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A WALK THROUGH THE WORLD OF IIID AND BEYOND

INSITE STORY



MARCH OF THE VICTORIOUS

ISHWAR GEHI
**REJUVENATIVE
RETREAT**



**LITTLE BUT
NOT LESS**
CONRAD GONSALVES



B2B DESIGN MAGAZINE ON INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE



MAGZTER

rejuvenative RETREAT



Ishwar Gehi

Ar. Ishwar Gehi blurs the boundaries confining the fields of architecture, interior design, landscape design and real estate development to conjure residential schemes that aim at providing resort like luxuries at the doorstep of your dream home.

TEXT: Kruti Kothari | PHOTOS COURTESY: Nirmal Masurekar

"I believe in taking up a project in its entirety as an architect, interior designer, landscape designer and even the developer to do complete justice. This generates an unbiased harmonious design that breathes as one," starts off Ar. Ishwar Gehi. Over the years, Gehi who is from Rajkot, Gujarat, has tried his hand at varying genres of designing and has unconventionally proven his mastery, in all.

Now Gehi attempts at merging the two interrelated fields of architecture and construction into one with the idea of providing the best to the end users. "I have never forgotten my humble beginnings, in my ancestral village at Junagadh, which makes me thankful to the Almighty, everyday. Owing to the fact that my family belonged to a business background, I always had an interest in the real estate developments. An inherent sense of observation, an eye for detail and an aesthetically inclined taste led me to choose architecture as a profession," elucidates Gehi.

Gehi further explains, "I have always

believed that, in every matter, be it life or work, Nature is the best teacher. A person, who has an in depth understanding of the diktats of Nature, can never go wrong in his personal and professional life. All my designs, in some or the other way, are inspired by the very simple yet admirable workings of Nature. The natural dwellings like a weaver bird's nest, an ant's anthill or a beaver's tunnel are not only sustainable but also follow a systematic pattern and order of design. Such an order further reflects an intricate proportioning system that renders inherent beauty. My effort is to create structures which are functional and aesthetically pleasing with a strong sense of proportion and order."

Being an ardent appreciator of nature, his designs tend to generate a dialogue with the surroundings. Landscape in turn becomes an integral part of his design. Consciousness towards orientation combined with maximised use of natural light and ventilation allows his buildings to ooze comfort and freshness. Use of natural materials like stone, bamboo, jute, etc renders a rustic appeal.

My effort is to create structures which are functional and aesthetically pleasing with a strong sense of proportion and order

Gehi admires the works of master architects like Charles Correa, Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright for simplicity of form, proportionate massing and minimalism. Whether the project on board is a private residence, corporate office or township, Gehi involves all his efforts at making it functionally efficient and aesthetically pleasing to provide a luxurious living standard for the varied spectrum of society.

Having mastered the skill of designing private opulent residences, chic hospitality projects and alluring high rise apartments, Gehi now has concentrated his efforts at designing high end mass housing. "My residential schemes aim at providing resort like luxuries at the doorstep of your dream home. I have established a firm imprint in the real estate field with my company, Aarya Builders delivering prestigious projects like Aarya Avenue, Aarya Maan, Aaryaland, Aarya Shree, Shree Aarya Shree and Aarya Bhagwati and many more in the pipeline," exclaims Gehi. Let us take a sneak peek into two of his recent residential schemes.

