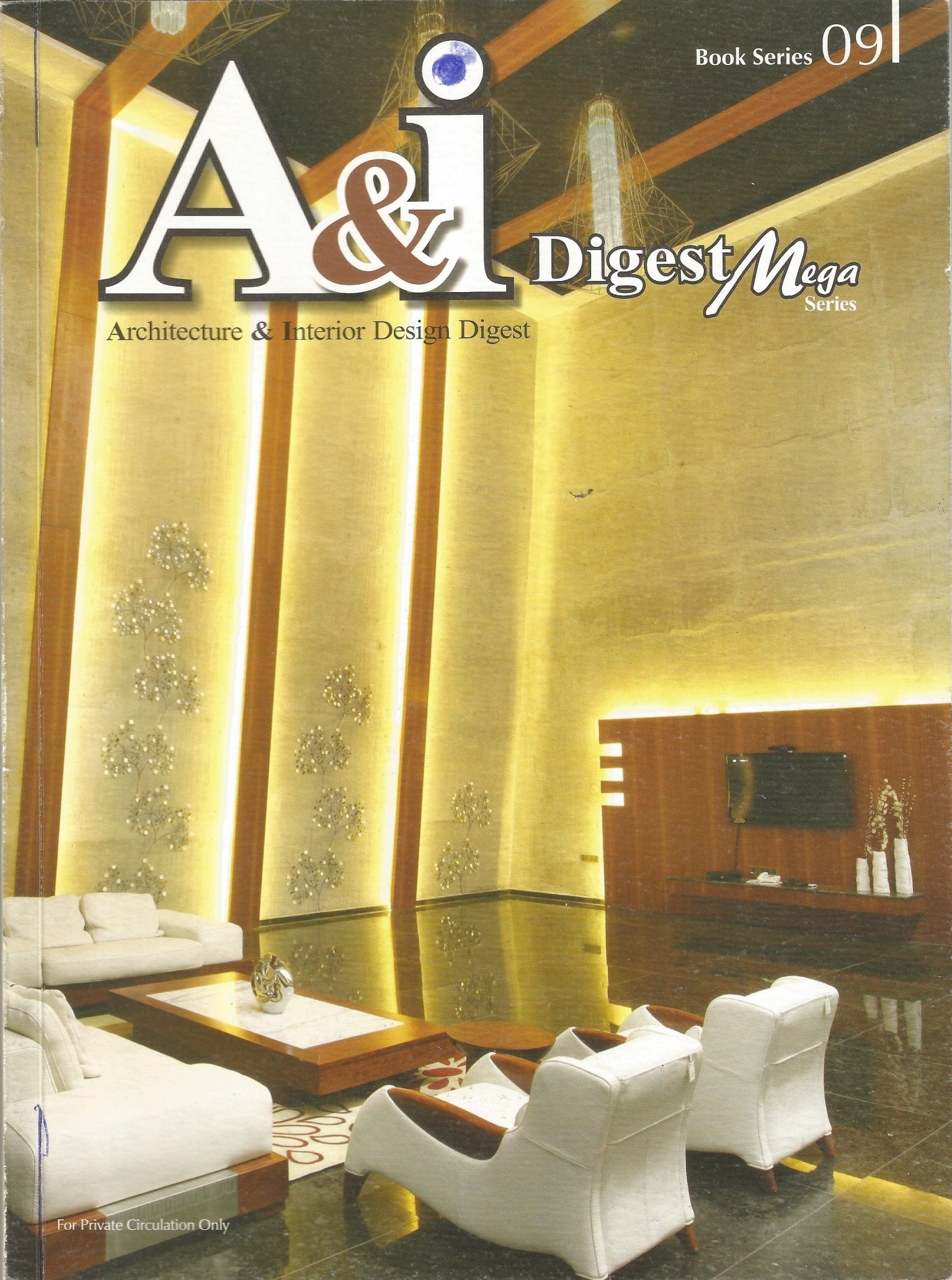


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Anil Ranka

A home with recall and charisma

Architect Anil Ranka designs Kushal Mehta's home using the winning magic of black-and-white:

Anil Ranka has done enough luxury residences in his long and eventful career to know that when you compare a 'large' floor plan- like upwards of 2500 square feet- with mid-sized homes measuring around 1500 square feet, the latter are sometimes more difficult to design. The answer is simple- out there is an Indian 'on the move' professional class that desires a stylish, comfortable home but without the maintenance baggage that a very large home comes with. A mid-sized home is easy to maintain, can easily accommodate an extra guest, can even be modified in a few years, and is- in the opinion of a few- cozier and more intimate than a palatial abode where everyone is ensconced in their rooms and emerges only for dinners. The architect gives the example of Pune's next door metropolis Mumbai when he says, 'People want practical interiors that allow luxury but without wasting a single inch. This means the planning has to be perfect.' The architect says he greatly enjoys designing this kind of interior because his design team really has to put on their thinking caps and invent ideas that would save space and be truly creative.

The Kushal Mehta apartment that Anil Ranka has recently designed falls in the 1500 square feet category. The Mehtas are what we nowadays call a 'nuclear' family. The client wanted a modern interior that would certainly be appreciated for its 'novel' value as much as for its neat and tidy design. The architect makes it such: the Mehta residence shows in ample ways why Anil Ranka is such an expert when it comes to residential interiors. Definitely, this sixteenth-floor apartment lacks nothing in opulence. Italian marble and surfaces are the best and most luxurious. Where to splurge and where to restrain is the key, he accepts. For example, the simple ceiling allows other features to hold centrestage. Positioning of elements has been carefully made to ensure that light enters everywhere and that there are no bulky areas. Glossy surfaces have a rationale wherever they are used. The Granamite flooring in all but the Master Bedroom looks extremely modern and classy. Little pools of light – cleverly controlled and occasionally yellow or white- infuses the entire apartment with a quality of illumination that is comfortable, enhances the black-and-white décor, and makes a quiet impact.



