

Smooth edges

The narrow plot paves way for intertwined areas that allow interaction between the indoors and outdoors

With smart planning, spaces in large houses can be designed to be private yet in sync with the outdoors. Sometimes architects merge areas in a house to give a spacious and open feeling. Natural elements are incorporated in the interiors to give owners a wholesome ambience that lends a hint of the outdoors.

Though this Amritsar house is built on a tight plot of 116 ft x 14 ft, architect Dinesh Panwar of Urbanscape has designed it in a way that it maximises space, ensures privacy, and provides ample opportunity to connect with the outdoors.

"The odd plot size did not allow us to add many landscape features, but we have incorporated a courtyard within the house along with an open shower and a garden in the rear," says Panwar.

The 9000 sq ft double-storied house has formal areas on the ground floor and the two floors serve as private family spaces. The L-shaped formal living room on the ground floor has glass doors that can be opened to merge with the outdoors when required.

Panwar adds, "The clients use the formal living room to entertain and hence we thought it would be best if we merged it with the bar and the formal dining area."

The dining and the bar form the extension of the living room. The dining-cum-bar acts as contrast to the living room in a formal tone and has a counter with embossed brass motifs acting as the bar. The central courtyard forms a part of the main lobby that leads to the other areas of the house along with the upper two floors.

"The center courtyard can be viewed from all the floors of the house. We designed it in the lobby in order to make it the focal point of the house," says Panwar.

The first floor has three bedrooms along with informal seating, and the remaining two guest bedrooms are on the second floor. One of

This page: The 9000 sq ft house in Amritsar by architect Dinesh Panwar of Urbanscape is a blend of modern and classical designs. The formal living room has three seating areas with varied themes. The Pinakin furniture lends a strong character to the room along with the painting. To match the red and black colour theme, the oval center table is bought from Alchemy.





Above: The formal dining and the bar are at one end of the formal living room. In order to break the monotony of the white walls, the architect has used wood to create an unusual panel on the wall. Burma wood cutouts have been put together to create the triangular boxes on the wall. The black bar armchairs are from Alchemy.

the guest bedrooms has an open shower with wood paneled walls. The flooring is a combination of pebbles and exposed slabs.

"To maintain the natural theme, we have used exposed flooring throughout the bathroom along with black granite for the walls. Part of the granite is polished and the other has deep grooves," says Panwar.

Panwar has kept the shower cubicle open to sky and this allows a lot of natural light in the area and also accentuates the ambience. The parapet wall was extended to seven feet to avoid any exterior views into the shower.

For the other bathroom, the architect has used travertine to create a wall in the center of the bathroom that separates the shower from the utility area.

Panwar adds, "The travertine wall hides the shower stall and lends privacy." Along with the his and her basins, a Jacuzzi has also been installed in the extended area that looks on to a balcony.

Panwar adds, "According to Indian Hindu tradition, a bathroom should not be above the prayer room and to avoid that, we extended the area to form a balcony."

