



BROWNE D TO PERFECTION

Fashionable minimalism having become a 'me too' phenomenon, Space Dynamix instills a breath of fresh air into the genre.

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**RESIDENCE
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The living room with its wooden flooring and beige and brown furnishings explores the sophistication that brown and its many shades can endow.



Coffee, cream, cocoa, chocolate, café au lait, cinnamon...if this evokes delectable sensations, it is Space Dynamix's chosen colour palette that does the job. With a studied finesse, this 2 bedroom apartment explores the sophistication that brown and its many shades can endow. How much can one play with texture and shade within the same colour family? Evidently, a lot! Dispel any notions you may have about browns being dull, dowdy, mousy or boring. Quite simply, Ashutosh Wad and Manjunath Hathwar legitimize brown as a designer choice.

Belonging to the school of architects who are going to shape the look of the 21st century, Space Dynamix's credo is restraint, brought to life with unexpected combinations of materials - evi-

REDIDENCE

THIS PAGE TOP The bed in the children's room has a 'floating' look. The sit out behind has an underlit pebble bed, illuminating the dry twig landscape. **LEFT** The master bathroom with an over the counter basin & wenge counter.

dent in the way in which everything just ‘comes together,’ whether it is steel and wood, or glass and fabric. This apartment marries a Euclidean flair for line, with a good dose of warmth and comfort. While remaining faithful to the minimalist imprimatur, Wad and Hathwar are also mindful of practical necessities. Nor do they lean on colour to cover any sins – their lines are clean, the ‘good bones’ which support the layers of style.

This apartment is distinguished by the homogeneity of the look that runs fluidly through its spaces. Architects are often called upon to perform multiple tasks, in addition to their designated role. They have to restore the peace between warring family members who have vastly differing tastes in interiors. This may translate into a different ‘look’ in each room, to



RESIDENCE THIS PAGE The breakfast counter separating the living room and the kitchen.
INSET A corner of the living room with a shag rug, straight line sofa and a dried twig floor lamp.

satisfy the users. So were there any ruffled feathers to be smoothed on the way to this design coup of sorts, where the same look segues effortlessly through the apartment? “Not at all,” say the architects. This client was very happy giving them a free hand, since he was pleased with the work that they had previously done for him. Ah!...so this a repeat job from the client - an indisputable measure of the fact that the designer was able to deliver the goods.

The open plan kitchen and laminated wooden flooring in the living area give a “studio” feel to this 2 bedroom apartment. Beige reconstituted marble makes up the flooring of the bedrooms, while beige Travertino marble luxuriously clad the wall behind the plasma screen.

For the flooring in the living room, Wad and Hathwar use an unusually dark shade of wood inter-

persed with touches of a lighter shade – an atypical choice in the Indian context. Visually, this provides for a degree of movement, which may turn out to be unsettling, unlike the preferred safe, solid, light colours, with which you are less likely to make a mistake. “We wanted a departure from all the overused options, and decided to go with something different,” says Wad - a seemingly laissez faire attitude which belies a rigorous knowledge of design.

The kitchen & living area are separated by a frame in Zebrano veneer, which supports the breakfast counter in black Marquina marble with a brushed stainless steel apron. Doors are in brown Zebrano veneer while door frames and the rest of the woodwork in the living area are in wenge. A frosted glass partition gives privacy to the kitchen from the main entrance. Both kitchen flooring and worktop are in



THIS PAGE A vinyl look flooring, cork cushions, a low stainless steel centre table and a white sofa in front of the 'lens eye' wallpaper, makes up the client's lounge area.

beige reconstituted marble, with the kitchen dado in fluted stainless steel finished ceramic tiles.

In the childrens' bedroom, the bed floats on a ledge in silver Travertino marble, which extends into a sit-out at the back. This has an underlit pebble bed with dry sticks, and a toughened glass headboard facilitates an unobstructed view of this landscape. White back-painted glass has been used in the sliding shutters of the wardrobe while natural fabric wallpaper has been used as a contrast to the smooth, cold feel of the glass.

The wallpaper clad L-shaped wall in the master bedroom along with the drop ceiling forms a virtual cube which cocoons the bed. Two low chairs placed near the window form the informal seating. The master toilet is in beige Travertino marble and stick wenge tiles, clad from floor to ceiling to make the space look larger. The counter is in solid wenge wood with a polyurethane coating and is topped with a square washbasin. The counter along with the mirror behind extends into the shower area, ending in a strip of frosted backlit glass to make an interesting lighting detail. The ceiling above the counter is again in wenge veneer to complete the frame, and the square water closet repeats the straight lines of the stick wenge tiles.

STUDIO 580MM

This Studio was developed primarily to cater to the growing photography assignments of Thumbprint Advertising Pvt. Ltd., and also to lease it out to professional photographers for their personal shoots.

It was the name and logo that actually powered the design brief. The name 'Studio 580MM' emerged from the blend of space (area 580 sq ft) and the term MM used to define the camera lens. The logo, a stark square, was inspired by the fact that the square forms the basis of geometrical patterns, and at the same time blends perfectly with the square of the camera's

STUDIO

THIS PAGE The cantilevered steps in river washed granite appear to be floating in space, and are often used as a back drop in shoots because of the visual drama they provide.





viewfinder. Hence, it was decided to sustain the concept of sharp, square 'box' shapes wherever possible, as one can see reflected in the high tech look of the design. The clients basic requirements were a main studio area, changing room, makeup room, pantry, and a toilet on the ground level, with a clients lounge and office cum editing room on the mezzanine level.

The whole studio was visualized in a stark colour palette of black, white, grey and stainless steel, so as to create a neutral ambience for various types of photography. Consequently, the main studio flooring is in grey vitrified flooring, to give a neutral platform for all the other elements.

STUDIO THIS PAGE

Cantilevered steps lead to the lounge and the editing room. The main shoot area has a neutral grey flooring and white walls, which refuse to compete for attention with the subjects of the shoot.

The clients lounge, on the other hand, has textured tile flooring. The

white reconstituted leather sofa and cork cushions stand in front of a vinyl clad wall. The centre table in brushed stainless steel has a lean, low profile. The vinyl wall paper is actually a camera lens shot at close distance, and then enlarged and distorted to give the whole wall a three dimensional effect - very appropriate for a photography studio. "The cantilevered staircase clad in river washed black granite, is designed as a sculptural element which also acts as a prop for photography shoots," says Wad. Use of black, white and stainless steel throughout the studio binds the space together. A clear glass partition between the clients lounge and main studio gives an uninterrupted vision both ways, while lighting throughout the studio is through vertical and horizontal panels of indirect light.

When you think about the appropriation of space in this studio, and all the needs which have been met, you are reminded that architecture is most often about finding solutions.