

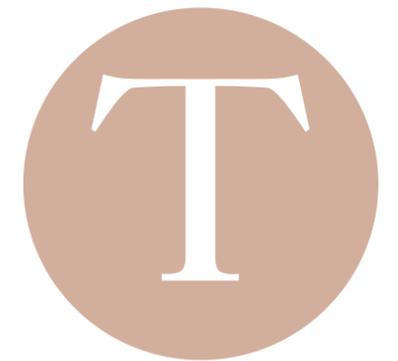
# ORGANIC MODERNISM

Amitha Madan of Treelight Design takes an organic approach to create a design language influenced by Rothko's style of art.

Words / Varuni Mohan  
Photography / Manoj Masand

## Main living room

The main living room is on the upper floor and looks out on to lush foliage of tree tops. This view is framed by a floor to ceiling glass window, which opens out onto a deck.



Treelight Design is a studio engaged in architecture, interior and product design; spearheaded by principal architect Amitha Madan, who believes that design is a creative reaction to interesting stimuli. These stimuli may be a beautiful location, unique material, form, function or simply a classic line. The eventual design is a synthesis of both, the subjective and the objective analysis of an idea. "A careful understanding of the brief and location, extensive research, innovative planning and exploration of materials are an important part of our processes. Development of innovative construction details that accentuate the geometry or behaviour of a material coupled with spatial interactions resulting in memorable experiences, is what inspires us," tells Amitha.

'Magnolia' is a penthouse situated in the heart of Bengaluru city. The space is designed to feel like an oasis that exudes serenity and tranquillity. Designed for a young man and his older parents, the interior design is centred on the client's brief which required the home to be in two wings and the aesthetic to be inspired by American abstract-expressionist Mark Rothko's style of art. To achieve this, customisation played a key role in the execution. From a functional perspective the home was structurally bifurcated to create two floors. The design started with creating a pitched roof, where the slanted lines of the ceiling create a warm ambience. This roof has been clad with natural timber wood from Bali. Outdoor spaces like the balcony and outdoor sit were planned in a way that allow a natural flow and seamless connection of indoor and outdoor spaces.

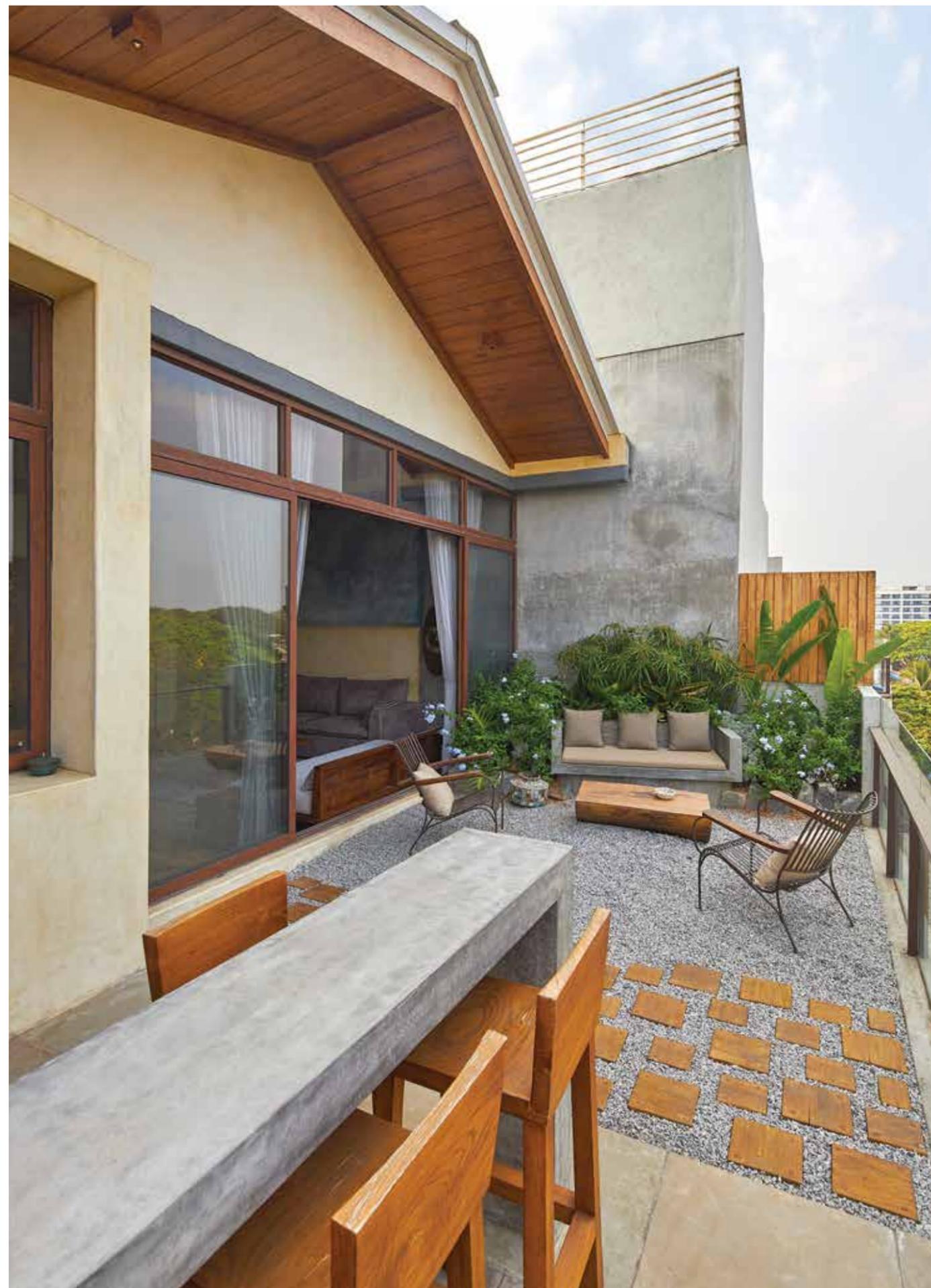
Mark Rothko is the client's favoured artist best known for his colour field paintings that depicted irregular and painterly rectangular regions of colour, which he produced from 1949 to 1970. His works featured simple use of colour with broad rectangular sizes in several layers of colours, which made an image look as though they were glowing from the inside. This influence was incorporated into the home through pigmented cement flooring and walls in different, muted colours.

