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Inside Outside

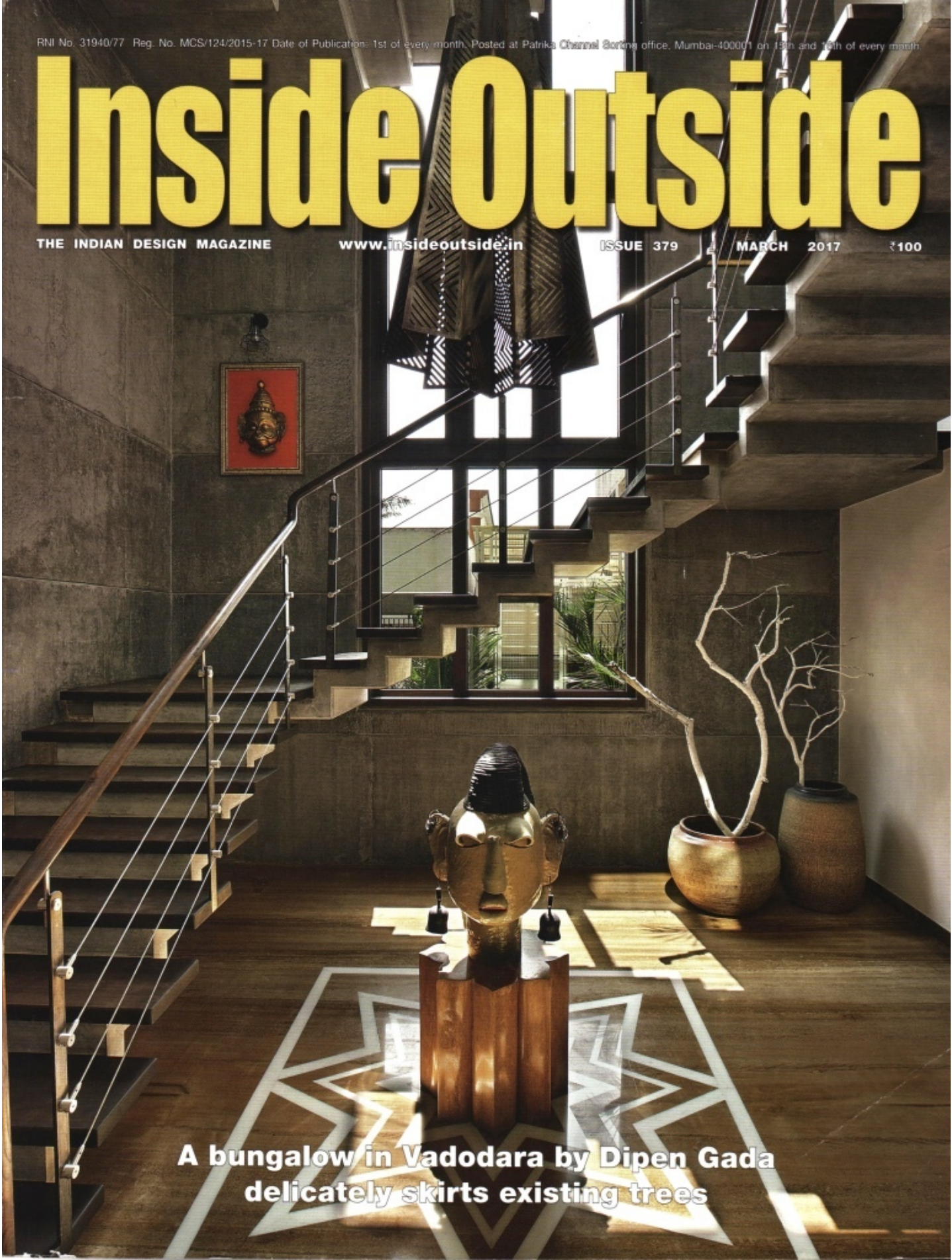
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**A bungalow in Vadodara by Dipen Gada
delicately skirts existing trees**

TEXT: SUMAN TARAFDAR
PHOTOGRAPHS: UMANG PATEL



Ahmedabad's Teeth Care Centre is a welcoming space where architects Shailja Harish Design Studio have combined the best of aesthetics and functionality.

the tastes of their client base, which included both NRI and domestic patients.

