

# HOME

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# TRENDS



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Above: Architect Bipratip Dhar has designed a structure on a 'golden rectangle' plot without falling in the trap of building a linear structure. Large pieces of mass have been removed and replaced by hardwood marbled fins or horizontal planes to balance this 8000 sq ft structure. The topmost level has been set back.





# Flipping the flipside

The structure of this house follows its linear plot while attempting to break away from its limitations

**Working around an inadequacy** doesn't always entail thinking out-of-the-box. Sometimes, it can simply mean reducing the perception of the limitation. The flipside then no longer remains one. This is the approach architect Bipratip Dhar has adopted to break away from the limitations a linear plot offered.

"The 80 ft x 45 ft plot is rectangular in shape," says Dhar,

principle architect of the firm Epsilon. "According to new regulations, we could build to an increased height of about 40 ft. While this meant more space for the owners, it brought with it the risk of the structure becoming a big, linear mass due to the plot's dimensions."

Breaking away mass was critical to do away with the linearity. To achieve this, Dhar has eliminated chunks

*Left: The stone wall in the elevation has been retained inside for a different texture. Side windows in this wall channel in a sliver of light throughout the day.*

*Above: The double-height in the formal living room draws attention away from the linear floor plan at the main entrance level. The furniture, mostly bought from Malaysia and China, has curved edges for a classical touch.*





*Left:* The customised dining table has a travertine base with a 19mm clear glass top. The accessories have been handpicked from various stores in Guangzhou, China.

*Above:* The architects have used indirect form of lighting under each step to create a dramatic light effect in this area.



Above: A framed view of the staircase exhibits the material palette—travertine, marble, wood and veneers.

of mass from the structure at varying levels, added horizontal fins in the front facade, set back the topmost floor so that the elevation didn't appear as one continuous plane and has played with materials and textures.

"It is only fair to say that the site has dictated the shape that the structure has taken," says Dhar. "What we've done on the exterior has influenced

the interior as well."

These influences are visible in the horizontal projections and windows in the reading area inside the house, a textured wall in the formal living room and the semi-enclosed terrace on the topmost floor. To break the linear horizontal connections inside the house, the architect has created vertical links.

The 8000 sq ft house is

spread over three floors. The formal living, dining, TV room, guest bedroom, powder room and the kitchen occupy the first floor. The living room's double-height connects it with the upper floors. It is also connected to the dining room.

"Since the living and dining areas are connected, they tend to appear linear. To break this continuity, we incorporated hardwood floor



*Left and above:* The transitory seating on the second level experiences a double-height. An entire wall in the corridor uses onyx, which has been backlit. The corridor leads to the children's bedroom on the left and the master bedroom on the right.



*Above and above right:* The master suite is spacious and exhibits clean, straight lines. Teak wood panels line most of the surfaces; one wall is covered in wallpaper. Wardrobes are behind the sliding veneer shutters that pave the way to the shower cubicle and WC.

*Top and facing page:* The bed and bath at the topmost floor receive plenty of light.

between the two areas," says Dhar. "From this space, a sliding-folding door opens up to reveal the TV room. Once the door is opened, the space takes an L-shape."

Between the first and second floors is a nook that serves as a reading corner. The distinct grey surface in this area is the same as seen in the elevation between the two floors. Two side windows

and a slit window fill the area with natural light throughout the day.

The first floor presents a contrast with a false ceiling on one side and the double height due to the cutout on another.

"We've taken care not to place seating furniture directly underneath the cutouts as the void tends to make people feel puny in relation to the height. If at all there is seating furni-

ture, it is merely for transition."

Two bedrooms take up most of the space on this floor. A sitting area withdraws into a corridor at the end of which are the bedrooms.

"The corridor is another focal point in the house. A backlit onyx flanked by carved teak wood takes up one wall. The facing wall is a canvas for the family's many photographs," says Dhar.





**Owner:** Sanjeev Bhalotia  
**Location:** Kolkata, West Bengal  
**Architect:** Bipratip Dhar, Epsilon Architecture + Interior  
**Design team:** Biprajit Poddar, Mita Kar Nandy, Neha Sureka, Moumita Mahato, Anupam Samanta  
**Associations:** Council Of Architecture (COA)  
**Window/door:** Window Magic; BLS Interiors  
**Tiling:** Johnson Tiles  
**Wallcoverings:** Home Fashion  
**Paints:** Asian Paints  
**Lighting:** Eglo  
**Bath:** Kohler  
**Basin:** Kohler  
**Taps:** Kohler  
**Shower:** Kohler  
**Toilet:** Kohler  
**Bedroom suite:** BLS Interiors  
**Bed linen:** Gian's  
**Flooring:** Inner Space  
**Mirrors:** Modi Float  
**Other bedroom furniture and accessories:** Collins India, Hafele  
**Paving:** Pavit Ceramics Pvt Ltd

*Story by Marisha Karwa  
 Photography by Ravi Kanade*

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**Top:** The topmost floor largely follows a linear floor plan. An elliptical bar counter is in between the semi-enclosed terrace and the family area.

**Above:** With a framed window and one side completely open, the semi-enclosed terrace is the perfect place to retire to on balmy evenings. The wicker seating furniture, the swing and the electrical fixture have been sourced from China and Malaysia.

Shades of brown and beige dominate the spacious master bedroom. A melange of materials—vener, wood, glass and wallpaper come together in this room.

The children's bedroom is characterised by storage units and open shelves.

The topmost floor has been built as a self-contained unit, keeping in mind the family's future needs. It has a bedroom,

a family room, a pantry, a bar and an enclosed terrace.

"This floor has been the most interesting one to design," says Dhar. "It can be used as an independent apartment. The family uses this area the most when they want to lounge together. The front area is referred to as a semi-enclosed terrace because it is open on two sides; one side is completely open while

one side has a large framed window," says Dhar.

An elliptical bar counter stands between the semi-enclosed terrace and the family area. This space has classical-style seating.

The bedroom on this level receives plenty of natural light, and so the architect has experimented with bold, dark shades of brown. The attached bathroom accommodates a Jacuzzi.



## Bipratip Dhar of Epsilon

Founder and principal architect of Epsilon, Bipratip Dhar graduated from Sir J.J. College of Architecture, Mumbai in 1996. Based in Kolkata, this 13-year-old architectural firm strives to incorporate the concepts of sustainability and energy conservation in all of its designs. Epsilon's portfolio spans across architectural and interior design solutions for auditoriums, corporate offices, retail outlets, residential, commercial spaces, hospitality projects and healthcare institutes. The firm has worked with brands like Vodafone, Tanishq, Tata Motors, British Oxygen Company, Global Center of Excellence (BOC GCE), Infinity Group, The Peerless Inn and Cap Gemini. In 2011, Dhar was the recipient of the Performer of the Year award by ABID. For further information, you can email at [bipratip@epsilonarch.com](mailto:bipratip@epsilonarch.com) or call +91-9831035880. You can also visit [www.epsilonarch.com](http://www.epsilonarch.com)



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