

RESTLESS LIVING

"... restlessly dedicated to contemporary living."



VOLUME 11



VILLA M

Kyiv, Ukraine

When the founder of Martin's, Igor Martin, was approached by a client to design a new contemporary home in the middle of a forest in the Kyiv region, it was with a specific request in mind. The house had to be built in complete secrecy, since the owner wanted to surprise his wife with a new home. Igor Martin has been kind to share his experience about how they managed to incorporate the surrounding nature into the design.

When entering Villa M, it quickly becomes clear that the design was inspired by its forestial surroundings – from the use of stone and wood to the display of vegetation. “We were inspired by the nature around. After all, the house is located in a quiet forest and this is reflected in textures, shades and even form. Here you will not dodge bright colors; everything reminds of unity with nature. The most important element in this interior is a wall made of natural stone boulders. It was around this wall that the entire interior was created. We are very proud of it because it looks very monumental and we were able to bring it to life”, Igor says. The idea of having a 15 tons rock penetrating the interior is extremely ambitious, but creates a completely unique spatial experience. “In the ‘body’ of the rock there was provided a natural fireplace which gives a special charm in the combination of stone and fire”, Igor mentions. In addition to the special charm, the monumental stone wall also creates a great contrast to the otherwise clean interior, and it fits well into the frame of timelessness.



Understandably, the rocky wall did present challenges. “When implementing the project, it was difficult to find stones of the required size and weight. And when we did find them, we faced the difficult task of installing these stones. But with the help of heavy equipment, the wall was built”, Igor explains. In extension to the living area, the dining area is placed with access to an outdoor terrace. “The ground floor of the house has a simple living-dining room flowing smoothly into the kitchen. In the summer, the terrace that adjoins the kitchen becomes a dining room, with a separate barbecue area and a sofa group”, Igor says. This connection between the public areas and the outdoor terrace not only has a functional feature, it also supports the underlying idea of the project – to embrace the natural surroundings. And, conceptual clarity is probably the most interesting element of the Villa M project – from the natural bathroom to the indoor plants planted under the two-flight staircase at the floor level.

Architecture by **Martin's**

Photography by **Andrey Avdeenko**





CHHAVI HOUSE

Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India

The desert house, Chhavi, is a great example that architecture can be challenging but that challenges are there to be solved. We have talked to Alan Abraham, principal architect of Abraham John Architects, to discover the story behind the Chhavi House.

The Chhavi House is situated on a small lot in the second-largest city of the Rajasthan region, Jodhpur. The project proved to be challenging largely due to its context. "The challenge of designing a residential villa in Jodhpur was trifold: extreme climate, small footprint and a large project brief. The house also needed to be Vastu compliant – conforming with the ancient Indian design principles regarding space, sunlight, flow and function", Alan says. The plot was quite restricted since it was placed in the middle of a society scheme. To the south and west side, the site had adjoining buildings along its compound walls, and two roads along its north and east sides. "There was a need to create privacy, through orientation of the views, screens and courtyards, as well as through landscape design. The little gardens, decks, waterbodies, sculpture court, sky lit balconies and terrace gardens were all designed to enhance its spatial feel", Alan explains. As an interesting touch, the design elements that were integrated to provide privacy are also the design elements that define the project – through function and aesthetic. "In a city where temperatures routinely exceed 40 degrees Celsius, the filigree screen is



functional. It protects from the sun and offers some privacy. But, it is also aesthetic, since it is a reminder of the traditional jalis (the screens with openings, ed.) of the region. It looks spectacular at night, and during the day it cuts down the heat and glare while reflecting on the windows”, Alan continues.

The interior, on the other hand, is characterized by openness and space. “The living area is a double height space with the ceiling continuing through from the inside to the outside; it’s L shaped openable windows connecting it to the courtyard and waterbody. The kitchen doors completely slide open onto the dining room as per the occasion”, Alan says. It is especially the contrast between the openness and the privacy in combination with the traditional Indian influence that makes this house so special. But, it is also the floating steps making an inviting entrance; the lighting and the landscape that add to the sense of arrival; the imposing wooden doors; the double height volumes and projections that are reminiscent of the many palaces, forts and temples set in the stark landscape of the Thar Desert.

