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Rakeshh Jeswaani designs two stylish homes

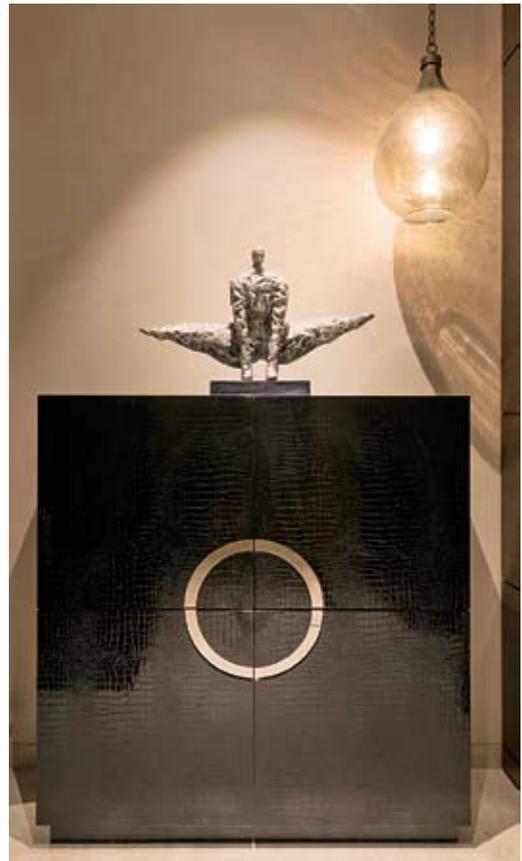
Designs Galore



Rakesh Jeswaani

The true test of a great home design lies in its ability to effectively deal with the varied requirements of its residents and yet manage to create a unique masterpiece at the end. Two projects undertaken by interior designer Rakesh Jeswaani of Rakesh Jeswaani Interior Architects pass this test with flying colours and exhibit his versatility and artistic taste. One is a colourful weekend home in Lonavala and the other a contemporary urban space in Mumbai.

TEXT: KANUPRIYA GARG



Bungalow in Lonavala

PHOTOGRAPHS: PANKAJ ANAND

This 6,000 sq ft bungalow in Lonavala was constructed as a weekend getaway and a holiday home for a Mumbai-based family. The design brief required the space to be colourful and yet possess a relaxed and earthy feel.

The house encloses two bedrooms, the living and dining spaces along with a garden and a verandah on the ground floor and five bedrooms and a private family seating on the first floor.

