



# A comfort cocoon

Part of a gated community, this house combines an open plan design with modern materials to suit a nuclear family



**Moving from a joint family to a nuclear** set up can be a daunting task for those who are unaccustomed to it. A comfortable and inviting house can facilitate an easier transition for the members in such a situation.

Hyderabad-based architect Vishnu Vandana of Shilpa Architects was entrusted with the responsibility of creating such a home for the owners. This 6000 sq ft house is a part of a gated community in Hyderabad and is spread over two floors. Vandana worked on the architecture, interiors as

well as landscaping of the project.

“The family wanted their home to be very spacious since their earlier residence was smaller,” says Vandana.

Being a part of a gated community meant that there were restrictions regarding the facade and exterior architecture, which posed a design challenge for the architect. Thus, the focus was on making the interiors as appealing as possible while the exterior was not tampered with.

The living room is an amalgamation of dark furniture pieces contrasting with

**Above:** This 6000 sq ft Hyderabad house by architect Vishnu Vandana of Shilpa Architects is spread over three floors and is designed keeping the owners’ brief for spaciousness in mind. Since the house is part of a gated community, there were restrictions related to the external facade. A floral partition divides the informal living room from the formal one.





*Above and extreme right:* Dark leather furniture has been used for the living area. To add contrast, the architect has used Australian white marble for the flooring and travertine on the walls. A mural adds an element of play in the room.

the white Italian marble flooring. An entire wall has been covered with white travertine in the formal seating area. A semi-private area created by placing a glass partition is a unique design element infused by the architect.

Vandana adds, "I also requested the owner's wife to create a special mural for this partition wall."

Provisions were made to incorporate indirect lighting in the home. Swarovski crystals have been used on the ceiling of the living area to add a sense of drama. Steel

has been extensively used for the railings of the staircase while mural paintings form a back drop in the living area as well as the master bedroom.

The house has four bedrooms, living area and kitchen apart from a specially created artist's room for displaying artworks.

The entrance leads to a formal living room for the guests. An informal living room is specially created on one end by using a glass wall that demarcates the living into two different areas. The formal living





leads to a prayer room as well as a study created for the two sons of the owners.

The staircase leads to the first floor where the master bedroom is located along with the childrens' bedroom. The second floor has a home theatre system, Jacuzzi and another bedroom.

Polished material along with warm toned tiles give a warmer appeal to the staircase area. Natural stone has been varnished and used through out the entire length of this wall. A showpiece in wood modeled along the shape of a tree trunk is



*Following pages:* Natural stones, used as cladding in the staircase area, make the space appear warmer. The stairs in Australian white marble have railings in combination of wood and steel. A wooden sculpture in form of a tree trunk can be seen attached to the wall. The bathroom is also in line with the colour scheme of the rest of the house. White ceramic tiles are used for the flooring.

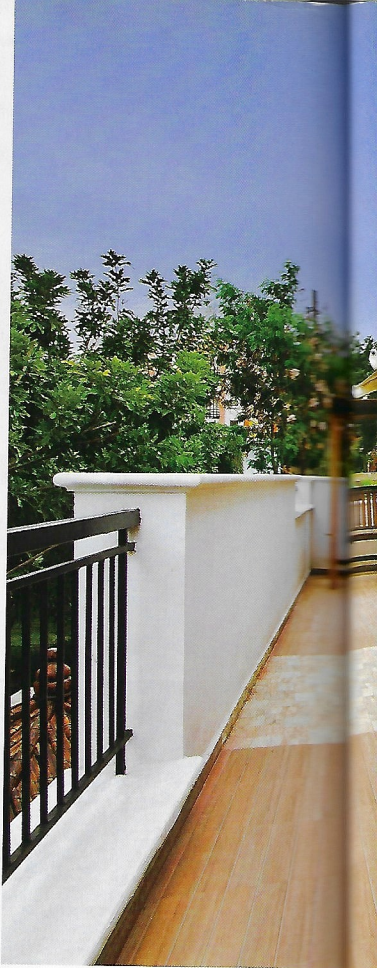












attached to the staircase wall while the steel railings make the space stand out amidst the white decor of the house.

The master bedroom is a vibrant area that is adorned with minimal accessories. The wall behind the master bed is designed in a way that it camouflages the entrance to a large walk in closet.

"I have used wood to create a foldable pattern on the wall in the bedroom and given it a melamine finish," says Vandana.

A large balcony is attached to the bedrooms on this floor and looks out to





a stretch of greenery. The architect has created a coffee zone and placed specially sourced antique furniture here along with a traditional swing. The decor is subtle with hints of vibrant colours. The flooring is a combination of stone and polished wood. As per the architect, the furniture was first sourced by the owners, the interior design came later.

"This is the reason why a lot of white is used," says Vandana. White walls and flooring also enhanced the sense of spaciousness that the owners desired.

**Architect/Designer:** C.V. Vandana; Shilpa Architects

**Associations:** Council Of Architecture (COA)

**Cladding:** Travertino

**Window/Door:** Teak wood

**Flooring:** Italian Marble

**Lighting:** Blow Light, Seating World

**Furniture:** Seating World, imported from China

**Cabinets:** Spice Kitchens

**Benchtops:** Asian Marbitto

**Taps:** Jaquar

**Paving:** White granite

**Story by Disha Shetty**

**Photography by Indrajit Sathé**

**Facing page top and below:** A wall camouflages the walk-in closets in the master bedroom. This wall has a foldable pattern for which wood subjected to a melamine finish has been used.

**Above:** The balcony on the first floor faces an open green expanse. The architect has created a family zone using local antique furniture.



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