

ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

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Luxury homes
Upwardly mobile

Restaurant design
POH by Sumesh Menon

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

WE HERALD THE ARRIVAL OF THE FESTIVE SEASON WITH A SPOTLIGHT ON THE TECHNOLOGIES AND PRODUCTS THAT ILLUMINATE OUR BUILT SPACES



**iGen Design
Dialogue**





UP IN THE AIR

THIS 5,000SQ-FT APARTMENT BY DESIGN LAB VYOMA, LOOKS BOTH EXPANSIVE AND EXPENSIVE

BY MARIA LOUIS

Overlooking a serene mountainscape filled with greenery and punctuated by a perennial flowing river, the site for the Seth residence on the top of a 28-storey building in Thane afforded Vyoma Patwa Motiramani a welcome break from the bustle of Mumbai city. The principal designer of Design Lab Vyoma recalls that, when she looked at the bare shell of the apartment, she visualised a space with each functional area telling its own story – yet knit by her individualistic sense of style.

With clients who were based in Dubai for almost 25 years before they returned to Mumbai, Motiraman had to contend with nostalgia for their Dubai homes – which had an influence of the period style of architecture. Describing the middle-

aged couple as ‘young at heart’, she adds that “they wanted to experiment with the interiors and not go for the prevailing contemporary or modern look.” Since the home had to house their parents, the couple and their two children (in their early 20s), the designer had to cater to the needs and tastes of all three generations. “The older generation was content with rather simplistic and functional design, while the younger generation was more inclined towards a slightly contemporary look to their personalised spaces,” she explains.

Introducing a base concept of period, mainly Victorian, style that would enhance the drama and lend glamour to the space – so that it stands out, the designer set about creating her version of a one-of-a-kind home. “Since the site was a bare shell with most of the internal walls yet to be constructed, I

1. Huge French windows in the living area overlook the deck, which further overlooks the serene picture-perfect view.



used that to my advantage and modified the layout to ensure a spacious interior that would accommodate furniture and details that do justice to the concept," she discloses.

Huge French windows are seen in the living area overlooking the deck, which further overlooks the serene picture-perfect view. A theatre room was introduced in the layout – which adds value not only to the Victorian concept, but also works well in favour of the younger generations. A couple of brainstorming sessions with individual end-users were conducted to understand their needs better. Reference images, 3Ds, choice colour palette, etc, were discussed and debated before the concept could become a reality.

It was quite a challenge for Motiramani to create the division of space in the living area, which occupies almost 1,500sq-ft of the 5,000sq-ft apartment. "A formal seating area was introduced along with a formal round-table dining area. This left us with a space adjoining the French window, where initially we had planned to introduce a *shamiana* seating overlooking the balcony/deck area. This was modified to an informal seating area, where each piece of furniture could fit the label of art or artefact," explains the designer, who introduced four Victorian columns to divide the informal seating space and the dining space – since she wanted a free-flowing space without any physical barriers. These columns have inbuilt yellow light, which can be turned on for mood lighting.

The central space for the living area has a pool table, adding an element of surprise. "A smaller entrance space next to the main door is decorated with an authentic Victorian painting, along with a custom-made screen which guides one into the living space. This screen can be lit up in the evening, adding mood lighting to the space," explains the designer. "The passage eventually ends in a simple and beautiful *puja ghar* (house of worship) and leads to the more private sections –



2&3. Art is central to the Victorian design – right from hand-woven Persian carpets to micro-level carving details.

4. The state-of-the-art theatre room adds value for the younger generation.



5



6

MATERIALS & SUPPLIERS

- Flooring:** Italian marble flooring
Laminates: Dizzart Veneers, Thane
Tiles: Abhinav Builtmart Pvt Ltd, Thane
Ceiling: Gyproc
Lighting/light fixtures and switches: GM Electrical
Wall textures: Wallpaper from China, Asian Paints, charcoal sheets and acrylic marble-finish sheets
Dado: Abhinav Builtmart Pvt Ltd, Thane
Paint: Asian Paints
Tables, chairs, sofas/sofa seating: Sourced from China and local craftpersons
Other loose furniture/customised furniture: Xena Designs, Thane
Sanitary fittings: Jaquar, Artize and Coldstone
Hardware: Hettich and Somfy
Air-conditioning/HVAC system: Daikin
Curains: Decotex Furnishings, Thane
Modular kitchen: Home Centre, Thane
Carving: Local craftsmen - Munir, Thane

5. Victorian columns divide the informal seating space and the dining area.

6. The marble-clad bathroom exudes luxury.

7. The kitchen, though modular, still retains some of the intricate detailing.

viz, the four bedrooms and the theatre room. Each spaces has its own beauty and charm, which reflects the personalities of each of the end-users’.”

Beige-coloured Italian flooring is seen throughout the house, enhancing the grandeur. Shades of beige, white and gold are prominent in most of the areas – except the son’s room, which is done up in modern style using shades of grey, back-painted glass wardrobe, leather panels, etc. The designer



PROJECT DETAILS

- Name of the project:** Sethi’s Residency
The client: Sangam Seth
The designers: Design Lab Vyoma
The architect: Vyoma Patwa Motiramani
HVAC consultants: Hiranandani contractor
Lighting consultants: Chandan - Hiranandani contractor
Area: 5,000sq-ft
Location: Hiranandani Estate, Thane West
Cost: Rs.1.5-1.7 crore approximately
Duration of project: 9-10 months
Date of completion: December 2016

admits that the colour palette chosen was meant to mainly calm down the highly ornate furniture. “We have tried to inculcate art very closely in the design – right from hand-woven Persian carpets to micro-level detailing of carvings and moulding, to careful selection of chandeliers. The curtains, wallpaper, paintings – all add to the artistic experience of the space,” she maintains.

The living room gets its vibrancy from the Persian carpets and one feature wall, which holds a rich blue-and-gold wallpaper that adds a royal touch to the space. As for material choices, one can see an extensive use of wooden and acrylic mouldings, which were painted in shades that would suit the decor. “These are easy to maintain and long-lasting,” points out the designer. “Most of the furniture is made of teakwood for ease of carving and detailing. Double-glazed windows have been used in order to cut down the harsh sunlight.”

The different spaces had to cater to everyone’s needs – be it the balcony overlooking the hills and river with the swing for the grandparents, or the modern home theatre for the younger generation. Constant improvisation helped, in knitting together the different spaces and looks. Maintaining that art is subjective, Motiramani believes that “one could find an artistic experience in the bold and beautifully carved furniture” which – to her – are art pieces themselves.

The designer is thrilled that not only were the clients ready to experiment with the decor she proposed and appreciative of the outcome, the details and the finishing – but also that “Mr Hiranandani...was impressed and wanted to use this style of architecture for his next sample flat. This, I feel, was a huge compliment,” she exults. **ASD**