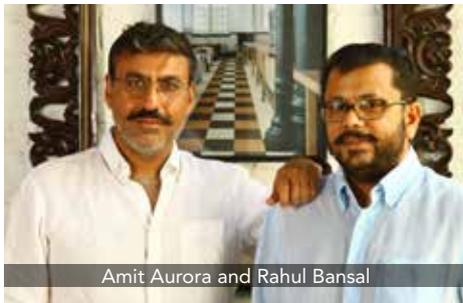


elaborate imagination



Amit Aurora and Rahul Bansal

A journey of discovery spearheaded by dreams and delivered via design details. This is the story of DCA architects who have established themselves as a collaborative practice that focuses on research, context and innovation in the design process

TEXT: Isha Talsania | PHOTOS COURTESY: DCA Architects

DCA architects strive to create value through design that maximizes the project's complete potential. Driven by its team of experienced project managers, DCA Architects is equipped with the expertise, experience and capacity to deliver design, planning and interior design solutions.

Every project is a successful result of a structured collaboration between the design team, clients and the spaces, thereby crafting innovative and sophisticated design solutions. Working with all the relevant stakeholders, each project is designed to meet specific needs and conditions that create an exclusive product. Design as a tool is optimised to transcend the client's vision to create a 'unique architecture', tailored to the aspirations of the client.

1. An eclectic mix of furniture and fixtures imparts vibrancy to the house
2. A timber and steel staircase acts as the anchor of the house
3. Traditional artifacts are used as a backdrop for a modern lifestyle

The designers at DCA are very attentive to client briefs, and ensure that they provide livable spaces that become a backdrop for a comfortable and graceful lifestyle.

Anand's Residence

The Anand Residence is a fine example of retrofitting and redesigning a house to cater to the changing needs of the family. Within the parameters of the existing structure of the building, structural changes were implemented to optimize the space and bring in natural light into the interiors by pulling down some walls, repositioning them and modifying the windows. The play of light and shadow, and the amplification of natural light within all spaces gives the house an airy and luminous expression.



The staircase connecting the vertical levels of this duplex becomes the anchor point of the household. Designed and executed in timber and steel, this dramatic feature winds upwards flanked by a picture story of the family showcased through rustic frames on scraped plaster walls on one side, and a sculptural hanging light fixture on the other. An architectonic bridge connects the staircase to the bedrooms on the upper floor.

The overall modern design of the interiors is peppered with eclectic pieces of traditional elements, the finishes are earthy and elegant, and the overall look

and feel of the house is that of an urban chic residence.

Studio DCA Office

Another superlative example of the firm's ingenuity is the adaptive reuse of an old structure to house the DCA office.

4. The bedrooms are designed keeping individual tastes in mind

5. The house is a seamless flow of materials and textures



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6. An intimate courtyard marks the entrance to the office

7. The reception area is austere yet welcoming

8. The transparent office space sits like a glass pavilion within the landscape

9. The industrial look of the warehouse is maintained through open services against the bare ceiling

10. Glass box cabins for the partners

Located just off the main arterial connection to Gurgaon, the DCA office inhabits a setting shaped by a plethora of influences of the local context of an indigenous settlement. The main challenge was to retain as much of the original structure as possible, while retrofitting the interior to meet the stringent parameters laid out in the design brief created by the partners. The space was to be day lit as far as possible and needed to provide a naturally ventilated and flexible work space for a growing team of design professionals. Additionally, the studio needed to foster a high level of interaction between the two verticals within the company, the



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studio and the projects team. Conceived as a box within a box, the office space provides engaging spaces for both private and communal use, fostering a sense of creative continuity, allowing spaces for brainstorming and focused work alike. The raw, industrial appearance inherited as a part of the old structure is enhanced here with the use of raw wood, rough



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unpolished kota stone and unfinished steel. The unplastered walls are simply painted upon, the concrete floor is retained and the services remain exposed across the ceilings. The finishing and joinery of the materials and details is maintained as natural and minimalistic.

A combination of old and new furniture, along with elegantly detailed new lighting aids in creating a befitting ambience. The executed design successfully employs a complex layering of spatial hierarchies that caters to the flexibility essential for a growing design services firm.