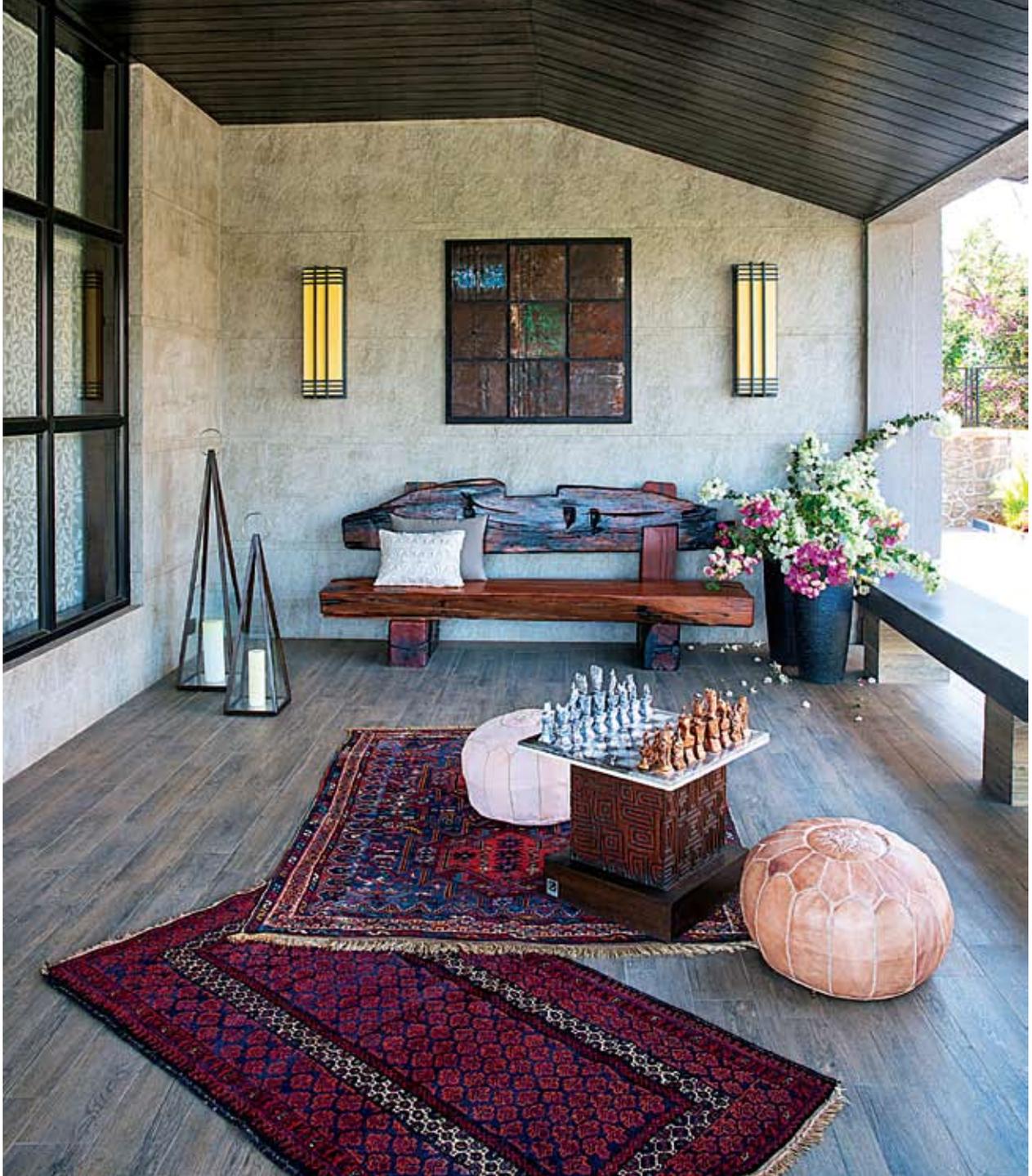
The selection of materials and design required a fair bit of thinking as the bungalow was being built on a slightly tight budget. 'We decided to keep the colours of the flooring and the walls very neutral mainly in the shades of taupe and grey. We didn't want to go for different materials and looks in each room and make it very diverse. We selected three different types of bathroom looks and distributed them within the seven bedrooms. We played with the tiles and kept the palate very similar all throughout the house,' says interior designer Rakeshh Jeswaani.

The bedrooms house a stan-



Alongside the pillar near the stark staircase, which connects the ground level to the central common family seating space, lies a white marble sculpture by artist Pradeep Jogdand.

An interesting seating in the corner of the patio has an exclusive bench made with old ship wood brought from China along with kilims and leather poufs hand-stitched in natural camel leather from Morocco. Placed alongside is a chess set fabricated in copper and aluminium on a stone board and two large candle stands, both the chess and candle stands especially designed by Rakesh for this project.





Leather clad dining chairs and a dining bench cushioned with silk 'Shibori tie and dye' fabric in red and white hues, create drama in the dining room.



The living space is ornamented with a low seating of a huge 'diwan' upholstered in a vibrant mix of colours and prints.

andard layout where variations in furniture and furnishings give a distinct look to each one of them. Colour is infused in the spaces with vibrant décor and unusual furnishings. To retain the freshness of the space, natural fabrics like linen, 'tie and dye', 'Shibori' and 'Lucknowi Cutwork' are employed. 'It's my favourite look! We have such a rich craft heritage in India and I love Indian fabrics. I find them far more appealing than imported ones. And when it coincides with the clients' aesthetics then I use these fabrics a lot more. I like to utilise these traditional elements in a contemporary setting and devise a great fusion,' says Rakeshh.

