

## DESIGNBOARD

## Scope for spatial drama

**Bungalows usually have large spaces which are** canvases for artists to explore their creativity. This is missing in apartments, says **Kohelika Kohli**

While designing a private bungalow a crucial connect needs to be established between the interior and exterior elements. One requires a very functional, systematic and an aesthetic understanding of the ways in which interior and exterior spaces can be connected and conceived – not just physically but also visually. In a city like Delhi, one is fortunate to have large plot sizes of 1,200 sq yd or more. However, a majority of bungalow plots are 500 sq yd or less. The play of scale becomes crucial in relationship to the plot. Large door and window openings, which allow for a free flow between interior and/or partially covered spaces and

exterior ones, enable spaces to work in complementary ways. Exterior elements such as trees and plants, along with other features such as water-bodies and sculptural elements tie in together with the interior space to visually become a singular space which can be experienced holistically. Personally as a designer, I feel the architecture of homes should be contemporary and minimalist and simple to some extent – but it should be edited and pared down simplicity that is the hallmark of great sophistication. A space should be allowed to evolve and to be inhabited with people who are also evolving. “Spatial drama”, as I call it, comes from the architecture - be it scale in all three dimensions.

Kohelika Kohli, CEO and creative director, K2INDIA

Terrace garden with modern gazebo bar with old architectural stone columns from Chettinad



PHOTOS: K2INDIA

And, good interior design and decoration should reinforce this drama. One should never tire of the space. The “spatial theatrical players,” as I refer to them, are colour, wall finishes, floor finishes, lighting

and other design elements. These can also evolve and change over time. The best homes are those which have a sense of culture and are intrinsically rooted. They are beautifully designed and may be executed with large budgets, but are understated and sophisticated. The budgets are never to impress but to avail of high quality. But, then again these are personal

choices. The demands in the market always vary. It requires a deep understanding not only of design but, more importantly, of clients and their needs and ideas.

Designing bungalows today is truly a privilege. There are very few who retain them as single dwellings. Majority of people are moving into apartments. Undoubtedly, the greatest advantage with a bungalow is the interior-exterior connection and experience. It is much more difficult to execute this in apartments, primarily because majority of builders try to maximise the covered space. So one usually does not get spatial drama from the architecture and it needs to be created with the interior elements.

There is an enormous difference in approach to designing a private villa in the city versus one in the suburbs.

With bungalows in the city, the scale is usually more vertical than horizontal, so again the “spatial players” change. They have to be manipulated to have a more functional and aesthetically cultivated look which is more equipped for the city and its fast pace of living. ♦