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THE INDIAN DESIGN MAGAZINE ISSUE 296 FEBRUARY 2010 Rs 50

Concrete and sleek finishes blend together in a home designed by Rajiv Saini

Advani & Associates create an oasis of calm in Bengaluru

Stylish and contemporary living by Riyaz & Simeen Quraishi in Bahrain

LEED Platinum rated Kirloskar Brothers Ltd's corporate office designed by Venkataramanan Architects

A breezy, light-filled home by Varsha & Deepak Guggari in Pune

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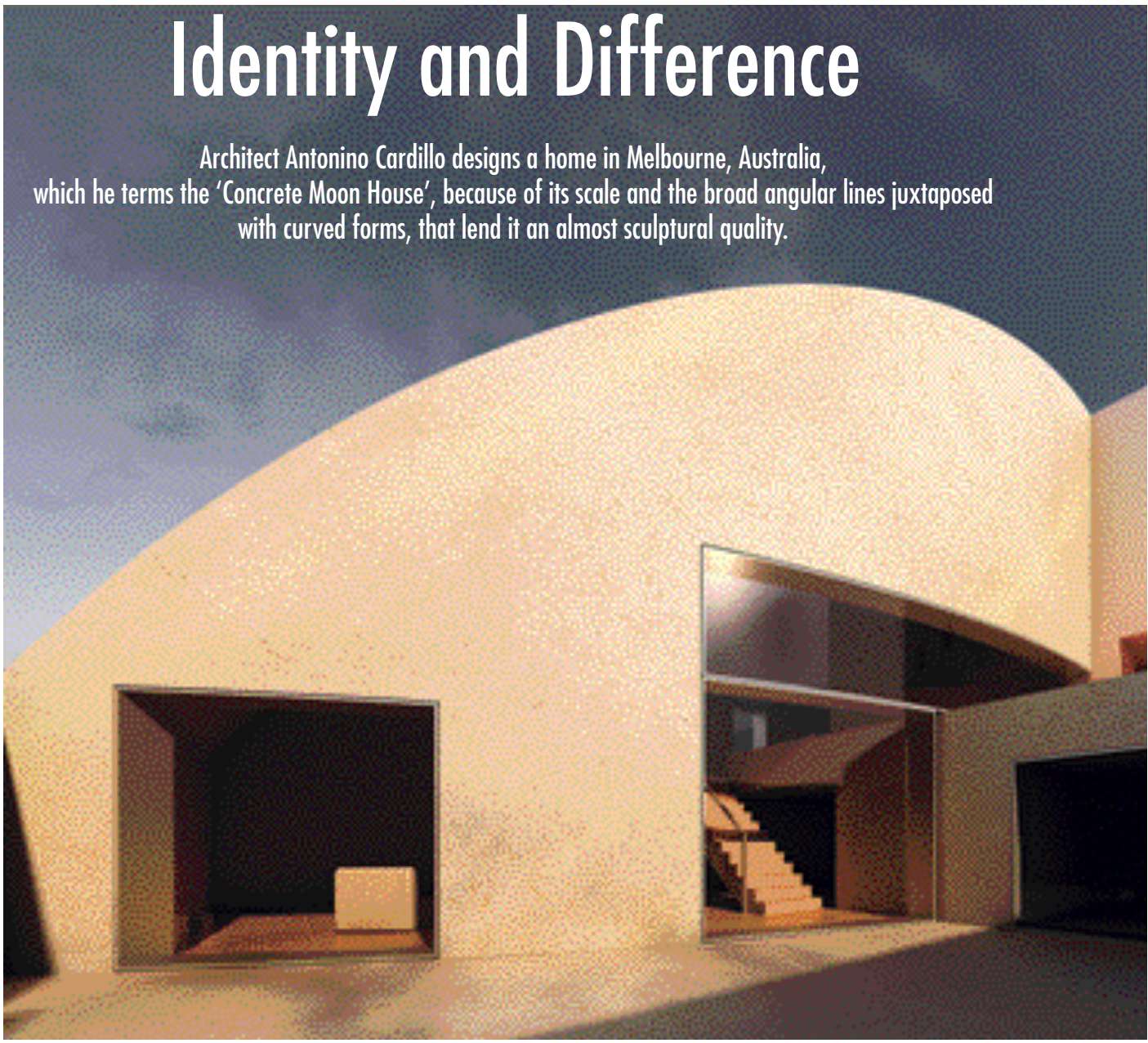
Identity and Difference