The muted walls play the role of a canvas for artistic murals inspired by the master's work. For example the bedroom wall includes a hand drawn image of a cross-section of the bark by artist Ashu Gupta, in her signature stippling style. The colour palette consists of neutral colours, in natural textures of cement and wood. The end result is an inviting atmosphere of warmth and comfort.

The penthouse also incorporates customised elements based on the client's sensibility and outlook. The light fixture in the living room was designed as a light installation, inspired by the concept of yin-yang, where dual textures allow for a combination of opacity and illumination. The living area also features a large antique astro-globe suspended from the top, bringing in a sense of nostalgia.

The surrounding views of nature, play an important role in the ambience as it looks out onto a lush green military compound. Vistas of view have been maximised with floor to ceiling glass windows. The balcony and sit-out have been styled in a way to create a close-to-nature feel. The floor of these outdoor spaces has been covered in gravel and wooden stepping stones, for an organic sensory feel. The plants have been styled in a way that looks natural and un-orchestrated.

The practice has since evolved—working to infuse the new with the old, —to ultimately create a timeless design. The endeavour is to provide sustainable design with an emphasis on promoting local materials, while using green construction methods. 



## Outdoors

The lower and upper levels of this home feature outdoor decks that take advantage of the penthouse's elevated position. Beautiful unrestricted views are enjoyed in well-styled outdoor spaces inspired by nature.

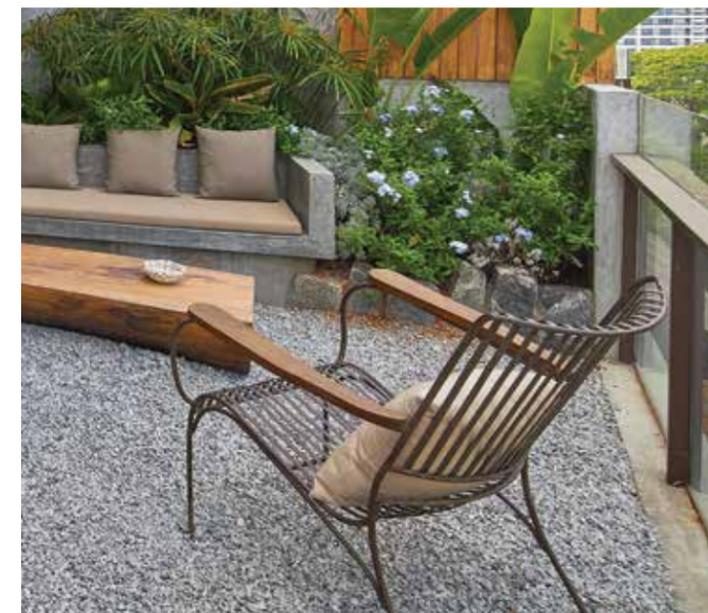
The sit-out connected to the living room is a space to enjoy open skies and green vistas. The pitched roof of the upper floor is an architecture feature that's has been added to create a sense of warmth and space.

