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ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

10 AMAZING IDEAS



RNI No. DELENG / 2006 / 20557. Not for sale. To be circulated free with India Today in Mumbai, Delhi & NCR, Chennai, Bangalore and Kolkata. Subject to prior consent by India Today issued June 27, 2016.

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VOL. 11 NUMBER 6; JUNE 2016

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 Printed and published by Ashish Kumar Bagga on behalf of Living Media India Limited. Printed at Thomson Press India Limited, 18-35 Milestone, Delhi Mathura Road, Faridabad-121007, (Haryana); A-9, Industrial Complex, Maraimalai Nagar, District Kancheepuram-603209, (Tamil Nadu). Published at E-9, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110001. Editor: Kaveree Banzai.
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COVER BY
NILANJAN DAS



Photograph courtesy DCA ARCHITECTS

ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

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DESIGNED FOR DRAMA

In this Delhi home by DCA Architects, creating room for individual needs was paramount. The end result? Striking spaces, almost theatrical in appeal.

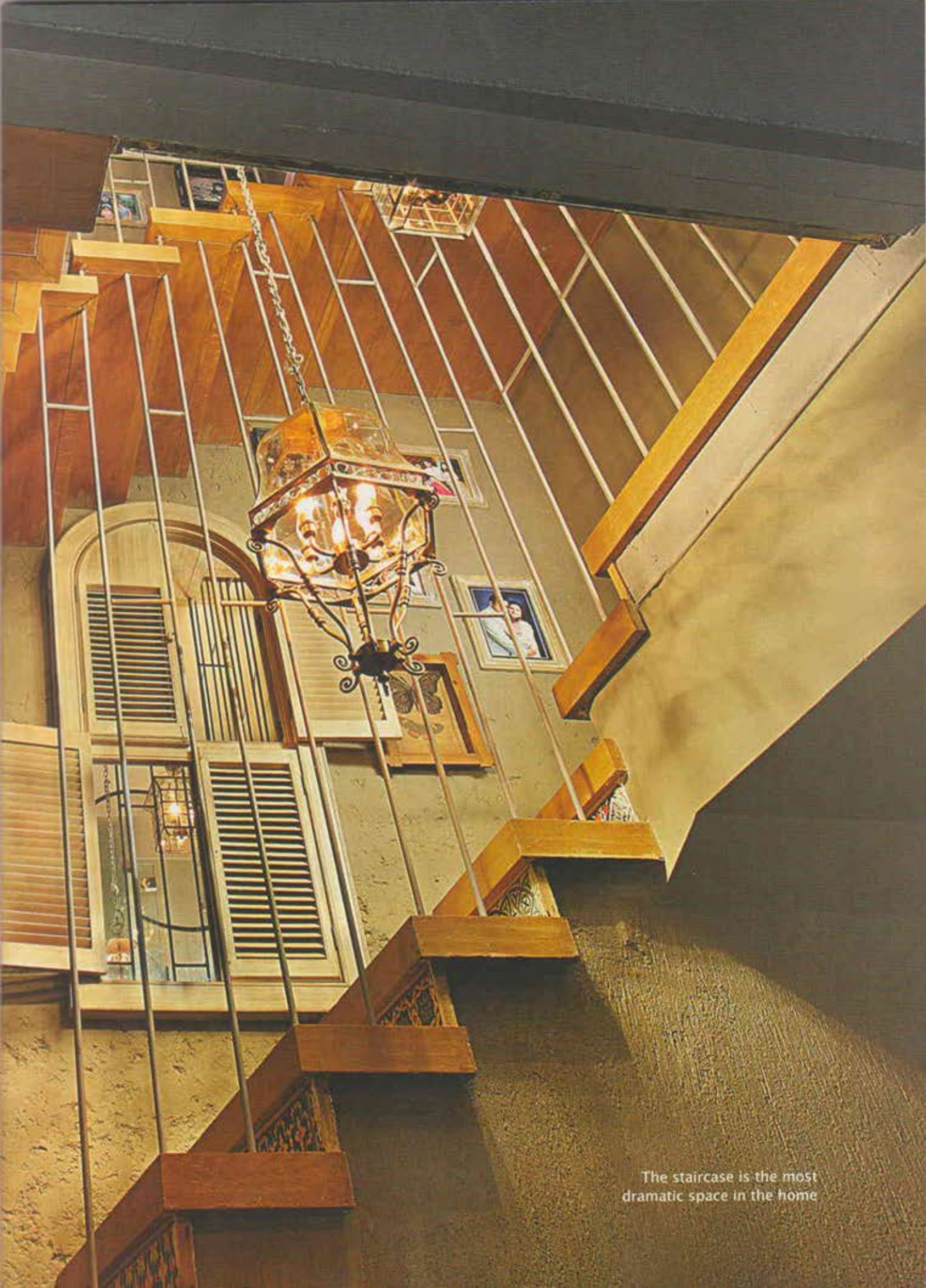
By RIDHI KALE

If God is in the detail, then consider this 'Residence for the Anands' in Delhi's Mayapuri as a temple of good design and aesthetics. Every minute aspect, from the layout of the area around the staircase to selection of furniture and accessories, has been meticulously planned. Since it is a home for three generations, individual tastes, likes and dislikes also come into play. The multigenerational home has been designed by Delhi-based firm, DCA Architects. For those not in the know, the design studio founded in 1996, is headed by two partners, architects Amit Aurora and Rahul Bansal. They provide services in architecture, interior design and design coordination across a wide range of building types including offices, residential, retail, hospitality and brand identities. This habitat is a great example of their contemporary style.

STAYING OUTSIDE THE BOX

"Within the residential morphology of urban NCR, retrofitting and redesign of homes today is often an opportunity to innovate towards the creation of an eco-friendly residential domain. The client brief called for a proposal that would restructure the home that is adaptable to the current needs of the family," says





The staircase is the most dramatic space in the home

Aurora. Since three generations of the family inhabit the 3,900 square feet two-storey residence, the architects had to think out of the box, while staying within the confines of the already existing space. "Within the parameters of the existing structure of the building, structural changes were implemented to optimise the space and bring in natural light by pulling down some walls, re-positioning them and modifying the windows," says Aurora. This was done by enlarging the existing windows and bay windows; further corner windows were created wherever possible. Energy-efficient LED light fittings, lamps, accent lights and wall washers in the ceiling perfectly fit the decor of the home while being sustainable.

