

MORPHOGENESIS

PRINCIPALS: **SONALI AND MANIT RASTOGI**

LOCATION: **NEW DELHI**

Thirteen years into its practice, Morphogenesis became the first Indian practice to win a WAF (World Architecture Festival) award—in the ‘Best Learning Building’ category for Jaipur’s Pearl Academy—in 2009. In 2014, it was conferred the Singapore Institute of Architects’ SIA-Getz Architecture Prize for ‘Emergent Architecture in Asia’. The architecture firm’s portfolio almost keeps industry watchers from guessing what might emerge next from its laboratory of ideas. A fact that is reinforced by the Artisan House in Delhi. A split-level structure that adheres to the site’s “stepped typology”, the house was a conscious effort by the firm to break away from the typical aspects that define scale—fenestrations, entryways, doors. “The entire site has been arranged as a series of sequential sculptural walls—the organizing principle of the house. The space looks like several planes arranged one behind the other. All the ‘rooms’ are defined between two walls,” says Sonali Rastogi. For a practice that works on few homes, “depending on how interesting the brief is or if there is a new design impetus”, this house was a chance to walk the fine line between client preferences for texture and its own proclivity for minimalism.

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