The architects made a plan to separate the treatment and administrative areas. Sticking to the requirements, a full glass cabin was made to allow patients as well as staff to see what was going on without getting in each other's way and without compromising on hygiene.

The concept then was designing a space whose environment was pleasant, anxiety-free, relaxing and comfortable, promoting the general health and well-being of patients.

'We only used civil and interior materials that were eco-friendly, in order to make it infection-free'.

The architects did extensive research on the project. They observed and interviewed

doctors and other staff members about their requirements. 'We discussed general problems they were facing day to day in the clinic regarding functionality, maintenance, workability, patient comfort, patient likes and dislikes. Clinic "dos and don'ts" were taken note of. Planning, designing, material, and execution of plumbing and drainage have been designed so as to make them maintenance-free.'

The most noticeable feature is the extensive use of glass. Each area, apart from the director's cabin and conference room, were made of transparent glass, to create a feeling of trustworthiness in the clinic. This included the laboratory.

The overall colour scheme chosen for the clinic was white. To make the spacious waiting area

Brown treatment chairs contrast well with the glass and white interiors



A view of the clinic looking towards the waiting area.



strives to educate the patient about treatment before taking him in to the treatment area.

The treatment area kept in mind the convenience of the doctors, staff, and patients, as well as the functionality of the dental chair. The treatment area is visible but the dental chair is arranged in such a way that the patient's face is not visible!

As per client requirements, the director's cabin was planned facing the main road. A totally different ambience from other areas of the clinic was created. The idea was to give a professional and corporate touch. Different types of lighting have been used; direct white lights for working comfort, and indirect warm white lights for a cosy environment.

Also, it was separated from the other parts of the clinic so that no one could easily access it directly and the directors had complete privacy. This space also took a break from the white theme. Very different materials have been used in this room. The flooring was made from rough kota stone. The wood for



Open door policy

Just about no one enjoys going to the dentist. No arguing about that. So making a dental clinic appealing is no easy task. And that was the assignment facing Harish Patel and Shailja Shah Patel, an Ahmedabad based architect duo, whose firm, Shailja Harish Design Studio was tasked with the interiors.

Anyone going to the Teeth Care Centre today is pleasantly taken aback by the sheer gentleness of the interior and fluidity of space. A gleaming glass enclave, easy on the eye, with bright colour highlights that brighten up the space is the first impression.

The clients' – Dr Nirav Patel and Dr Pankti Patel – requirement was to design it according to international norms and make it as see-

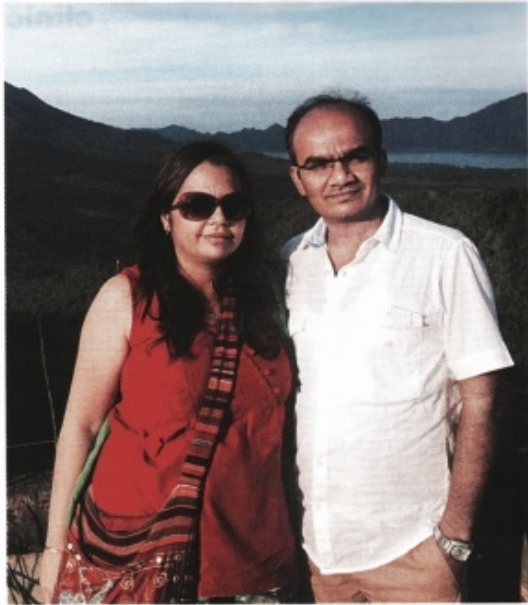
through and eco-friendly as possible. Teeth Care Centre was conceived as a welcoming space where patients could relax as much as possible.

