

HOUSE LAYOUTS

functional elegance in interiors

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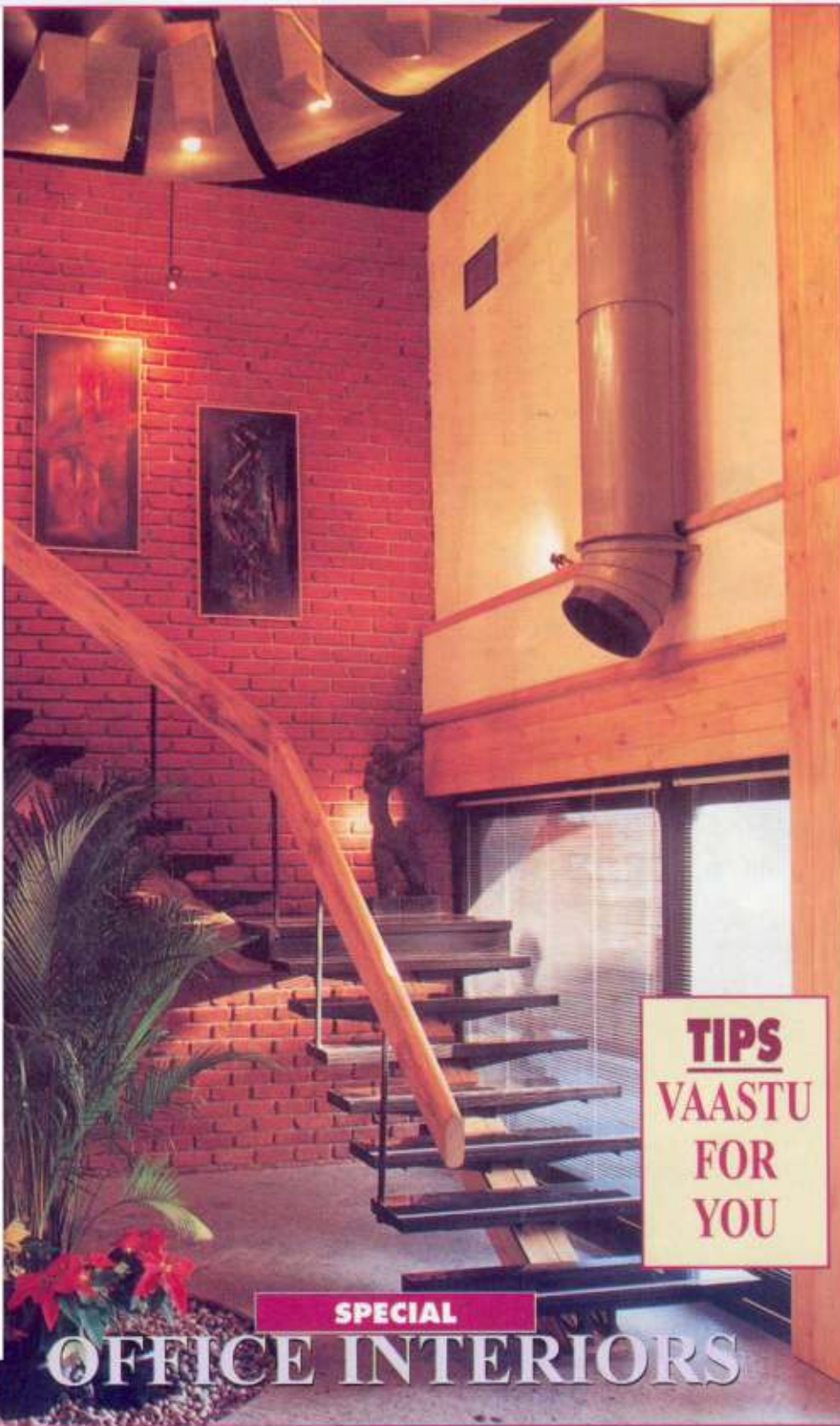
SANDEEP SHAH

Equipped with masters in corporate Architecture from U.S. and an architect-wife for guidance and support, Sandeep Shah started his independent practice of architecture and interior designing in 1995. In these past five years, when most designers were complaining about the recession in the building and allied industries, Sandeep Shah has managed to successfully complete over a dozen building projects and nearly 70 interior assignments. And there are more in the pipeline.

