

A photograph of a modern, multi-story house with large glass windows and dark wood framing, partially obscured by dense green foliage and trees. The house features a balcony with a dark railing. In the foreground, a rustic stone wall is visible. The overall scene is a lush, green forest setting.

# BETWEEN THE TREES

A glass outhouse designed by Bindu Vadera to maximise the forest views, evaporates the line between the indoors and outdoors

Photography / Atul Pratap Chauhan \* Words / Pallavi Sabharwal



## LIVING-CUM-BEDROOM

The glass tree house, designed by Bindu Vadera, took about 10 months to complete. It started from a pre-existing platform that was constructed near the main house, as a place to watch sunsets.

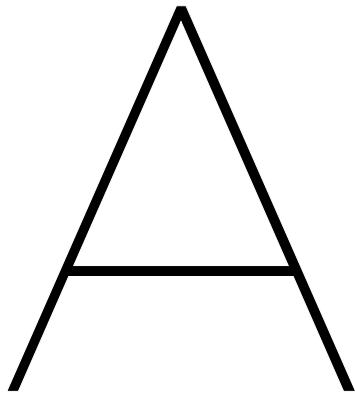
**Get the look** The sofa is from Design Workshop by Sita Nanda. The trunk table and the chair are from Country Villa Decor. The artworks are from a book, printed on canvas and framed. The wall light and the table lamps are from Luxaddi. The dhurrie is from Mirzapur. The accessories are from OMA Living.

## HOME PROFILE

**THE PROPERTY** A double storey outhouse, with a treetop-deck and free flowing interiors. The ground level features a living room with a fireplace and a restroom, a dining-cum-pantry and a balcony at the rear. The upper level has a make-shift bedroom, a bathroom and another balcony at the rear.







s the sunlight flickers brilliantly against the slanted glass roof and filters through the leaves of trees, a stunning glass treehouse comes into view in the posh farmhouse area of Vasant Kunj. Living completely in harmony with nature, the treehouse stands out as a beacon of art, an amalgamation of childhood dream and modern design sensibilities. Designed by Bindu Vadera, the home has been inspired by the Farnsworth House, built by Mies Van Der Rohe somewhere in 1949. It was a visionary paragon of hierarchical planning placed in an open environment. The experimental epitome of those times is now a superb concept of living, perfected by architectural oddities over the years. Here, it is the inventive use of glass with other materials.

Bindu aimed to achieve a look that lets one view the skies with its ingenious use of glass, when she took up the project. Her design philosophy to construct artistic homes like this one, takes inspiration from the yesteryears and things of tradition while simultaneously espousing the modish forms of design and aesthetics for an exciting play of various artistic skills.

True to the concept of a tree-house, there is a flight of stairs leading onto the open wooden deck with a tree shooting through the middle that creates a netting effect with the sunlight. Another set of stairs from the deck leads to the upper floor of the tree-house. The frontal glass wall and door provide a partition without creating the idea of concrete barriers that invade the transparent appeal. However, the most brilliant feature is the connecting glass, acting as part of the ceiling and the floor for the two connecting levels.

The entrance opens up to a diligently-planned space with biscotti coloured walls and ceilings. The right side of the entrance is a living room frame with deep olive sofas, armchairs and a trunk table overlooking the floor-to-ceiling glass wall and picturesque outdoors. On the left, is a fireplace for those cold, winter days. The grey and biscotti combination of the mantel above adds a dash of style to the otherwise organic scheme of colours, without disrupting the flow of volume. It reflects the classic style of Bindu with its borderline modish furnishings and loyalty to the classicism of design aesthetics. The bar-cum-pantry is in an English style with a dining table that can be folded into a console to solve the confinements of the small space. The balcony next to the dining space overlooks the back of the property with deck chairs and a fire pit for chilly evenings.

