

ARCHITECTURE+DESIGN

A N I N D I A N J O U R N A L O F A R C H I T E C T U R E



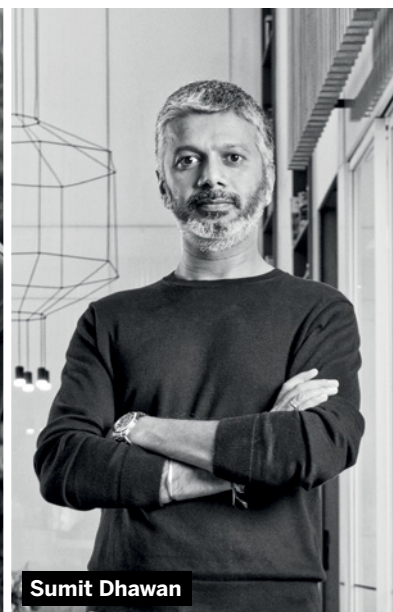
Zafar Choudhary & Monika Choudhary



Aparna Kaushik



Amita Kulkarni & Vikrant Tike



Sumit Dhawan



Sonali Rastogi

THE Unconventional

POWERED BY

SCHÜCO

10 CREATIVES WITH VIVID
IMAGINATION AND UNSHAKEABLE
CONVICTION
BORN FROM BOLD THINKING



Monica Chawla



Rudraksh Charan & Priyanka Khanna



Shiv Dada & Mohit Chawla



Apurva Parikh



M.M. Meyyappan

ISSN 0097-0239



9 770097 023695

APARNA KAUSHIK

Founder, Aparna Kaushik Design Group

A REIMAGINED FRENCH CHATEAUX

Oaklane Villa borrows the grace of a Chateaux and adapts it to intense sun, deep overhangs and double-height light. A home where Parisian proportion meets New Delhi's way of living

PROJECT: OAKLANE VILLA, NEW DELHI

PHOTOGRAPHY: ASHISH SAHI

Oaklane Villa begins with a simple question: Can a French Chateaux work as a traditional house in a contemporary Indian context? "The answer lies in not only replicating a French Chateaux, but reinterpreting it," explains Aparna Kaushik, Founder, Aparna Kaushik Design Group. "The challenge was to take the aesthetics, character and, charm, and adapt it to New Delhi's climate, materials and way of traditional living." The intent here was to understand the principles of a French Chateaux and reimagine them in an entirely opposite context.

This became the main challenge of the project, that how a house in New Delhi could hold its proportion and detail associated with a French Chateaux while responding to intense sun, heat and ventilation needs?



AT A GLANCE

- **Theme:** Neo-Classical
- **Materials:** Limestone, marble, wood and glass
- **Colour Palette:** Pearl, teal, deep
- **The Unconventional Angle:** The main challenge for the project was to ensure that this house in New Delhi could hold its proportion and detail associated with a French Chateaux while responding to intense sun, heat and ventilation needs.



The exterior design adopts classical elements like flute and Corinthian pilasters, limestone cladding, decorative wrought-iron railings and a deep blue mansard roof. Constructed with Ferragamo Beige Limestone, the façade exhibits a warm, sunlit finish

The material palette inside counts on soft beige and warm tones, coupling with veneer elements such as hardwood and polished marble floorings. The decor is further harmonised with the additional touches, which include, bespoke wooden paneling, hand-blown glass fixtures, carved boiserie and stone skirting



The challenge was to take the aesthetics, character and, charm, and adapt it to New Delhi's climate, materials and way of traditional living."

—APARNA KAUSHIK
Founder, Aparna Kaushik
Design Group

WHERE FUNCTIONALITY SETS THE TONE

The answer is more functional. Several changes including more openings and fenestrations than a traditional Chateaux, along with deep overhangs, and carefully placed skylights were added to the building. The central hallway acts as a spine of the house, allowing air and light to circulate through the interiors. Double-heighted spaces maximize the sunlight, while the mansard roof creates a buffer from the harsh sun and helps protect the house. This approach to maximize the natural light extends to the staircase. Instead of using staircase as a means of vertical movement, the double-heighted windows beside serve as a luminous architectural element.

LIGHT TAKES THE CENTRE STAGE

The same concept shows up in the walk-in wardrobe, where a skylight sits above the double-heighted room. This move makes the space feel bigger than it needs to be. The private spaces also extend this idea, with each of the bedroom suites feeling distinct in its own way, while remaining part of a bigger picture. The layout balances the proportion, natural light and carefully selected materials to create a pleasant look. The kitchen takes a modern approach to the chateaux style, it is design for everyday use, with flow and efficiency guiding the layout.

GOD IS IN THE DETAILS

In the bathrooms the concept shifts. The details feel closer and more hands-on. The edges are drawn carefully, with the planned openings, so that the space feels assembled, not just simply dressed-up. The dining space sits between the formal living room and the informal living lounge. It has a clear, separate feel, while it blends with the other rooms surrounding it, maintaining a steady balance. The roof does more than show its forms. Inside it, the attic works as a utility space, connecting staff rooms, to the laundry, water treatment, electrical



room and the air conditioning units. Tucking these utilities on the roof helps in keeping the main living area uncluttered. As a result, a clear architectural volume feels real, rather than spaces shaped by utility needs.

MATERIAL MATTERS

The same concept is also used for materials and details. Traditional elements of French style are recreated using Indian materials and local techniques. Limestone mouldings and carefully selected color schemes helps in maintaining the character of original style of Chateaux, while giving it a completely Indian identity. There are also smaller moments in plan where design takes an unconventional approach. The bar room, for instance, has an oval shape, creating curved and smooth pockets around the room. Initially, these areas felt like a residual or negative space, but they do not. Instead, they became the part of the layout and are used for functional service shafts. The bespoke curved furniture is set up in a similar way, so that the furniture does not feels like an add on, making the geometry part of the overall experience and retaining a smooth feature.

THE UNCONVENTIONAL LUXURY

The unconventional aspect of the Oaklane villa is not simply that it looks distinctive. It is the decision to take a very recognisable architectural style and make it work in a completely different climate, culture and way of living. The project shows that luxury does not always come from size, expensive materials or visual drama. It can also come from the functional and thoughtful ideas: how a space performs, how natural light moves through the interiors, how services are concealed, how furniture completes the geometry, and how an architectural language can be adapted without losing its identity. Oaklane villa, in many aspects, a French Chateaux, has learned how to withstand India's harsh climate, function and way of living. ✚

APARNA KAUSHIK

Founder, Aparna Kaushik Design Group

ABOUT THE FIRM

Aparna Kaushik is a leading designer of ultra-luxury estate homes in India. Her versatile projects span a comprehensive range of luxury lifestyle creations. Infusing her experimental processes with scientific clarity and pragmatism, Aparna creates exemplary spaces that range from awe-strikingly expansive to stylishly intimate. She is the founding principal and design director of a multi-disciplinary firm that works across architecture, interiors, furniture, lighting, product design, and landscaping. She has handled a variety of projects. Most sought-after for her unique balance of both aspirational design and precision, Aparna has lent her signature expertise to develop noteworthy projects; in particular, bespoke residential estates.

