

Contemporary

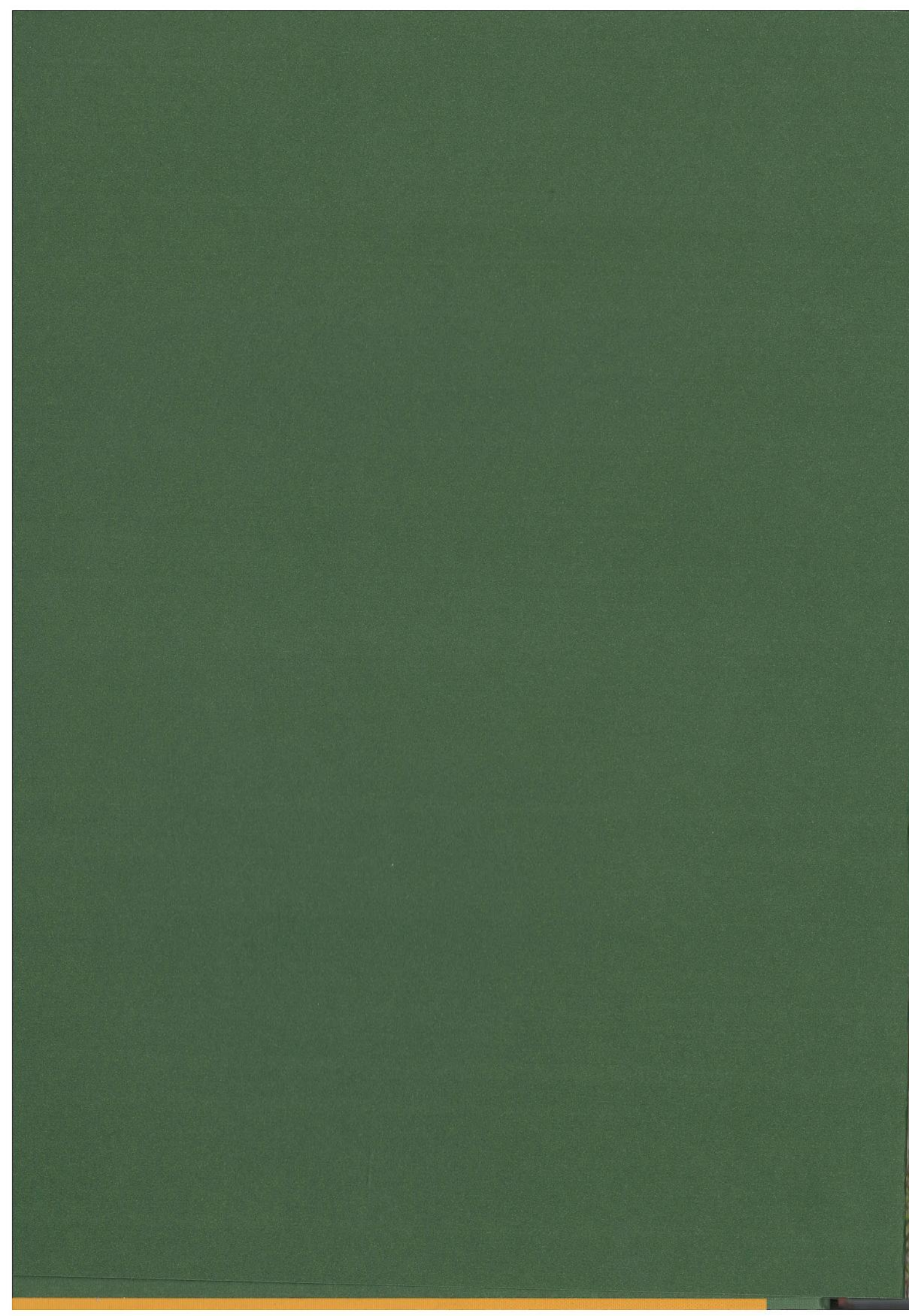


House

India

Thames
&Hudson

Rob Gregory
Photography by Edmund Sumner



Brick House New Delhi, Delhi Romi Khosla Design Studios

The urban conditions that this house, designed by Romi Khosla Design Studios, negotiates include the sharply tapering geometry of the plot and a number of pre-existing mature trees, which sit just beyond the site boundary. Designed for a family of four, and to accommodate regular visits from grandparents, the living space is broken down into three distinct blocks, which provide communal, private and service spaces in a prominent composition open to the neighbourhood on three sides.

