



“What is unarguably in favour of Vaastu is that the client has unshaken faith in it”

- Architect Paresh Gajjar



ARCHITECT'S VOICE

Born and brought up in Ahmedabad Mr Paresh Gajjar's family hails from the nearby Sanand town. The family migrated to Ahmedabad in 1964 and started their construction business. After 35 years into the business Mr Paresh Gajjar's father wound up the business due to health reasons. However, Mr Paresh garnered sufficient experience and interest in the construction business to join CEPT, in their interior design course, even though he was a B.Com graduate.

After completing his CEPT study in 1993, using the contacts his father had built in his 35 years of the construction business Mr Paresh Gajjar immediately got on to his own interior design practice.

Mrs Smita Gajjar, also a B.Com graduate, was born in Jamnagar but due to the transfers in her father's job (he was a mechanical engineer) she did her schooling in Porbandar and later in Morbi, where she also completed her graduation. Mrs Gajjar had an aptitude for drawing from an early age and nursed ambitions of becoming an interior designer, but that was not possible because there were no such institutes at Morbi during that time. She realized her ambition some years after her marriage when she joined her husband full time in his interior's firm "Theme Designs"

We met both Mr Paresh Gajjar and Mrs Smita Gajjar in their design studio at Ahmedabad.

Excerpts from the interview:-

Benefits of hiring an interior designer.

Mr Paresh Gajjar

Briefly put the difference between getting interiors done by a professional designer and doing it yourself is like buying medicines after getting the doctor's prescription or buying medicines straight away from the medical store without any medical advice.

What the interior designer does is that he/she first lists and analysis your requirements and budget. Based on these inputs he/she works out an overall plan of action. He/she has a list of trusted vendors and reliable craftsman that

Mr Paresh Gajjar and his wife Mrs Smita Gajjar at, "Theme Designs" their design studio in Ahmedabad.



Theme Designs the design studio of Mr Paresh Gajjar and his wife Smita has garnered proficiency in traditional, vibrant and contemporary style for residential and commercial interiors. They also conduct site planning. Most of the projects are located in Ahmedabad, though some are also located in Mumbai, Dharmaj, Baroda and Gandhinagar.

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will ensure a smooth run and punctual finish to the project. Things could – and can – go wrong but it is possible to control the situation. Above all the interior designer brings his/her aesthetic value addition. The anarchy that

prevails without an interior designer leads to over-running on the budget and sometimes falling foul with the craftsmen.

Mrs Smita Gajjar

Ordinarily when a customer is handed over his flat from the builder, the flat represents only half his dream. In fact, the fact – till then – has not had his direct involvement. The flat owner then depends upon the interior designer to complete his dream for him. He interacts continuously with the interior designer and often makes trips to buy the stuff he fancies. Thus, the interior designer becomes his confident and guide. Also, the interior decorator will quickly have to learn about the likes and dislikes of his clients, especially in the matter of colours and the materials to be used.

On Kitchens

Mr & Mrs Paresh Gajjar

We encourage clients not to purchase furniture but rather to get it made on sight using durable materials and expert craftsmen.

Nowadays clients are stressing on having the kitchen furnished tastefully and copiously. This was not the case earlier. Despite the fact



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“Ashwmegh”- A study of running horses is one the many paintings done by Mrs Smita Gajjar that adorn the homes of her clients. Mrs Smita Gajjar is an accomplish painter for many years from her child hood. Painting continues to be her passion till this day despite professional pressure and the pressure of motherhood.



What is unarguably in favour of Vaastu is that the client has unshaken faith in it and will go to any length to do what the Vaastu consultant says. We, too, believe Vaastu to be a good thing and go out of our way to implement it in toto. In fact we have done our office in accordance with the Vaastu tips given us by a Vaastu Consultant friend.

that functional requirements of a kitchen are more or less the same, there is a plethora of new products and ideas to do up a kitchen. About a few years back, the same was the situation with bathrooms.

Some new concepts have cropped up. First, there is the island kitchen which is gaining in popularity. The other new idea is the open

kitchen. We do away with the wall separating the kitchen and the dining room. We know that this could lead to a faux pass from the Vaastu angle, but nevertheless we are seeing many new open kitchens now.

How much would it cost to do a good interior decoration job for a 1200 square feet flat in Ahmedabad?

It all depends on the taste and requirements of the client. However, as a rule of thumb one can safely say that you would require about 20 lacs. This does not include appliances like air-conditioners, washing machines, computers etc and only refers to paint, flooring, false ceiling, bathroom, kitchen and furniture with tapestry. It also includes wiring, electric lamps and good quality accessories for the bathroom.

Vaastu

We have faced troubled situations on account of Vaastu. This is not to blame Vaastu but rather to blame the Vaastu consultants. In our case, we have encountered poorly qualified Vaastu consultants who have stolen the show



Gota Bunglow, Ahmedabad



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because of their knack of sowing doubt in the clients mind. As you know, there is no remedy to a doubt once it sets in.

I'll give you an example. Again it is about a medical store. In the early days a medical shop only dealt with prescription drugs. Later we had the Over the counter (OTC) category health care products like Vicks, Amrutanjan etc. Now medical stores are also keeping personal and dental care products like



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Vasna Bunglow, Ahmedabad

shaving creams, toothpastes and in some cases even battery cells. So, too, early on the holy men had specializations. We had pundits who did pujas, and others who conducted weddings. Yet there were others that recited bhajans and read kathas. Today we have all-rounders, just as in one day cricket. I say this with some bitterness because we have suffered at the hands of a pujari of a neighborhood temple who doubled up as a Vaastu expert and ruined our entire effort by some sweeping – but meaningless – generalisations.

Another problem with Vaastu is that there is

too much of a confusion about the rules. No two Vaastu consultants will give a similar solution. That is understandable, but the distance between the two solutions is what is worrisome as to who is perfectly right and who perfectly wrong.

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Vasna Bunglow, Ahmedabad