A lush green garden and a patio/verandah wrap themselves around the front portion of the ground floor.

An interesting seating in the corner of the patio has an exclu-



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sive bench made with old ship wood brought from China along with kilims and leather poufs hand stitched in natural camel leather from Morocco. Placed alongside is a chess set fabricated in copper and aluminium on a stone board and two large candle stands, both the chess and candle stands especially designed by Rakeshh for this project. All these elements create a peaceful ambience here. A window from the living room overlooks this patio.

The living space is ornamented with a low seating of a huge 'diwan' upholstered in a vibrant mix of colours and prints. It's divided into nine squares – each, sporting a different print. The second seating here has a contemporary L-shaped sofa with two round tables of differing heights along with two casual armchairs. The windows have white on white cotton cutwork sheer sliding blinds.



In the guest bedrooms, furnishings in natural linen, silk 'Shibori tie and dye', Jodhpuri applique embroidery, highlight the use of Indian textiles and liven up the spaces.



One can see through them even when they are drawn.

The dining table and sideboard tops are fabricated in leather-finish granite for easy maintenance. Red leather-clad dining chairs and a dining bench cushioned with silk 'Shibori tie and dye' fabric in red and white hues, create drama here. Above the sideboard hangs a large canvas artwork in gold tones done by artist Raman Adone.

A stark staircase clad in leather-finish granite with steel and glass railings joins the ground level to the central common family seating space. Alongside the dark pillar near the staircase, lies a white marble sculpture by artist Pradeep Jogdand.

Most of the private spaces are located on the first floor with the

'We decided to keep the colours of the flooring and the walls very neutral mainly in the shades of taupe and grey. We didn't want to go for different materials and looks in each room and make it very diverse. The colour came through upholstery and furnishings.'

Ground Floor Plan





A solid wood slatted four-poster bed graces the master bedroom on the first floor. White on white cutwork upholstery in different motifs lends the master bedroom a soft touch.

First Floor Plan



exceptions of the two bedrooms placed on the ground floor. All the bedrooms are done on contemporary lines with variations in upholstery and knick-knacks. 'We designed three distinct bedroom looks and repeated the patterns amongst the seven rooms,' says Rakeshh.

A solid wood slatted four-poster bed graces the master bedroom on the first floor. White on white cutwork upholstery in different motifs lends this place a soft touch. The cupboards reflect the same wooden pattern of the bed back and the mirror behind the shutters provides a more open look.

One of the guest bedrooms contains a two-poster bed with a slightly rough wood bed headboard. Multicoloured cushions in Jodhpuri applique embroidery embellish this space. Other furnishings are put together in natural linen in tones of turquoise.

