

HOME / NEW DELHI

# From the Land





In a leafy neighbourhood in New Delhi sits a house that appears to have been fashioned from the earth. 'When the clients approached us to design their new home, the architecture was already established. We began the design process with careful consideration for the context while ensuring that it complemented the interior profile,' explains Ashiesh Shah, founder and principal architect of his eponymous Mumbai-based studio, who was enlisted by the homeowners to create a calming oasis where indoors and exteriors blend into one another.

The resulting home is an extension of the landscape it inhabits. 'The spaces feature layers of natural materials that serve as a backdrop for artisanal design objects sourced from across the country,' says Shah. In an effort to balance the home's monochrome shell, the interior is elevated with objets d'art — some Shah's own designs, some from other eminent designers. 'The homeowners have a discerning eye for fine craft. They're collectors and connoisseurs of fine art with an appreciation for good design,' he says.

By the same token, artworks figure in every area of the home. A piece by Indian architect BV Doshi at the entrance, for example, hangs over a black bench designed by Atelier Ashiesh Shah. Antique Naga totems line the entrance, there's a Ravinder Reddy head on the staircase and an Alke Reeh artwork hangs above. There are glimmers of local craft too: the light in the gazebo was made in Channapatna and the bar in the living room was crafted by artisans in Chhattisgarh using

the *dhokra* lost-wax casting technique. 'These objects are all sustainably made, by local artisans in the traditional style,' says Shah, adding that many of the stone statues and antiques are made from reclaimed or reused materials.

Shah's time-honoured *wabi-sabi* aesthetic manifests in various ways: in the dining room's soft silhouettes, the raw textures of the guest bedroom, and the way the wood and grey palette reappears here and there. While the entrance area is characterised by grey marble flooring that complements the precast concrete walls, this greyscale is offset by the warm timber in the private spaces as well as the dark wood that lines the walls and ceiling in the living room.

The bedrooms echo the textures and tones of the common areas. The main suite is layered with neutral hues and tactile fabrics, while the guest bedroom mirrors the exterior palette through the use of concrete panels and a concrete sculpture by artist Rathin Barman. Shah took a slightly different approach for the two daughters' bedrooms, creating brick-walled, loft-style spaces that nod to their college years in America.

The home features several outdoor oases. Apart from the family's common deck and the outdoor extension of the massage room, each daughter has a private deck of her own, the first with a swing and the second with a Jacuzzi. In all, the home, with its ample proportions, influences from near and far and a uniquely local palette, is informed equally by travel and tradition.

#### Text

Vaishnavi Nayel  
Talawadekar

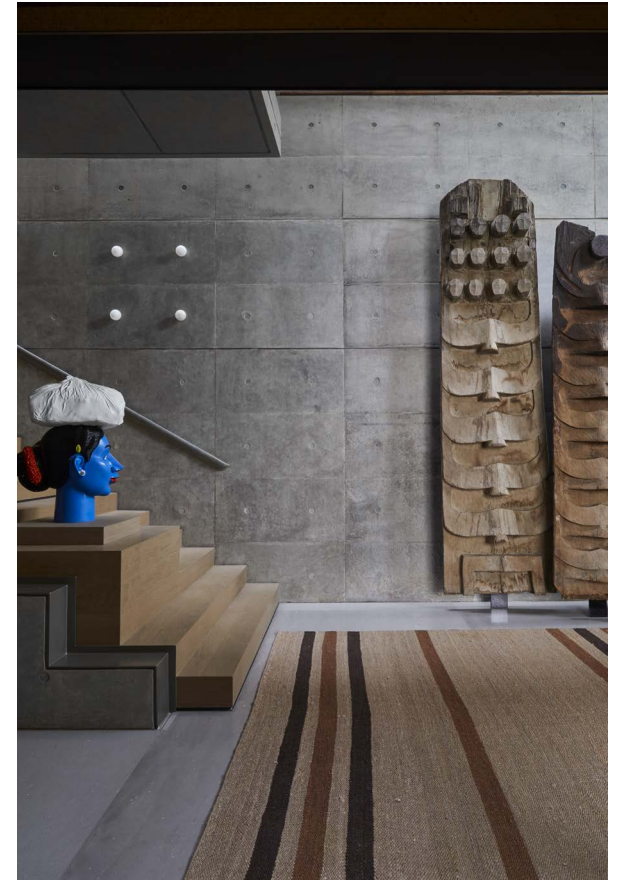
#### Images

Ashish Sahi

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Realised by Ashiesh Shah, the interiors of this New Delhi home were designed as a seamless extension of the architecture and landscape in which they sit. Several outdoor oases complement the home's ample indoor spaces







