

I N D I A ' S F I R S T W A S H R O O M M A G A Z I N E

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WASHROOMS AND BEYOND

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Spacious and Luxurious

Creating an impression of luxury, by using simple and minimalistic design approach – connection to nature by using natural material, natural lights and using neutral colours, is what stands out from the washrooms designed for Lotus Villa in Ahmedabad. Designed by Ahmedabad-based architectural firm INI Design Studio, a common design theme of “feel spacious” and “timeless luxury” is carried through each washroom. The firm is headed by Jayesh Hariyani – Chairman and Bindu Hariyani – Director – Operations and Board Member, INI Design Studio.

The designer duo shares that the idea is to create the illusion of space by being minimalist and employing simplicity. “Because bathrooms are usually small and don’t have large windows either because of the lack of space or for privacy reasons, the views from here are almost non-existent. Here, each bathroom is designed with large window/s and open to sky private courtyard view that provides feel of more openness and luxury. To enhance feel of extravagance, all bathrooms are featured with natural marble on walls and floors.”

The Design Brief

When asked about the scope of design, Bindu shares, “The design was driven by vision of creating a space that blended contemporary while maintaining the Indian-ness of the space design. The client’s inclination towards outdoors and nature’s calm, while maintaining a minimalist elegance in décor, drove the design of each space within the villa.”

She further adds that since the space and the setting was already defined and there was a desire to blend with the surroundings, designing the interiors posed the challenge of being innovative yet not standing out. Thus, the design took a sensitive approach, relying on the subtle landscape elements that brought in the calm, while also energising the ambience. “Even for

The washrooms at Lotus Villa, designed by INI Design Studio, blends contemporary with traditional design resulting in a simple yet elegant space that attempts to bring the outdoor inside, explores Mrinmoy Dey



the washrooms, a conscious attempt was made to bring the outdoors inside, freshen and enliven the space with the landscape elements and making the minimal design approach stand out."

Scope of Design

Using accessories, furnitures and highlighters in a luxury washroom is quite common and if not planned well it can lead to clutter. On the contrary, minimal, clean look with a sense of space has its own appeal. On balancing these two in this project, Bindu informs, "While designing layout of bathrooms all elements are carefully planned so they don't block light while adding depth. Marble walls, glass partitions, and mirrored doors are strategically used to get the most from natural light and positioning help reflect soft day light and adds to extravagance feel." Also bathroom accessories such as glass shelves, bent glass desk and see-through soap trays etc are carefully selected with minimalistic approach to maximise the quality of light.

Lighting design is done in a way to add depth and augment the overall ambiance and the look of each bathroom. On one hand, lots of natural light in the bathrooms add to a feel of luxury. On the other hand, subtle, indirect accent lighting is used strategically to have a unique effect.

Artistic elements and accessories such as paintings, bathroom rugs with a soft and pleasant texture, mirrored wall and doors etc are designed to add character of indulgence.

Bringing nature into bathroom

The washroom also brings in the

Materials Used

Walls: Nirzarna White Marble + Toughened/laminated glass + Mirror Panels

Floors: Nirzarna White Marble
WC & Bath Fittings: Jaquar

Accessories: Custom SS fabrication and/or custom glass work

nature inside with trees and stones. "Client being design professionals themselves had clear idea on what will drive villa design including washrooms' design. Simplicity, minimalistic, passive design, blurring boundaries of interior and exteriors were key design drivers. Extra attention was given to provide for natural ventilation and bring in soft and natural daylight. Ample daylight in each washroom also helps for positive mood while nurturing better health and well-being," shares Bindu.

For efficient layout same structural grid continues from bedroom to bathroom. Most bathrooms in villa are on the backside with open to sky small private courtyard/s for vastu, privacy, natural light and ventilation. This also allowed for bedroom spaces to open to front garden spaces to facilitate wind ventilation.

Colour Palette and material selection

Design drivers such as simplicity,



minimalistic, timeless feel drove most of the design and material selection. White Nirzarna marbel fits well into such design philosophy. White palette with some accent elements also helped to play with light and depth of rooms. "The primary idea of this project is to well integrate all rooms and spaces with surrounding natural environment and with surrounding residential community. Villa



Bindu Hariyani

surrounds itself with mature mango and chikoo wadis; lotus ponds and attracts lots of birds," shares Bindu.

Same design philosophy is carried for bathroom designs. "To this extent, large openings, private open to sky courtyards are designed to provide for greens to grow and bring in natural light and ventilation. Indoor plants and natural pebbles are used to bring nature indoor. Creative use of courtyards in bathrooms brings in cross ventilation for health and sustainability reasons while keeping safety and privacy in mind." Use of courtyards also provides for easy access to plumbing pipes for maintenance from outside.

Bathroom matters more than one may think. Bathroom designs are taken for granted but in fact, do play an important role in the overall planning of a home. "One of the main reasons for such an omission of bathroom design consideration is because many

usually perceive this space as the utilitarian area. We believe that in fact, bathroom ideas require the same degree of attention as any other space in any project. We equally work hard while designing bathrooms creating both a pleasant ambiance and functionality. Last but not least, the bathroom design can seriously benefit from responsible and creative design," shares Jayesh.



Jayesh Hariyani