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Inspiration and insig... or designers

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Trend watch
Doors, bedrooms & closets

HNI homes
Defining luxury living

Veneers
A natural alternative

THE WIZARD OF HOSPITALITY

If a new restaurant in the city is making waves for its decor, chances are that the designer is Sumessh Menon of SMA

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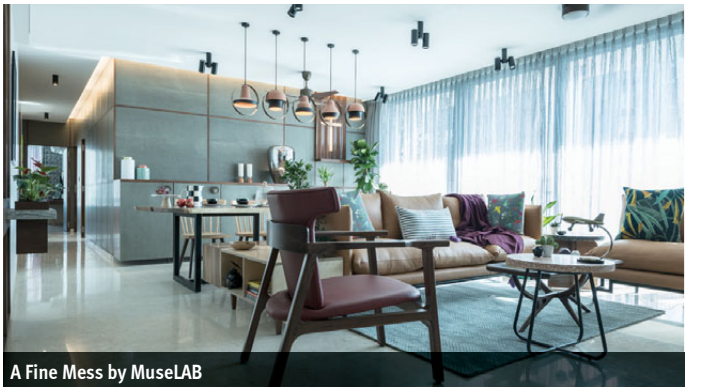
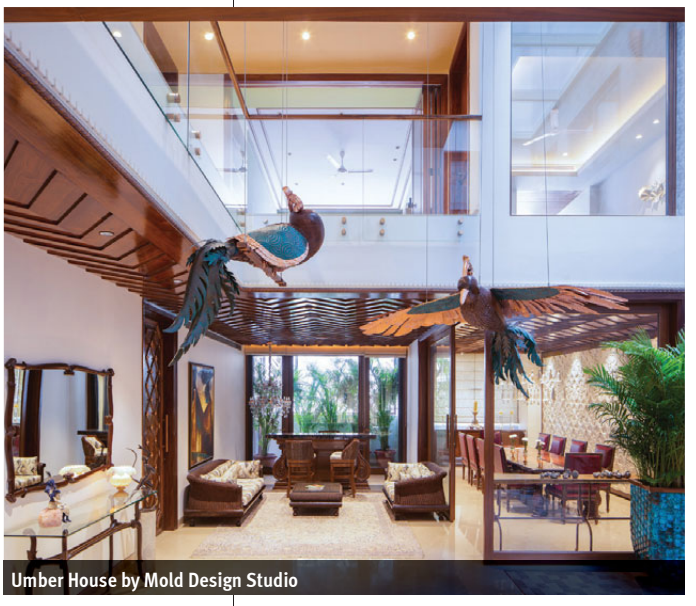
Ohana House by AdnD

New Cuffe Parade by Studio HBA


A Fine Mess by MuseLAB


Umber House by Mold Design Studio

Villa Sol by Esquisse Designs

LUXE APPEAL

WHAT IS LUXURY WHEN IT COMES TO DESIGNING HOMES IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA? THESE FIVE RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS OFFER SOME ANSWERS...

BY CAROL FERRAO & MARIA LOUIS

Trendsetters not just in fashion, HNIs define luxury living through their stylish and impeccable abodes. Invariably, you will find that comfort, unique functionality and security are flawlessly amalgamated with grandeur, richness in material palette and a touch of personalised magic. The luxe life is epitomised by HNIs with their disposable incomes and taste of the global world. They give architects and designers the opportunity to unleash their creativity, resulting in impressive built spaces.

In the following pages, we present a selection of HNI homes in India that are the epitome of luxury. We walk you through these designer homes, highlighting the unique thematic schemes they follow and/or the technology that adds to their luxury quotient. We also look at materials and design details that give these projects a rich appeal.