In the home's majestic double-height entrance, antique Naga totems from Kerala are layered against the cast concrete walls, while a blue bust sculpture by local artist Ravinder Reddy adds a pop of colour





The home's gazebo houses a spacious lounge, where cosy sofas are paired with striking pieces such as an artwork by Prabhakar Pachpute, a pair of wooden bark stools from Kochi, a Tuareg rug and the Channapatna light from Atelier Ashiesh Shah







In the dining lounge, a comfortable seating area pairs the Maharaja sofa and armchairs from Giorgetti with a mix and match of pieces, including a couple of Channapatna stools from Atelier Ashiesh Shah, Clay dining chairs by Maarten Baas and various artworks by local artists

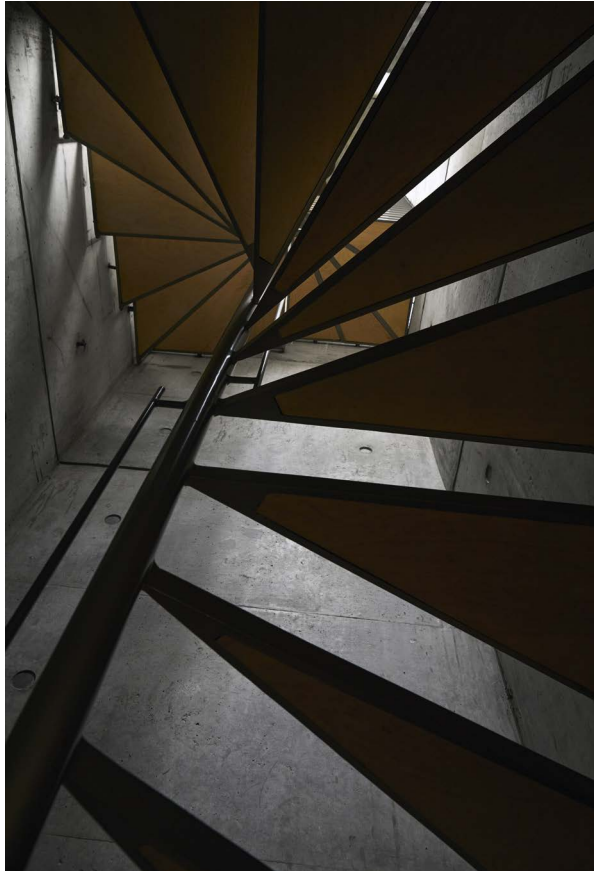




Echoing the ceiling's round moulded design, the dining room exudes a sense of elegance and softness embodied by the generous curves of the DeMuro Das dining console, table and chairs and the Flos Overlap Suspension 1 pendant by Michael Anastassiades







This page  
Encased in raw concrete walls, a birch and metal staircase connects the ground floor and the first floor

Facing page  
Bold contrasts define the living room, where curved sofas and the Gucca ceiling lamp from Atelier Ashiesh Shah pop against wooden walls and ceilings







This page  
Bold and opulent, the guest  
bathroom is swathed in marble

Facing page  
The guest bedroom is designed in a  
darker, subdued palette, cocooned  
in wooden panel walls finished  
with a soft concrete texture





The main bedroom draws on curved elements, soft fabrics and textured paint to create a sense of comfort and respite, while the Seepi 1 ceiling lights by Shailesh Rajput Studio make a graceful statement







Several outdoor decks complement the indoor spaces, including a private deck adjacent to one of the girls' bedrooms with a swing by Rishi Bathla, and the massage room deck with an outdoor pouffe and an artwork by Arunkumar HG





On the living room deck, an elegant floating bench in terrazzo and matching terrazzo flooring by Parman Designs contrast with a raw concrete wall and the surrounding nature

