



AN EASY FLOW

The inter-connected spaces in this double storey house ensure an open dialogue between the occupants

The bane of urban living is the sheer lack of space and privacy. However, here is a house where the designers faced a diametrically opposite challenge. Covering almost 6000 sq ft, this residence has plenty of room and is spread over three floors. Thus, the challenge for the designers was to ensure that the spaces remain connected despite being spread on different floors.

Situated in Hyderabad, this home is part of a gated community and belongs to a nuclear family. The owners already had a layout when they approached Riyaz and Simeen Quraishi of MoriQ Interiors to design.

“When we took on the interior design for this bungalow, the structure was already ready. Hence, structural changes could not be made. Our challenge was to work around it and provide for adequate circulation space. We faced restrictions created by columns but we have changed the flow of spaces and have overcome this challenge,” says Riyaz.

The designers approached the layout by first identifying the heart of the space, which was the inner courtyard. This became the focal point from which the circulation through the house. A triple-height and a water body here complete the look, creating a strong design statement.

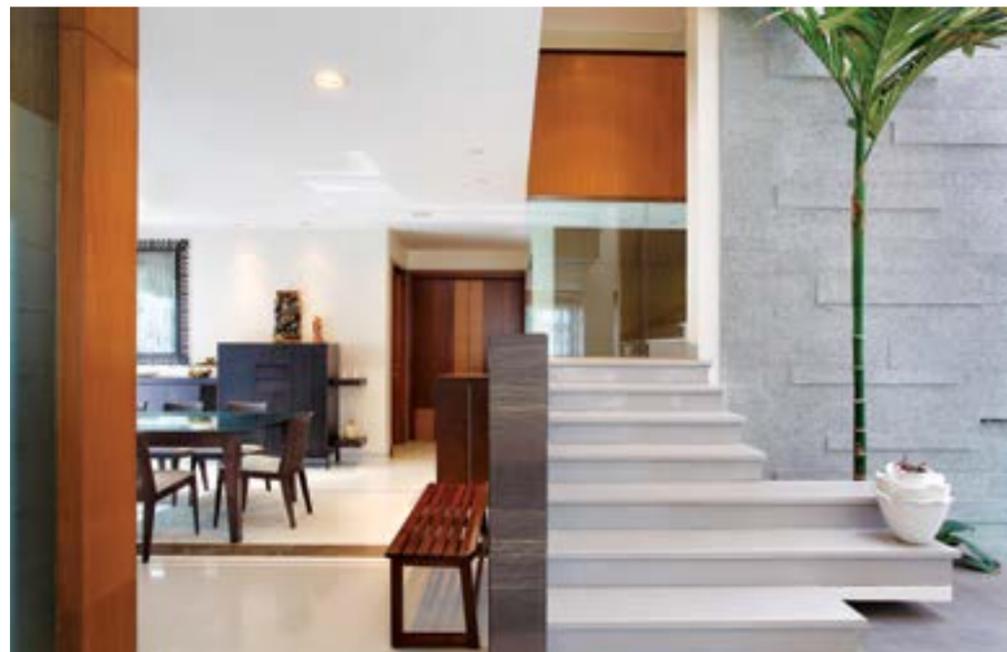
“We chose the inner courtyard as the central focus because being under the triple-height atrium, it interrelates every other space of the house,” says Riyaz.

As the inner courtyard is the main feature, the designers have created areas surrounding it. The two seating spaces are located on each side, one formal and the other informal. The ground floor also has the dining room and an



Left: Designers Riyaz and Simeen Quraishi have ensured that all the spaces in this 6000 sq ft house remain visually connected even across floors because of the triple-height atrium.

Top and above: Two seating areas are provided around the atrium – one formal and one for the family. They follow a similar design template. However, the colours are inverted to give the spaces distinct identities.



Top and above: The dining area is simple and light, making it a casual and intimate space. The staircase wraps around the courtyard, adding depth to the house.

Facing page: A muted semi-finish grey granite stone was used for the cladding of the atrium wall. This gives the space more volume and creates a contrast, which is not overly dramatic. Lights of varying shapes have been suspended at different levels.

open kitchen while the wet kitchen is tucked out of sight. This floor also accommodates a prayer room and a guest bedroom. Also situated on the ground floor is a work space hidden under the staircase for privacy.

