

garden homes

Natural extension

Apartments graced with garden environments infuse crisp design with the serenity of nature.





Urban haven

Natural elements in this high-rise duplex create the ambience of an independent home

Warmth and privacy are qualities usually synonymous with houses, not with apartments. The open spaces surrounding these houses exude a feeling of seclusion, giving the residents a personal space. In a metropolis, the limited availability of space can leave apartment owners wanting a place that has its outdoor space.

The team at Shibanee & Kamal Architects did not allow the limitations of a high-rise deter them from creating this duplex complete with natural beauty and a water body in Bangalore.

"The idea was to create a space that did not feel like an apartment, but like an intimate home with the warmth of a garden, personalised spaces and an overall scale that would not be intimidating," say Shibanee and Kamal Sagar, principal architects of the firm.

The architects, who have also designed the apartment building, have accommodated natural spaces in the duplex's exteriors. A terrace garden, a wooden deck and a water body run through the length of the duplex. Creating a garden in a high-rise involved changing the apartment's conventional structure.

"Terrace gardens require sufficient soil depth to sustain plant growth. This is facilitated by the use of deeper beams to hold the soil, lending a sense of volume to the garden," says Kamal Sagar.

Channeling natural light into the garden was a key concern for the architects. A North-South orientation allows light inside throughout the day while avoiding direct heat in the afternoon from the West. Curved slabs enable the light to come deeper inside the apartment. The use of glass, instead of concrete, for the upper level deck also ensures that light



Above and left: A glass butchwork partition separates the entrance foyer from the expansive public spaces of the lower level in this Bangalore duplex by Shibanee and Kamal Architects. A freestanding brown wall separates the living from the dining-cum-kitchen area.

Preceding pages: A terrace garden and a water body bring nature closer to the duplex. Red meranti wood has been used on the outdoor deck as well as for the bench. All the rooms open out to the terrace garden.



filters down on the duplex's lower level. Exposed terracotta brick walls add colour and warmth to the outdoor space.

Large glass panels separate the outdoor and indoor spaces. The living area, kitchen, dining space and two bedrooms form the lower level while the family space, guest room, children's room and home office take up the upper level. All the rooms, except the home office, open to the terrace garden.

A freestanding wall, clad with textured brown slate butchwork, partitions the liv-



Facing page, above and left: The dining, kitchen and the wooden deck form a continuous space. An electric chimney is fitted in the Veneta Cucine modular kitchen. The chimney's anodized aluminium filters arrest fumes, keeping the kitchen odour-free. A glass ceiling on the deck provides shade while allowing natural light to percolate to the al fresco dining.



ing and dining-kitchen area. A double height is provided for in the living area.

"The double height in the living room is substantially enlarged by coffer slabs. They eliminate the need for conventional beams as well as help to dramatically enlarge a space," says Sagar.

The dining looks into the kitchen. The modular kitchen, complete with built-in electronic appliances, ensures that the counter is clutter-free. The breakfast counter is integrated with the kitchen counter while the wooden deck abutting the kitch-

en serves as al fresco dining.

Earthy and warm tones dominate the bedrooms. In the children's bedroom, an aquarium built in the wall separating the bathroom from the sleeping area serves as an animated window.

The staircase acts as an unconventional storage area. The architects have utilised this space by fitting in drawers below the treads. The upper level opens to a family space with a library and home theatre system. A glass deck adjoins this space, providing an expansive area to unwind in.

These pages: The wood and glass staircase provides a seamless transition to the upper level. The handrails are crafted out of high-grade teak wood. Drawers underneath provide storage space. The upper level has a library and a family area. The coffer slab ceiling accentuates the living room's double height.



Architect/designer: Shibanee and Kamal Architects
Association: Council Of Architecture (COA)
Builder: CREDAI Bangalore
Kitchen manufacturer: Veneta Cucine
Window/door: Total Environment Woodwork Private Limited
Tiling: Marazzi, Somany, Bisazza, Palladio
Flooring: Marazzi, Pergo, Kraus, Style Box
Paints: Asian Paints
Lighting: Artemide, Vistosi, Fabbian
Furniture: Quetzel, Stanley
Windows: Quetzel
Benchtops: Dupont
Splashback: Veneta Cucine

Bath: Kohler, Laurent (tubs)
Basin: Kohler, Art Ceram, Parryware
Taps: Jaquar, Hansgrohe, Kohler
Shower: Jaquar, Hansgrohe, Kohler
Shower stall: DORMA, Jaquar
Hot water systems: Racold
Toilet: Kohler, Parryware
Ventilation: GMC
Window: Quetzel
Bedroom suite: Veneta Cucine, Total Environment Woodwork Private Limited
Cabinets: Veneta Cucine, Total Environment Woodwork
Mirrors: Saint Gobain

Facing page and above: The hardwood flooring in the master bedroom is complemented by customised wooden furniture. Cornices conceal fire-fighting sprinklers in the ceiling. A sliding window stands between the bed and the master bathroom. Occupancy sensors automatically switch the lights on when the bath is occupied.

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