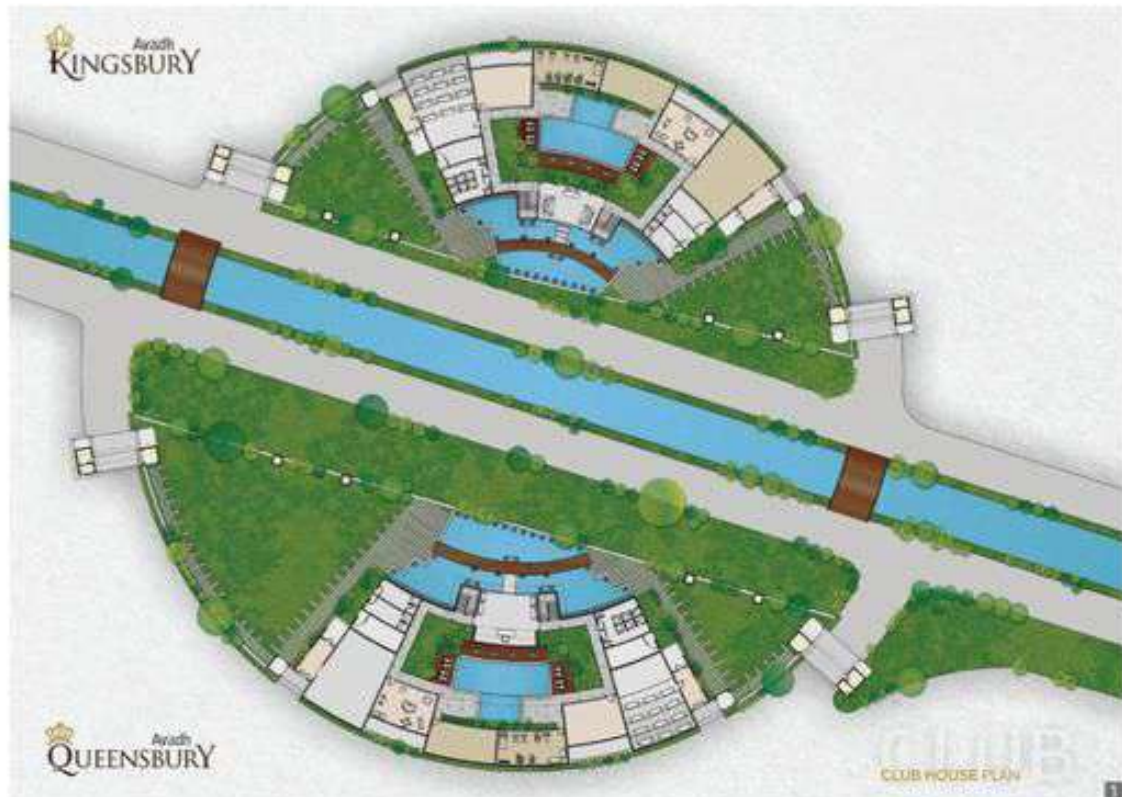
Avadh Queensbury, Navsari

With a concept of providing a resort like leisure in the comfort of your home, Mr. Dilipbhai Patel envisaged a scheme of leisure retreats amidst the congested city. The idea was to develop two different residential schemes, accommodating 400 dwellings, flanked on the sides of the water canal at Village Eru on Dandi road in Navsari, Gujarat.

Gehi conceptualised these two schemes as one in spite of their segregated entries and individual clubhouses. Avadh Queensbury sits on the North side of the canal while Avadh Kingsbury occupies the South side. They are physically connected through a bridge over the canal.

A careful demarcation between public and private spaces of the residence ensures comfort for both, formal and informal spaces with ample natural light and ventilation. Done with voguish interiors, it is a vernal ménage that suffices all the demands of a contemporary family.

1. Site plan of the clubhouse of Avadh Queensbury and Avadh Kingsbury



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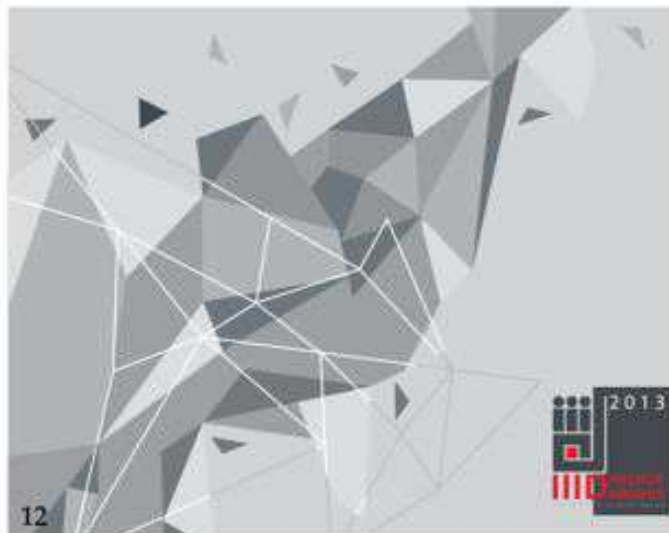
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Ar. Ishwar Gehi's Way

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The feather in the hat is the clubhouse of the scheme. The clubhouse accommodates gymnasium, discotheque, spa, theatre, kid's indoor game zone and banquet hall. Designed on a semi-circular plot, the clubhouse structure has a layout derived from an arc. Devoid of parallel walls, the spaces are not rectilinear. The drama is heightened with the play of volumes conjuring into terraces at different levels where maximum people can enjoy assorted activities while maintaining a certain degree of privacy without any chaos.

Designed on the theme of desert, the welcoming water body at the clubhouse reminisces of a luxury resort. It appears like an oasis within the desert. With the huge pots, water spouts from walls and alluring Buddha sculptures, the space reveals explorations of the oneiric world.

With 37 ft. high ridge of the sloping roof, the volume of the reception is quite overwhelming. Following the Indian tradition, Lord Ganesha's idol sets the stage for the wonders to unveil. While the rustic tiles for flooring render elegance, the chic sofas crafted from wood and warmly tinted leather add the

PROJECT FACT FILE

Project Name: Avadh Queensbury
 Architect: Ishwar Gehi
 Client: Dilipbhai Patel
 Typology: Residential Scheme
 Built-up area: Bungalows – 7,00,000 sq. ft. Two Clubhouses – 25,000 sq. ft. each

2. The open-to-sky central courtyard, an integral element of desert architecture, is adorned with enticing swimming pool surrounded with Date Palm and Phoenix Palm trees

3. The reception zone of clubhouse reveals great graphical composition with rustic flooring tiles, chic sofas and flamboyant display of artifacts



Neat, bold and ardent are the adjectives that well describe his spaces. Each and every frame of vision reveals great graphical composition

spunk. Flamboyant display of sculptures and artifacts compliment the overall graphical composition.

