

The



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# Ideal Home

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and Garden

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## OWNERS' PRIDE

**The owners:** Architects Sonali and Mani Rastogi and their two children, Aryaman and Ananya

**The Home:** Features three floors — the basement houses the design studio while the remaining floors are made for living.

**Location:** Panchsheel Park, New Delhi

**Rooms:** Family room; large living-cum-dining room; four bedrooms; study area; music room; two separate terraced areas (facing north and east); indoor garden and pond, and lap pool.





*Architect Sonali Rastogi*

Architects Sonali and Mani Rastogi's home in Delhi is an expression of the couple's personalities and adheres to their philosophy of design.

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**Impressions: Ruhi Singh**  
**Images: Ankush Maria**

# HOME TO Nature



Our house has been an outcome of two very divergent thinking processes. Whilst I tend to think of space from inside out, Manit thinks of spaces outside in,” says Sonali. Sonali and her husband are co-founders of the architecture firm, Morphogenesis Design Studio.



Spread across an area of 8,000 sq. ft., their home is in symbiosis with the surrounding greenery owing to the glass façade that seamlessly integrates the interior spaces with the outside.

The living room has an almost entirely glass facade. It is designed to make most of the daylight filtering inside yet keep heat out. For the home, the partners have chosen finishes that bounce off light. “You never need to turn on a light during the day,” shares Sonali. The home also features an eclectic







mix of pieces. “Every artwork has been done by a friend who is an artist or is someone whose work we found so interesting that we went out and befriended them,” Sonali smilingly shares.

The same materials that you find inside also make their way as part of the exterior of the building. Besides, each room is a result of an outcome of a conversation with the inhabitants of that room. The idea is reflected in the children’s rooms which is furnished with books, shields and posters — there is space given for everything.

We loved the internal garden which is unique and made in a 1.5 m sunken pit in the centre of the home. Having a zen décor theme, it boasts of white stones and pristine greens while wooden

benches provide comfortable seating. “The children wanted to have an experience of green even when they were not in the green. Fish and sounds of water from the sunken pond in the centre of the house also emerged from that,” tells Sonali. Skylights are used to ensure that the plant get sufficient sunlight to grow. “We have a daylight simulator for overcast days though it hardly ever comes into play due to the correct orientation of the house,” adds the architect.

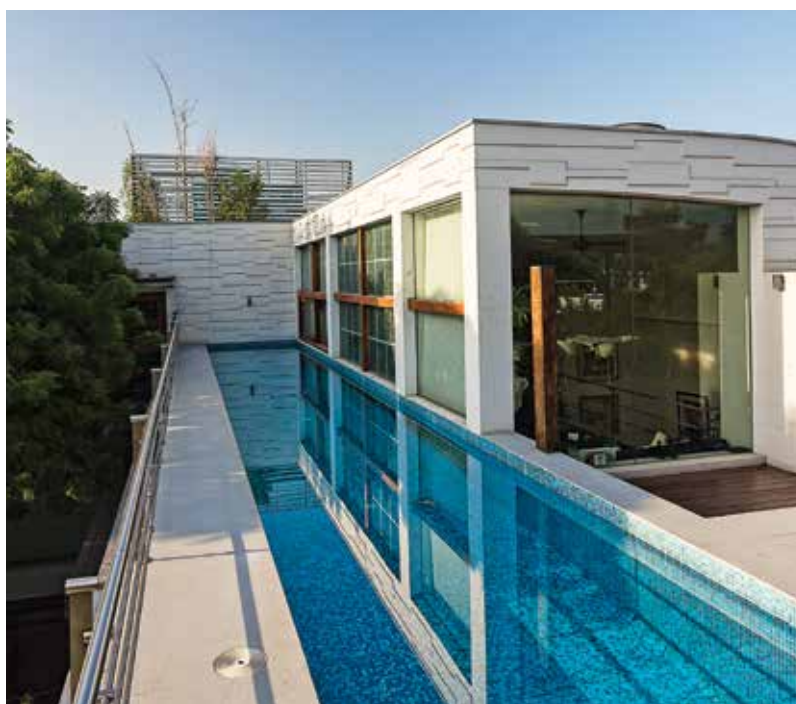
To bring the outdoors into the home, the home is almost entirely visible from the outside. To create a sense of privacy, Sonali has planted long trees at the boundary of the home that encloses the outside as well as the home. “So you see green wherever you walk. I selected trees from





The home design is optimised to make the most of the daylight filtering inside yet keep the heat out.





my experience of landscape so there are always one or two trees flowering at all times of the year,” informs Sonali.

Even their dining space is quite unusual with its red dining table and leather upholstered chairs. The effect is enhanced with white hanging lights. On the terrace outside the dining area is a leafy summer deck with sleek rattan furniture.

The home is designed as an open plan and the décor theme very much reflects the nature of the occupants. It truly offers a setting for family interaction as well as for gathering together of large group of friends — and for Sonali and Manit, these are designers, writers and artists that perpetually inhabit the home. “Our house is very much an extension of our personalities,” says Sonali.