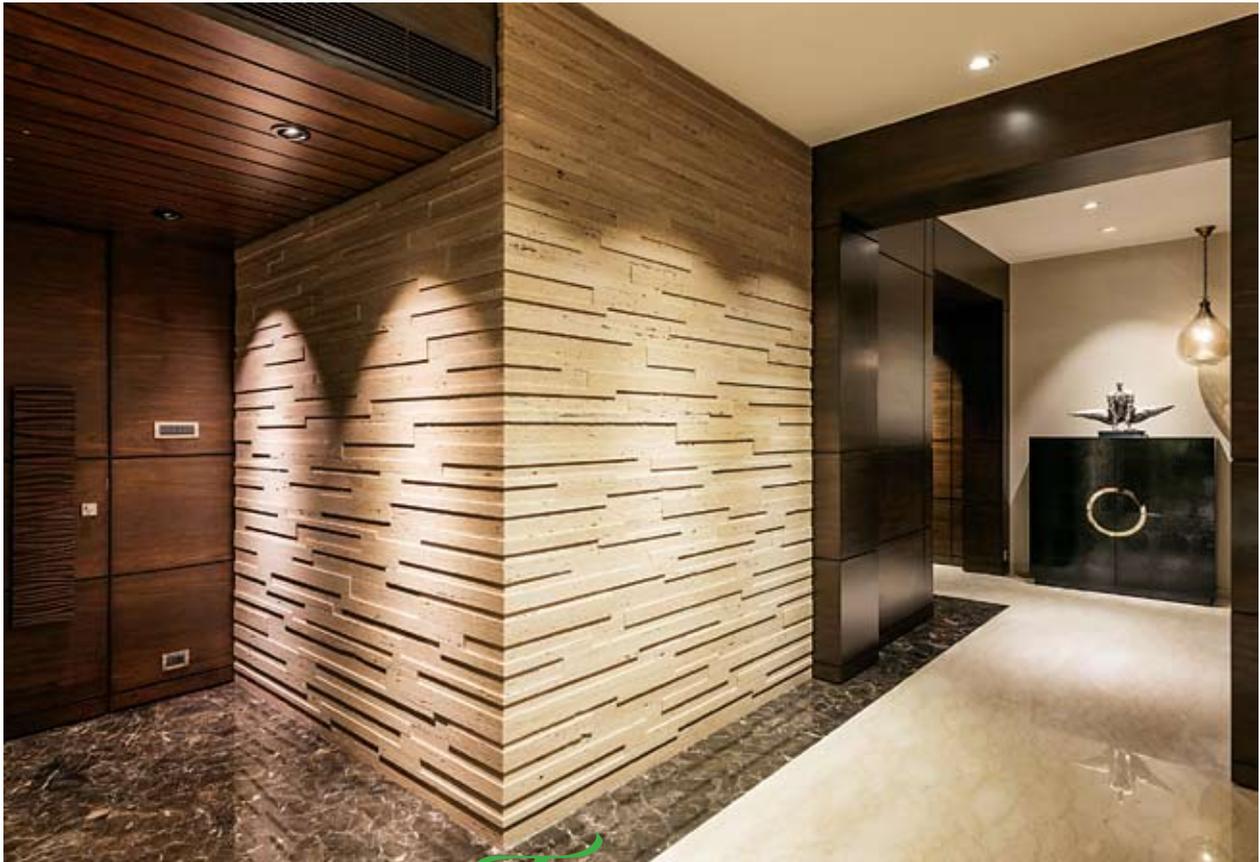
The bed in the other guest bedroom has a contemporary linen upholstered headboard with a wooden border contrasted by a black metal cutwork table lamp. Furnishings in natural linen along with silk 'Shibori tie and dye' cushions and runner in blue and white give this space a vibrant vibe.

All the bathrooms are designed in tiles of the same colour for a continuous feel. Only one wall in each bathroom is designed differently to break the monotony.

'It was a lot of fun picking out different Indian fabrics and getting them customised to suit the design needs of this project. It was refreshing to do a low budget, young and fun space,' sums up Rakeshh. Looks like Rakeshh has ticked all the boxes of a good design and given his clients a perfect weekend getaway from mundane city life!!

Apartment in Mumbai

PHOTOGRAPHS: DHEERAJ THAKUR



A beige travertine clad wall in random strip texture catches your attention as you enter. The dark brown flooring of the lift lobby has been continued in this entrance and makes for an interesting contrast against the beige wall.

This sprawling 4,000 sq ft contemporary apartment is perched in a chic new highrise construction in Mumbai. The clients comprise a young couple, their parents and two kids. The client brief required the space to be simple, modern and rich without being overtly ostentatious.

The clients wanted a smart urban apartment with clean lines and no clutter.

'We decided to use wood and marble as the two main elements for the entire house and keep the space in the warm neutral tones of

beige, browns and greys. These clients love the feel of wood and wood textures, so we tried to bring a warm and earthy feel to an otherwise stark interior by playing with subtle textures in the woodwork and the marble,' says Rakesh.

All furniture used is Indian and all the carpentry was done at the workshop of Curiosity Furniture Pvt Ltd and fitted in the house towards the end.

The apartment has two main doors – one that opens into the living area and the other that opens into the bedrooms – for functional and privacy purposes.



A large mirror with an angular frame done in a gold leaf pattern embellishes the entrance space.