Architect Antonino Cardillo designs a home in Melbourne, Australia, which he terms the 'Concrete Moon House', because of its scale and the broad angular lines juxtaposed with curved forms, that lend it an almost sculptural quality.



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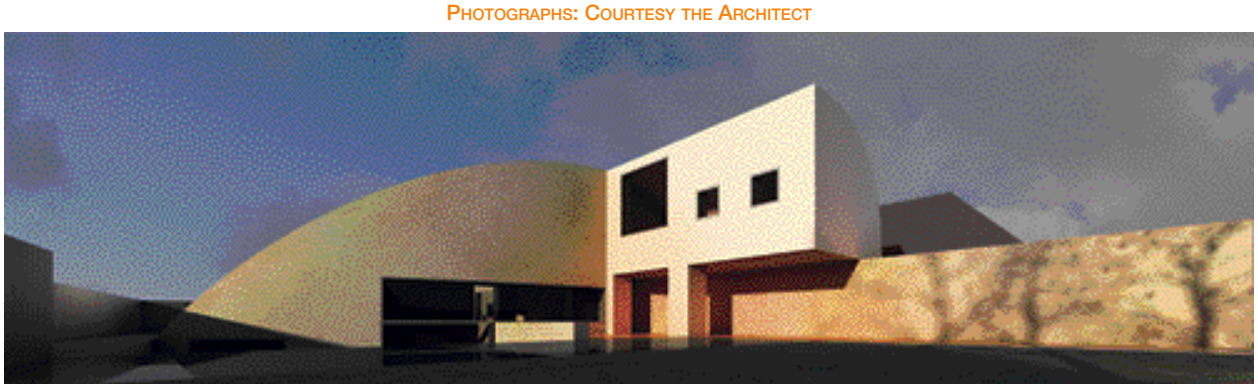
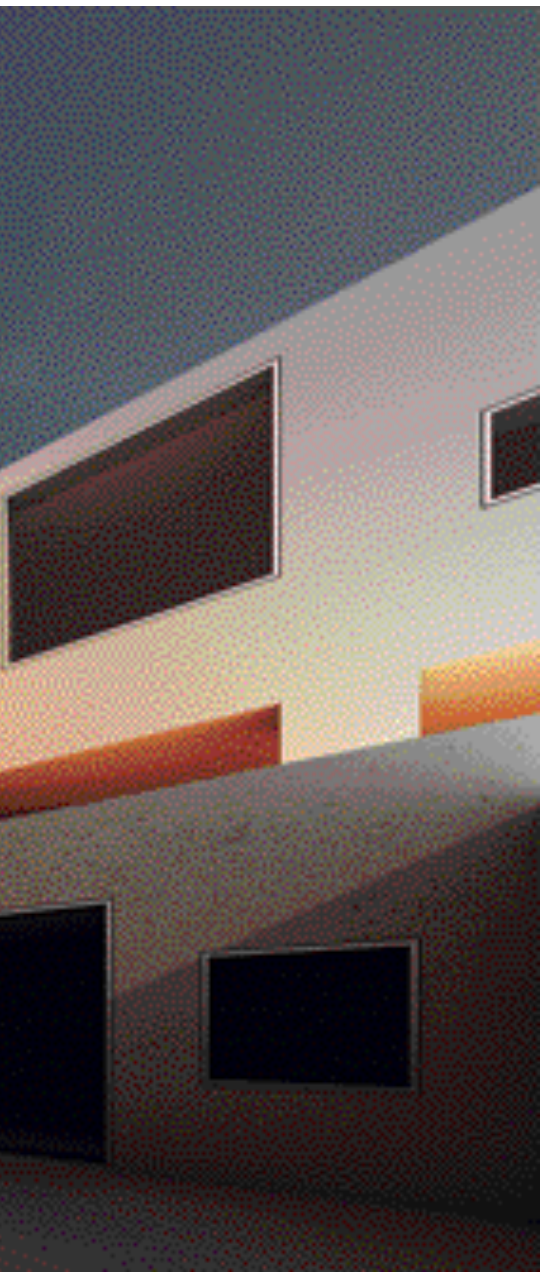
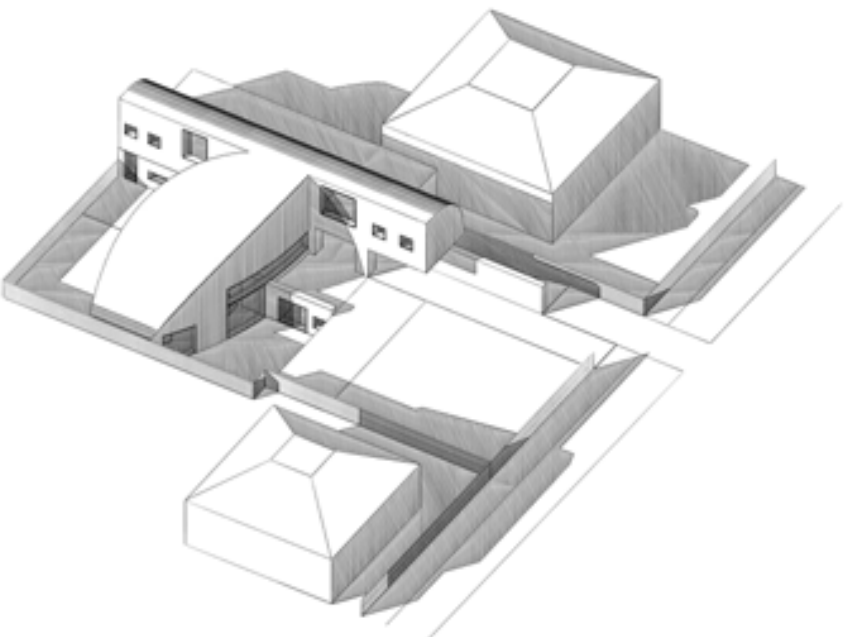
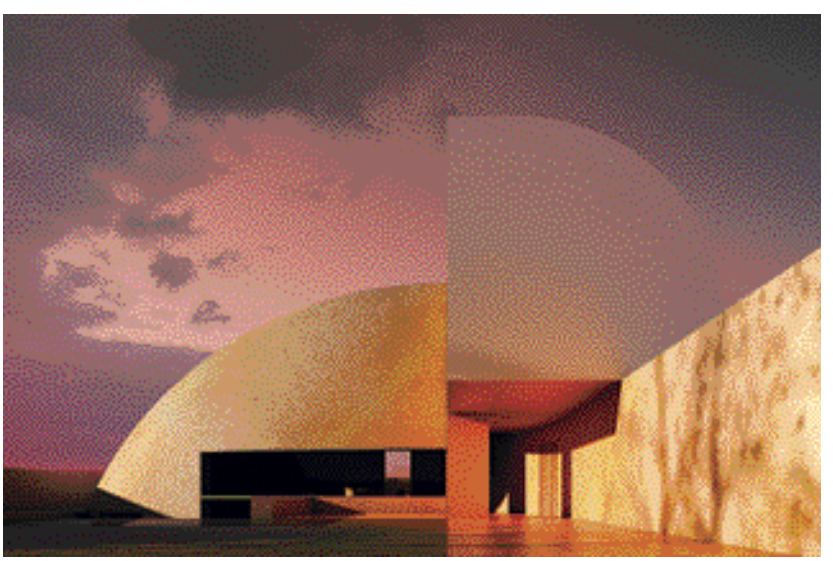
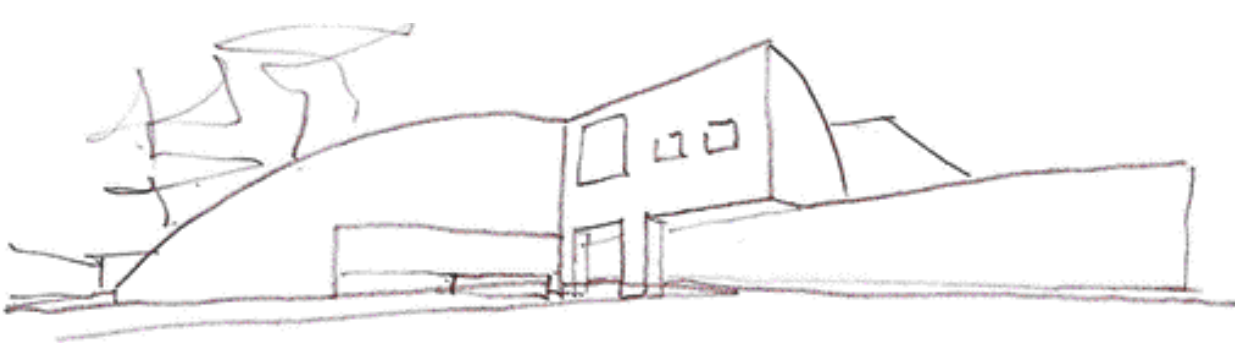








