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The L-Plan House being set on a corner site called for an inward looking design to give privacy from the street; and allow for views into the young couple's garden.

Tropical Warmth

The L-Plan House in Bangalore crafted for a young couple by Khosla Associates worships space, transparency and nature.

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COURTESY KHOSLA ASSOCIATES



ARCHITECT

Amaresh Anand and
Sandeep Khosla



A view of the living space from the introverted face of the house. Though encased in a glass shell with wooden frames, this particular side of the house can be easily shut off by blinds and curtains.

When a young couple asked architects Sandeep Khosla and Amaresh Anand of the famous Khosla Associates to design a home which would break free from its urban environs, one which welcomes nature with open arms, has an elaborate garden space and is well-suited for informal gatherings — the result was the L-Plan house. The clients had seen enough of our residential projects and knew the design vocabulary we work with. They wanted a feeling of natural light and air in their home, and non-fussy interiors. The 8,000 square feet plot

was located in a corner of a street and hence, we discovered through the many conversations with them, that privacy was a major concern,” informs Sandeep Khosla, principal architect, Khosla Associates.

Hence, the architects intentionally thought of building an inward looking house. The configuration of choice was an L-shaped plan that would straddle two sides of the corner site and allow openness into the garden. Conceptually, the house has two opposing faces, an introverted exterior facing the street in the east and south, and an extroverted interior elevation facing west and north. The



street facing massing is more opaque while the garden facing elevations provide transparency and views.

Entry to the house is from the east through a rectilinear portal that frames a shallow water feature via a large picture window, thus establishing an immediate visual connection from the street to the garden. This water feature with a stone spout looks like a reflecting pool and immediately puts one at ease. Sandeep mentions that this feature can be best appreciated while sitting at the deck of the living area. In the perpendicular direction the "intimate" foyer opens up to a double height living room and then

notches into an equally capacious dining area with an open kitchen and bar. The family room on the upper level interacts with the double volume of the dining and living below. This open plan where one space flows into the other allows easy conversations and becomes a large interactive space while entertaining guests. The clients like to cook and the bar set next to the yawning kitchen becomes the perfect hang-out zone. Here I must mention that there is a larger, more functional kitchen which is operated by the staff of the house.

The 20 foot living and dining spaces in verticality is emphasized by large floor-to-

The shallow reflective pool with a stone spout is a beautiful element framed by the picture window at the foyer. This waterbody can be best enjoyed from the wooden deck of the living area.



The sloping roof over the living area is an interesting architectural element that lunges out into views of the garden. It is wedged within bold vertical fins and connected with a skylight-spacer on either end. The resultant effect makes the roof float within its respective volume.



CONCEPT: To design an inward looking house for a young couple who wanted privacy from the street and views into their garden.

ABOVE You can see the two sloping roofs above the living room and the master bedroom very clearly in this image. A third roof over the yoga room slopes outward over the street corner.

LEFT The garden acts as the heart or like the architect likes to say, "the lung" of the house — every single space draws strength and beauty from it.

ceiling windows with sheer blinds that provide filtered light from the harsh afternoon western sun and open up to allow the morning sun from the east. The living areas open seamlessly to a wooden deck and garden. "Two sloping roofs articulate the importance of the living room and the master bedroom and simultaneously lunge out into views of the garden from either end of The L-Plan. A third roof over the yoga room slopes outward onto the street corner. These roofs have a curious detail as they are wedged within bold vertical fins and connected with a skylight-spacer on either end. The resultant effect makes them seemingly float within their respective volumes," explains Amaresh. The surfaces of the facade are a mix of white stucco and polished cement juxtaposed with timber cladding on the underside of the roofs. Flooring are large swathes of polished Indian Grey Kota stone.



The dining and bar areas are also placed in a double-height space. Colourful Doo-Wop lamps from Louis Poulsen cast their soothing light over the custom-designed bar counter that's accompanied by comfortable bar stools. The dining chairs and table are also bespoke pieces created by the architects. Note the CF John still canvas adorning the wall of the dining space.



