



Material innovations and creative architectural vision come together to give way to architectural designs that impress at the very first glance. TIHG, impressed by the facades created by contemporary architects, has assembled together ten architects and the facades that showcase their masterful skill.

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# CHARMED BY FACADES





**PROJECT:** HIVE **FIRM:** OPENIDEAS ARCHITECTS **LOCATION:** SURAT, GUJARAT **IMAGES:** FABIEN CHARUAU

Hive is conceived and designed as an intelligent, adaptable and sustainable family home at Surat, Gujarat. The form of the house is seeded in the profession of the client Kamalbhai Mistry — who is part of an extremely successful company engaged in making machines for the diamond industry. The architectural presence, undoubtedly, is established by the solar sensor-based facade, which lies at an exciting intersection of art and engineering. Its geometry is inspired by the hexagonal structural patterns found

in nature such as those of honeycombs and carbon crystals — giving the project its name. Analyzed as per the structure, function and mechanism, its design is based on structural strength, transformability and bio mimicry. The unique opening mechanism of the facade positions are derivatives of quality of light exposure and thermal comfort levels inside the house. Experientially, the modules create striking sciagraphy by casting patterns that change with the diurnal rhythm of the sun.



**PROJECT:** TATHASTU BUNGALOW **FIRM:** ACE ASSOCIATES **LOCATION:** NADIAD, GUJARAT **IMAGES:** INCLINED STUDIO

The front facade of this home is designed in a contemporary style, using modern materials like steel and concrete and earthy materials like bricks, that give the facade a warm feeling. The cross bracing of the steel member gives a dramatic industrial

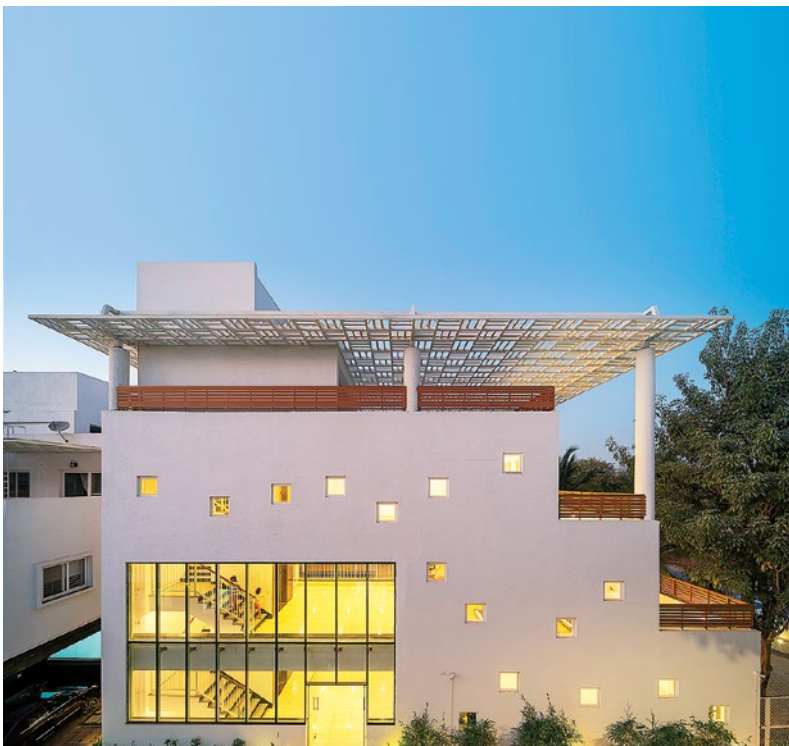
architecture feel to the entire facade. And the play of light, use of wood and the linear water body in the front garden adds more glamour to the facade. The front garden and landscaping too complement the architectural form well.



**PROJECT:** HEXALACE **FIRM:** STUDIO ARDETE **LOCATION:** MOHALI, PUNJAB **IMAGES:** AR. PURNESH DEV NIKHANJ

Considering the arduous climatic conditions involving extreme heat, and Hexalace's front facing west, the façade emerged as a buffer of stratifying elements. Three inches thick concrete layer with hexagonal interstices has been used as a shading element. To better preserve the sanctity of shade, the screen flows organically creating an artistic visual dilemma from both inside as well as outside. Another layer of hexagonal silhouette made of metal frames is superimposed horizontally across the semi-permeable

concrete screen which doubles up as balcony fence. Furthermore, the main curtain wall has been recessed to leave pockets of air between the screen and the main building to increase the time lag and subsequently reduce the heat gain. Therefore, the facade by its inherent virtue of convergence acts as bronchioles for the structure.



**PROJECT:** RADIANCE IRIS **FIRM:** ARCHITECTURE PLUS **VALUE:** LOCATION: YELAHANKA, BENGALURU **IMAGES:** BINSAN OOMEN BABY

Mass Housing is the need of the hour in the world's fastest growing city, Bengaluru. Within an urban concrete-jungle, Radiance IRIS seeks to be a green refuge from the ever-growing pressures of development. It focuses on a community-centric design incorporating natural vegetation and social spaces which simultaneously achieves the major challenge of high built-up area and low selling price. Iris was a low-cost project.

Hence the economy of construction was essential. The facade was designed as a simple expression of the climate response for the different zones within the home. The ground floor which has the day-time spaces or living areas was recessed and clad with quarry waste slate stone to provide a tactile feel.





