



Ar. Hemant Mahajan



Ar. Prashant Shah

## 'Naath' Bungalow by Group Ø

When a design studio like Group Ø catches a site by its horns, there is a great emphasis on massing and symbolism. A heightened level of curiosity also comes from Group Phi's awesome stops in their design journey. Naturally, when architects Hemant Mahajan and Prashant Shah were asked to design a bungalow for Mr. Lahoti at a location like Ketkar Road near Deccan, there was speculation about 'who/what' the winner would be. The 'usual suspects' do make an entry, but the

'needle of suspicion' is towards an element that is as much a surprise entry, as a signature of the architects' work.

For over a decade, the owner Mr. Jagannath Lahoti had been looking for a plot in this area. It took some major discussion to decide that the family would use the excellent location to build their own house rather than make an apartment building.

The client wanted a bungalow

Photography by Shirish Ghate



The balcony with its parabolic shadows.

with a low profile and a total of six bedrooms. A sit-out/verandah close to nature was desirable. Parking for two cars was a necessity. Since the Ketkar Road is a busy street, the noise factor had to be minimized. An existing grown up tree on the site was to be retained.

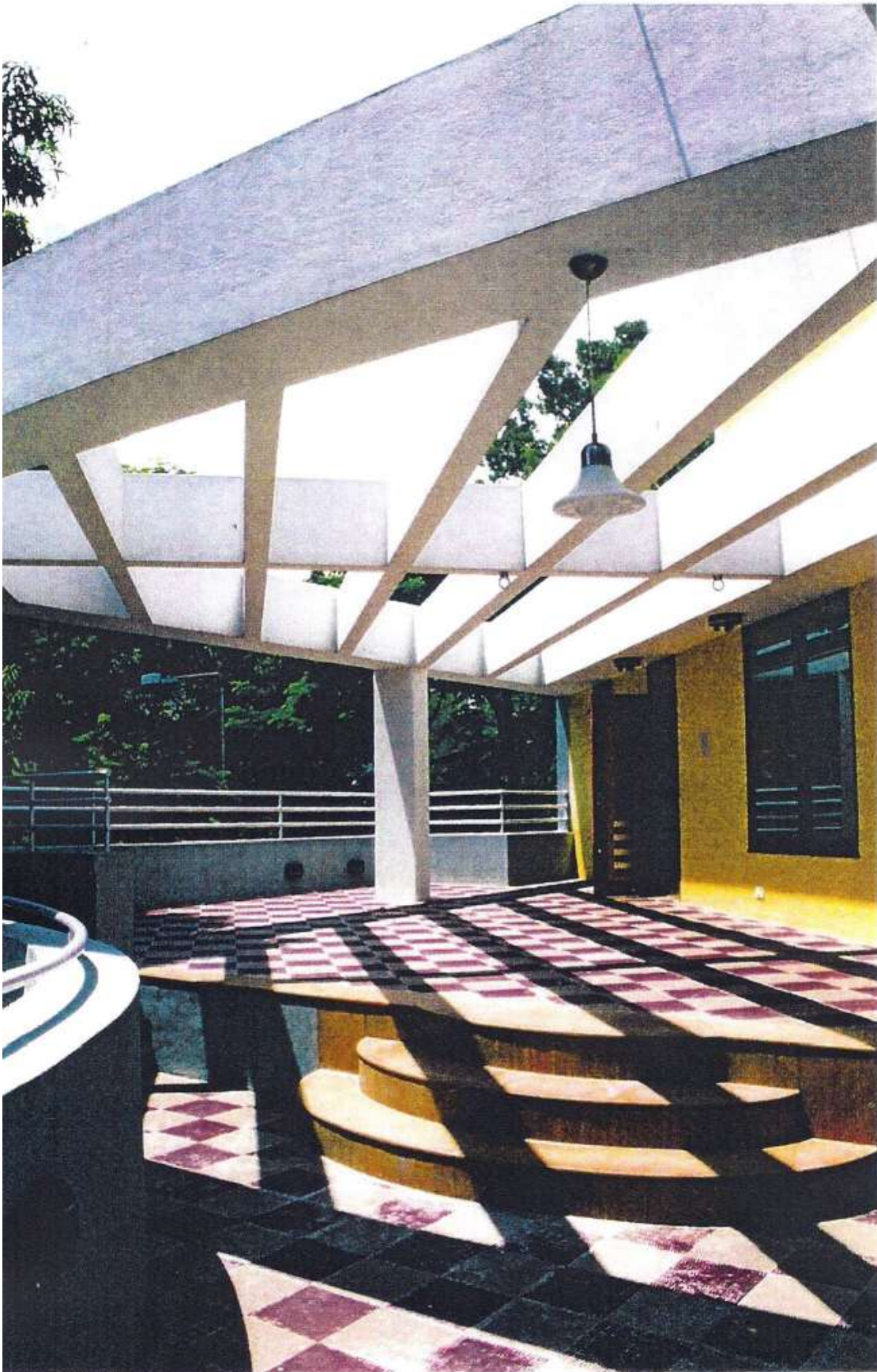
Group Phi has been using pergolas in such a way that the structure breathes great architecture. Huge spans with fins throwing caressing patterns on the solid face below - how often have we seen and admired this 'holding hands' of sun and concrete? In their image of what the Lahoti home

should be, the architects come up with a real scoop. In a way, 'Naath' plays to the gallery and still satisfies everyone. From the 'once more' screaming spectator, to the 'seen it-all' veteran, to the thirsty critics, you can't help being enamoured with this home.

As per the client's requirements, this is a house with maximum movement restricted to the ground. The first thing that strikes you when you pass the elaborate entrance door is the central staircase that

The covered verandah.





The terrace on the first floor with the pergola.

winds up to the first floor. The ground floor has three bedrooms and a kitchen that faces east. All three bedrooms have attached toilets and walk in wardrobes. The living room has an additional separate sitting area. Large doors lead to the sit-out.

The winding staircase connects the first floor and then again continues to the terrace. The first floor bedrooms are big, whether you take width, length, or height! These rooms each are covered with a ferrocrete vault which rises 4feet 9 inches above the 8 feet mark. A window given further above brings plenty of sunlight in and expels the hot air. The top of the vault is clad with Italia mosaic tiles. This is visible from the road and as the sun glints off the sparkling tiles, it immediately attracts interest. The design of the balconies again is altogether different. The semi-circular shape in plan matches the slanting parapet wall, angled at sixty degrees to form a deck rail type curved look. Each balcony casts parabolic shadows that change in character with the movement of the sun.

The first floor is where the mid level terrace delights the eye. A large pergola covers it in deep ribs that span at forty five degrees to the cardinal directions. The terrace has two levels, appearing larger than it really is.

This house has ample space, more than enough light and ventilation, good parking for two cars

and a lawn with a covered verandah and waterfall. For the parking area, paving is in Shahabad stone that was cut to a 3" by 3" module and arranged in a radial pattern. The flooring inside the house is in Italian tiles and Ibri marble. For the bedrooms Granamite is used. The planning and box windows have ensured that the busy roads on the East and South side never allow the peace inside the house to be disturbed.

Like a particle in random motion, not a single creation here is allowed to lie still. The gate is a wavy pattern in perforated metal. The paving is radial. The balconies are circular and the roof rises in half spheres. The internal staircase winds up to its destination. A famous architect once said that architecture should pamper the human nature- in this case the owner- just as the owner must love his dwelling's architecture. In the case of 'Naath', it must be said that the soul of the house emerges as the ultimate Lord and master.

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