

# OF HOUSE AND HOME

the architect's dream project, now gains an added, post-pandemic dimension.



**A person's home** is said to be their castle, but over this last year of the Covid pandemic, this has gained a new relevance, as people hunkered down within their homes, to stay safe. Urban residents gained a new respect for villas, which allow dwellers a greater measure of space, privacy and help them a connection to nature.

five element house, pawna, lonavala | studio pka, mumbai

photography :: amit pasricha



ansal villas, new delhi | rakhee shobhit design associates, gurugram

photography :: rajit kumar



glass house 91/oh precious, alibaug | muselab, mumbai

photography :: ashish sahi

Villas and bungalows have always been dream projects for architects. Unlike high-scale projects that are rigid in construction, villas allow architects a great deal of artistic creativity. It's all about creative, cohesive design for individual dreams. Ar. Rakesh Sharma, Principal Architect, Genre of Design, New Delhi adds, "Designing a villa offers an opportunity to directly communicate with the client, understand their requirements and dreams. The challenges motivate us to experiment with materials, design elements and scale as per scale and usability."

Architects use the villa space to explore material choices and connect their clients to nature. Ar. George E. Ramapuram, Principal Architect, Earthitects, Bengaluru says, "We have used live-edge teak wood, uncut and unpolished stone, clay roof tiles, eucalyptus poles, lapotra granite and stone deck floors. When we have a boulder or tree in the way, we accommodate it as part of the design." A space that permits self-expression, Ar. Bhadri and Snehal Suthar, Co-founders, The Grid Architects, Ahmedabad, say, "Villas allow you to inspect your lifestyle; as you constantly learn and upgrade yourselves. You must bring in nature freely through courtyards, landscapes and water bodies. We are huge believers in biophilia."



photography :: shamanth patil

badari residence bengaluru | cadence architects, bengaluru





# FIVE ELEMENT HOUSE, PAWNA, LONAVALA

Studio PKA, Mumbai

## Design brief and aim

To conceptualize a weekend retreat away from the city.

## How this was accomplished

Landlocked by the Sahyadri mountains, Pawna is a pristine landscape guarded by three forts. The man-made lake is contained by a towering dam, which hosts adventure sports throughout the year. Spread over 10,000 sq. ft, the family of four wanted a home on the top of the hill that represents the five elements – earth, sky, air, water and fire.



The design allows the house to grow along with its surroundings, with green climbers trailing up a wooden trellis. Large fenestrations bring in warm daylight, and the carbon footprint is designed to ensure minimal impact on the environment. It follows a simple and earthy material palette of limestone, Shahabad and Kadappa stone, sandstone, slate, teakwood, terracotta, exposed brick, cement plaster and mild steel. Unbuilt open spaces act as natural extensions from the single cohesive unit, which is divided into the

master block, the living block and the guest block.

Visitors enter the house via the aangan (courtyard), pool and lily pond, which ensures a continuous flow of spaces. Moving to the living area, one finds the double-storeyed M-block and low-storeyed K-block. An edgeless cantilevered swimming pool parallel to the dam juts out towards the lake, and the wind currents flow through the current openings from the aangan to the entrance.



photography :: amit pasricha