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www.deziggenie.com ■ VOL 10 ■ No 3 ■ NOVEMBER 2017 ■ ₹150/US\$10/AED 30

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# BEDROOM

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PHOTO COURTESY: ASHLEY FURNITURE HOMESTORE

# BEDROOM BLISS

**B**edrooms provide the ultimate cocoon of privacy and comfort in a home. While they originally functioned solely as sleeping spaces, bedrooms have evolved to serve several secondary functions today: dressing, reading, lounging and working. Historically, Indian homes were based on the tenets of communal living, which means that families spent most of their time together in the living room. Hence bedrooms were designed in a humbler vein, with minimal furniture and decoration. But as times have changed, bedrooms have become the centre of private living. They now offer an unparalleled sanctuary for self-expression and are designed to be multi-functional and self-sustaining. This has led to bedrooms having almost doubled in size in the past century, with the inclusion of larger furniture and electronics. Bedrooms are also being increasingly used to help users engage with nature privately; intermediary spaces such as courts, verandas, terraces and balconies are being provided as extensions to bedrooms.

The general design by group DCA of promoting longevity – in terms of both functionality and aesthetics – extends to bedrooms: The studio aims to create meaningful spaces that would last a lifetime. We do not follow or aim to create trends, but perceive shifts early enough so the designs have a durable invocation. We believe bedrooms are deeply personal spaces and should reflect a range of individual interests and identities. Indians live in close-knit family structures and most of the time, their homes cater to as many as three human generations. The needs and aspirations of each generation are different and often deeply divergent. Therefore, group DCA works closely with its clients and makes a conscious effort to align the choice of layout, colour palette, and furniture pieces, in each bedroom to suit the personality of the user – this includes strategies like providing playfully-engaging elements in children's bedrooms, while incorporating



**Amit Aurora and Rahul Bansal,**  
Architects and Partners, group DCA.

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curated art in bedrooms for adults. The integration of such individual motifs and quirks help users relate to their bedrooms better and to simultaneously develop a sense of belonging to, and ownership of the space. The team makes sure however, to not lose touch of the larger thread that binds the entire home together. Also, bedrooms work best with décor that is soft, earthy and grounded, and hence they we choose to stay away from highly polished or reflective finishes.

While providing privacy is the overarching concern in planning bedrooms in a residence, it is imperative to place them where they will have access to the outdoors. We believe in bedroom spaces that let in abundant natural light and air while retaining the sense of enclosure – spaces that open to greens and provide outward views to semi-public and public zones, while being appropriately screened away from the public eye. This mostly requires placing bedrooms in the corners of the site, where they encourage users to engage with their family, but leaves them the option of exercising their privacy as well. Within the bedroom, emphasis is placed on lighting design and furniture in nooks and corners

to ensure individual comfort and functionality. Instead of following a cookie-cutter approach, we focus on delivering bespoke solutions.

The future holds promise for bedroom spaces: popular perspectives are changing rapidly and clients are increasingly open to experimentation. New smart-home technology – automated lighting, intelligent furniture etc. – provides several applications that could change the very structure of bedroom spaces in the times to come. Then, it will become terribly important to retain a sense of humanism in bedrooms: this could be achieved through the use of hand-crafted products – furniture, rugs, curtains, display items – made out of local unfinished materials. ■

– Amit Aurora and Rahul Bansal