

Come Together

The Architecture of
Multigenerational Living



gestalten



A Triangular Ode to Modernism

Project
Tower House

Designer
Romi Khosla Design Studios

Location
New Delhi, India

A six-story modernist-inspired home in South Delhi makes excellent use of its wedge-shaped plot, measuring just 16 feet (5 meters) wide at the front and 70 feet (21 meters) at the rear. The innovative design provides an architectural solution for a couple, their adult children and spouses, and their elderly grandparents to occupy one floor each, while having space leftover for communal living on the ground floor. This follows a long tradition of joint family living in India, while providing private spaces that enable a shift away from traditional social structures and rituals. Each floor has its own balcony and living space, yet movement between floors is designed to encourage exchange between all occupants of the home. A material palette of exposed brick, steel, concrete, glass, and teakwood louvers define the home's modernist feel; and primary colors were used to paint the walls of common areas of the house, further referencing principles of modernist design.



↑ ↑ **Communal Space**

The lounge area has ceilings that are double in height to create a lofty living space. The use of teakwood louvers for shading and privacy add complexity to the home's modernist aesthetic.



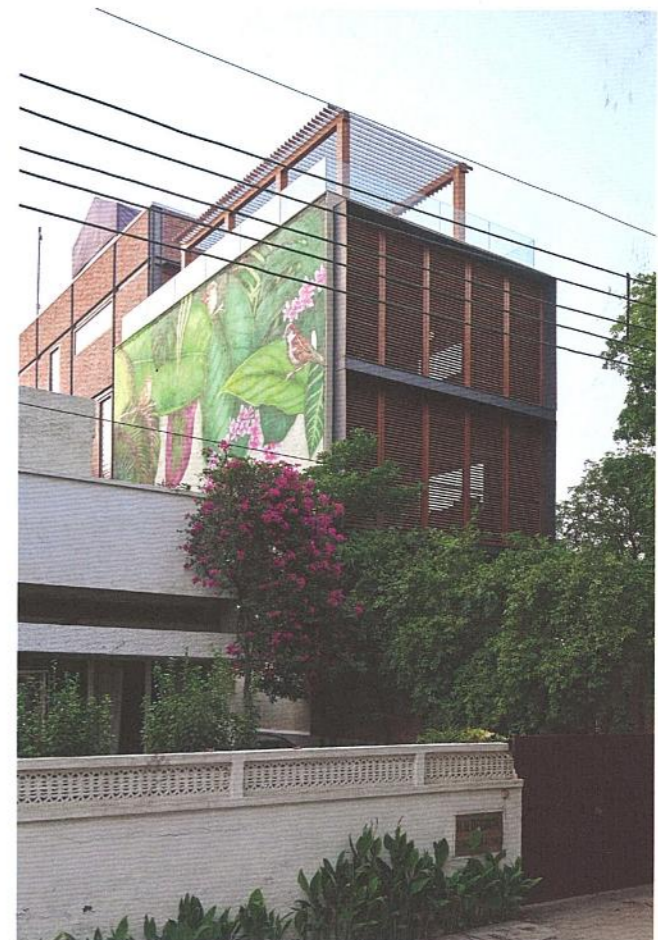
Connections

The family wanted a space that would encourage the children to put down their screens and focus on family time. The large living area, with its generously-sized couches, helps to achieve this.



Flexibility

Each floor was conceived to be self-sufficient and flexible in order to accommodate the changing needs of the family. While a standout criteria was to encourage social exchange between the generations.



Centuries-Old Multigenerational Living

In Asia, the tradition of multigenerational living dates back centuries, but today's dwellings are updated for contemporary lifestyles.

Located in Bangkok, Thailand, ReGen House was commissioned by a man who, following the birth of his daughter, wanted to live closer to his parents. He also wished to have a place that could accommodate his daughter's future family, should she also want to be near her parents when the time comes. "The question was whether or not it was possible to create a home that brings back the comfort of traditional Thai houses to the modern context," says Ekaphap Duangkaew, founder of EKAR Architects, who designed the home for four generations. The resulting house takes on a L-shaped footprint, with its main floors elevated above ground level to connect with the parent's house next door via a shared garden courtyard filled with greenery and trees.

Long before Bangkok was established, Duangkaew explains, Thai people lived in large families including grandparents, the younger generation, their children, and sometimes even uncles and aunts. "This way of life influenced the architectural design of Thailand," he says. A traditional Thai house is composed of several small, detached houses—each housing a smaller family—built around a central courtyard that connects the groups. The homes are built on poles allowing wind to flow through to lower the temperature, as well as protect from floods and wild animals. "We embraced the concept of traditional →

