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.
The sun 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 Miles 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.
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 distils an extravagance for urban living.

Get the look: The flooring is from FCML, and the chair is from Country Villa Decor.
BA R-CU M PANTRY
The English design hints at the classic style of Bindu Vadera.
Get the look The bar-cum-pantry is by Arun Tandon.

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.
IDEAS TO STEAL

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

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CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW

Stone tiles, price on request, Keramos flooring, ₹550 per sq ft onwards, Mikasa; fabric, ₹1,150 per mt, D’Decor.

FOR CONTACTS, SEE STOCKISTS PAGE

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.

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