The open-to-sky central courtyard, an integral element of desert architecture, is adorned with Date Palm and Phoenix Palm trees. The existing Bamboo trees on the site have been retained and wittily incorporated into the design.

Most of the elements are crafted from Jaisalmer stone owing to its yellow tint in contrast with the blue of water body and green of soft landscape. To bring in the feel of desert sand, chipped Jaisalmer stone is spread to recreate similar texture that can be easily maintained in comparison to sand. The transition spaces are paved with Kota stone for a neutral expression.

An intricate system from fabrication covered with bamboo and *chatai* of hay is incorporated to build the thatched sloping roof. This quick and sustainable method of construction keeps the interiors warm in winters and cool in summers. The illumination design changes the aura of the spaces that glow like a dull fire adding phantasmagorical warmth to the swank décor. At night

the appeal is simply spellbinding. It is a perfect refuge that can unwind the tired soul from the hectic schedules of city life and rejuvenate for the challenges of the upcoming day.

Aarya Bhagwati, Rajkot

In today's urban lifestyle, each member of the family is preoccupied in their hectic schedules throughout the week. The only leisure time for the entire family is during the weekends wherein one yearns to run away from the chaotic city to a peaceful refuge of leisure for relaxation and rejuvenation.

With such a thought, client Mr. Bhavesh Vyas approached Gehi to craft opulent weekend retreats. Gehi developed this township accommodating 100 bungalows, designed as twin-units segregated with low height hedge at forecourt. With the aim of providing luxurious dwelling to the medium budget buyer, each unit has been compactly designed in a plot area of 117 sq. yard with built-up area of 1550 sq. ft.

Welcomed by a quaint cosy sit-out, the house accommodates living room, dining area, kitchen and guest bedroom

4. The bungalows at Aarya Bhagwati are designed as twin-units segregated with low height hedge at forecourt





on the ground floor and two deluxe bedrooms on the first floor. The layout is conceptualised as an open plan with bedroom as the only space confined within enclosing walls. The living, dining and kitchen spaces seamlessly flow into each other with visual connectivity to the entrance verandah. This makes the house look spacious and elated in spite of the tight area.

The vibrant colours are balanced with strategic use of white and black. This generates various points of focus within a single space. For instance, the warm earthy colours used for walls, flooring and tapestry in the master bedroom are contrasted with display of monochromatic photographs. The overall composition is graced with tactfully designed artificial lighting.

The cherry on the cake is the clubhouse of this scheme. Staggered planks over the water body serving as the entrance mark the beginning of marvels to follow. Designed with the theme of an invigorating and meditative resort, the clubhouse radiates peace and serenity. Pleasing proportions and play of massing conjures a contemporary



PROJECT FACT FILE

Project Name: Aarya Bhagwati

Architect: Ishwar Gehi

Client: Bhavesh Vyas

Typology: Residential Scheme

Site area: 21,500 sq. yard

Built-up area: 1,65,000 sq. ft

Structural Consultant: Ashwin Lodhiya

5. The warm earthy colours used for walls, flooring and tapestry in the master bedroom are enhanced with ambient lighting.

6. The living, dining and kitchen spaces seamlessly flow into each other with visual connectivity to the entrance verandah.

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7. The pleasing proportions and play of massing conjures a contemporary yet majestic façade of the clubhouse

8. The soft yellow glow of myriad lights at twilight lends an ethereal feel to the environs



yet majestic façade. The sight is romanticised with alluring reflections of the structure in the shimmering water body. The surrounding life sized statues of Buddha reposing as quiet sentinels coupled with gushing sounds of water fountains heighten the emotion of tranquility. The swimming pool, gymnasium, spa, game-zone, discotheque, theatre, banquet hall, coffee shop and informal zones provide various options to relax and unwind the tired soul. The soft yellow glow of myriad lights at twilight lends an ethereal feel to the environs. Having an inherent understanding

for aesthetics, Gehi has developed a strong sense of intuition from his experiences over the years. Each and every frame of vision reveals great graphical composition. There is more to explore every time. There is no boring corner. Neat, bold and ardent are the adjectives that well describe his spaces. Quirky about his choice of paintings and artifacts, Gehi's designs are known for its finesse and splendour. ●

The firm 'Aarya Builders', established by Ar. Ishwar Gehi, delivers luxurious residential schemes for varied spectrum of society.