**PROJECT:** HOUSE OF 2 PALMS **FIRM:** MAKRA WORKS

**LOCATION:** CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU **IMAGES:** PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARKA (RAJKUMAR AND SWATI)

Inspired by the weaving patterns found in the Indian handicrafts and textile system, the brick jalli is made using two layers. The first is a solid layer of bricks laid in a horizontal pattern without any perforations. The second layer is made using a combination of solid and void volumes with layering. The perforations are planned in such a way that the wind flow is directed into the common area of the built structure and this is done by placing the bricks in 30 and 60 degree angles at fixed intervals. Apart from the perforations the monotonous brick screen

is broken up by rectangular openings of varying sizes to bring in additional light and ventilation into the veranda. The cast in place concrete openings also help frame the views from the building.



**PROJECT:** CLEFT HOUSE **FIRM:** ANAGRAM ARCHITECTS

**LOCATION:** NEW DELHI **IMAGES:** ANDRÉ JEANPIERRE FANTHOME, SURYAN/DANG

Our clients for this northwest facing residence, in Delhi, are members of three generations of a joint family. Our approach steps away from conventional circulation and spatial arrangements, by considering the built volume as a breached monolith rather than as a composition of fenestrated volumes and surface renders. Faceted and insulated stone facades protect the house from the lack of privacy to the front, and similarly the service areas, en suites and closets are planned at the rear to mitigate southern

heat gain. The deep void carved out, bridged at the front and rear on the upper levels, creates a meandering, naturally ventilated and social courtyard at the heart of the residence, pulling in views and balconies from all the rooms of the house. It draws ample light, softened by white and wood surface renders and the rooftop glazing, deep into the basement.





**PROJECT:** HOUSE WITH A BRICK VEIL **FIRM:** STUDIO LOTUS  
**LOCATION:** JANGPURA, NEW DELHI **IMAGES:** EDMUND SUMNER

With increasing unplanned urbanization in several developing nations, most residential neighbourhoods have become jungles of concrete and noise – both visual and aural. Built within a congested locality in Central Delhi, the House with a Brick Veil seeks to negotiate the fine line between privacy and connectivity with neighbourhoods. The house is built as a stack of 3 apartments – a duplex for a conservative retired couple and two smaller flats for their married children and families. The brief was to create a calm oasis within this chaotic

neighbourhood. In line with the strong tradition of brick production in the region, the House is conceived as a brick masonry structure with a high thermal mass, thereby maximizing daylight and minimizing solar gain. A 345-mm thick brick wall wraps around the building as a veil – floating away from it at times, to form intimate courtyards for light and ventilation. While the design of the “brick veil” screens residents from the heavy traffic on adjoining roads, it brings in natural light and ventilation.



**PROJECT:** SCREEN SAVER HOUSE **FIRM:** MANOJ PATEL DESIGN STUDIO  
**LOCATION:** VADODARA, GUJARAT **IMAGES:** UMANG SHAH

For us climate plays an important role in planning and designing our projects. Talking about the corner junction on the South-West façade of the house, an opportunity evolved, to create a large surface area of cladding, due to the openings planned in peripheral series. The aim was to identify a different way to clay vernacular material – clay roof tiles, gave rise to a module, which is low cost and has long life span. Various combinations and patterns were explored that developed a dramatic experience of numerous shadow movements throughout the day according

to sun's movement in Indian context. The pattern used depicts, intricate strips carved out from flat clay roof tiles of different sizes. These pieces are all glued together to create one module each. Initially after one module getting ready, through artisanship, a study of shadow patterns were carried out in the studio as part of research to understand the large shadow scale to be obtained. Therefore the beauty of the module generates number of shadows through the profile and enhances the artwork.



**PROJECT:** PIXEL HOUSE **FIRM:** THE GRID ARCHITECTS **LOCATION:** AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT **IMAGES:** PHOTOGRAPHIX INDIA

Inspiration for design can come from the most unexpected of places, and this one took off from that most fundamental building block of digital imagery — the pixel. Its spirit is rooted in nature, as the home emerged from an intent to embrace natural conditions, taking advantage of views, orientation, and form. The most emphatic manifestation of the pixel concept is seen at the main entrance, which is approached via a series of broad, platform-like steps. Here, the canopy above is articulated as an exposed concrete

structure, perforated with a series of square cut-outs in varying sizes. The large custom-made MS lamps that are suspended within this sheltering element echo this effect. The entire composition creates a certain sense of arrival, of a grand entrance, intensified with the wonderful play of light and shadow that is enacted through the day.



**PROJECT:** PALM AVENUE **FIRM:** ARCHITECTURE DISCIPLINE **LOCATION:** VASANT KUNJ, DELHI **IMAGES:** STUDIO RECALL

The idea was to design a home that unites every member of the family and caters to individual ideals of comfort. We achieved this by retaining individual proclivities of the users while carving out varying volumes within a simple rectangular form. The building envelope is finished with ventilated facade wooden panels and stylized glass grids. The facade paneling defines the geometry of

the building and adds to its minimalistic expression. We were tossing between timber and cork as they are both neutral to heat, age gracefully and can be easily removed and reinstalled. However, we chose timber over cork because it can be easily restored to its original finish by oiling it. 