

Sanjeev Bijli's home is a blend of the contemporary and the minimalistic

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Sanjeev Bijli's home is a blend of the contemporary and the minimalistic, says VARUN SONI

It is a 'minimalist fortress,' designed keeping in mind the occupant's desire to safeguard his privacy. Executed by Morphogenesis. Executed by Morphogenesis, an architectural design studio, the Vasant Vihar situated home of PVR's Sanjeev Bijli is a blend of the contemporary and minimalistic.

Says Sonali Rastogi, a part of the team — that also includes Mani Rastogi and Sanjay Bharadwaj — that designed the house, "The house strives to explore India in a global format. It is not just trendy, but also marries Indian tradition with the minimalistic approach — a combination of the latest Western trends with the Indian lifestyle."

Built on a 400 sq. yd. plot, the Bijli home is designed around five courtyards that are located on all levels of the house. It has three bedrooms, two living rooms and a basement that is dedicated totally to holding parties. But, the most remarkable feature in the home is that it has been built with the help of five raw materials viz. granite, African ebonywood, glass, steel and

white paint.

"The courtyards may be located inside the house, but give the impression of being external to it. Their main purpose is to provide natural light, a reason

why the use of light fixtures in the home is minimal," says Rastogi.

From the outside, the Bijli home is just like any other house in Vasant Vihar, but a screen has been

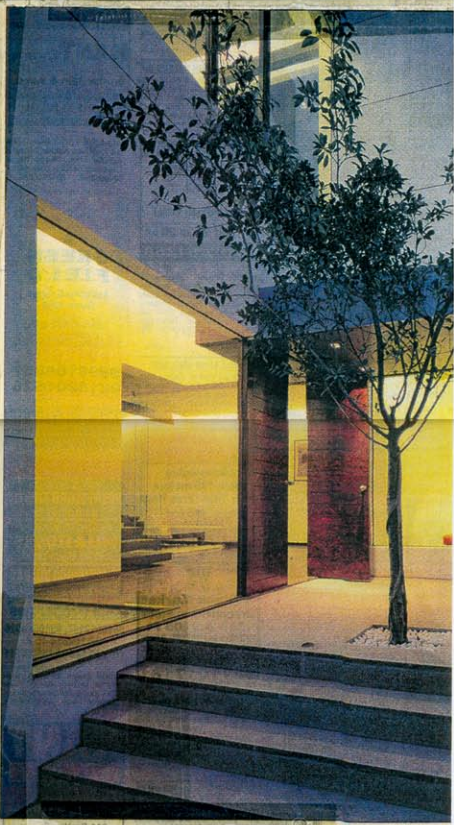
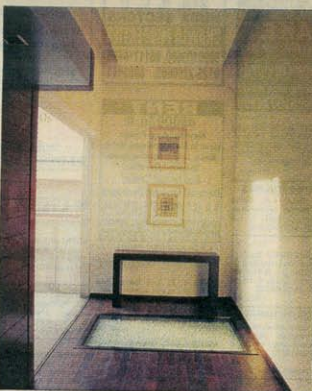
deliberately designed in front of it, keeping in mind the occupant's need for privacy. "This makes the house look like a fortress. You enter a courtyard surrounded by glass walls, which looks into the formal living room on the ground floor. A lone tree stands in the middle of the courtyard, located strategically to lend grace to the whole space," says Rastogi.

The lobby sports African ebonywood flooring with a square gap that showcases showy white pebbles. The glass base of the gap is actually the ceiling of the bathroom that is housed in the basement below. "This enables light to filter into the bathroom, practically reducing the need for lighting during the day," says Rastogi.

The living room has white granite flooring and is sparsely furnished. The furniture items include two sofas in white with a centre table. Chic lamps add to the Scandinavian look. "We have kept the furniture to the minimum, in tune with the minimalistic theme of the interiors," says Rastogi.

Heavy glass, resting on steel hinges, camouflages the staircase that leads up to the first floor. In fact, the international look has been created without compromising on quality. For instance, the master bedroom on the first floor has a glass wall that overlooks a courtyard. The windows designed inside the glass walls — also have high-tension strings so that nobody falls. The sparsely furnished bedroom has an elegant bed," says Rastogi.

The living room on the first floor has just two furniture items — an orange chair and a pouffe. However, it is the basement that takes pride of place in the Bijli home. With only two or



Clockwise from left: The courtyard through which you enter the Bijli home with a lone tree standing in its middle — located strategically to lend grace to the whole space; the Morphogenesis team — Mani and Sonali Rastogi (above); the lobby with a square pebbled space; lights in the floor as well as the ceiling of the basement add to the party effect



three red seats in the open expanse, the basement has lights embedded into the staircase as well as in the white granite flooring. "The concealed lighting is reflected on the wooden ceiling above, creating a high gloss effect," says Rastogi.

All the bathrooms in the Bijli home have a skylight which lets in the natural light. While one bathroom has a steel wall, the other has a glass one against which the wash basin is set. "Every element has been used in such a way so that it does not look corporate," says Rastogi. Kudos to minimalism!