Architecture by **Abraham John Architects** Photography by **Alan Abraham**





LIMA HOUSE

Lima, Peru

How do one create the sense of living in a townhouse without “just” designing a conventional solid vertical block? The Lima House is a great example of this idea, and we have talked to Samanta Cafardo of Studio MK27, who was the co-author on this residential project.

“We wanted to create the feeling for the clients of living in a ‘townhouse’, with the possibilities we had available regarding the layout and size of the plot, floor-area ratio, and so on. In order to avoid

a solid vertical block, the house consists of 3 box-shaped volumes, stacked on top of each other, ‘misaligned’. This feature allowed us to bring natural light into the interior of the house”, Samanta says. The ‘boxing’ was also used in the interiors, as the interior layout is divided into boxes with wooden panels and doors separating the spaces. “There are the outer boxes, and then there are the inner boxes that “resolve” the program; a better option than just simply putting up a wall. We have a playful perspective of space. This is a meta-box project”, Samanta explains.

Studio MK27 is known for their great integration between the indoor and the outdoor, and the Lima House was no exception. “We are really proud about the quality we managed to achieve in the outdoor spaces and their connection with the interior. As the house is set in an urban plot, occupying the land with the necessary density and at the same time ensuring quality, external spaces was an enormous challenge”, Samantha says and elaborates: “It was possible to create interesting outdoor spaces and the boundaries between inside and outside are

blurred. We love this strong integration between the interior and the exterior and there is a constant search for enlargement of spaces. In our projects, almost always the doors of the rooms slide into the walls leaving the spaces totally connected with the external area, with no obstruction.”

Throughout the spaces – both outdoor and indoor – there is a strong mix of Brazilian and locally sourced materials. While the wood is of Brazilian origin, the basalt stone and travertine marble were sourced in the local region. However, the application and the choice of materials did impose certain challenges to Samanta and her team. “The biggest challenge to execute

the project was to find specialized labor that followed all the detailing of the construction documents. Our projects are elaborated with extreme attention to details and finishes. Another difficulty was the process of approval of the materials with the clients. We had to come and go with physical samples, and it is challenging when we are based more than 4.000 km away from the project site”, Samanta explains.

Regardless, the outcome of the struggles witness a contemporary home that is balance. The house is necessarily robust and earthquake resistant, yet with cantilevered volumes that impose a sense of lightness. To maintain privacy while allowing a natural in-

flow of light, the team designed a cobogó facade that is aesthetically pleasing as well as functional. The private spaces are organized on the second floor volume with a master suite and a terrace while the third floor is dedicated to the children. The house includes a rooftop, a ‘semi-underground’ with garage, spa, pool, etc., and a main floor with access to the garden.

Architecture by **Studio MK27**

(**Marcio Kogan + Samanta Cafardo + Elisa Friedman**)

Interiors by **Studio MK27**

(**Diana Radomysler + Mariana Ruzante**)

Photography by **Fernando Guerra**





"We managed to design a home which takes in the ocean views from the prominent living spaces, despite the challenges of a long, narrow site."

– Sarah Waller, Sarah Waller Architecture

In the small coastal town of Tannum Sands on the Central East Coast of Queensland, a recently retired couple wished for a family home which would act as a retreat to unwind and recharge in while being a place for them as well as their children and grandchildren, to enjoy well into the future. The architect behind, Sarah Waller, has been kind to share her design experience with us.

