

# ARCHITECTURE

RESIDENTIAL

Homes that craft a contemporary identity through their design

PROJECT: BUNGALOW ▼ ARCHITECT: MODO DESIGNS, INTERIOR DESIGNER: PVDRS

TEXT: TINA THAKRAR  
IMAGES: BHARAT AGGARWAL

## Additional Info

- AREA: 6,900 SQFT
- LOCATION: AHMEDABAD

*The twists and turns in this family home resonate with the existing natural formations on site, creating an element of surprise in the interior spaces as well.*



*The owner's initial brief for the house included a preference to avoid a rigid box formation, the theme of an outdoor lifestyle, and the inclusion a treasure trove of artefacts, paintings, Persian rugs, books and ancestral furniture.*

**FYI**  
Pivot-operable bookshelves between the living room and library open up the space for large gatherings.

A 15ft cantilevered verandah fluidly curves around this family home, sheltering the cosy spaces within and responding to the surrounding natural landscape. The majestic structure is largely oriented towards the main garden with its abundant flora, and an existing lily pond. Most of the existing landscape has been maintained, and new plantations added around the house, with natural design elements like wood panelling, exposed ceilings, jute beams, Kotah stone flooring and terracotta walls aiding its raw character. A four-member family inhabits the home designed by architect Arpan Shah of Modo Designs and designer Megha Patel-Vadodaria of PVDRS, as a contemporary interpretation their original, colonial style house.

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What we had, to begin with, was a plot with full-grown trees, a lily pond and a vernacular-style outhouse. We created a structure that would connect with the existing elements, and also act as an organic insert in a place with natural character.

— Arpan Shah, Principal Architect, Modo Designs



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The interiors are a fusion of old ancestral furniture, bespoke pieces and the client's own collection of paintings and Persian rugs. These have been put together to resonate with their original outdoor dwelling style.

— Megha Patel-Vadodaria, Principal Designer, PVDRS

*Existing trees and the verandah reduce heat gain within the home. Brick bat and white glazed tiles on the terrace and deck insulation in all bedrooms through a pop ceiling further regulates temperature.*

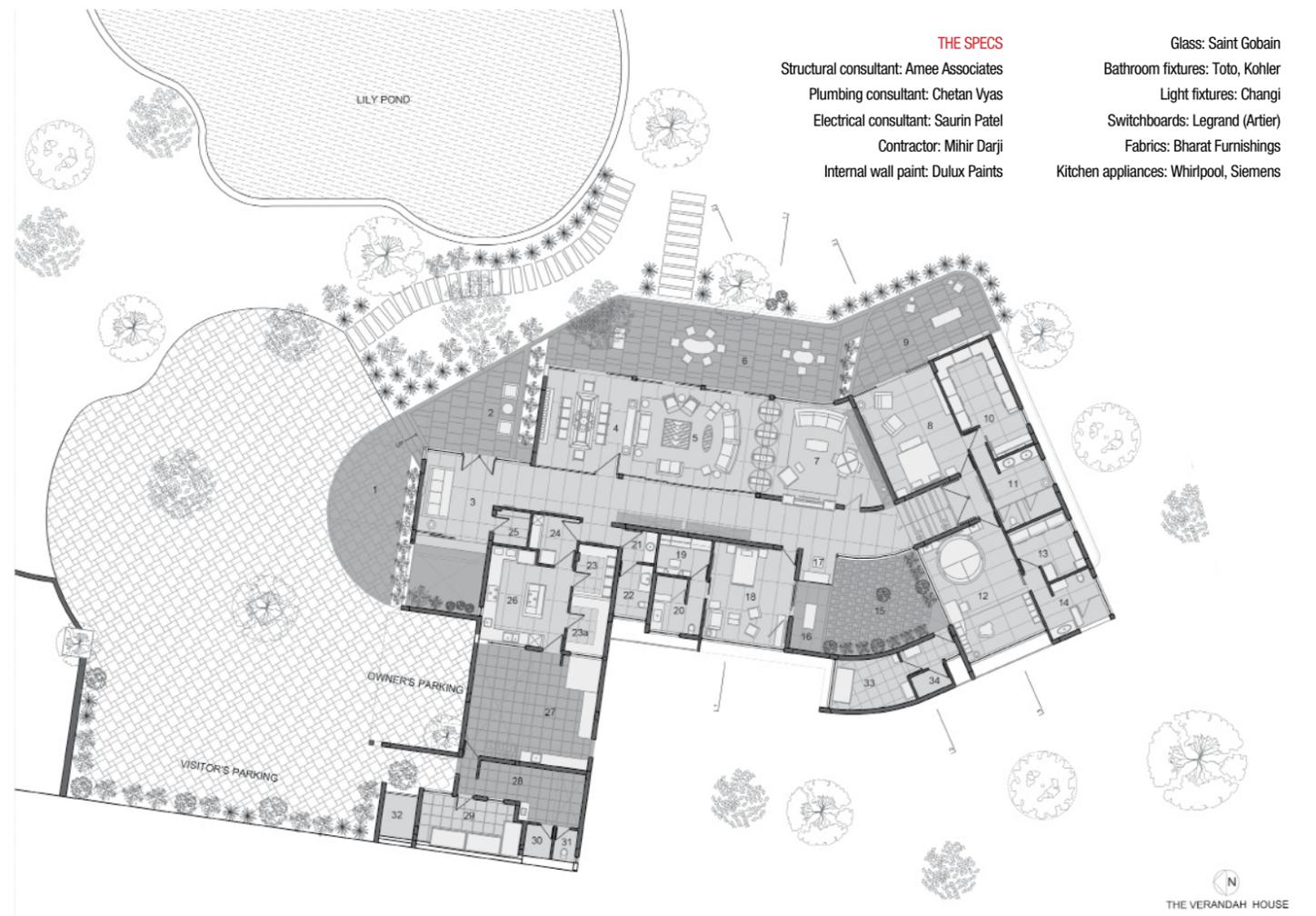




**FYI**  
 Besides the site and the owner's lifestyle, works of Finnish architect Alvar Aalto served as inspiration for the design.

A ground floor structure with an upper verandah, the three-bedroom house is interspersed with the landscape on all sides. The outdoor spaces, with their repurposed wood and cane furniture, are an integral part of the home, making it essentially like a verandah. The front bay comprising the vestibule, living and dining areas, library and master bedroom opens towards the lily pond and garden while the rear bay with the two other bedrooms opens into a central court and backyard.

Reinterpreting ancestral imagery in a contemporary manner posed quite a challenge, as did the articulation and structural design of the structure. In the end, the house was conceived as an organic construction that modestly occupies the natural land.



- THE SPECS**
- Structural consultant: Ameer Associates
  - Plumbing consultant: Chetan Vyas
  - Electrical consultant: Saurin Patel
  - Contractor: Mihir Darji
  - Internal wall paint: Dulux Paints
- Glass: Saint Gobain
  - Bathroom fixtures: Toto, Kohler
  - Light fixtures: Changi
  - Switchboards: Legrand (Artier)
  - Fabrics: Bharat Furnishings
  - Kitchen appliances: Whirlpool, Siemens

THE VERANDAH HOUSE