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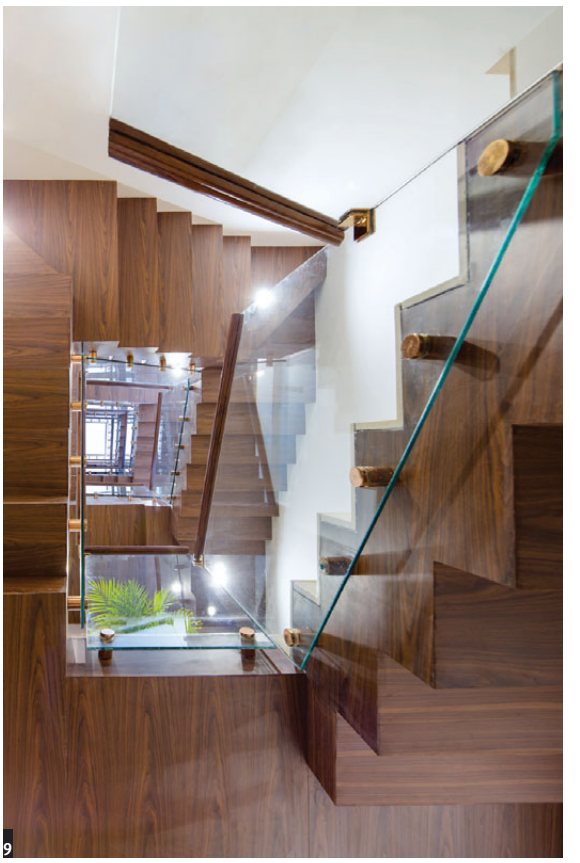
UMBER HOUSE BY MOLD DESIGN STUDIO

Calling a luxury home "simple" may seem like an oxymoron – but that's precisely how architect Anika Mittal Dhawan, principal, Mold Design Studio describes Umber House, which is nestled in the diplomatic enclave of Malcha Marg, Delhi. "Simple and linear, the design revolves around the front garden/lawn, which is a rare urban opportunity these days. It provides a foreground and a breathable green space, to create a healthy transition from the street to the veran-dah," is how Dhawan describes the home of the owners of the design house Exhibit D. A central open space unifies all floors, floods the interiors with natural light and becomes the perfect spot for a sculptural element. Despite being open, it functions as a living space that seems to expand and con-tract on individual occupancies to juxtapose vivid functions of each person in the overall definition of home.

Based on the client's brief, interior flooring and ceiling are finished in muted tones, serving as a canvas for the design detail and décor to shine in each space. All rooms, including

FOCAL LUXURY ELEMENT

The juxtaposition of the double-height space on the ground floor with the central open-to-sky cutout creates a very interesting play of volumes that acts as a focal point in the house. A dramatic installation adds a sense of luxury, while accentuating the volume of the space within.



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8. The family room has been conceptualised with an Indian touch.

9. To construct a rhythmic language of spaces, the materiality outside is carried within through the use of copper, wood and beige flooring. The design boasts fluid spaces, clean lines, natural colour tones and light accents.

10. The geometric façade emerges from the monolithic design with dynamic subtractions to capture natural light, facilitate ventilation and enhance visual depth.

11. The dining room boasts a bespoke handcrafted wall that is composed with Makrana marble.

12. The bedrooms have been decorated in muted tones to allow the greenery outside to take over the space.

the bathrooms and the kitchen, are designed with full-height windows and high ceilings, so that the play of natural light adds to the aesthetic charm of the space. Even the folded plate staircase functions as an intriguing design feature with the use of wooden soffit contrasting with the stone flooring, glass railings and the wooden handrail. Like most urban spaces, an HNI home, too, benefits from creating a multi-functional space. The family lounge on the first floor, for instance, can be modified to become the guest room when required, by a simple sliding folder and customisable furniture that opens up as a bed when needed.

Both the muted design palette and the tall windows allow the outside greenery to take over the house and induce the interiors with its calm presence. "To construct a rhythmic language of the spaces, the texture of outside spaces is carried within, with the use of copper, wood and beige flooring. Thus, the building crafts a coherent experience that captivates a person's senses from the street, defines a playfield of spatial experiences that ropes him into the hearth of the house – all this while remaining consistent in their experience and identity," shares Dhawan. Fluid spaces, clean lines and natural colour tones define the interiors, while dramatic ceilings and cornices add a sense of detail and glamour to the overall language of the house.

Technology, innovative materials and craft are intrinsic to the design scheme. When it comes to materials and craftsmanship, the copper cladding on the façade is a sure standout feature. As it glows under the sun, it gives the house a radiant quality. "The craftsmanship in copper has been explored by using it in different ways across the project," adds Dhawan. A comprehensive automation strategy, elevates the living experience with the entire AV, lighting, air-conditioning and curtains controlled by automation.

Additionally, home security is manageable with the click of a button, ensuring that automation accounts for all factors of comfort, liveability, safety and security – thus creating a haven that encapsulates modern HNI homes, where emphasis on nature in the midst of a city and the desire for a tech-friendly, simple yet inspiring design is paramount.