Keeping their requirements in mind we intended to provide a relaxing and at the same time zealous ambience for the doctors, staff, as well as the patients, say the architects. With priorities, that isn't always an easy task.

The main challenges were adhering to international standards, a huge space and a limited budget. Also there was less vertical than horizontal space, according to the architects.

The clinic is in a tony city locality on the city's western side, a couple of kilometres from Gujarat University. A challenge was to merge

A view of the waiting area, where the aqua-blue upholstery brightens the place.



Shailja Shah Patel and Harish Patel

welcoming and avoid it becoming monotonous, aqua-blue upholstery has been used. For this area, a huge open space allowed for simplicity and a relaxing environ. White has been used so that patients did not feel as if they were in a hospital. Unlike most dental clinics, no pictures or posters of dental treatment are displayed in this area. Also, all areas of the clinic were made visible from the waiting area, apart from the director's cabin and the conference room. MDF cutting design elements are used in the ceiling of the waiting area. As design elements, green artificial plants and multicoloured paintings on the walls created a sense of relief.

From the administration cabin, someone sitting on the main chair has a view of the whole clinic.

For the education cabin, located between the waiting and treatment areas, the colour concept



Fact File

CLIENT: Dr Nirav Patel & Dr Pankti Patel

LOCATION: Satellite, Ahmedabad

COVERED AREA: Total 5415 sq ft

CARPET: 3700 sq ft

NAME OF THE FIRM: Teeth Care Centre

PRINCIPAL DESIGNERS: Harish Patel & Shailja Shah Patel

TIME TAKEN FOR COMPLETION: 4 months

YEAR OF COMPLETION: 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

- Waiting room-1
- Patient education room-1
- Operatories-7
- X-ray room-1 ● Staff room-1
- Pantry-1 ● Administrative offices -2 ● Laboratory room-1
- Sterilization room-1
- Conference room-1 (15 seats)
- Store room-1 ● Record room-1
- Wash room-2

Layout



clinic



give a raw look. The front wall was clad with decorative slate stones. A chic curtain was used to create a cosy look.

The colour scheme chosen was white and brown. Off-white paint on the wall, a dark brown veneer and teak wood were used as furniture colours. Different colour kota stone for the flooring and dark brown slate stone cladding on the wall also differentiated the area from the rest of the clinic. Dark brown chairs and off-white sofas in this area also stood out.

The conference room was designed as a multipurpose one, to be used for conferences, staff meetings, training, and lectures. For this area, wooden flooring was used to create a soothing and warm environment.

The clinic has green credentials too, with certified eco-friendly floor tiles. These do not contain harmful chemicals, or give off any fumes and are stain and scratch-resistant and easy to clean. For air-conditioning, Daikin air-conditioners which have invertors and are programmable, have been used. Eco-friendly toxin-free Asian paints were used as well. When air-conditioning is not necessary, Havells energy saving

The treatment area has full glass cabins to allow patients as well as staff to see what is going on, without coming in each other's way and without compromising on hygiene.

ceiling fans are used. Energy-efficient lighting has been installed too. The plywood used was green building certified century. During construction the low weight green building product AEROCON block was used. There is a recyclable Armstrong false gypsum ceiling. Saint Gobain glass partitions aid the inflow of natural light, thus saving energy.

Another unique requirement was to design the lighting, colour, curtains and flooring in such a way that they would not reflect on the patients' teeth, which should look as if they are in natural light.



Lighting actually played a crucial role. All the lights used are indirect ones so they don't create spots and shadows. To make the waiting area more welcoming, a mix of direct and indirect white lights have been used. Lights in other colours have not been used. Natural plants were placed on window sills – these help avoid anxiety.

The teeth Care Centre definitely helps redefine the interiors of a medical centre to make it as relaxed a space as possible, however the condition of one's teeth may be! 