



Decoding Colour



Villa Scapes, a gated residential community in Hyderabad, recently won its designers Simeen and Riyaz Quraishi an IIID Anchor Award (South Zone). They have used vibrant colours that complement the underlying design vocabulary of a model 3,000 sq ft villa.

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PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY THE ARCHITECT

To offset the linear pattern, the architects have used squares in different forms and textures all over the house. The cabinet in the living room has a square design and so does the partition between the living and dining areas.





When Simeen and Riyaz were asked by a regular client to design the interiors of a model 3,000 sq ft villa, they decided to do something new, something completely different from their repertoire. It was a tough challenge, as it had to be completed in just four months. 'You won't find a project like this in our library,' mentions Simeen. Since Riyaz is away travelling, Simeen is the articulate voice of MORIQ. I'm impressed by the versatility of this design firm and at the same time curious to find out why they chose to take a complete 180 degree turn from their hallmark style. 'It was about conquering our fears. Our earlier projects have been in a limited colour palette of blacks, whites, greys, silver and gold, so we decided to do a colour-backed theme this time,' says Simeen. Mock-up interiors





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They were fortunate to get a very well-thought out plan to which they made minor changes. The ground floor has a living room, dining room, kitchen and master bedroom. On the first floor are three bedrooms with walk-in closets, attached bathrooms and a spacious terrace. The architects kept the ground floor very open by breaking down the walls between the kitchen and the dining room, making it a seamless space ideal for an urban lifestyle.

There is a constant play of colours and textures throughout the house. Since Simeen and Riyaz decided to offset the vibrant colours by choosing a warm base





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for the flooring, one that would absorb colour as against a bright one that would reflect it. So they've used hardwood flooring in the entire house, which wraps itself onto the steps and appears to extend all the way to the ceiling.

It's a very linear design says the architect. The house has a strong horizontal feel to it, with the grooves of the wood running from north to south on both, the floor and the ceiling, making the width of the house appear to be visibly enhanced. The ceiling is in varied levels with subtle colour differences. The indoor air-conditioning units are concealed within it and slits in it give diffused lighting to the interior. Shafts of light stream down from the narrow openings, creating the effect of light flowing down from a skylight.

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