The upper level is a strategically planned space, which induces the element of modernism and thrill with the part-glass flooring, which was perhaps the most challenging element of this project, claims Bindu. While the use of glass boasts of unusual aesthetics, it also proves to be arduous to execute. "Being a structure predominantly made of glass, it had to be the perfect glass to

retain the strength and cut out maximum solar energy. The first level would appropriately justify the feeling of living in a house of glass, with glass dominating the walls, floor and ceiling," says Bindu.

The landing with glass flooring on the right side gives a bird's view of the ground floor. There is a classic study in the front by Theodore Alexander, and a similar living room arrangement overlooking the glass wall. The pull-out sofa-bed provides a makeshift bedroom that resourcefully utilises the comparatively small space. It is the closest you can get to an astronomy tower with a state-of-art telescope standing in another corner. There is another deck and a floor-to-ceiling glass wall viewing the balcony below.



## FIREPLACE ↑

The window gives a peek of the main house that is just round the corner. The grey mantel complements the biscotti walls for a modish classic palette.

**Get the look** The accessories are from OMA Living and Gigi and Chakra. The light fixtures are from Luxaddi.

## DECK → BALCONY

Interior designer Bindu Vadera at the balcony overlooking the stillness of the wilderness beyond.

**Get the look** The chairs are from World Bazaar while the fire-pit stand is from OMA Living. The flooring on the deck is by FCML.









## LIVING ROOM

The generous and exciting use of glass brings the outdoors inside. The fan is an industrial, fixer-upper style. There is a fireplace on the back wall.

**Get the look** The console and sofa are from Design Workshop by Sita Nanda. The accessories are from OMA Living and Gigi and Chakra. The wall light and the pendant lamp is from Luxaddi. The table is from Magus Designs Jaipur. The ceiling fan is from Tullu Fans in Varanasi.



A visual paragon of hierarchical planning,  
this outhouse is a superb concept for  
living with nature.