A SEAMLESS LAYOUT

The main gate leads to the entrance lobby; to the left of the lobby is the informal dining area with an open kitchen. Further ahead is a narrow passage along the

restructured wooden and metal staircase that leads to the grandparent's bedroom, a formal living room, coffee lounge and terrace. The striking staircase, leads you to the upper floor, which has three bedrooms, a pantry and an entertainment zone. Besides enabling connectivity to the upper floor, the staircase extends to the terrace where a small sit-out area has been created.

STAIRWAY TO THEATRICALS

"The staircase is designed to be the most dramatic feature of the duplex. It is reconstructed in wood and metal to reach the upper floor landing that then connects the master bedroom to the rest of the floor by means of an architectonic bridge," says Aurora. As the staircase moves towards the terrace, floating steps have been used to create a sense of whimsy. Along the stairway an arresting light fixture crafted from handpicked antique brass pendant lamps goes well with the specially-sourced mirror door. "The rustic



Architects Amit Aurora and Rahul Bansal (above); a vintage haveli door forms the headboard in the master bedroom (left)



The living room is divided into two areas (above); the dining room (below)



frames add to the story on the plaster scraped walls, along the three sides of the stairs. A huge window on the top is sized in order to bring in sufficient daylight throughout the day," says Aurora.

HOUSING THREE GENERATIONS

"The upper floor that houses the bedrooms and the family lounge has been designed to reflect the individual preferences, without letting go of the overall approach. Uniformity in materiality and colour palette is adopted throughout the scheme," says Aurora. For each room, the furniture has been handpicked and reflects the requirement and tastes of the occupant. The handcrafted furniture, mostly made from reclaimed wood is accentuated by the hand-picked rugs and is further complimented by the owners' collection of artefacts, family portraits and accessories from travels across India and abroad. "The earthy textured seamless stone flooring adds character to the living areas, including the kitchen and the dining. Natural wooden flooring starts from the floating staircase and spreads across to the bedrooms, setting the earthiness and warmth," says Aurora. As for the master bedroom, a stunning vintage haveli door forms the backdrop of the bed's headboard. The best part, be it the bedroom or the living, all areas reflect individual tastes but are in synergy with the overall design. AT www.groupdca.in