

Zoom in

Freedom of Expression

SSA Design Studio, a firm of Architects, Interior Designers and Corporate Design Consultants, headed by designers **Anita** and **Sandeep Shah**, is known for creating a unique reputation of innovation and superior service with aesthetically pleasing and radical design solutions.



Anita & Sandeep Shah

Sandeep and Anita share their interesting ventures and always strive to be providing complete understanding and practical solutions to their clients.

The designers were asked by the management to design a space of International standards wherein children would love to come; a space where teacher – student interaction would be of the highest priority and an atmosphere where a student is imbued with international standards of learning without sacrificing our cultural heritage.

AAIS International School (Amulakh Amichand International School), Mumbai; run by the Gujarati Kelavani Mandal, a 62 year old educational trust, which under its wings have reputed English and Gujarati medium SSC stream schools, pacing in sync with the changing needs of society.

After optimum space planning without reducing any classes and infrastructure of the already running existing schools, a whole wing of the new International School was conceived. The old plan of that wing was demolished and a completely new 20,000 sq ft school was designed. The challenge was to complete the work of international standards within the stipulated time frame in the summer vacation of 45 days.

The first level caters to the



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- 1 Nursery class with "Smartboard".
- 2 Corridor with beams in different colours to aid memory recall.
- 4 Wide corridor - a safe space to run and play with friends for the kindergarten kids.
- 5 Kindergarten class room with hexagonal sitting arrangement and a Dora and friends feature wall.
- 6 Discovery Lab revealing the unknown treasures of the universe.

- 7 Toilet Block in vibrant colours.
- 8 Entrance lobby to Discovery Lab with graphics enhancing the spirit to explore.
- 9 Class room in yellow inspiring inquisitiveness and communication.



Administration Department and Pre primary classes and a multipurpose hall. The Kindergarten classes are a bust of fantasy with larger than life, specially commissioned paintings bringing life to all fictional characters to ignite the spirit of wonder and enquiry in the minds of these highly enthusiastic kids. The bright colour scheme and varied geometric shaped tables make the learning environment joyful.

The administration area is simple, but a vibrant space, making way for easier interaction amongst parents, teachers and children. The multipurpose hall with a large lobby in front is used for various school programs and activities such as dance classes, assembly, gatherings, presentations and much more. The ground floor has the sports room with activities such as table-tennis, carom, chess etc.

The second and third floors cater to the primary and secondary classes respectively. The decor of the classes and common areas are done in such a way that it enables students to recollect colours (lessons) and associate space with memory recall, thus sub-

consciously training their minds to be more receptive.

All classes are equipped with state-of-the-art "smart boards and projectors." Apart from the artistic furniture, the entire school is treated with "acoustic" ceilings to absorb sound and have power efficient LED light fittings. The entire electric consumption is powered by the institution's own 20 MW solar panels fitted on the terrace – a conscious effort to be an Eco friendly institution.

A space which probably is not seen in any other schools is the "Discovery Centre" - a dedicated Lab which introduces students to "astronomical science" – "cosmos" and "space" beyond their perceived world.

A lot of educational graphics have been used in the entire space so that students can subconsciously absorb educational concepts while playing or walking around in the premises. All staircases have mathematical tables on the risers and various graphics on the ceilings and walls as well. Even the wash rooms have very interesting colour schemes – simple, yet vibrant. Hope you enjoyed this visual retreat!



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10 Formal sitting area with a red recliner set against a blue lit glass encased column.

11 Dining space flanked with niches and mural.

12 Master suite in white

Now let us move into a total-different space. The terrace flat and a minimalistic apartment designed by this enthusiastic couple is comfortable, cozy and welcoming without being dark and drab.

Peaceful homes

A 3,000 sq ft terrace flat is designed with a white theme and a contemporary feel to the space. The client required a clean spacious home with a large living room - the attached terrace is icing on the cake. A spacious plan for the hall with an unobstructed view of the terrace from both the living and dining area ensures visual continuity with the space beyond. The TV along with the projector and screen have been placed such that it could be viewed even from the terrace to heighten the joy of watching sport matches even from the outdoors thereby accommodating more guests. A reclining Buddha leads one to enjoy a blissful moment with the evening sky.

The corridor leading to the master room and children room has an interesting custom made mural in "alladio" encompassing the floor,



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- 13 Children's room - Study area and raised wardrobe area.
- 14 Parents bed room with a comfortable high leather upholstered back.
- 15 Kitchen detailed with clean lines.

wall and the ceiling.

All rooms are adorned by large windows to bring in maximum natural light, ventilation and view. The cozy and peaceful "mandir" near the entrance ensures a moment of bliss in spite of the morning bustle.

The master bedroom, which also opens out to a private terrace has been designed in elegant white. The walk-in wardrobe can be screened off to provide privacy with the sliding glass doors.

The children room has a unique push-in bed system to enable a larger play area for the children, when



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required. The colour changing LED lights enthral the young kids and their gang of musketeers. The wall here, displays a collage of their special moments.

The white theme continues in the parents room. The bed has a high leather bed backrest for comfort and more open space for them to move around unencumbered.

Sandeep and Anita follow a restrained design approach, and focus on delivering a simple and an elegant space to their client. Again playing with white as a predominant color, they designed a 1000 sq ft flat on a "minimalist" concept with focus on using rich materials and emphasis on "detailing", with simple and functional customized furniture detailed to liven up the ambience.

The fragrance of floating candles and rose petals greets one on entering the flat. The back lit onyx marble top and detailed abstract Jali cut-work imparts a warm inviting glow to the space. The green "semi precious" stone (Abalone Shell) inlayed in the white poly coated doors and the white Satvario Italian marble floor; give the space a rich ambience.

The living cum dining area is designed to maximize open space planning thereby making room for



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- 16 Master bed room with artistic back painted glass backrest.
- 17 Children's room in fluid form with custom printed backrest.
- 18 Living dining as seen from the entrance foyer.
- 19 Kitchen with white satvario marble flooring and wood detailing on the cabinets.



flexible seating arrangements for frequent social gatherings. The dining space for six has an interesting mix of seating by way of formal chairs and informal bench arrangement with "Mother of Pearl" inlay detailing and Silver Travertine marble cladding as the backrest.

The sheen of Black Pearl Italian granite with Onyx Marble wall dado in the kitchen is complemented by the wood detailed cabinet shutters with a breakfast counter strategically placed between the kitchen and hall.

The children room has a fluid design concept to visually make the room look bigger than its actual size. The colour changing LED mood lighting, give the space a chic look.

The Master bedroom looks fascinating with an interesting bed back that has a back painted glass with artistic strokes of eye-catching colours right from the base (the floor-



ing) to top (the ceiling).

Today's trend of living a palatial life in apartments has made the task of designing more crucial, as the space in apartment is less in compare to individual house, but these designers with utmost creativity can shape any space with functionality. They design a project in totality and keep the various design parameters under check to achieve the desired objective, thus enabling their clients to realize their dreams within the allocated budget.

Know the Designer

SSA offers total design consultancy under one roof (Interior Design, Architecture, Structural, MEP, Landscape and Green Building Design) for which they have strategic tie-ups. Sandeep and Anita, often stride along with the need of the ever demanding construction industry and do not shy away from trying new materials and innovative design concepts. They believe in exploring ideas shared during the design development stage by various team members and in addition to their own design expertise, they give their clients' maximum out of the project. 📌

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