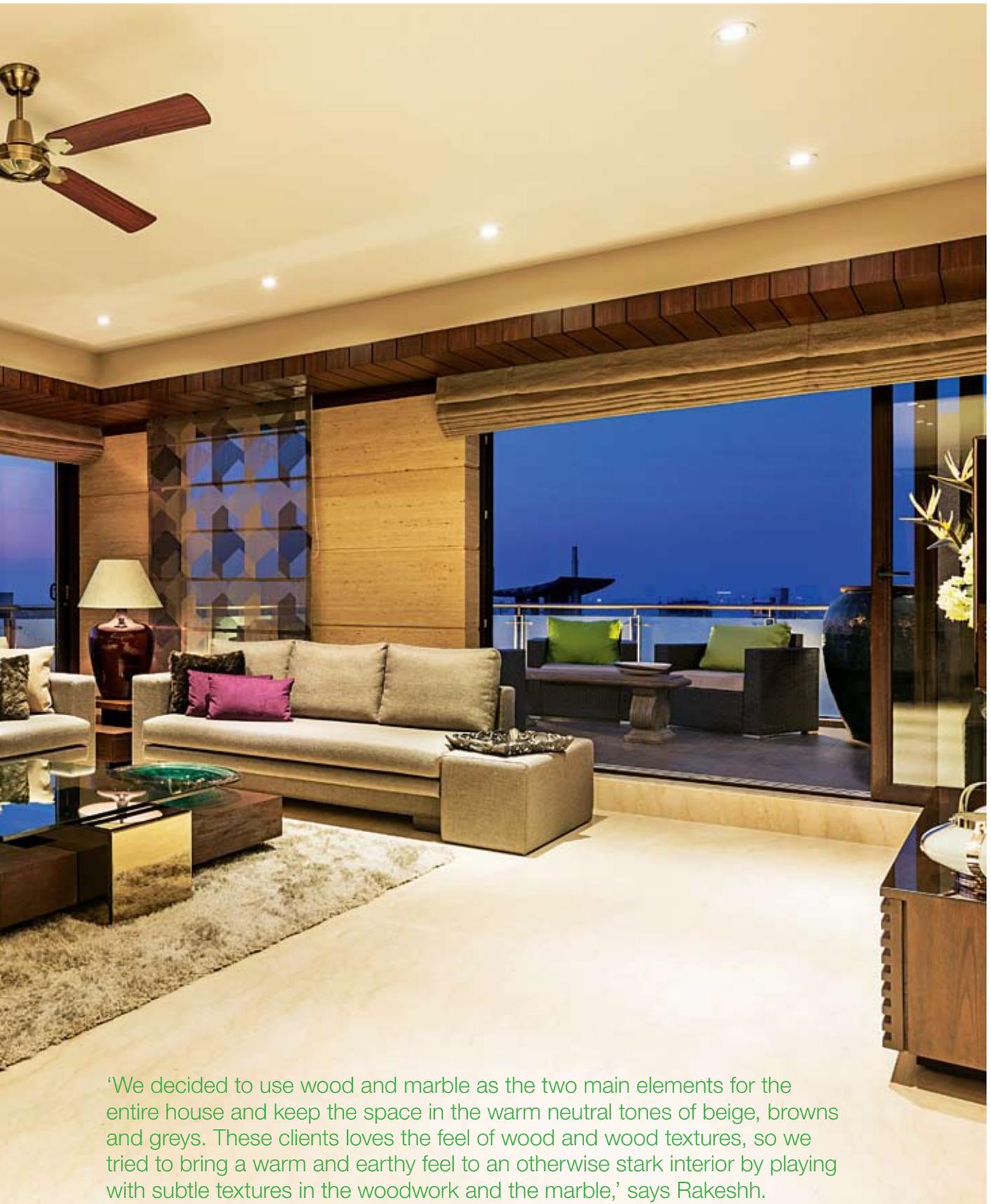


Another door separates the living space from the bedrooms, provided mainly for security reasons, when the clients are travelling. Small balconies mainly used as flower-beds run all around the apartment.

