MUMBAI
Ashiesh Shah finds himself in demand with homeowners, entrepreneurs and restaurateurs, and his strong aesthetic, and his dexterity at reinventing tradition in a modern idiom are just two reasons why. It also has to do with the fact that his versatility and confidence in his craft allow him to deconstruct his sensibility, and reconfigure it according to client needs. This sea-facing South Mumbai house saw Shah balance the traditional with the contemporary and derive inspiration from location and client. The angular geometries evident in the entrance staircase are softened by curves. Contemporary furniture shares space with traditional dhurries; the bronze-skirted details and shape of the furniture draw inspiration from the sea; and the uniquely textured wall offers a backdrop for the homeowners’ art collection.

ashieshshah.com

MORPHOGENESIS
PRINCIPALS: SONALI AND MANIT RASTOGI
LOCATION: NEW DELHI
Thirteen years into its practice, Morphogenesis became the first Indian practice to win a WAF (World Architecture Festival) award—in the ‘Best Learning Building’ category for Jaipur’s Pearl Academy—in 2009. In 2014, it was conferred the Singapore Institute of Architects’ SIA-Getz Architecture Prize for ‘Emergent Architecture in Asia’. The architecture firm’s portfolio almost keeps industry watchers from guessing what might emerge next from its laboratory of ideas. A fact that is reinforced by the Artisan House in Delhi. A split-level structure that adheres to the site’s “stepped typology”, the house was a conscious effort by the firm to break away from the typical aspects that define scale—fenestrations, entryways, doors. “The entire site has been arranged as a series of sequential sculptural walls—the organizing principle of the house. The space looks like several planes arranged one behind the other. All the ‘rooms’ are defined between two walls,” says Sonali Rastogi. For a practice that works on few homes, “depending on how interesting the brief is or if there is a new design impetus”, this house was a chance to walk the fine line between client preferences for texture and its own proclivity for minimalism.
morphogenesis.org

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PHOTOS: JITENDER MARWAHA