One wall has a plaster cast of the client's parents' footprints.

Living Room, with the guest bedroom seen beyond. A single recliner along with an L-sofa lends a casual, international air.

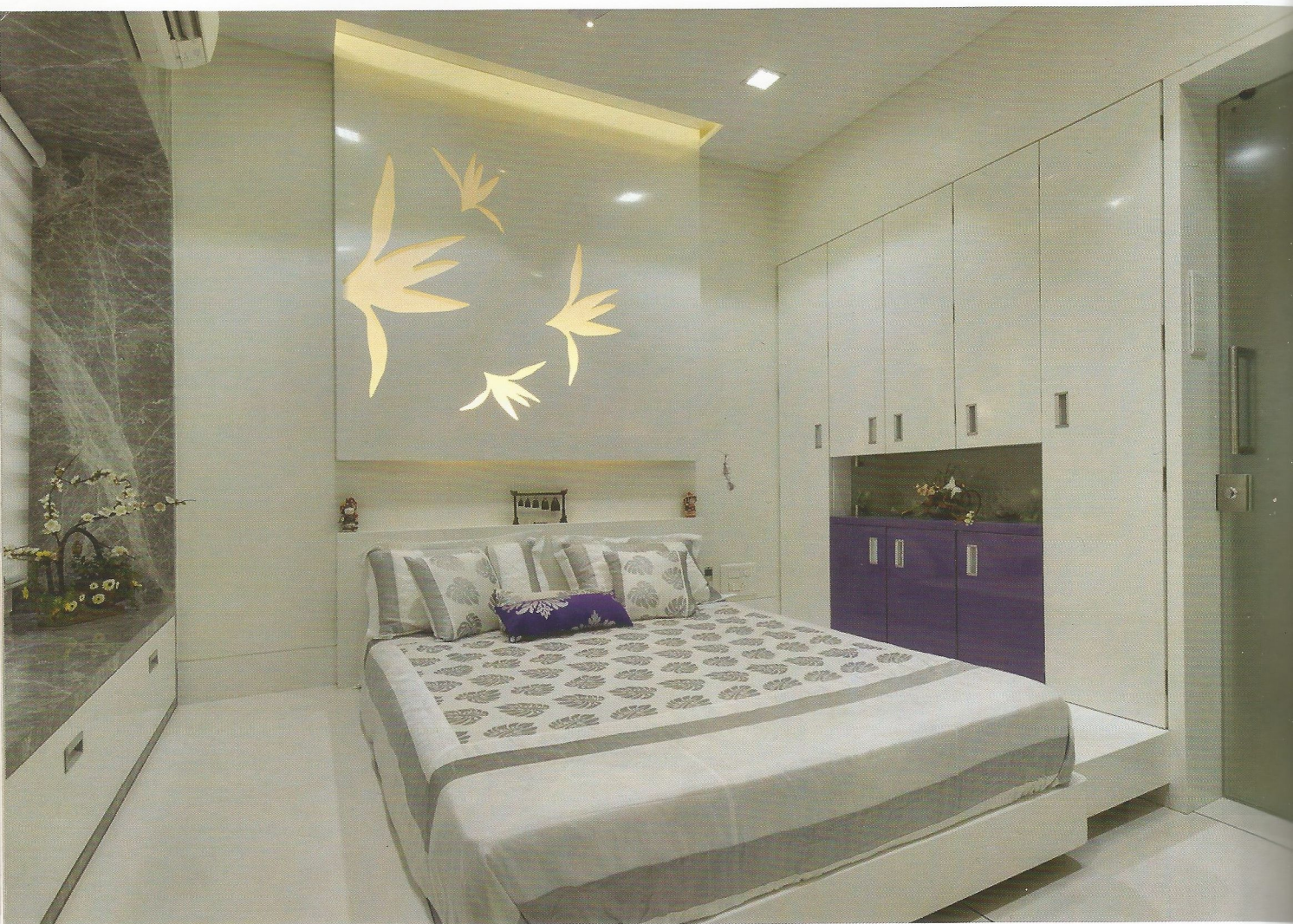
The entrance lobby has a wall that turns and where the TV is mounted. Basalt is used to clad this wall. Its natural texture and difference in shade act as perfect partner to the gloss of Italian marble on the far walls and the smooth flooring. On the right, part of the dining is visible, shielded from the lobby by glass.





Kitchen and Dining, with the latter being compact; it is shielded from the lobby with a glass floor- to- top glass partition. The partition carries the motif of the flower bloom.





Guest Bedroom has glass partitions instead of walls. This allows light to enter the windowless corridors and lobby. Though the look is monochrome, there is a hint of lavender- much like the wafting essence of a rare seasonal bloom. One particular element- representing some kind of blossom- flits here and there and becomes a theme. Room sizes being not too spacious, all the walls have been replaced by storage.





Master Bedroom
in black and white Italian marble.





Children's bedroom: space is just enough, so the designer has made this layout, where the mattresses can actually flip over, making space for kids to sit together.

Architect Anil Ranka

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