

PHOTOS: SUSHIL SOORMA



A glass apart

Celebrity Roof

The interiors of Manoj and Vandy Mehra's home are in stark contrast to the traditional work that the fashion designer specialises in, says VARUN SONI

It is a home that catches your attention from the word go. As you drive down Arjun Marg in Gurgaon, it stands out like an oasis in the desert—or to be more precise like a Gower in a concrete jungle.

Designed by architect-cum-interior designer, Vidur Bharadwaj, the exterior of Manoj and Vandy Mehra's (of Study by Janak fame) home has L-shaped metal rafters forming a pergola over the entrance. An immaculate front garden embellishes the bright yellow façade of the modern, five-bedroom house.

The interiors of the home are in total contrast to the traditional designs that Manoj Mehra specialises in—they are totally European. Solid wood doors with big steel handles herald you in. As you enter, the first thing you come across are walls of glass that give you glimpses into the spaces beyond. Directly opposite the front door is a blade cabinet on which are ceramic vases from Italy. Wood and steel railings lead down into the basement as well as above the double-height atrium.

To the right of the lobby are two glass doors that open into a formal living room. Designed a step below the lobby, the living room has two main seating areas and sports a wooden floor. The first has seating in beige, a centre table displaying ultra-modern artefacts and a matching carpet. Behind the seating are windows that are draped in chiks as well as chocolate brown curtains. Next to this is a bar cabinet in black with gold leaf work.

The second seating area is done in black and white checks and has a similar centre table as the first one, a carpet in the same colour combination as the seating and a long console with orange Italian vases perched atop it. On a higher level is a 10-seater dining table in steel and glass (a style called Molteni Black). The chairs have been upholstered in black. Paintings picked up from an exhibition and chic Italian lighting add to the contemporary effect.



Beyond the dining area is a glass wall that opens into the family lounge. The lounge has a straight-lined sofa set in beige placed against a silver wall, a table with six chairs in black leather and a flat-screen TV. The highlight of the table is the gold leaf work in the shape of a circle in the centre, the same craft that has been employed on the bar cabinet in the living room.

Apart from a puja room, the ground floor also has the Mehra's parents' bedroom, a guestroom as well as the kitchen. The parent's room has wooden flooring, a chic bed in wood with matching seating in black leather and a flat-screen built-in wall TV. Maroon curtains cover aluminium glass doors that open out onto the back garden that also has an open bar. A powder room with a yellow line at the entrance is an example of the Vaastu compliance in the Mehra home.

While the modular kitchen in silver and white is from Germany, the guestroom is simply designed in Italian furniture. As you move back

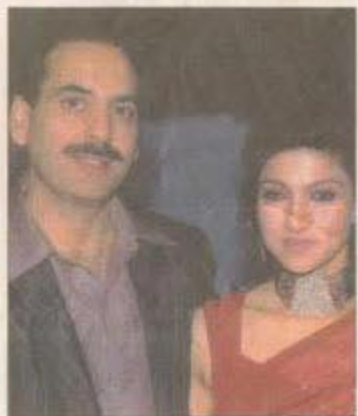
into the lobby and go down the wooden stairs into the basement, you encounter a number of silver coloured walls en route that have been introduced to break the monotony. The basement sports a unique flooring concept called epoxy flooring, to distinguish it from the other areas in the house. In the middle of the basement—and directly below the atrium—is a glass floor on which have been placed an L-seater in orange and an elegant one in beige. While the round centre table is in glass, steel and glass walls form a dramatic backdrop. Behind the seating is a corridor that has specially designed orange mural panels in between glass ones.

The corridor leads you into an entertainment area which has a long steel and wood bar unit and a 'New York' seating in beige placed against a wall of mirrors. Two black pouffes, a centre table in wood, paintings picked up from an exhibition and wooden rafters on the ceiling complete the picture. Further ahead is the

snooker corner with a pool table, placed against a zig-zag wall covered with mirrors. A gym and a home theatre room in cream and red are the other areas in the basement.

Like the ground floor, the first floor has glass walls as well. The only difference is that being the top floor there is no atrium here—instead the glass walls encase a lush green garden. There are three bedrooms on the first floor—the master bedroom, the Mehra's son, Ayush's bedroom and his sister, Aanchal's room. The latter has wooden flooring, white walls, mirror panels, an oak working table (made without nails) and pink and white plastic strings that separate the bedroom from the bathroom. The bathroom is covered in an orange Italian stone and has glass wardrobes in the dressing area.

A lounge next door has black leather sofas and a recliner. A small pantry in the same room looks after the needs of the people living on the first floor. The ceiling is similar to that of the family



Clockwise from top left: L-shaped metal rafters form a pergola over the entrance of the Mehra home; the formal as well as the informal dining areas, separated by a glass wall; fashion designer, Manoj Mehra with wife, Vandy; the basement with its ultra-modern seating and glass floor; the living room on the ground floor has a seating in white and black checks; the contemporary guestroom is a study in red

lounge on the ground floor—visible through a glass wall overlooking the ground floor.

Ayush's room, on the other hand, has a very warm look. It has a dark wooden bed and a very boyish yet unusually upholstered seating arrangement.

The master bedroom, however, takes pride of place in the Mehra home. It has a golden floor bed that is in two separate pieces joined together. A golden couch, a black and beige chair with a footstool and a working table complete the picture. Beige curtains with designer black sheers lend elegance to the whole area. A walk-in dressing room leads to a bathroom that has a jacuzzi, a steam cubicle and a WC that is hidden by a glass partition.

The second floor has only a guestroom that is done in maroon, right from the bed to the curtains. Lamps from Thailand and a dressing area are the other highlights.

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