But Sandeep is rather matter-of-fact about their success. "For us, the client is most important. We don't impose our ideas on him- instead we super-impose our creative skills on his needs and preferences- and then create a well-functioning and good-looking interior space, where he feels comfortable and happy," he says. "To achieve this, we work in tandem with the client, understand his requirements, then give him several options, discuss them out, and thus, arrive at the final plan. Once the plan is frozen, we discuss the aesthetic treatment-colour scheme, materials to be used and other such issues-all of which are guided by the budget."

Sandeep's preferred style of decor is the contemporary type- clean lines / sleek forms, and stylish colours. However, the most striking feature of all his interior projects is the extensive use of artworks and for this, he borrows from the classical eras. Whether its a full length painting on a wall, or a mural, it tends to surprise the viewer. It's very presence is startling and thought-provoking. "Yes, that is intentionally done. I use such elements in all my projects. Also, according to me, they don't look out of place-they are only used to highlight the space. So, I usually place them near the entrance, in the reception foyer or the visitor waiting area," he smiles.

Sandeep's other important priority is to stick to a time schedule. And what gives him the most satisfaction is the fact that his clients are satisfied with his work and always repeat him. "In every project, I stay within the budget and try my best to deliver the finished product on time."



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OFFICE INTERIORS



The reception area of the Crown Maritime office at once conveys the firm's philosophy.

PROJECT 1
CROWN MARI TIME LTD.

Area : 1500 sq. ft

Client's Brief

This is a Bahrain-based firm which undertakes dredging and maritime contracts. For their first office in Mumbai, they wanted a modern, sophisticated look with an international appeal. Since the office would be visited by

hi-profile people, senior government officials and clients from all over the world, the interior had to be conceived to cater to their tastes.

Designer's Comments

The main constraint here was time. According to the society rules, we could work only about seven hours a day, and the clients wanted the entire work to be completed within three months. So, there were a lot of people working on the site simultaneously -- and the co-ordination of these



Sandeep uses artworks almost compulsively. This large wall mural is made of thick gauge copper.

various agencies was very important in the execution of this project.

We have taken a subtle colour scheme of cream and brown- with bold colours used as highlights to add interest. Indirect lighting has been used to soften the ambiance, and in computer rooms especially, it is useful also because it avoids glare on the screen.

As always, a certain budget had been kept aside for paintings and murals. Decorative glass works have also have been used. The huge wall paintings in the reception

has been done by Shilpa Gudikar and Anil Gudikar; the siforex mural and also the copper one have been done by Rasika and Ajmkya Gaware, while the decorative glass works were commissioned to Chitra Arts.

Materials Used

Italian marble, granite tiles and wood for flooring, laminates, veneers, imported polycoated veneers and glass.



The showroom- the garments are displayed neatly and clearly for the clients.

PROJECT 2: MEHUL EXPORTS

Area: 1000 sq. ft.

Client's Brief

This is a garment export firm owned by two brothers and their main requirement was a showroom where their foreign clients could be comfortably seated and see the latest designs.

Also, since they travel abroad often, they had an idea

of what the office should look like. The plan had to include the reception, staff area, cabin for two brothers and a large showroom.

Designer's Comment

This was an industrial unit, so a lot of civil work had to be done. Also, the work had to be finished within three months.

The site was a linear one, with natural light coming in only from a window at the far end. Therefore, the showroom was placed at the end, so that it could get the



The warm and relaxed ambiance of the showroom allows the clients to feel comfortable while viewing the products

advantage of natural light.

The cabin was placed centrally between the staff area and the showroom. Glass blocks were used for the cabin to maintain privacy and yet allow light to filter in.

A lot of storage spaces were required, but they are cleverly masked within the interior scheme.

The Siforex mural inside the cabin is by E.A. Kitabi and the decorative glass pieces have been done by Hema Desai.

Materials Used :

Wood, veneer, laminates, Italian marble and mirror-polished tiles with Italian marble inlay.