

In Sync with the Residents

Vadodara-based architects Tanvi Rajpurohit and Archis Patel design two contemporary homes to meet the requirements of their residents.



'We always study the lifestyle of people who are going to use the space designed by us', says architect Tanvi Rajpurohit, a + t associates, Vadodara, of the projects designed by her and Archis Patel, principal architects of the studio, along with their design team. The approach is manifest in two of their recent projects in Vadodara – a standalone residence whose architecture and interiors they designed, and an apartment whose interiors they designed.

TEXT: BRINDA GILL PHOTOGRAPHIC: TEJAS SHAH



The Front Box, a contemporary Indian-style, north-facing, three-level bungalow is inspired by a simple cubic form.

A set of grills offers privacy to the entrance foyer whilst bringing in light, breeze and views.

Shown a small plot in a residential neighbourhood in Vadodara, Tanvi and the team held discussions with the client to understand the family's mindset, lifestyle and requirements. They observed the client and his family were simple and religious, were a joint family of four generations, and wanted a home with spacious interiors that would give them a sense of space and peace away from the pace and demands of everyday life.

With this brief the team designed The Front Box, a contemporary Indian-style, north-facing, three-level bungalow inspired by a simple cubic form with a carpet area of 2500 sq ft. As the name suggests the residence appears like a solid cubic geometric form, with flat



A Contemporary Indian Residence



The parents' bedroom has a distinct urbane character with a minimal material palette in neutral tones.



The cosy kid's room is done up with deep blue, grey and brown. It has a neat work space and ample storage.

the main door with an attractive brass handle, in the shape of a standing man. Stepping in is a semi-private foyer, created by a low height cement sheet partition, with an abstract pattern screening the living area, yet stirring an interest to explore the space beyond the mustard-yellow side wall that stretches inwards.

A few steps ahead and beyond the partition a burst of cheer emanates from the

living room stemming from the yellow wall with its energizing colour echoed in the sofa upholstery. Kept simple and uncluttered with a neat sofa dotted with a few cushions in pastel shades, a set of nesting centre tables and the partition doubling up as a backdrop for the television with a ledge in front of it, the living room is a picture of sunny warmth.

Keeping to a frills-free



The bathrooms are neat, well organized, well lit and functional.



design, the living and dining areas unfold as flowing spaces with a simple linear design for the walls, windows, niches and low partitions. Space flows to the adjoining dining room with a serene pooja space with hand-painted Kalpavriksha tree and onward to the kitchen that has quartz marble-clad wall cladding and platform. Views of the greenery outside and doors



The family enjoys sitting together at the terrace on the second level (top), and the sit-out outside the dining area.



for stepping out enhance the feeling of space and the indoor-outdoor connect.

An MS fabricated cantilevered staircase with Kota stone treads, neatly fits into a compact space and leads to the private areas on the upper floor; a slim vertical glass pane fitted in the stairwell smartly lights it up through the day. Located in the front box shell of the residence, the master bedroom has been designed to complement the exterior look: all the walls of this room have smooth cement plaster with groove patterns with teak wood furniture to complement its look. The master bedroom has a walk-in closet and bathroom with the same concept. Here one can find Italian stone cladding, a wooden ceiling and furniture

along with a metal-framed mirror and hangings.

The parents' bedroom has a distinct urbane character with a minimal material palette in neutral tones. Subtle decorative touches are provided in a circular brass plate inlaid at one corner of the low height bed-back and monochrome Madhubani paintings. The cosy kid's room, done up in deep blue, grey and brown, with a neat workspace and storage, is perfect for their five-year old. A row of five framed photographs on the wall, one from each year of his life, capture his growing up and fun moments! The family of four generations enjoys getting together at the living room or terrace attesting the sentiment that a thoughtfully designed home ensures a family stay together!



The partition has an abstract pattern with an accent light focused on it which draws attention to the motif and does not make the partition appear like a screen.



A cut-out beyond the sofa lightens the space and offers a surface to display objects.



An MS fabricated cantilevered staircase with Kota stone treads neatly fits into a compact space and leads to the private area on the upper floor.



Quartz marble clad wall cladding and platform gives the kitchen a warm and neat ambience.



The master bedroom, located in the front box shell, has been designed to complement the exterior look. Its walls have smooth cement plaster with groove patterns like the façade.

FACT FILE	
PROJECT NAME The Front Box	CLIENT Jenit Shah
PRINCIPAL DESIGNERS Archis Patel & Tanvi Rajpurchit	PMC Shreemay Associates
DESIGN TEAM Archis, Tanvi, & Anjal	LOCATION: Vadodra AREA: 2,500 sq ft



- A: Entry,
- B: Foyer,
- C: Puja area,
- D: Dining area,
- E: Living room,
- F: Kitchen area,
- G: P.W toilet,
- H: Grandfather's room,
- I: Kid's room,
- J: Parents' room,
- K: Master room,
- L: Porch.

colours in select spaces, was selected to enliven rooms with a bit of verve. The furniture and work surfaces were also kept to a neutral tone (being crafted of wood or surfaced with stone or teak veneer) and the flooring was also kept to a neutral tone (green Kota stone) giving the residence a natural look and allowing bright colours to stand out nicely. And a discreet repetition of colours and motifs – for example, some cushions and artefacts have similar colours and there is a similar motif on a wallplate and tabletop – was designed to create a subtle connection between and within spaces.

Interest in the residence is piqued on glancing at the solid exterior that reveals little of the interiors. A simple semiopen porch, with a set of vertical grills set in one wall, leads to



The living room, dining room and kitchen unfold as flowing spaces with a simple linear design for the walls, windows, niches and low partitions.



A burst of cheer emanates from the living room stemming from the yellow wall with its energizing colour echoed in the sofa upholstery.



The semi-private foyer inside the house is created by a low height cement sheet partition.

façades without any projections in the form of balconies or chajjas; light and breeze are invited indoors through a vertical grills and inset windows. The exteriors are surfaced with grey plaster, and a play of horizontal and vertical grooves in the plaster creates a matrix of squares and

rectangles enhancing the geometric form.

The public and private areas were neatly divided by locating the living and dining areas, the pooja area, the kitchen and utility room on the lower level. The grandparents' room is also on this level for their convenience, yet located beyond the

living areas thus giving them privacy. The first level has the master bedroom, the parents' room and the kid's room with walk-in closets and attached bathrooms, and the second level has the guest bedroom, store room and terrace.

To complement the design ethos of the architecture,

the interiors were designed drawing from a select palette of colours, materials and textures, using local materials and artwork, rendered in a contemporary Indian expression while keeping the sentiments and beliefs of the clients in mind. A neutral colour palette, with a few pop-up