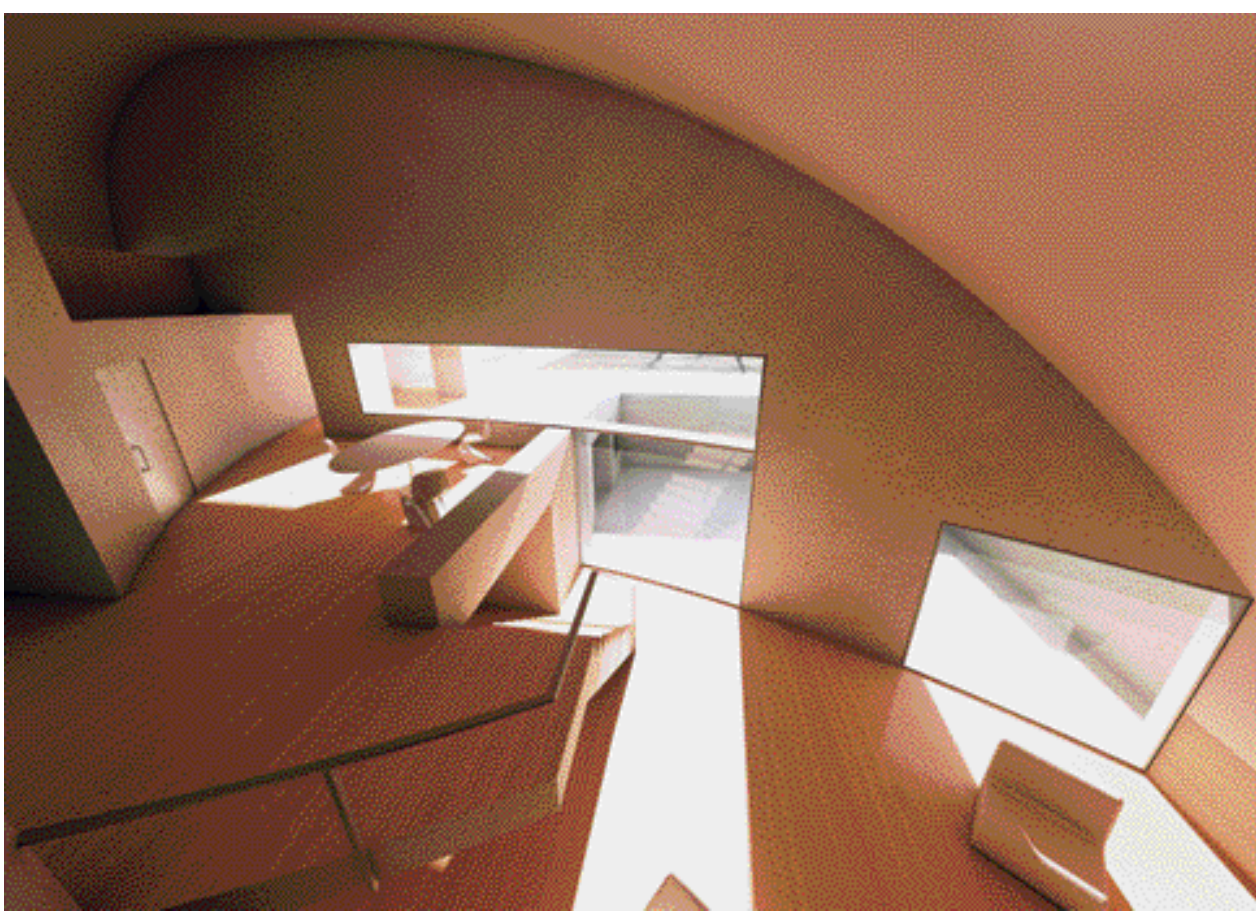


Antonino's architecture and interiors are like living sculptures. His spaces are almost three-dimensional, with free flowing walls and ceilings merging to form intricate yet cohesive volumes. It is this interactive juxtaposition of curvilinear and straight surfaces that lend such a dynamic quality to his projects.

Explaining his design for this house, Antonino says: 'Secretly, everyone is attracted to what he is afraid of and sometimes fears that these desires will be reawakened.' According to him, people get perturbed when they realise that within their unconscious there 'resides an apparent otherness; that the concepts of identity and difference are ambiguous, and often, paradoxically, this difference becomes an extraordinary instrument of investigation into one's own identity.'

Antonino has demarcated this house into two distinct parts, 'which becomes a pretext for telling a story between two diverse formal identities'. Constructed in a suburb of Melbourne on a rectangular plot, the house is demarcated into public and private areas. The façade of the public area is reminiscent of the upturned keel of a boat or a funny concrete moon that emerges from a pool in front, its design suddenly veering away

'The main hall of this house is designed like a musical instrument.... If music is sound, architecture is light and the building constructed is not the work itself but the instrument which creates it.'



from the straight lines; the other, private part takes the form of a long, narrow building set against the perimeter, which, through a progressive reduction of scale, creates a portico open to the garden but closed to the car park.

Even though the elevations of the two areas have a different geometrical identity, there is a certain link, with signs of one often appearing in the other. 'It is more than the mere bringing together of the parts. Though diverse, the elements have a reciprocal relationship, and the sound of one resonates in the other, especially in the main large cave, where it is difficult to perceive where identity ends and where the difference begins.

The main hall of this house, says Antonino, is designed like a musical instrument. 'As a sounding board, the internal vacuum interprets the sunlight, giving new meaning to the shadows. If music is sound, architecture is light and the building constructed is not the work itself

Fact File

Architect: Antonino Cardillo

Project: The Concrete Moon House
Melbourne, Australia

Site area: 791 m^2

Building size: 580 m^2 (200 m^2 basement)

