

ARCHITECTURE

RESIDENTIAL
Homes that craft a contemporary identity through their design

PROJECT: VILLA ▼ ARCHITECT: NIRAV SHAH, ACDS

TEXT: TINA THAKRAR
IMAGES: INDERJEET SINGH



Additional Info

- AREA: 4,500 SQFT
- LOCATION: PUNE

This quaint weekend home has multiple design elements that stay true to its countryside-like appeal.



A weekend home for a family of four, this home was designed by Nirav Shah of ACDS on the basis of a single-line brief — to create a home that evokes the feeling of a European luxury retreat. When Shah was handed the site, all he had was a large banyan tree in the centre, very little green cover, and the loud sounds of traffic from an abutting street. Ultimately, the banyan tree became the backdrop for the home, the green cover was expanded into dense foliage, and free-flowing lawns and water bodies were added to cut the outside din.

Shah began with a rectangular grid, and then made functional allocations based on vastu principles. The sloping shingled roof has reflective windows for the attic. It sits on a white sandstone structure with long French doors and windows offering views of the verdant surroundings.

All around the house, Shah has wrapped the decks with wooden trellisses, to passively cool the external façade and patios. The trellis also acts as an element of design that creates a sense of dynamism on site. This entire structure is dramatically lit with up and down lighting to smoothly synthesise the white structure and black shingled roof into one holistic formation.

Continuing the rustic theme of the outside to the inside posed a challenge, but the simple exterior creates balanced contrast with selectively adorned interiors. Many furniture and decor elements were designed in-house to avoid any possible deviation from the theme.

A formal transitional passage at the entrance directs the entrant to the living spaces with handmade tiled floors and bespoke furniture with French accents.

Plants like Frangipani, Night Blooming Jasmine and Day Blooming Jasmine make spending time in the garden an olfactory experience. Between this greenery is a sound negating outdoor audio system with 50 speakers spread all over.

FYI

About 500, 14ft-high ficuses were planted on site, which grew to become a vertical hedge around the home.





Similar to European homes, this residence has a conservatory at the entrance. This informal zone is used by the occupants to enjoy the mornings and evenings under the shade of a white bougainvillea.

“

In line with our design philosophy of eternal harmony, i.e, Yin-Yang, we decided to keep the exteriors simple and clean, balanced with selective luxury on the inside.

— Nirav Shah, Imaginer-in-Chief, ACDS



The landscaping for this home is a micro-environment by itself. The backyard is laid with lawns and a handmade wooden cabanna in one corner. A curtain water feature has also been added in the deck area outside the living room, to create a sense of visual drama. To break the straight-lined architecture, Shah added non-linear furniture as a comfortable contrast.

“We envisioned that as one enters the site through the imposing gates, one should be teleported to European countryside. The visual frame was a result of careful planning of space allocation and engagement of all senses,” says Shah.

THE SPECS

Paints: Asian Paints

Lighting: Lafit

Bath: FCML India

