

# THE FRONT LINE

Six architects share their favourite projects where the facade, better known as elevation, is as mesmerising as the interiors

Compiled By RIDHI KALE



POWERED BY

**HITACHI**

Photograph SHUTTERSTOCK



**expert speak**  
Architects



### DESIGNED FOR ALL SEASONS

When we were first invited to visit the site, we were confronted with a big challenge. While the location offered unhindered views there was no flat terrain at all. Instead there was a hill slope with a drop of 30 m (100 ft). The star of the site was of course the majestic view of the Aamby lake and Sahyadri mountain ranges, so the design brief was woven around the views and the terrain. We conceptualised and planned the home in a manner that all the spaces formal and informal faced the majestic views. As one enters the gate all you see is an exposed limestone wall along with plantations. You are then lead through a small opening that leads to the first showstopper space which frames the unhindered view. (We were inspired by the similar story telling at the Taj Mahal, Agra.) The villa's architectural massing creates multiple zones and landscaped areas inter spread around each built zones. The material palette includes

**Project**  
150 Westlake, Aamby Valley  
**Area**  
21,000 sq ft (built up), 1 acre (site)  
**Concept**  
Weekend Retreat



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sandstone cladding, sandblasted concrete in-situ style tile flooring, along bespoke furniture and art sourced from across the world. We also worked out unique concepts of visually merging the water, air, sky and fire through a sunken heated pool paired with a sunken heated Jacuzzi that wrap around the barbeque and sitting space. These features have enabled the client to enjoy the chilly December weather in warmth.