

# CONNECTING ON ALL LEVELS

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*Soft, curvy terrazzo staircases seamlessly connect three floors  
of this split-level home in Kolkata, West Bengal*

一組特色水磨石樓梯，把加爾各答一幢三層高錯層式住宅凝聚起來



**D**esigned by Pooja Bihani, founder and principal architect of Kolkata practice Spaces & Design, this renovated, 2,100 square foot Kolkata split-level house has been segmented into three 700 square foot levels, which gives the property a distinctive floor plate and unique configuration.

The house belongs to a well-travelled young couple whose request was for all the communal areas of their home to be located on the first level, and the private areas to be located on the second and third level. They also wanted their home to reflect their personal tastes, so Bihani helped them achieve this with a design concept informed by soft curves and Bauhaus-inspired shapes and colours.

Because the building was old, the walls were all a little crooked, and the beams and columns were misaligned and exposed. To correct this, she created double walls.

"This allowed us to accentuate the walls with numerous round and oval niches to make the space feel more dynamic, interesting, and in line with the narrative of the design. Double walling helped us to create the niches as well as save resources and minimise costs," she says.

位於加爾各答這幢2,100呎錯層式住宅，經由 Spaces & Design創辦人兼首席建築師Pooja Bihani匠心改造，被劃分成三層樓房，每層約700呎，造形別出心裁。

屋主是一對熱愛旅行的年輕夫婦，他們希望把主活動空間設於地面層，私人區域設於二樓和三樓。Pooja採用大量柔美曲線以及別具包豪斯色彩的家具及設計，以反映屋主的品味。

由於建築年代久遠，牆身已開始歪曲，部分樑柱更出現移位及外露，因此Pooja為空間打造了雙層牆，以彌補這個缺陷。她解釋：「有了雙層牆，我們便可於牆身打造圓形和橢圓形的壁龕，令空間更添活力和趣味，符合項目的設計意念，同時節省資源，而且能夠將成本減至最低。」Pooja在房子的生活空間和浴室牆身均加入了大量圓形和橢圓形壁龕。





Working with the house's split-level layout, she used organically shaped in situ terrazzo to construct half-flight staircases that were cast on-site. This enabled a visual connection between the different levels and an unobstructed view of each floor.

"The staircases, which are the highlight of this project, are treated in a way so as to render a soft, seamless, and curvy finish. The stairs act as a sculptural element and a common thread that ties different parts of the space together," says Bihani, who incorporated plenty of the circular and rounded niches throughout the walls of the common areas and bathrooms.

Because she spent her childhood in a split-level house similar to this one, she says the project meant a lot to her.

"As a child, I lived in a house which had a split level. For spaces like this, it's all about connectivity – the visual connection of all the levels that is achieved with the half-flight staircase," she says.

"Somehow, my mind kept returning to the idea of connectivity. That's why the staircase was given so much importance and turned out the way it did."

The entrance foyer, living lounge, dining, kitchen areas, and a room for the couple's housekeeper, have been contained within the first level. On the second level is a powder room, an entertainment den and small study, and the master en suite bedroom which adjoins to a small adjoining balcony on one side and a walk-in closet on the other. The third level contains a child's en suite bedroom, a guest en suite bedroom, and a utility room.



為配合房子的錯層式空間佈局，Pooja以現澆水磨石打造了一條呈有機形態的樓梯，增強樓層之間的視覺連結，也讓每層一覽無遺。「樓梯是這個項目的亮點，透過特別的處理方式，呈現出柔和的曲線美。這條樓梯別具雕塑感，把不同空間連繫在一起。」

由於Pooja的童年也是在類似的錯層房子中度過，因此對她來說，這個項目意義重大。她表示：「小時候我也住在同一種錯層的房子裡。連接性對錯層空間很重要，因此我們運用樓梯加強了樓之間的視覺連繫。不知怎的，我不斷想到連接性，這條樓梯才變得如此重要。」

入口大廳、客飯廳、廚房和管家睡房都位於地面層。二樓設有化妝間、娛樂空間和書房，主人睡房的一側與小巧露台相連，另一側是步入式衣櫃。頂層設有兒童套房、客房和雜物房。

在地面層，一扇鐵鏽色木門通往門廳，客人在樓梯上可欣賞到整套房子的美麗。設於二樓的娛樂室飾以玉綠色牆身為特徵，並加入圓形壁龕，用以作為書架和展示架。書房擺放一張灰色弧形梳化、掛牆式電視，以及梳化後的書枱和椅子。化妝間的牆身掛一幅Pooja兒子的繪畫，為空間增添一抹趣味和年輕氛圍。睡房配備一組趟門，打開可以連接書房，另一組趟門可通往超過20呎的三角形露台，當中飾有不少植物和燈籠。

沿著樓梯通往頂層，可找到水磨石牆上的拱形壁龕，以作展示之用，而客房的衣櫃，被一組落地弧形羅紋木製趟門完美遮蓋。另外，屋主夫婦希望打造一間兒童睡房，以準備在不久的將來迎接家中新成員。這個房間設有一張天蓬床，以及一間設有多彩水磨石牆的浴室。

*“Double walling helped us to create the niches as well as save resources and minimise costs”*





*“The stairs act as a sculptural element and a common thread that ties different parts of the space together”*

On the first level, a rust-coloured wooden door opens to the foyer where guests can get a view of the entire expanse of the house from the stairwell. On the second level, a door leads into the entertainment den which has walls painted with a light, jade green. A section of this wall has circular niches that can be used as book and display shelves.

The den set-up includes a curvilinear grey sofa, a wall-mounted television, and a study desk and chair in the space behind the sofa. Quirky sketches of minions drawn by Bihani's own son have added a fun and youthful vibe to the walls of the powder room.

The bedroom is fitted with a set of sliding closed doors that can be opened to connect to the den, and another set of sliding doors that open to a 20.48 square foot triangular balcony with plants and lanterns.

Arched display nooks were dug out of the terrazzo wall along the stairs leading up to the third level. In the guest room, floor-to-ceiling, curved ribbed wood veneer sliding doors conceal the wardrobe. The couple wanted a kid's room in preparation for a child in the near future. This room includes a canopy bed and a bathroom with colourful, terrazzo walls.



在這所房子，大部分家具均根據室內空間的呎吋量身定制。房子以翡翠綠為主色，因為Pooja和客戶均認為翡翠綠能為空間注入年輕能量及現代感。Pooja說：「我採用了不少呈圓弧曲線的家具、黑色木炭飾面以及定制把手和手繪壁龕，務求令整個空間更具凝聚力，以呼應我的設計理念。」

她總結：「整個項目在封城期間完成，預算亦十分有限。項目最特別之處，在於以雙層牆設計解決建築結構上的缺陷，同時令空間更具活力。而房子現有的錯層式設計，如何令樓梯更具雕塑感，也是這個家居的亮點之一。」 | |





Most of the furniture items were custom-made according to the dimensions of the interior spaces. Jade green was chosen as the dominant colour because Bihani and her clients felt this shade brought a youthful energy to the spaces and gave them a contemporary feel.

"I used a lot of curved furniture and a black charcoal finish, as well as customised door handles and hand-painted niches to make the entire space more cohesive and in line with a singular design narrative," she says.

"The entire project was completed during lockdown and realised with a budget constraint. The most unique things about this home are how it employs a distinct design solution of double walling to resolve structural defects while at the same time making the space more dynamic, and also how the house's existing split-level helps to give the staircases an organic, sculptural quality." |J|