The living area receives copious amounts of sunlight, which can shut off by the beige blinds. Here, the sofa, coffee table and pouffes were tailor-made by the architects. Wegner Shell chairs, Foscarini floor lamps and dhurries from Jaipur Rugs blend beautifully with the other furniture. The art on the wall is by emerging artist Aditi Ganeev Sangwan.

There is another important and conscious design philosophy to be mentioned here, though the house is set on 8,000 square feet space, of which 5,500 is the built-up area; the space looks much larger than it intends to look. This could be achieved as the architects maximized the space vertically (like the living, dining and master bedroom space) and didn't follow the routine allotment of pockets like a courtyard, back garden, etc. Instead, the garden space was utilized to provide a "lung experience" where every area of the house breathed from. In simple terms, the garden became the focal locus of the entire house.

The organization of the various functions of the home takes into account a deliberate segregation

MATERIALS

Roof White stucco and polished cement juxtaposed with timber cladding
Picture windows Timber and glass
Flooring Polished Indian Grey Kota stone and engineered wood
Walls Paint
Furniture Teak wood



The family area forms a comfortable lounge space in the private area of the house — it is a link between the parents' and the child's room. Plush sofas, a coffee table, warm timber lamps from Secto, the dhurrie with geometric design and the contemporary painting by David Lange create a pretty picture.



The large bed in the master bedroom has been tailor-made for the client. The flooring is wrapped in engineered wood flooring unlike the public areas of the house where Kota is the hero. Note the two K Balasubramaniam art prints on the wall, which complement the orange lounge and the fantastic suspended lamps from Tom Dixon.

of public and private space. The ground floor houses a guest room, study, puja room and two kitchens other than the living and dining areas and the first floor has a master bedroom, child's bedroom, yoga room and a family area. As the clients wanted a restrained palette and non-fussy interiors, the architects decided to bring in a good balance of the iconic and bespoke furniture and lighting. Sandeep's love for mid century modern furniture is reflected in this house as it is peppered with classics such as Wegner Shell chairs, Jacobsen Swan chairs and a Saarinen Womb chair, juxtaposed with light fixtures by Louis Poulsen, Foscarini and Tom Dixon. There are some bespoke furniture pieces as well like the sofa and the coffee table in the living and family space, the bar stools and the dining table and chairs which draws inspiration from Scandinavian mid century furniture pieces. All the custom designed furniture were conceptualized by the architects, and manufactured by Morph Design Studio. Some lamps were also tailor-made for this project, which was designed by the architects and crafted by Purple Turtles.

The colour palette on the walls and the furnishings is in sync with the tropical nature of the architecture and the greens of the garden. So there is a pop up of soothing terracotta orange in the foyer wall, beige blinds and sheers in the living space and lovely earthy hues of handcrafted flat weave dhurries in blue, olive and orange shades at the living, master bedroom and family room. They architect consciously choose geometrical designs on the dhurries they sourced from the famous Jaipur Rugs as it blended beautifully

with the furniture pieces. What adds more charm, and most definitely a talking point are the art pieces carefully selected for the house. "Almost all my clients invest heavily in art, but here to give a contextual look to the space, we decided to buy from young south India-based contemporary artists. We also wanted to adhere to a budget, and decided to splurge only on some accent pieces for the interiors," says Sandeep. So you'll find beautiful artworks from young artists CF John, Aditi Ganeev Sangwan, Ravi Wagle and K Balasubramaniam in the living, family and bed rooms.

The wonderfully warm and open L-Plan house which was crafted with a well-thought out architecture, a beautiful earthy palette of hues, a carefully selection of furniture and accessories is a definite luxurious escape for this young family on a day-to-day basis. Sometimes, just sometimes, I want to dwell in some pages of the magazine; and in this lovely space which resonates with such warmth I would stay for some days. **DI**

FACT FILE: Project L-Plan House
Client Kartik Kannan and Roopashree Gopalaswamy Location Bangalore, Karnataka Area 8,000 sq ft (5,500 is the built-up space) Principal architects Sandeep Khosla and Amaresh Anand Design Team Oommen Thomas and Priyanka Sams Civil Contractors Hi Tech Constructions Pvt Ltd Structural Engineer S & S Associates