



A fine blend

Created out of an amalgamation of two apartments, this residence merges form with function

Apartments can be transformed into plush, luxurious abodes by addition of interesting design elements or by simply merging spaces. And incorporating functionality to all the style can prove to be a task, especially when time is not on your side.

Manish Dikshit, principal architect of Aum Architects, designed a 3400 sq ft apartment in just 70 days by merging two

separate apartments. Designed for a family of five, this apartment has six bedrooms, living and dining, kitchen and a study.

"The owners host a lot of business clients and guests. They wanted a spacious apartment with many bedrooms," says Dikshit. "They also wanted the house to have a contemporary touch."

Dikshit started by break-

ing the wall that separated the two apartments. This paved the way for an expansive living area. He also utilised the periphery duct spaces to expand the bedrooms.

The extra kitchen was broken down and a part of it formed the walk-in wardrobe for the adjacent master bedroom.

The other part was used to create a study that adjoins the

living room.

"The study has transparent glass sections to add volume and to visually connect it to the living room," says Dikshit.

The architect has combined the living and dining areas so the owners can entertain as many people as possible.

Black sofas dominate the living space while a white diwan adds contrast.

A mercury-coated glass

Above: Architect Manish Dikshit of Aum Architects combined two apartments into one, big family home in Mumbai. Beige coloured Bottochino Italian marble runs throughout the apartment and provides a contrast to dark coloured furniture. Layered, sheer curtains on large windows have been used to regulate natural light that flushes the living and dining areas.



Above: The owners have chosen a dark palette for the living room to create a formal atmosphere. The study is transparent but differentiated by wooden flooring. A bar cabinet has been tucked away in the corner outside the study.

Right: Backlit copper sheets with floral patterns differentiate the dining area from the rest of the living room.



and wooden panel surrounds the television in the living room. Etched with floral motifs, it has been used to break the monotony of the long wall. Another decorated wall provides a dramatic backdrop for the dining area. Laser cut copper sheets with asymmetrical floral motifs have been used as panels. The wall behind the panels is painted grey and backlit.

The dining area becomes a brightly lit space thanks to a chandelier and the table's onyx stand with inbuilt lighting. The kitchen, in hues of peach and white, provides ample storage space. The architect did not want parallel counters along the length of the kitchen. Vertical storage cabinets have therefore been added. "Accommodating the requirements of people across

age groups has been challenging. Each bedroom had to be designed keeping individual preferences in mind," says the architect. The two guest bedrooms have niches to tuck away luggage, while the other four are personalised. For instance, in one of the bedrooms, a window ledge serves as reading corner as the occupant likes to read; space

has also been provided to store books. A second bedroom uses dark teak wood on the insistence of the occupant whereas another one has a white theme. A white, cushioned headboard with Swarovski crystals is complemented by a diwan with the same embellishment. Bathrooms reflect each bedroom's design and colours respectively.



Left: Sourced from Italy, the two green string chairs add vibrancy to an otherwise formal area. **Following pages:** In the dining area, a glass tabletop rests on an onyx stand that has been lit from the inside. Seating and storage space have been created by the window behind the dining table. Spots have been used in the ceiling for moodlighting.





Architect: Manish Dikshit, Aum Architects
Association: Council Of Architecture (COA)
Builder: Sabari Enterprise
Window/door: Aluminium powder coated windows
Tiles: Nitco, Kajaria and Spanish tiles
Flooring: Bottochino Italian from Bikshu Marbles
Paints: Asian Paints
Lighting: Philips, Osram
Kitchen cabinet: Timex marine plywood
Benchtop: GKB brown granite
Splashback: Bansali traders
Stove/hob: Butterfly
Ventilation: Cata
Microwave: Samsung
Refrigerator: LG
Bath: Kohler
Basin: Kohler
Taps: Kohler
Shower: Kohler
Hot water systems: Racold
Flooring: Jaybee marbles
Toilet: Kohler
Accessories: Hafele
Bedroom furniture: Marine ply with veneer and lamination
Mirrors: AIS
Art: Aesthetics, Honey Homes and Oma

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Facing page: White and silver are the dominant colours in this bedroom. Swarovski crystals are embedded in the white headboard as well as on the window-side *diwan*. Grey and black curtains add contrast to the space.

Left: The architect let wooden striations in the wall behind the bed protrude out to complement the side table attached to the bed. Lounge chairs allow an undisputed view of the skyline.