



The living room gets a pop of colour, thanks to a salsa sofa that serves as its centrepiece



# HOUSE OF CURVES

Undulating walls and sinewy forms give this apartment by andblack design studio the illusion of a curious, never-ending river

WORDS VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR

PHOTOS ISHITA SITWALA







An open shelving unit just off the dining area plays host to tchotchkes, while serving as a characterful backdrop during mealtimes



N

o matter who the client or what the brief, architects Jwalant and Kanika Mahadevwala, co-founders and principals of Ahmedabad-based andblack design studio, always find a way off the beaten path. Their latest project, an apartment on Ahmedabad's Ambli

Bopal Road, is no exception. With undulating wooden screens, amorphous lighting fixtures and furniture that mimics the movement of water, the interior flows like a meandering river, turning unexpectedly around every corner.

As Jwalant and Kanika recall, there was no brief to begin with. "They wanted something contemporary, but the rest was open to interpretation," shares Jwalant of the homeowners, a young couple with a three-year-old daughter. Given the size of their family and the want for a separate entertainment space, it made sense for architects and clients to consider dropping one bedroom (the home had four in all) to accommodate a TV den. And so they did. In the spirit of tailoring the space to suit their family, the homeowners also prioritised keeping the furniture and surfaces kid-friendly, while muting the shell to evolve with their sensibilities.

Minimalist it might be, but the home evokes interest in other ways. The front door is a sinewy marvel with handles that grow out of its woodenskin, while the door of the puja room projects the rise and fall of ripples—but only when viewed at certain angles. Likewise, the little girl's bedroom is a smorgasbord of cloud-like forms, with variously sized study tables—camouflaged against the wavy wall shelves—to serve her through the years.

"When it comes to designing for kids, it's very easy for clients to say, 'he or she likes this or that'. But preferences change with age, so it's important to keep things timeless," says Kanika of the pared-back palette in the daughter's bedroom. The primary suite cuts a more earthy figure with slatted wood panelling that serves as a warm counterpoint to the surrounding daisy walls. Everything in the home, barring the sofas, was designed by the architects, in a bid to give the space a distinct identity and create moments of continual wonder.

The metallic see-through partition demarcating the living and dining areas is of particular note. It channels a gilded cage, a curious antithesis to the chandelier above the dining table, which evokes a free bird in flight. With spaces that contrast yet complement, echo one another yet hold their own, this home is a sum of many beautiful parts. ♦ [andblackstudio.com](http://andblackstudio.com)



Is it an installation? Is it a wall? No, just the front door designed like a larger-than-life sculpture



A peep into the master bedroom where ridged timber wall cladding highlights one corner. The light is a bespoke design by andblack design studio







The furniture and detailing was designed by the architects, with a view to create a distinct space, that was warm and contemporary



The three-year-old daughter's bedroom is a floaty haven that promises to grow with its pint-sized inhabitant. The lowest two shelves double as study tables that will serve her through the years



*“With spaces that contrast yet complement, echo one another yet hold their own, this home is a sum of many beautiful parts”*



The dining table is crowned by a chandelier that channels a bird in flight, a bespoke design by andblack design studio

