



INDIAN INFLUENCE

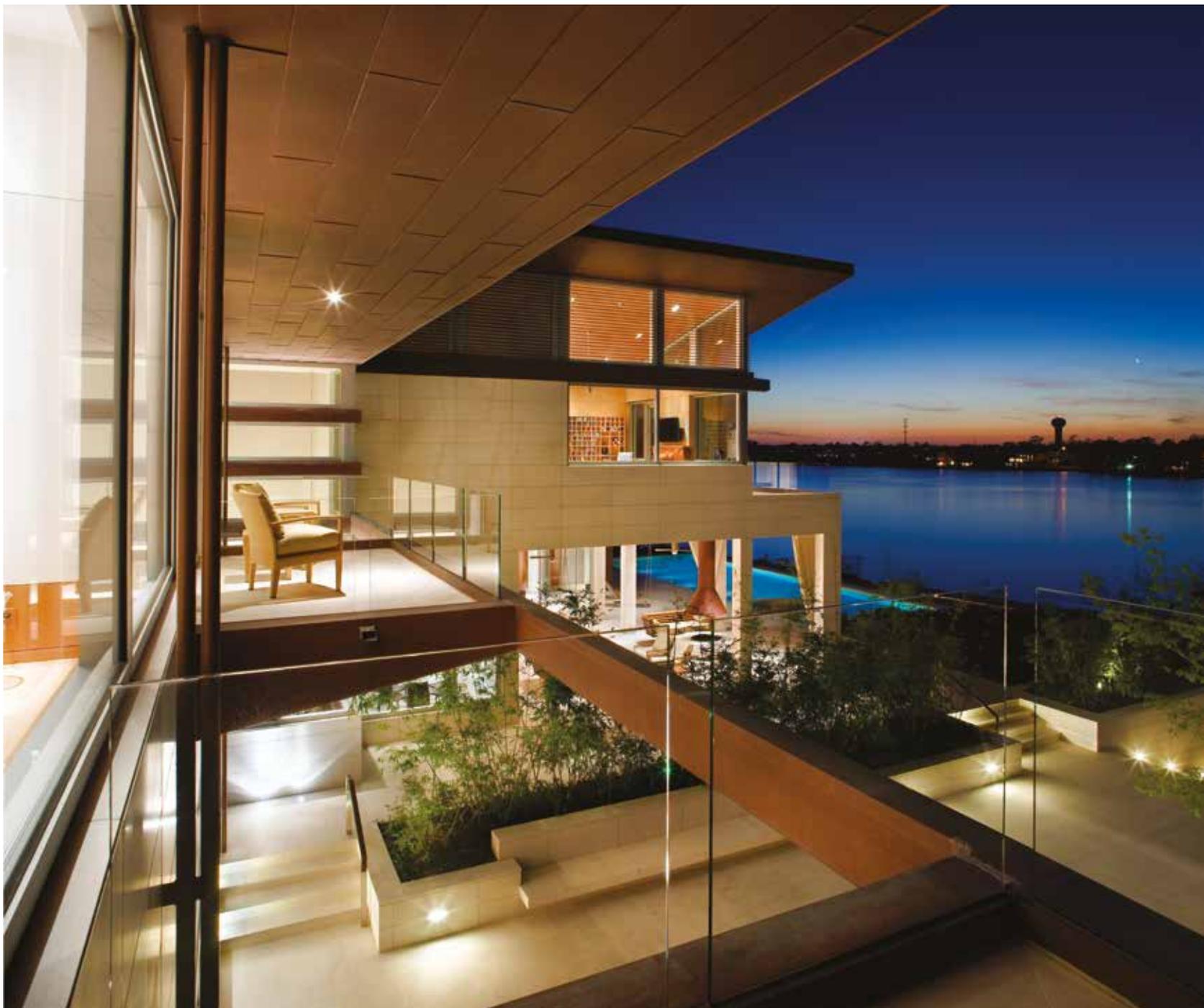
Designed by Miró Rivera Architects, this modern dwelling is infused with rich Indian traditions.

TEXT ZARA TARAPORVALA | IMAGES COURTESY OF MIRÓ RIVERA ARCHITECTS

They say everything is bigger in Texas. This statement definitely rings true when it comes to this impressive 13,667-square-foot villa situated in El Lago, Texas. Inspired by the occupant's homeland of Gujarat, India, the villa designed by Juan Miró and Miguel Rivera bodes a contemporary twist on traditional Indian architecture - blending abstract versions of intricate stone domes, stepwells and temple towers into the villa.

Upon entering the villa, guests are greeted by the striking Vietnam white marble corbelled dome in the

foyer which is illuminated with skylights. Supported by four free standing pillars, it is an abstraction of architecture found in traditional Indian temples. The primary materials used for the interiors are white stone, warm wood and glass. A case in point is the glass stairs that join the public and private spaces together, allowing light to radiate the double height space of the gallery. For extra sparkle, discreet LED lights embedded into the wood panels are programmable to display dynamic colour variations for use during special events.





In the great room, the founders of Miró Rivera Architects divided the expansive space with clever use of furniture; some of which are designed by them. While the space around the fireplace promotes larger gatherings, the smaller section is designed for a more intimate experience with a loveseat setting the mood. Reminiscent of peacock feathers, the stunning green wallpaper pays homage to India's national bird. Enrapturing the residents further is the full-height windows boasting a sweeping 30-foot panoramic vista of the lake that accompanies the occupants day and night.

Taking astride the residents' Indian culture, Juan and Miguel installed a pair of custom-built sofa swings in the central outdoor room for them to relax and indulge in the breathtaking lake views. In fact, almost all the rooms in the double-storey dwelling overlook the lake, the well-groomed landscape or the 5,000 square feet pond off the master bedroom and terrace. The most unexpected would be the dining room furnished with a custom dining table designed by Miró Rivera Architects with a view of an Indian sculpture.





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In keeping with the Indian theme, the steps to the yard and pond are a contemporary interpretation of the native step-wells in Gujarat. However the duo who were ranked among the top 100 architects in the world truly excelled with their modern interpretation of the puja (prayer room). Keeping in mind that the sacred room is traditionally the tallest element of a building, the architects erected a 35-foot-tall space surrounded by a makore-floored gallery and reflecting pool. The three vertical slits on the eastern wall that catch the morning sun like a guiding light from the Gods above is a reflection of Juan and Miguel's dramatic, elegant and highly original design. ❖

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