

RESTLESS LIVING

"... restlessly dedicated to contemporary living."



VOLUME 158



BD HOUSE

Israel

On a continuously descending slope, a home named BD House conforms itself to the topography. By allowing the lower part of the house to blend with the landscape, the BD House essentially becomes the mediator between the natural and the man-made.

“Sculpting expressive figurative figures – this is the spirit of work that represents the client for whom we designed the house”, architect Vered Blatman Cohen says and continues: “The intersection between the precise and the meticulous, while working with the material, created a design that combines two different design languages melding in harmony and creating a feeling of warmth and comfort in the house.” The two design languages are expressed through two main parts – a closed structure and an open structure. “One part of the house which includes the bedrooms, was designed as a closed structure. In order to create intimacy in it, controlled openings were opened and ‘heavier’ materials were used. This part is built of plastered bricks, above them – a concrete cornice in Brutalist style and steel windows framed with a rusted steel frame”, Vered explains.





The opened structure, on the other hand, contains the living area and the kitchen, and was designed with clear connection to the view and the patio. "This area is built from a floating roof and its entire envelope is built from floor-to-ceiling windows", Vered tells. Made of steel with a rust finish, all the windows of the house induce a certain character to the spaces while also complementing the corten louvers wall which accompanies the entrance path as well as the steel library in the hallway.

Between the open and the closed structures of the house, a glazed corridor connects the two. Similarly, the patio in the center separates the two parts and establishes a garden in the center. "The swimming pool and the studio are located in the lower part of the lot. The studio roof was designed to function as a green roof with plants that blend in with the surroundings", Vered ends. In sum, the BD House uses the topography as means to play with the levels and the closed-open dichotomy, allowing the home to cater for both function and experience while always being present to take its user by the hand.

Architecture by **Blatman Cohen** Photography by **Amit Geron**







HICKSON RESIDENCE

Saint-Lambert, Quebec

Family expansion very often requires new measures of home arrangement. Sometimes, it can be solved by redesigning the family's existing home but other times it is necessary to look beyond the current domain.

"When a young family of 3 found out they were soon going to be 4, they decided that it was time to look for a bigger home. They fell in love with the charm of a house on Montreal's south shore designed by the architect Frank McGrath in 1981", architect David Dworkind says. After 40 years, however, the wear and tear of the 1980s house left the family with a desire to renovate. The Montreal-based architecture firm MRDK was thus involved – especially due to their sensible approach to detail and nostalgia. Originally, the house had a dilapidated greenhouse attached to the front façade and was known as an eyesore in the neighborhood. It was thus an obvious decision to finally demolish the old greenhouse and use the salvaged concrete foundation to create a large window-well to bring in southern light. "To further maximize daylight and create a convivial living space below ground, the backyard was excavated to add floor-to-ceiling windows on the back façade creating a walkout basement", David adds. Once entering the home, an awe-inspiring staircase is immediately meeting one's eye with its handrail covered in lime plaster, wrapping its way to create a curved volume with a fireplace below.

At the rear, the light from the outside cedar patio penetrates the large openings of the kitchen and dining. "A large sculptural travertine island sits at the centre of the kitchen with its edge softened by an inverted demi-bull-nose. A mistake in the fabrication of this island left a groove down either side of the travertine. This became a design opportunity where these grooves were filled with strips of Rosso Levanto marble racing stripes", David tells. From kitchen and dining to bedrooms and bathrooms, the Hickson Residence is incredibly attentive to detail especially making the lime plaster, wood, and travertine work in its favor in the transformation of the old 1981s house into a contemporary gem for a family of 4.

Architecture by **MRDK**

Photography by **David Dworkind**



KALRAV VILLA

Ahmedabad, India

Translating to the house of chirping birds, the Kalrav Villa is nestled in a pocket surrounded by a myriad of vegetation species. Opening up as the form of a flying bird, the home faces east intending to take as little a footprint as possible in the natural environment.