Town Hall

The firm's strength of conceptualising through contextual conformity comes to the forefront in the Town Hall building in the Khan Market area of the NCR. The space had to accommodate for the contemporary tastes of the modern user group within the domain of the colonial heritage while incorporating the spirit of post-independence India.

As the name conveys, Town Hall is developed as a community space for the purpose of interaction and casual meetings. The existing walls and levels as well as the high ceiling of the main hall are altered to enhance the centrality of this interactive space.

The old fanlights are restored and



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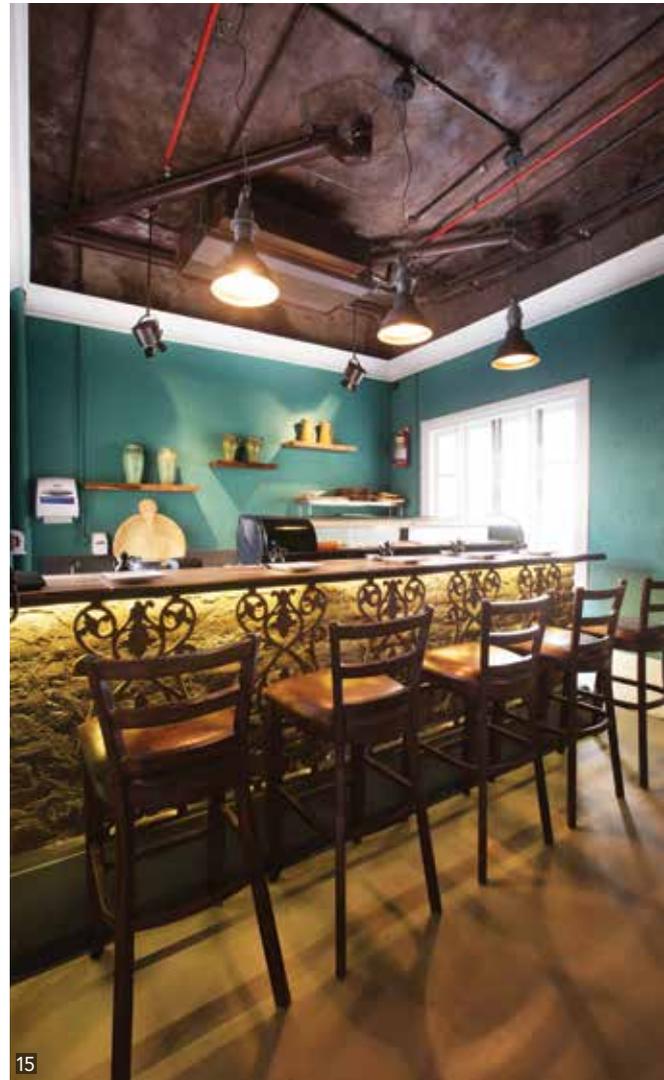
11. Rubber wood partitions, concrete floor and glass cubicles complete the overall aesthetic

12. Multiple terrace levels are used for outdoor seating

13. Individual lights on each table helps the guest adjust the light and the mood themselves



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14. The central hall is treated as a large communal area

15. Each space is designed with acute attention to details

16. The spaces are reminiscent of the colonial era combined with the efficiency of the modern times

exploited to establish a visual connection to the terrace above. Terraces on multiple levels are treated uniquely with an open seating plan for the big terrace, while the small terrace has its own intimacy and privacy. A bridge overlooking the passage of the Khan Market is enhanced in order to maximize the locations potential; this is where the sushi bar corner is placed.

The use of materials and fixtures is in sync with the overall classical approach, the layout caters to the various social aspects of the space and the furniture has a unique old world charm to it. The restaurant design is hence, a quaint mix of colonial heritage and inherent

spirit of the post-independence era that is modified and tweaked to the contemporary times of Modern India. ●

Every project at DCA architects basks in an exceptional flavour while being inherently tied together with the ethos of Dream.Design.Discover.Deliver. A promising design house that vividly carves out ephemeral spatial experiences, DCA architects has built up a robust image in the country over the last 20 years DCA Architects is a design consultation firm, incorporated in 1996. It is headed by two partners, Rahul Bansal and Amit Aurora and is headquartered out of New Delhi, India. The design studio and its projects have won many national awards and have been published in various design journals.

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