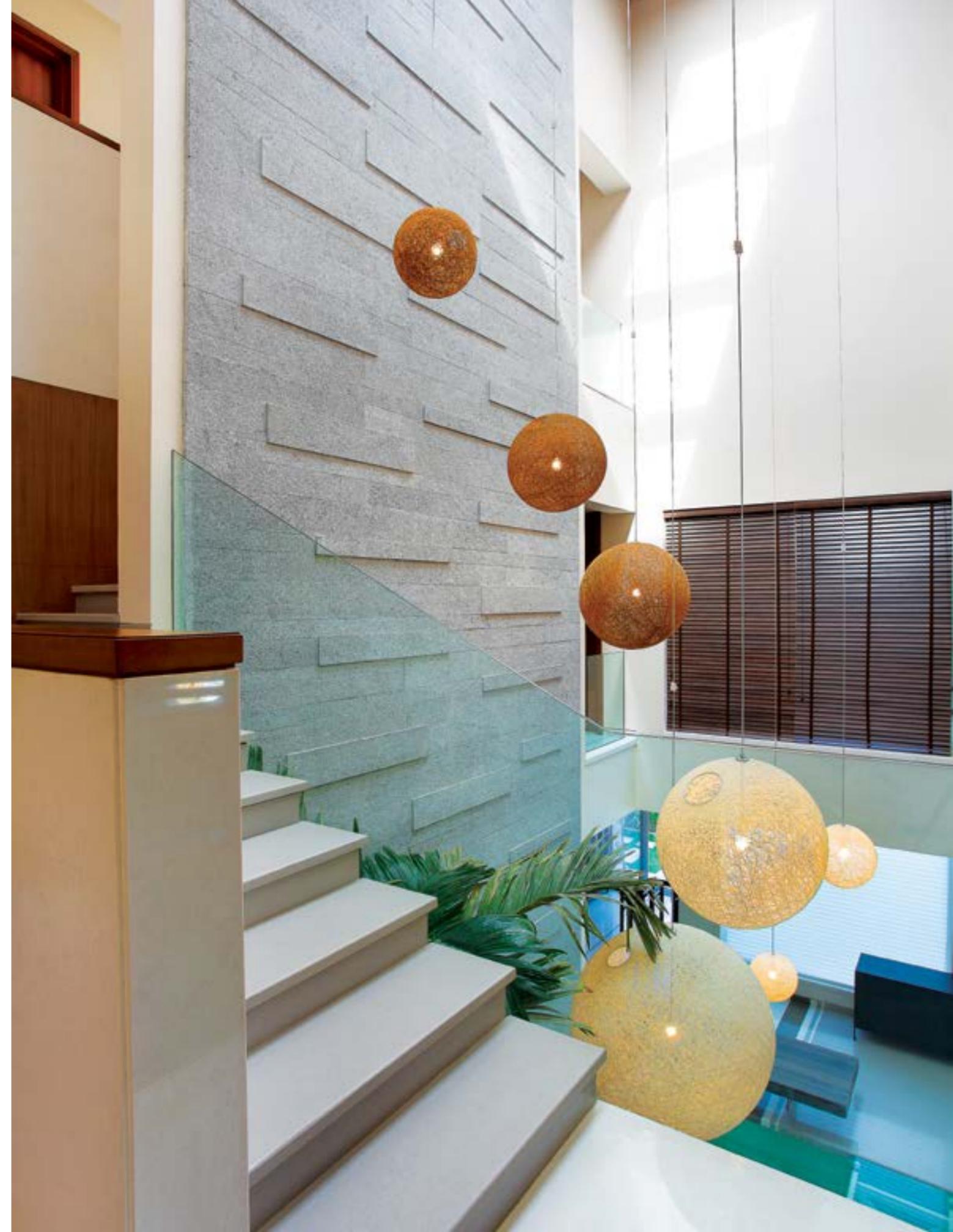
The first floor is designed as per the owner's requirements and is comparatively a more personal space. The master bedroom and two bedrooms for the son and daughter are respectively located here. An entertainment lounge has also been designed on this floor so that the family can spend time leisure time together.

The second floor is nearly unused and has

a room that serves as an additional lounge at the moment, with the option of adding another bedroom.

"We were mainly concerned with the feel of the house and wanted people to experience it and relate to it in its entirety despite the distinctly demarcated areas," says Riyaz.

Not only does this house have ample space, it also has copious amounts of natural light. The house is situated on a square shaped plot with significant use of glass in the design, allowing for even distribution of sunlight in the interiors. Both the formal and family seating areas as





well as the dining area open into the veranda and garden outside. Finally, the skylight in the atrium ensures that the house is brightly lit during daylight hours. Thus, again, what is a boon to most urban dwellers had to be controlled and the designers had to ensure with the use of blinds.

*Story by Namrata Shah
Photography by Mrigank Sharma- India Sutra*

Left: Subtle natural stones have been used in the bathrooms. The master bathroom has grey slate mosaic on the wall and floor, which gives it an earthy touch.

Above: When it comes to the design of the bedrooms, less is more as they are practical with only the required furniture and smart leather beds.

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