“One is welcomed by the low heighted entrance pavilion into the house which unfolds two elevated seating rooms – private and formal – encompassed by water bodies, thus forming an ambiance of a floating island”, architect Vipul C. Patel begins. “These islands reveal a central, double-height stair shaft enveloping the landscape, and blurring the inside-outside of this abode.” The stepping stones are designed as carvings of ‘dhangadhara’ – a local stone material making the entrance quite a spectacle. “While stepping up, stairs take sleek form from local teak wood and steel frame. This courtyard is elevated by the open ‘mandir’ space. Prayer room is thoughtfully designed to be surrounded by the landscape around the courtyard. Instead of confining the deities within walls, they are established in the more breathable square”, Vipul notes. To make the experience of the immediate green landscape immersive, east-facing floor-to-ceiling window panels create incredible vantage points for the interior spaces. “Glass covered passage and balconies allow maximum involvement with the nature around. Succeeding the picturesque view allowed by the passage





lie two master bedrooms”, Vipul explains. With a subtle reference to the nature from which the house emerges, earthy tones characterizes the master bedrooms and is further complemented by lime plaster and neutral interiors. “Besides, these master bedrooms are elevated by the design of the roof which, not only forms ‘the flying bird’ façade but helps create an uplifted – floating – aura”, Vipul adds. These floating roofs are elevated by 1.5 height and is made of a steel construction with concrete atop. “It is further finished by tiles on top and with a thermal insulation finished with timber wood as ceiling. The timber ceilings impart a soft and warm feeling throughout”, Vipul tells. To experience the nature in its most natural form, an open bath is induced with privacy kept in mind. “Custom bathtubs are fashioned out of Rajasthan stone and black stone, back dropped with a dry clad stone wall. The bamboo screens permeable to the light and greenery provide a soft and soothing aura”, Vipul says.

To respect the nature, none of the existing trees were cut during planning. VPA Architects thus managed to create an earthy-looking home inspired by nature, birds, and wildlife to fulfill the dream of ‘the man’s nest’.

Architecture by **VPA Architects**

Photography by **Inclined Studio**



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SU-PIDER HOUSE Fukuyama, Japan

Designed for a family of four, the Su-pider House uses a unique octagonal spiderweb-shaped structure to create a single-room open space where the family members can freely engage with each other.

Su-Pider House sets foot in a hilly, suburban area where the surrounding environment is a uniform landscape of houses built parallel to the plot. “The site sits along the road on the north side, and the east and west sides are situated along a slope with a slight difference in elevation from the neighboring lots. The site is also characterized by a tiered topography created by a large difference in elevation to the south”, architect Keisuke Maeda says. Given the elevation difference and the many close neighbors, “the entire volume is configured at a 45-degree angle to the site to create an expansive environment with desirable views, ventilation, natural light, and privacy.” Consequently, the home is characterized by the octagonal spider-web-shaped structure which extends all the way from the top to the four supporting legs that are connected by triangular openings. “Inside the 77 m² of open space, four boxes, which are not rooms, are arranged to create a corridor-like area that functions as the family room and living space”, Keisuke explains.

Rooted in strong architectural features, the Su-pider House are designed to embrace changes in the daily life for the family with a unique lifestyle. “The space might be in a neat and tidy state or in complete disarray. Since no structure defines a given area as a room, the areas and patterns within the space will likely change over time as the children grow and with other changes in family life”, Keisuke ends.

Architecture by **UID Architects**

Photography by **Kazunori Fujimoto**

Words of the Week



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When designing a home (or anything else for that matter), it is incredibly important to think about the ‘person-out’-perspective. What does the user actually experience?

The design expert Paul Bennett explained that solving for the most obvious but overlooked problems can make a tremendous difference in people’s lives. One of the examples Paul gave was about a patient in a hospital.

*What do a hospital patient do most of the time?
They lie in their hospital bed.*

*What do they look at most of the time?
The ceiling.*

Have you ever noticed how boring a regular hospital ceiling is? A small, obvious problem which is quickly overlooked, but could have a massive impact if creative thought was put into its design.

Instead of always thinking about the grand picture, the concept and the red thread, it is important to grasp the little details that make a big difference in people’s every day.difference in people’s lives.

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FOUNDER, RESTLESS

