

# DESIGN TODAY

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SPACES ETCETERA



**IN FOCUS**

## Inspirations In Wood

Architecture & Interiors

HOUSES IN THE NETHERLANDS,  
 BRAZIL, CALIFORNIA & SWITZERLAND  
 A CULTURAL CENTRE IN FINLAND  
 KNOW-HOW ON WOODEN FURNITURE



**PLUS HOT PICKS:** HOME DÉCOR ACCESSORIES, TABLEWARE & LIGHTING

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# ECCLECTIC TOUCH

EMBRACING VARIED DESIGN SENSIBILITIES, DELHI-BASED DCA ARCHITECTS SHAPE A RESIDENCE IN SAINIK FARMS, DELHI, inspired by the unconventional artistic taste of the client. Richly detailed, the residence provides a sumptuous visual feast with interest in every corner



It's not often that a client approaches a designer with a free rein to experiment and fashion an unusual space, far removed from any of the current fads in interior design. When such a rare client does materialise, it can sometimes unsettle the designer if the design intent seems to be veering towards 'maximalist' excess. When the team at Delhi-based DCA Architects met their client, a new owner of a residence in the posh settlement of Sainik Farms in South Delhi, they had no cause for alarm. They consider themselves fortunate to have worked with this client, who while explaining the idiosyncrasies

**Quirky materials and textures such as the book unit in Corian and wood in the entrance lobby contribute to the home's eclectic feel**

of his unconventional artistic taste, conferred his complete trust on them to harmonise the finished whole into a comfortable, inviting home.

When the team was commissioned to design the interiors, the house was completely built and the owners wanted to make

A wall decal with the silhouette of a tree looms large against the staircase outfitted with a trendy MS sheet railing



only minimal structural changes. Spread across two floors and a basement, the floor plan is organised such that the living, dining and kitchen spaces are on the ground floor along with the mother's room and a home office/library for the owner with a separate entrance from the front porch. The private spaces including the master and children's bedrooms are housed on the first floor. The basement is furnished as an entertainment zone including a bar, television lounge, a gym/activity area and a guest bedroom.

"The major challenge was to meld the existing false ceiling with our design. We also decided to retain existing doors and windows," explains Anupama, a senior architect at the firm. The bathrooms were given a makeover, with the master bathroom featuring a classic vanity with a huge antique mirror; black granite was used for the countertop and wash basins. Another prominent change involved replacing the plain staircase

**In the dining room, a blown glass chandelier hangs over a custom-designed dining table with a base made of wooden logs**





In the bar, rusted MS sheets find creative use in the back unit and bar counter. Used beer bottles are recycled to tailor an eye-catching screen. Cleverly designed pendant lights made from lassi glasses with antique gold finish are suspended over the bar counter fitted with a backlit onyx ledge. Another attractive element is the ceiling-hung carved white wooden frames in the TV lounge





**Graffiti by an artist was commissioned for the basement foyer which also features a compass made in vinyl on the floor**

railing with a trendy MS (Mild Steel) sheet railing.

Anupama describes the aesthetics of the completed home as “a fusion of multiple design elements merged into one space while simultaneously celebrating each object’s individuality. It is a marriage of ideas enhancing and complementing one another which births a unique balance.” This approach of embracing varied sensibilities is evident on entering the double heighted entry foyer, where a wall decal with the silhouette of a tree on a grey background looms large against the staircase outfitted with an undulating MS sheet railing. The treads of the stairs are treated with a burnt wood finish, adding to the visual feast that greets the eye. A large light fixture suspended from the first floor ceiling and descending to multiple heights along the double volume completes the composition.

The home abounds with an array of textures, colours and materials. Creative use of rusted MS sheets is made in several





The bedrooms on the first floor continue the eclectic theme, with the master bedroom (left) featuring twisted wooden posters and an upholstered fabric headboard in teal against a brown wall. The flooring is made of engineered wood. The daughter's bedroom (below) is furnished with a wrought-iron bed and includes a book unit with a study table in sawn wood





places from the nameplate to the staircase railing to the steps fascia and the bar unit. The basement and office on the ground floor has a plain cement concrete flooring. Unfinished, raw wood can be seen in most of the furniture pieces in the house. Digital wallpapers with bold patterns feature in the living room, study and daughter's room. Rough textured white paint in the study adds to the vintage ambience of the room. Another eye-catching element is the ceiling-hung carved white wooden frames; faces painted in striking colours are fixed on the wall just behind these frames in the TV lounge. Used beer and whisky bottles were recycled to make a screen in the bar area.

Colours were selected according to mood of the space. The living room employs a colour palette that aids in maintaining the formal look while vibrant colours were given to the kid's rooms. The master bedroom is adorned with printed curtains. Cove lights in each room solve the purpose of general lighting whereas LED spot lights are used to highlight artefacts. Retrofitted reading wall lights are provided by the bedside in each bedroom. Chandeliers embellish the décor of the living room and entrance lobby.

Anupama sums up the experience of this striking residence when she says, "It is the cultivation of many thoughts fused to form one story."