Storeys: 2 + 1 basement

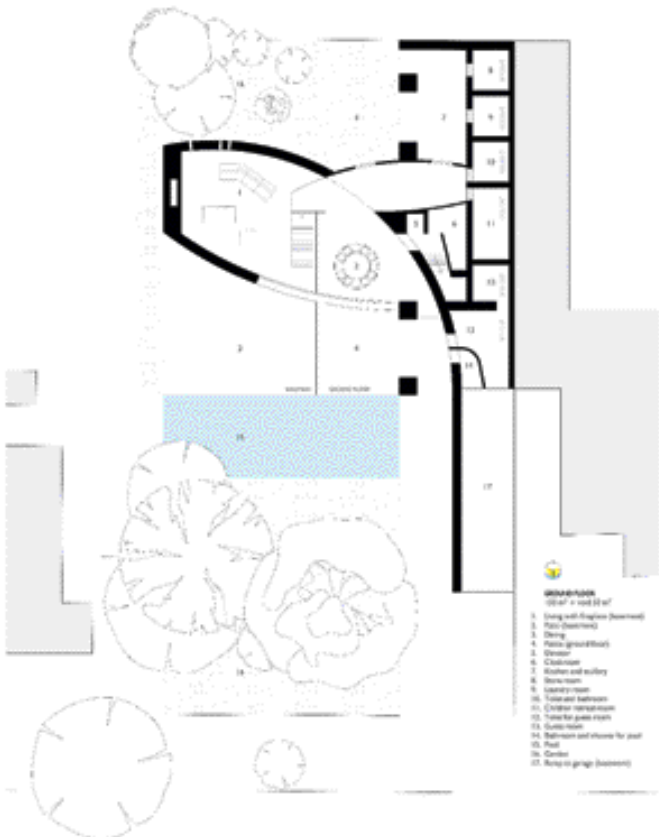
Completed: 2009

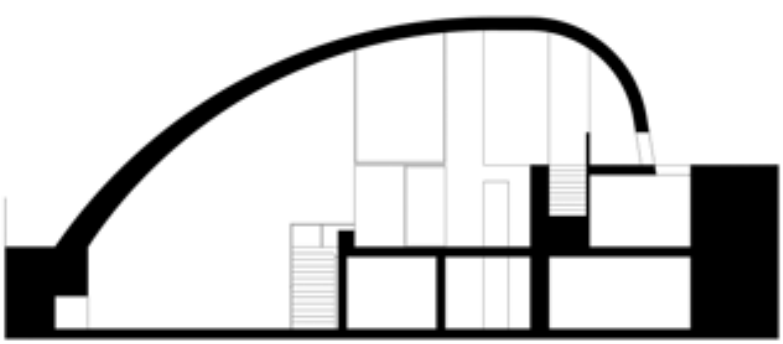
Main Materials:

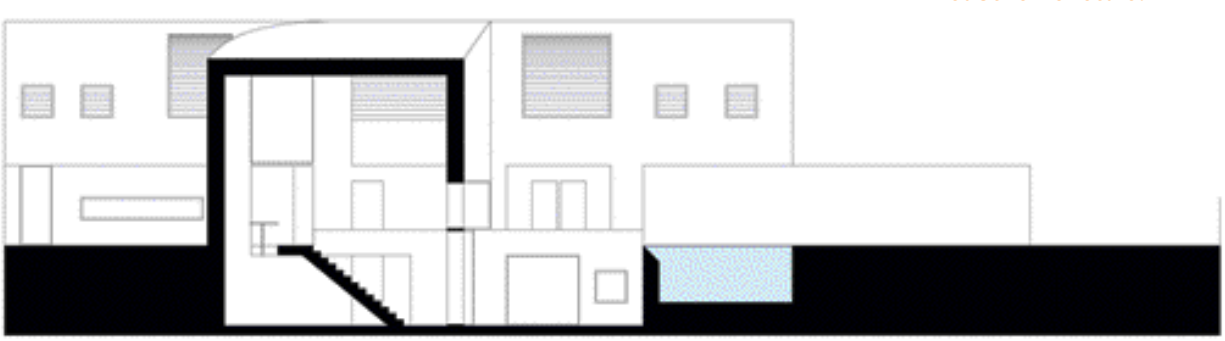
Exposed concrete
Cream-coloured plaster for the walls and ceilings
Oak wood for floor
Exposed steel for doors and windows.

but the instrument which creates it. And if light is the raw material of architecture, reverberation, as in music, measures its distances. This light, when it encounters solid material, changing its nature and form, reverberating other surfaces in turn, in a game of divisions until it decays into darkness.'

For the clients, this house is the culmination of many years of planning and ambition. 'We wanted our home to be comfortable to live in, functional and beautiful, one which we could be proud of. We are very particular about craftsmanship and detail. We love the feel of the house: the minimalism combined with the sculptural quality of the architecture; interior spaces that create a sense of drama with intimate areas for reading, studying, etc; voids that in some cases extend upto three levels and of course, the play of light, which lends such a theatrical ambience.'







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