low in proportion to the small enclosure the lighting is just two wooden surface mounted warm LED light fixtures that provide just enough light to the counter.

The washbasin is tucked into a small niche carved out in front of the powder room. The use of mirror and all white counters with lights gives a warm look to this corner.

Though a small space, proper utilisation of corners and good design made it look ravishing.

With the craftsmanship of Lovekar Design Associates, Bhilare's residence reflects both elegance and intrinsic design.