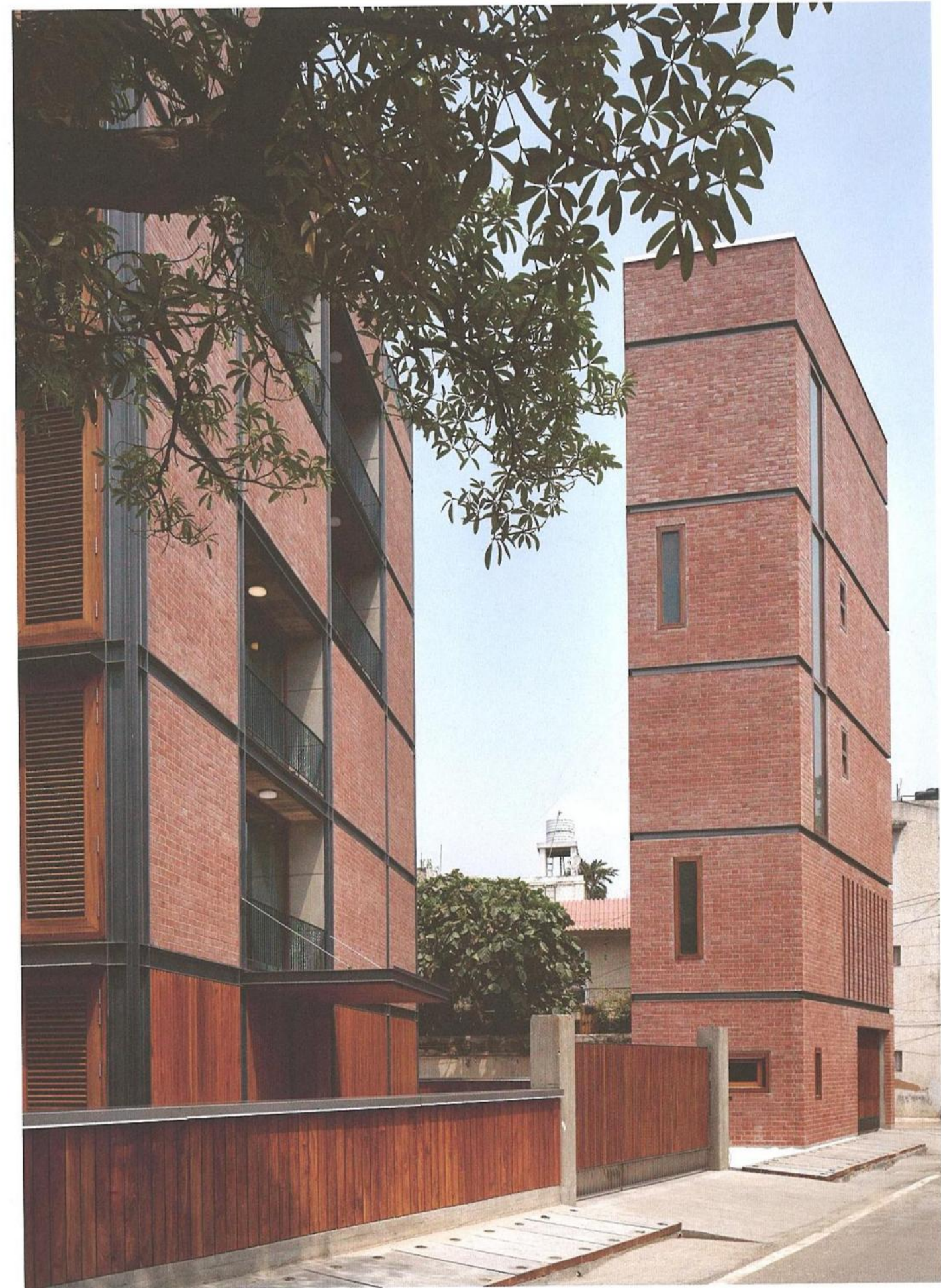
To the rear, where the site is at its broadest, the 22 m (72 ft)-wide boundary is pinned down by a slender, tower-like form that contains all of the house's service and staff accommodation. Instead of being relegated to a basement or tucked away in hidden corners of the site, the tower gives a certain prominence and pride to what are often neglected spaces. It also sets up the formal and material language for the rest of the property, which comprises two blocks that are more squat in form, and broaden, step down, change material and open up to fine views into the neighbouring trees in a controlled, four-stage transition.

The central block mimics the tower's brick-and-steel elevations and contains the main arrival, circulation and cellular spaces. On ground level and on axis with the entrance is the *pooja* room (an area for prayer), while to the left is the main stair, leading to four upper levels that contain the kitchen and dining space on the upper ground floor, and a range of bedrooms and studies on the first, second and third floors.

Each of these more private levels leads to one of three spacious communal areas, with the entrance and upper-ground floors leading through to a double-height space articulated by balcony and stair, which hunkers down to address a tranquil sunken garden. Above, the first and second floors have access to an almost identical space, distinguished by a balcony that cuts across at an angle, and by elevated views directly into the tree canopy. Above this double stack of duplexes, the third floor leads onto an expansive roof terrace.

Lead architect Martand Khosla notes that the influence of Le Corbusier is expressed in this house through the use of colour, mainly applied to connecting vertical surfaces, from the green that articulates the principal stair to the flash of yellow glimpsed through the tower's three-storey slot window.

1 This new family home is distinguished by a slender brick tower, standing guard next to the main point of entry.





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2 Away from the entrance, two double-height living rooms are stacked one above the other to form a four-storey louvred façade.
3 The main accommodation block is articulated in steel and brick, distinct from the narrower wing of living rooms to the left.



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4, 5 Throughout the day, louvres, windows and lighting bring dynamism to this home's strong composition.