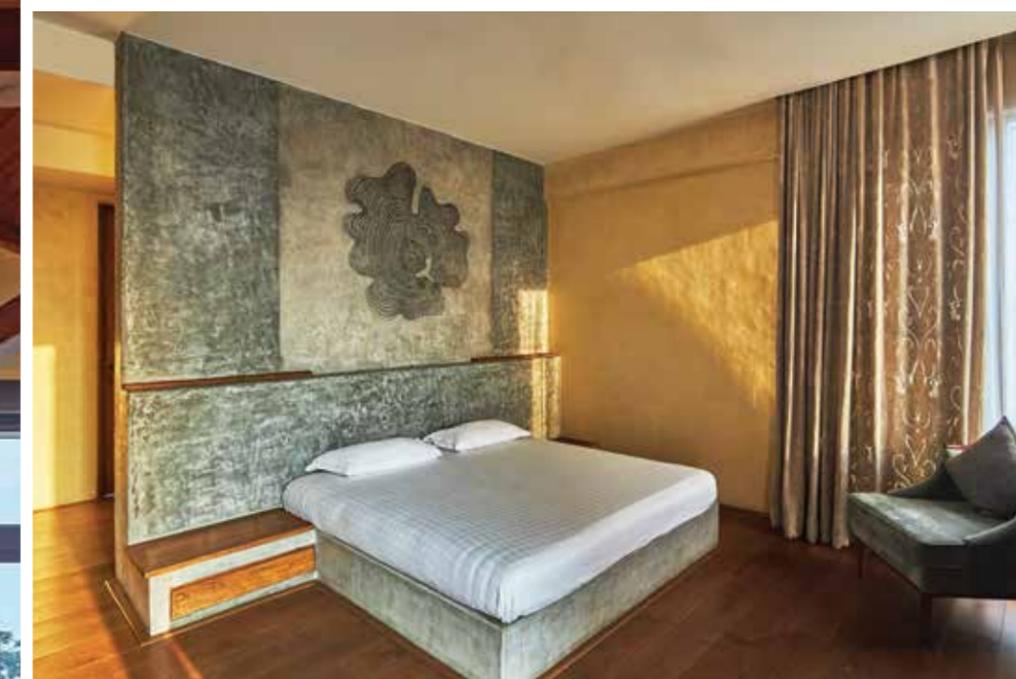
AR AMITHA MADAN, FOUNDER  
TRELIGHT DESIGNS



## Landscape details

Indoor and outdoor spaces seamlessly flow into the other. The colour palette of the indoors continues outside and the foliage has been planted in a way that looks natural and un-choreographed.





### Bedroom

The bedroom is a serene space that features customized wall art, which is like the cross-section of the bark of a tree in the bedroom hand drawn by artist Ashu Gupta.

### Livingroom

All these decorative fixtures have been custom designed in-house and the furniture is mostly by Magari Furniture.

The natural organic textures from various elements like the cement floors and wooden beams create a calming and restful ambience.

**Lead Architect:** Amitha Madan  
**Engineering:** Treelight Design  
**Engineering:** Jayant Laklani, Laklani Associates.  
**Landscape:** Treelight Design  
**Collaborators:** Magari Furniture, Yavanika furnishings, Purple Turtle (Upper level lights), Olie lighting (lower level).

### Art light installation

The light fixture in the living area has been designed like an art installation inspired by the concept of Yin-Yang. Positive and negative elements of light and opacity are balanced to create this piece.

Unfettered views of nature are an important part of the decor to create this indoor-outdoor feel.