“Our brief from our client was to design him a home that was a great piece of stand out architecture that was very different to all the other convention homes in the area. He wanted people to stop in the street in awe but at the same time be very private from the road. This was his forever home and he gave us an open brief in terms of the style not knowing what he liked. It was not until we showed him the 3Ds that he knew we had interpreted his brief exactly”, Sarah says. The external architecture is designed with timelessness and crisp features in mind offset to the stunning natural backdrop of the beachfront location. “From the street, the first floor gives the appearance of a timber box floating above the paired-back black façade of the ground level. As one approaches the entry, the modern aesthetic takes on a slightly more industrial feel with a textural off-form concrete wall and black steel entry framework”, Sarah explains.

Entering the home, the house opens up to double height volumes allowing an expansive view across the pool to the beach and the ocean beyond. Due to the plan and ceiling height, the dining area is generous in terms of space, which makes it the perfect area to bring the family together around the large dining table. The full-height slot window creates a sense of verticality and luxuriousness. The restraint and delicacy of the vertical slot window in combination with its perfect alignment with the palm tree outside, makes it a unique architectural feature. The kitchen, however, is the true heart of the house which all other living spaces are centered around. Whilst a coastal vibe is maintained throughout the house, the kitchen contributes a sense of luxury with a marble-look benchtop and striking timber and black cabinetry.

In order to achieve the result, it was important to obtain the trust from the client while complying with the local council. “We are so proud that the client entrusted us with his vision and the architecture was changed very little from the original design, he was just the perfect client. We did however face one major struggle and that was the sewer that crossed the site on an angle, and the council would not let us build over it like all the other house in the road had done. This made the layout somewhat challenging, but with the introduction of the courtyard garden and cantilevering the first floor over this allowed us to keep the architectural concept and still comply with the council”, Sarah concludes.

Architecture by **Sarah Waller Architecture**

Photography by **Photopia Studio**





Placed on a small triangular site that was basically considered unusable, Alloy Homes made the most out of the challenge and managed to design a distinctive family home. We talked to Christopher Lemke, who is the co-founder of Alloy Homes.

“We designed a unique family home on a virtually unbuildable site. Many bylaw relaxations were required to make this home possible. The lot is a small triangle, where the front property line is the hypotenuse. It made space planning very difficult, so we

needed to think outside the box”, Christopher says. However, the shape of the site allowed Christopher and his team to be creative in terms of the structure. “We used the triangular side yards to set up two different axes on the floor plan. This gave us extra width along the front facade, which we used to create a covered outdoor terrace”, Christopher explains. The house is situated atop a ridge overlooking the Calgary Stampede Grandstand. In combination with a small available footprint, verticality became the norm for the project creating magnificent views

from the upper floors. “To take full advantage of the site, we lifted the basement and placed main living areas on the second floor”, Christopher mentions. Since the clients requested a loft-like living space, all the major functions were organized in one room. a room the team named “The Great Room”. This space also has access to the dramatic two-storey covered terrace with great privacy despite the fact that the terrace faces the front property line. The Rodeo Drive House is another example of the challenges architecture can overcome with a bit of imagination.



Words of the Week



"This week, I was trying to select projects with a predominantly natural mood to the interior. I have always been a strong advocator for the use of wood and an earthy style, since it can create a calm and welcoming atmosphere while being very contemporary. In Denmark, it is popular to use a light tone of wood to add comfort to minimal design. Being from Denmark has, of course, influenced my preferences quite a bit, but I also experience that earthy vibes are quite universal, as it is a style implemented all over the world. However, it is quite interesting to see how earthy moods are being implemented in different parts of the world. In many instances, it is a reflection of its context; both in terms of the natural context but definitely also the cultural context. I wanted to highlight this fact through the projects of this week; from the Chhavi House mimicking the Thar desert to the Lima House influenced by the cultural preferences of Brazilian architecture.

I hope you enjoyed this week's e-Magazine. Next week's issue will include the Interview of the Month, which I am really looking forward to share with you on next Friday. Stay safe!"

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Trampedach".

CHRISTIAN TRAMPEDACH
FOUNDER, RESTLESS