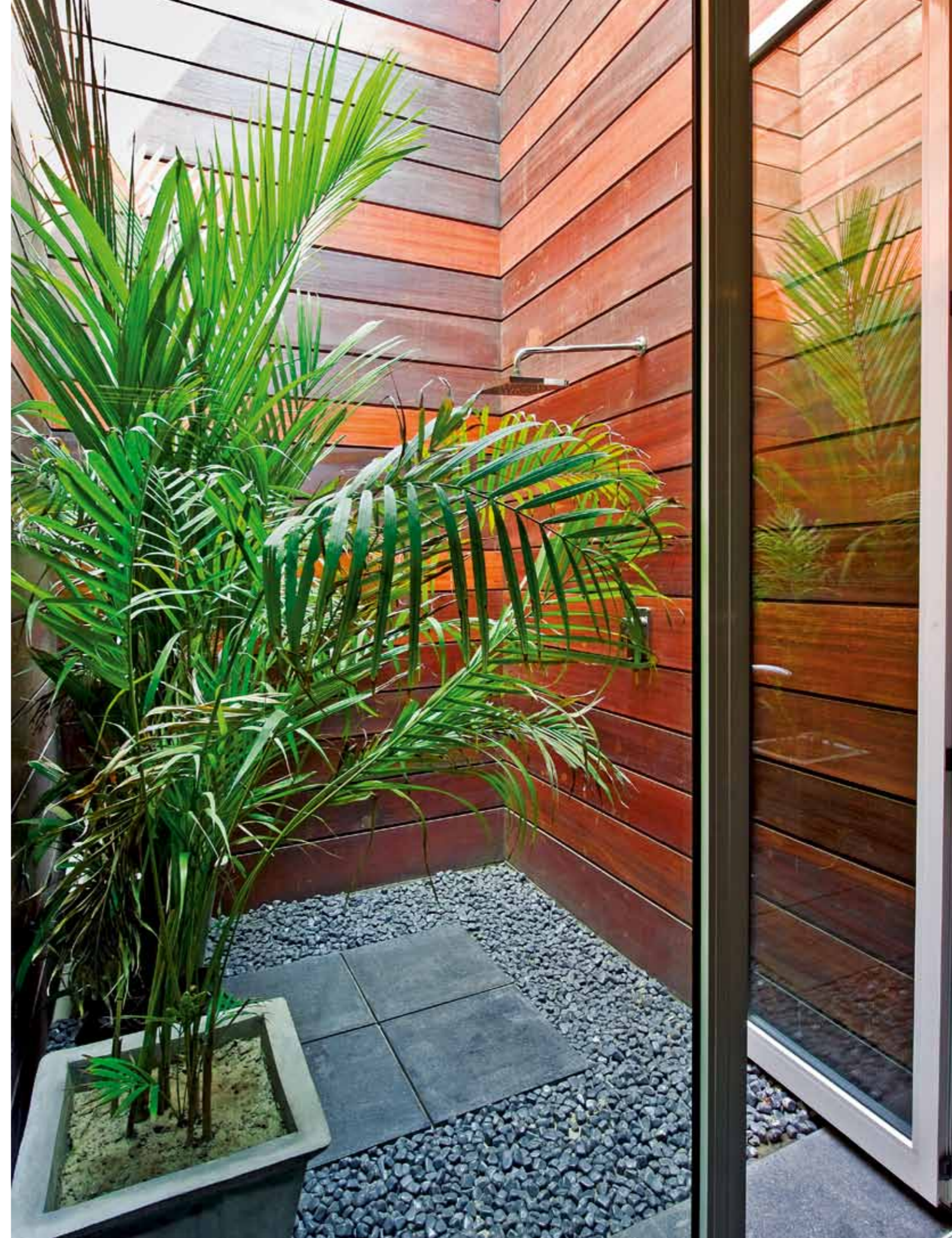


Left: The lobby allows accesses to the courtyard and the upper two floors. The sheesham-glass staircase has been mounted on a raised wooden platform to attract attention and blend it with the courtyard.



Above: The son's bedroom has fur leather wallpaper on one of the walls. The architect used dark coloured wallpaper as a contrast against the beige colour theme of the room.

Right and facing page: A copper coated circular basin has been mounted on a wooden slab and provides additional storage. Wooden panels have been used on the shower stall walls as opposed to the black granite in the rest of the bathroom.





Architect/ designer: Dinesh Panwar, Urbanscape
Associations: Council of Architects (COA)
Window/door: Domal Aluminum Systems
Furniture: Pinakin, Alchemy, Urbanscape
Flooring: Classic Marble, Rath Granite
Wallcoverings: Elemento Wall Paper
Paints: Oikos Paints
Lighting: Swarovski, DeMajo, Floss, Lucifer, Artemide by Vis a Vis, Jaguae Lighting
Bath: Villeroy & Boch, Flaminia, Simas, Kohler
Vanity: Villeroy & Boch
Basin: Villeroy & Boch, Flaminia, Simas, Kohler
Hotwater systems: Sola Hart
Tiles: Palladio
Toilet: Villeroy & Boch, Flaminia, Simas, Kohler
Accessories: Keuco, FCML, V&B
Bedlinen: Bhavna Kohli
Art Work: Asit Kumar Patnaik
Outdoor Lighting: Erco, LEDS

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Right: The architect utilised the additional space to create his and her basins. The travertine wall hides the shower stall behind. The Jacuzzi on a raised wooden platform looks out to the extended balcony.

Legend of plans: 1 Lobby, 2 formal living room, 3 dining, 4 bar, 5 garden, 6 kitchen, 7 family room, 8 informal dining, 9 casual seating, 10 bedrooms, 11 bathrooms, 12 terraces, 13 gym