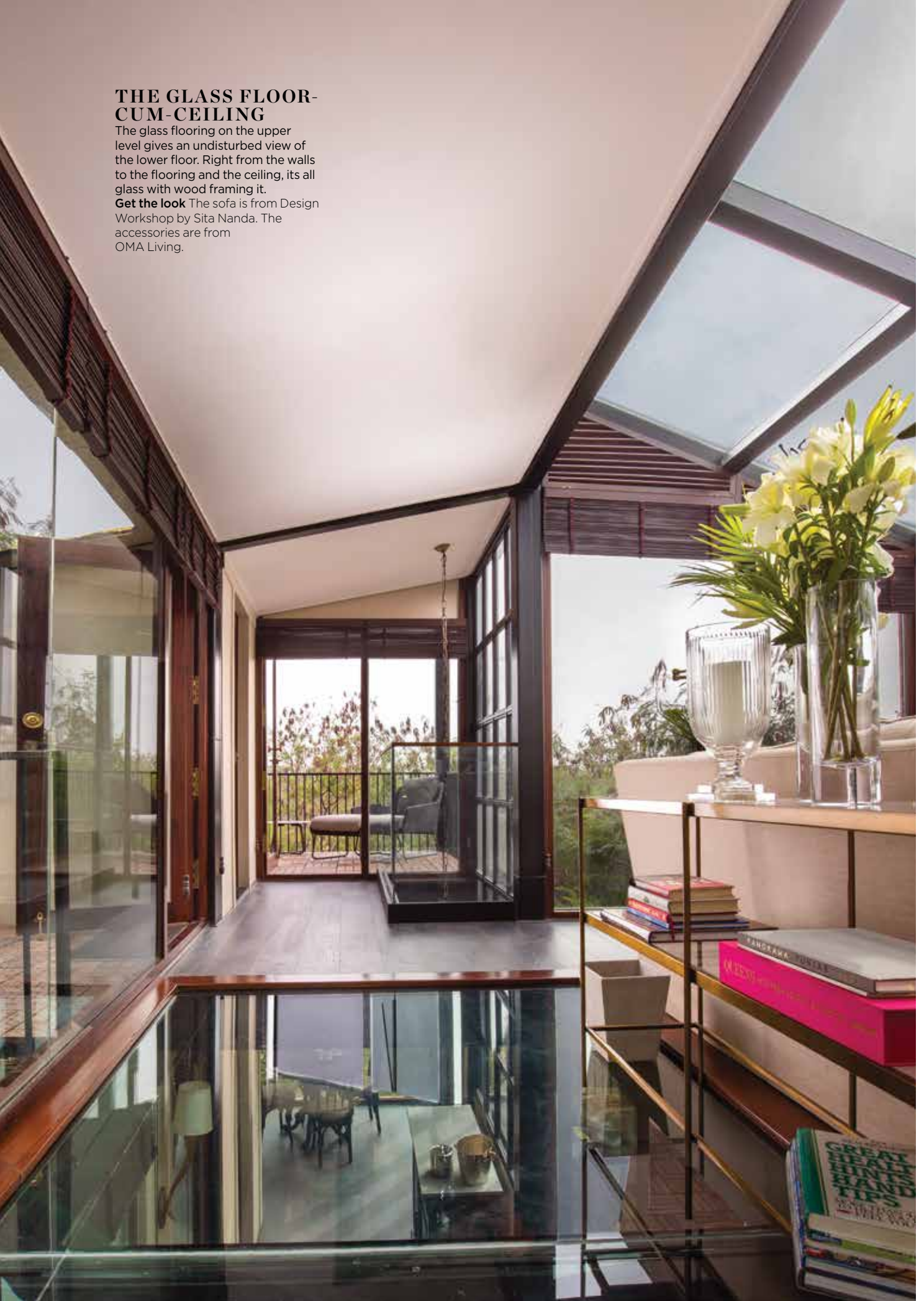




## THE GLASS FLOOR-CUM-CEILING

The glass flooring on the upper level gives an undisturbed view of the lower floor. Right from the walls to the flooring and the ceiling, it's all glass with wood framing it.

**Get the look** The sofa is from Design Workshop by Sita Nanda. The accessories are from OMA Living.





## BATHROOM

Adjacent to the fireplace, the bathroom is designed with stone tiles to add a rustic touch.

**Get the look** The stone tiles are from Keramos. The wash basin is from Roca.



## DINING-CUM-PANTRY

The double-over dining table tackles the confinements of space and allows for dining with a bird's eye view.

**Get the look** The console is from Design Workshop by Sita Nanda. The accessories are from OMA Living and Gigi and Chakra. The ceiling fan is from Tullu Fans, the light fixture is from Luxaddi and the dining table is from Country Villa Decor.





### LOWER DECK

With a tree trunk running through the deck, it is a slice of unperturbed luxury. Confined in the wilderness it distills an extravagance for urban living.

**Get the look** The flooring is from FCML and the chair is from Country Villa Decor.





## DETAILS

The artworks provide an insight of Delhi at a standstill, from times gone by.

**Get the look** The trunk table and the chair are from Country Villa Decor. The study is from Theodore Alexander available at Villa D'Este.



## BAR-CUM PANTRY

The English design hints at the classic style of Bindu Vadera.

**Get the look** The bar-cum-pantry is by Arun Tandon.



# IDEAS TO STEAL

When nature is bountiful, it would be a shame to hide it behind concrete walls



CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW **Stone tiles**, price on request, Keramos **flooring**, ₹350 per sq ft onwards, Mikasa; **fabric**, ₹1,150 per mt, D'Decor.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE **Sofa**, price on request, Muuto at Angel Ventures; **study desk**, price on request, Theodore Alexander; **rug**, price on request, Jaipur Rugs; **mushroom bowl**, ₹553, Arttdinox; **washbasin**, price on request, Roca; **lantern**, price on request, Indecrafts; **outdoor chair**, price on request, Abaca; **trunk table**, price on request, Portside Cafe.

