



Bold strokes

A spacious plot gives this house the flexibility to experiment with architectural and design elements

Abundance of space can throw open many possibilities. It can, however, be tricky to strike a balance between spacious surroundings and an intimate environment.

When Daljit Singh of Absolute Architecture was asked to build a house for a small family, space was not an issue.

The plot in Noida was extensive and the family requirement for number of rooms limited. The key need was to turn the 900 sq m plot into a comfortable and luxurious home.

"It was a square plot and the buildable area too was square-shaped," says Singh. "Taking the height into consideration, it became apparent that the structure would resemble a cube."

Once the design for the structure was set, the homeowners opted for a white plastered façade for the house.

The homeowners also wanted a lot of light and air in the house. Another requirement was for independent areas and open spaces for the children. As a result, space was demarcated for several courtyards

Above: Cubic chunks define the structure of this house by architect Daljit Singh of Absolute Architecture. The 900 sq m plot allowed the architect plenty of space to design a comfortable, urban home.

Right: The driveway is used as the entrance on a daily basis, while the formal entrance leading to the house is paved and grassy. The lush landscape around the house complements the white façade, which aids in keeping the heat out in the extreme climate of north India





Above: A wall with vertical niches that separates the living room from the staircase foyer aids transparency and allows a view of the garden from the interiors. The sunken seating in the living room has been built in stone and looks out to the garden on one side. Bright cushions add vibrancy to the room.

Right: The ceiling in the upper level family room reflects the design of the partition wall on the lower level. The billiards table lends an informal vibe to the room.

and a swimming pool. The pool, however, was later replaced by a garden.

Singh did not compromise on privacy to achieve the open layout. The compound wall has grilled bars on top. The rear walls have crevices for plants, which provide shade and privacy.

Spread over three levels, the 10,000 sq ft house has courtyards and a verandah. The main entrance leads to a courtyard and a water cascade that is enhanced by soft musical notes and lights. The back wall of the cascade aids privacy.





"The family did not want more than three bedrooms. Providing entertainment areas was another consideration," says the architect.

Inside the home, the ground level hosts the public spaces. The entrance foyer leads to the living room, which is separated from the staircase by a wall with vertical niches. The living room, which looks out to the garden, is characterised by built-in, sunken seats. The seating brings the garden at eye level.

"Heat absorption is lesser under the

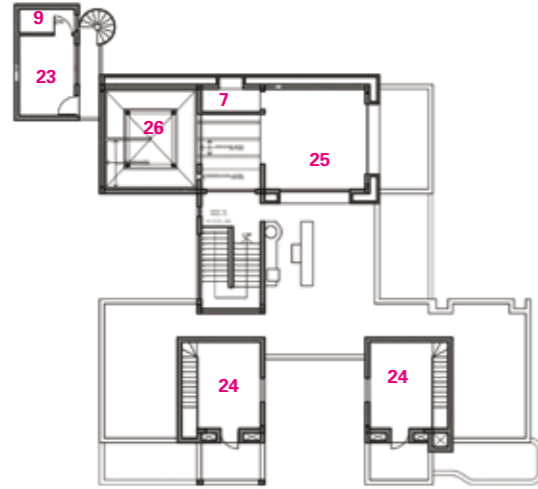
surface of the earth. So the living area is naturally cool and brings you close to nature," says the architect.

For an illusion of warmth, a half-wall with an illusory fireplace of candles and lights has been provided at one end of the living room.

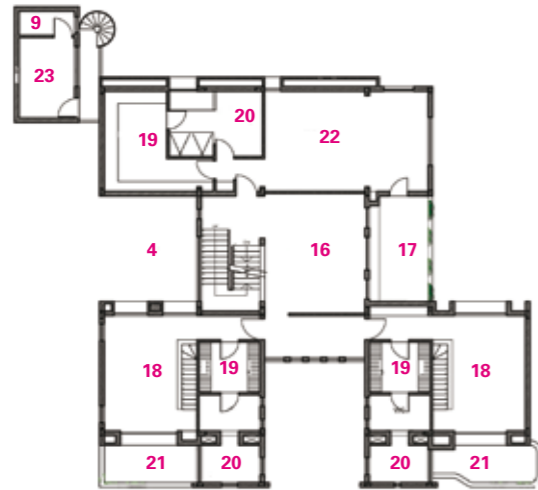
The dining area has glass walls on two sides that have an expansive view of the garden. A verandah was built outside the dining area to provide for another lounge space. The guest bedroom is also on this level.

