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Tile It To Accentuate



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FEATURING

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BANGALORE REGIONAL CHAPTER



The large terrace is converted into a vibrant open lounge where the solar panels serve as an artistic roof

A net zero intervention

BY NANDHINI SUNDAR

FEATURING AR. MANOJ SABNANI



The space offered for the residence on the top floor of the multi-dwelling was a clear floor plate of 8000 Sqft of which 3000 Sqft area in the midst was required necessarily to be left open to sky.

The challenge was to connect the two extreme sections of the floor plate into one seamless dwelling unit without flouting the rule of leaving the intervening space open to sky. **Architect Manoj Sabnani of Nebulous Design Workshop**, took up the challenge and not only created the seamless dwelling space but also turned it into a net zero unit for power.

Given the clear floor plate with only columns featuring as the structural members, Manoj had the flexibility to execute his design where functionality took precedence. He began the intervention by segregating the public and private spaces of the residence into two wings on the east and the west, with a conservatory featuring in the midst where the mandatory open to sky section prevailed.

Open deck to lounge in

The conservatory serves as a connecting link between the private and public wings of the residence, with solar cells featuring on the expansive glass panelled roof. “The solar cells generate on average 20KW of solar power which is about 80 units per day on an average peak day”, says Manoj. The 3000 Sq ft area is conceptualised as a refreshing open lounge area, both for family use as well as for formal entertainment, with a sprawling dining area designed to house a large gathering.

“The individual square solar cells were meticulously spaced out on the 5.4 mm Plexi glass panels that form the roof. The gaps between the cells permit sunlight to filter in, creating dynamic patterns inside the conservatory as the day progresses”, explains Manoj. “Given the large size of the open to sky deck, it made sense to capitalise on it

to generate solar power and take the residence off the grid, while simultaneously creating a vibrant open functional space to lounge in, dine, entertain”, he adds. The roofing structure with its solar cells by itself becomes a decorative feature, the display of light and shadow creating an interesting story for the space.

The conservatory reveals a palette of earthy textures and copious greens, with the furniture articulating the hand of local artisans. An overpowering highlight wall featuring a brick arch and terracotta tiles contrasted by the rustic cement textures captures the eye soon as one steps into the vibrant conservatory. While this earthy, captivating highlight wall serves as the backdrop for the outdoor lounge section, the dining area with a massive dining table featuring an equally massive 14 feet long live edge hard wood as its table top, prevails next to it.



Exterior facade of the edifice

The trees abetting the multi-dwelling are cheerfully borrowed into the conservatory, with an informal seating area conceptualised beside it for family to sit back and bond. Abundant greens feature within the conservatory too in the form of strategically placed large cement pots. The entire space is marked by simplicity, with furniture that is chiefly spartan, incorporating simple wood and cushion seating sewn with ropes by artisans. Yet, the conservatory exudes a vibrancy that is evoked by the sheer articulation of the décor.

Conceptualising the public spaces

The eastern wing of the residence houses the public spaces of the formal living, dining, kitchen, guest room and a music room. The interiors, curated by **Interior Designer Kiran Sabnani**, reveal a

palette of dark grey and white, with a fine play of geometry to spark interest, starting from the open kitchen where the cabinets exhibit the odd polygon shapes to house the monthly supplies. This structural feature, seeping into the formal living area and dining, becomes a décor on its own merit in a space that is surprisingly free of wall clutter.

The interiors speak of custom designed fittings as an offshoot of great attention being invested on detailing. Thus, be it the light fittings, the switches, the arrestingly designed sofas, the entire residence speaks of customisation, with in-house design serving as the key plank on which the interiors were conceptualised. “The exterior finish of the cabinets too was custom made to lend a unique flavour to the space”, points Manoj. In lieu of wall paintings, wall

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Clean lines, shades of dark grey and white mark the contemporary interiors





features are brought in, either as wallpaper, wall finishes, “so that they become part of the evolved interiors and not serve as an add-on after the interiors were completed.”

Accenting on functionality

The private spaces, featuring on the western wing of the residence, speak of strong emphasis on functionality while keeping aesthetics in perspective. With three bedrooms structured around a family living area and common study space, the interiors display abundant comfort and easy maintenance without sacrificing beauty. Each of the bedrooms are carefully designed to meet the specific functional needs as well as the usage patterns and the ensuing maintenance requirements, the cabinets and wardrobes custom designed to fulfil the same.

The master bedroom comes with a separate wing to house the custom designed closets, with an island wardrobe featuring in the midst, the exterior finishes classy to emit a sense of opulence, yet, keeping it functionally easy to maintain. Similarly, the custom designed wardrobes in the son’s room demonstrate strong play of thought in the execution, the interiors of the wardrobe meticulously designed to meet the unique functional requirements while being maintenance free.

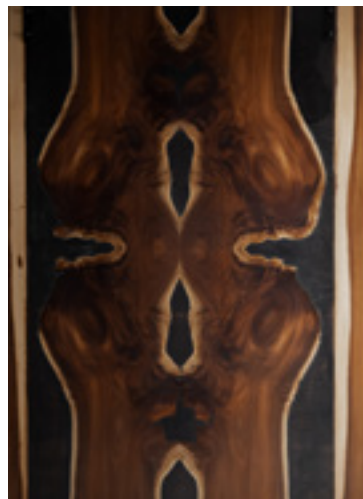
The daughters’ bedroom likewise exhibits heavy customisation with a fusion of delicacy, the shutters incorporating jute fabric in place of veneer or paint. The prevailing nooks in the room are cleverly turned into quaint book racks which also add to the charm. The walls of all the bedrooms host either wallpaper or textured paint to serve as a décor feature in lieu of elaborate wall décor.

The public as well as the private wings of the residence are clutter free, with purely the clean lines of the contemporary interior and the customised furnishings opted serving as the decorative element. “The objective is to let the structural members and furnishings become the decorative elements, rather than through imposition of art”, observes Manoj.

It is thus not surprising that the solar panelled roofing over the conservatory, merely by its design, becomes a decorative feature in the space while fulfilling the function of generating power. “The intent was to display the various possibilities of designing an interior that is cheerful, vibrant, functional, at the same time sustainable, without infusing opulence”, sums up Manoj on the design executed. ✖



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Arches, wood, compete with the neutral tones to lend an artistic flavour amidst the clean lines

Project: **House of Eden**
Design Firm: **Nebulous Design Workshop**
Location: **Bangalore**
Built area: **8000 Sqft**
Completion: **2024**
Design team : **Architect Manoj Sabnani, Interior Designer Kiran Sabnani, Anjishnu, Mamatha, Prerna, Sanjay and Ganesh**
Materials: **Brick, wood, cane, wicker, bamboo, metal, glass, tiles**
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