



# Palatial Mansion

We fell in love with this lovely house in Agra owned by the Alags. Contemporary and traditional, it reflects their style and sensibilities perfectly

by Benoy Sebastian



In Alax's earlier home was traditional. This time around, they wanted traditional with a dash of contemporary. While the Alax had the time, education and money, the architect had the drive and vision to translate their dream into reality.



#### THE FIRST STEP: LAYOUT AND PLANS

The house comprises of four levels. The basement level for car parking and electrical services, the ground and first level for public and private use, and the topmost level for the domestic help. All levels are connected by a staircase and an elevator. The ground level contains all the public areas like the formal drawing and dining room, a well equipped kitchen from Germany, a family living room and a bedroom for parents. The first level also has two zones. First zone contains a private suite with bedroom, a lounge area connected to the kid's bedroom, a bathroom and a large dresser along with a terrace garden. Zone two contains two guest bedrooms, lounge area and a double height prayer room. The total area of the house is 6,000sqft. Six people share the house, which also has five servants.



## THE DESIGNER

The house has been designed by architect Sourabh Gupta, Director of Archohm. A man who is competitively driven and thinks innovative all the time. He has always focused on the end result, with a strong, relentless drive to succeed.



## LIVING SPACES

The living room is minimalistic and contemporary. The furniture across the living room is tailor made and specifically designed as per the specifications of the owners. Manufactured either in Italy or India, the various pieces of furniture reflect the required ambience and colour schemes of the rooms.



#### A LITTLE MORE

A tight site in a neighbourhood of private residences required the facade to make a blank, bold and clear statement. It expresses style, respects the privacy of its owners and challenges the design typology of the front gardens and the glass. Lighting has worked as a powerful tool in the exterior as well as the interior. All rooms have large windows and framed views. Rooms not facing the garden are lit to allow controlled and effective rendering of surfaces. The entry ramp accentuates the experience of the space in accordance with its functionality. Cream stone on the floor and travertine wall stamp their own authority. The ceiling is glass... ample of space for beautiful natural lighting to enter the house. Shade lighting is done so it lends an extended feel to the minimal, clean, uncluttered and aesthetic look followed throughout the house.





#### MASTER BEDROOM

The master bedroom is like a suite with a private terrace, dresser and a lounge. Its very minimal. The finest wooden floors have been laid. The television unit is again by Ronald Shumit with a Reddot winning entry. The master bedroom has a narrow layout with a black, white and gray bathroom with a precious stone back lit counter. Kodappa on the walls and the finest Italian tiles on the floor.

#### CUISINE ZONE

Basically in the house there are two dining areas. The first is a formal one with the drawing room, which has been separated with two clear colours. The floor is white with brown furniture. The other dining zone is an informal one for an absolute private affair. It is a small cozy with Italian furniture and a red dot award winning Ronald Shumit's table.







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#### MATERIALS

Materials used in the house were chosen by the owners right from the beginning. The facade is made of real hard wood. The floors are simple cream Italian tiles. A wooden staircase for the children and the glass bridge add to the unique material quotient of the house. Stone walls are strategically clad with rough khatappa and smooth soapstone stones. Bathrooms are a clear glass box to facilitate clean and uncluttered surfaces.

#### FABRICS AND COLOURS

All the fabrics in the house are carefully conceived and picked out - the list includes chens, silks and, naturally, the finest available cottons. Leather has also been incorporated in a few places. Essentially, it's the fabric that bring in the drama, with the textures and prints between the millie house has been designed with a minimalist look. As for the colour coordination, all the rooms are cream and brown - it's a completely neutral story board. Warm tones are added through the upholstery.