Facing page: The solid wooden dining table, earthy upholstery and white walls give the dining room an elegant, contemporary look. This room is surrounded by green spaces and leads to a verandah, perfect setting for the evening tea. **Above:** The countertop has been moulded to make an extended breakfast table in the kitchen. Storage cabinets complement the island kitchen. Steel, wood and glass have been used throughout the house.

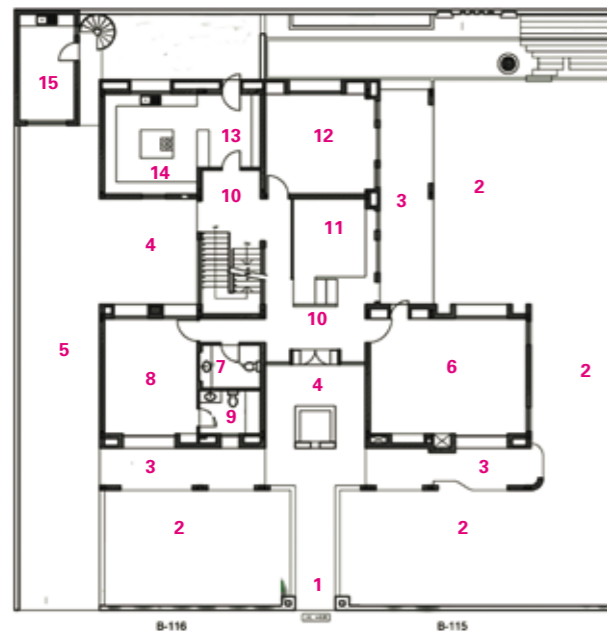
Second Floor



First Floor



Ground Floor



Above: The guest bedroom is minimalistic and spacious. The headrest adds a touch of drama and paves the way for mood lighting.

Legend of plans: 1 main entrance, 2 garden, 3 verandah, 4 entrance courtyard, 5 driveway, 6 living room, 7 powder room, 8 guest bedroom, 9 toilet, 10 foyer, 11 lounge, 12 dining room, 13 pantry, 14 kitchen, 15 utility, 16 family room, 17 balcony, 18 bedroom, 19 walk-in closet, 20 bathroom, 21 terrace, 22 master bedroom, 23 servant's room, 24 mezzanine, 25 office, 26 prayer room.

The upper level holds an informal family room, the master bedroom and two suites for the children. The children's suites take prominent space with each one holding a study area, a double-height bedroom, a bathroom and a balcony.

Recessed windows on this level weatherproof the home. The second floor holds an office, a gym and a prayer room. The prayer room has been designed like a courtyard. It has 3-metre-high walls and is open to the sky. A built-in barbecue and a lounge also find place on the second level.

Architect/designer: Daljit Singh for Absolute Architecture

Association: Indian Institute of Architects (IIA), Council of Architecture (COA)

Builder: Bansal Constructions

Interior decorator: Mandavi Singh

Landscaping: Vinod Sood

Kitchen/cupboard: Laminated and pre-laminated block boards by Genesis Systems

Flooring: Laminated wooden, flamed Sira grey granite, Emperador and Greek marble

Wallcoverings: Greek marble, Chinese vitrified tiles, Emperador

Paints: Asian Paints

Lighting: Amka, Phillips, Halonix and local vendors

Kitchen countertop: Corian counters

Bath: Jacob Delafon

Basin: Jacob Delafon

Taps: Jacob Delafon, Kohler

Shower: Jacob Delafon, Kohler

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