When you enter the apartment a beige travertine clad wall in random strip texture catches your attention. The dark brown flooring of the lift lobby has been continued in this entrance and makes for an interesting contrast against the beige travertine. A glass pendant light in the corner and a contemporary metal sculpture offsets a black leather unit with round chrome handles, in the hallway. Also placed there is a large mirror with an angular frame done in a gold leaf pattern.

The living room overlooks a large terrace on one side and a wrap-around balcony on the other. 'We have kept the curtain treatment very simple (roman blinds in natural linen) to bring the beauty of the terrace and the city views inside,' says Rakeshh. All sofas are upholstered in a jute textured grey fabric. The center table is a large block of rough textured wood offset with a smaller





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A freestanding console with two vertical niches hides the view of the kitchen from the living space.

block in bronze mirror to add a bit of glamour. 'I wanted to infuse some earthiness and make the space look rich. The use of linen tones down the space,' he adds. A freestanding console with two vertical niches hides the view of the kitchen from the living space.

As we move to the dining room, we notice that the dining table is made with blocks of marble with 'Damask' patterns engraved on the surface. There is an entire storage unit behind the dining table, which seamlessly merges into the wall paneling and doesn't look like a conventional storage space. The unit has been designed in a very bold graphic pattern of unevenly sized rectangles in textured and plain wood finished with inset strips of polished copper metal.

The bar on the other side sports the same design pattern as the centre table. Bar stools are



Model

APARTMENT IN SANTACRUZ



The dining table is made with blocks of marble with 'Damask' patterns engraved on the surface. An entire storage unit behind the table seamlessly merges into the wall paneling.

carved in solid wood back with an interesting texture. Five hanging Moroccan glass lights over the bar are the only decorative element in the living and dining space.

All the bedrooms open up in a longish passage where a leather-finish travertine wall, infuses a nice sleek look.

The bedrooms are designed in simple, straight lines with minimal decorative elements. The headboard of the bed in the master bedroom is upholstered with a broad, textured wooden frame. The only colour shown in the master bedroom is navy blue, which is brought in by the bedside lamps and a single lounge chair. The master dressing has large, sliding wardrobe shutters –



The bar sports the same design pattern as the centre table of the living room. Five hanging Moroccan glass lights over the bar are the only decorative element in this space.



‘Since the clients were not into art I have left most of the walls bare. I also believe in giving the clients the liberty to choose their own art as time goes by, so that they have the option of decorating their home as per their preferences,’ Says Rakeshh.





All the bedrooms open up in a longish passage where a leather-finish travertine wall infuses a nice sleek look.



Bedrooms are designed in straight lines with minimal embellishments. Woodwork and warm tones dominate the private space.

profile



In the sons' room, the wardrobe area has been slightly segregated from the bed by using a low height divider which houses the TV on one side and a dressing mirror on the other.

one in a diamond pattern wood-carving, the other in a taupe coloured back painted glass. The flooring and the walls of the master bathroom are in 'Agean cream' Italian marble with one wall in the shower area highlighted using 'Portoro' marble. All bathroom ceilings are in solid wood. This has been done for easy maintenance, as there are openable shutters in the entire bathroom ceiling to hide the geysers.

In the sons' room, the bed set is in a wooden strip pattern is complemented with coloured cushions in purple and lime green. The wardrobe area in this bedroom

has been slightly segregated from the bed by using a low height divider which houses the TV on one side and a dressing mirror on the other.

Leather upholstered headboard coordinated with leather panels behind the TV can be seen in the parents' bedroom. Wardrobe shutters here are in white and black painted glass.

One wall of the guest bedroom has been completely mirrored up to open up the space. The drawer unit under the mirror, done in a combination of wood and silver leafing, acts as the dressing table.

'Since the clients were not into

art I have left most of the walls bare. I also believe in giving the clients the liberty to choose their own art as time goes by, so that they have the option of decorating their home as per their preferences,' says Rakesh. 'Since every furniture element was made outside, it made the on-site work much simpler,' he adds.

Designing a typical apartment in a big city can run into clichés and stereotypes. It's refreshing to see a designer try and use the combination marble and wood in a unique fashion and bring out a design that stands out amongst others! 