

# LIVING HIGH

crash pads of the rich and famous, penthouse projects in duplex and triplex are on the rise in high-density cities where the only way to go is up



## Materials gain momentum.

A dearth of space in metropolises, rising incomes, soaring aspirations and the need to express one's individuality have promoted the growth of penthouses in India. Ar. Meghana Shetty and Ar. Suresh Mistry, Partners at SM Studio, Mumbai, say, "India's ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNIs) have shown a keen interest for expensive and luxurious housing with a high standard of living and premium quality amenities."

The identity and philosophy of the perfect, luxurious residence has evolved over the years due to design trends, material innovation and changing lifestyle preferences. Ar. Tiziano Vudafieri and Ar. Claudio Saverino, Founders at Vudafieri-Saverino Partners, Italy, says, "For many years, the market for luxury penthouses evolved toward the idea of giving more square meters to provide more luxury. We believe that the market is now moving on to evaluating assets other than volume;

photos : shamanth patil j.

penthouse magdalena, mexico | taller david dana, mexico



k house, mumbai | avn interior architects, mumbai



house of the tree, china | kokaistudios, china

## features

While standalone residences on large plots remain the last word in luxury in smaller cities and townships, penthouses present a distinctive proposition in the population-dense metropolitan arena. These high-end penthouses offer an extraordinary living experience; spaces composed of double height levels, luxurious floorings and amenities, customized layouts for personal requirements, balconies overlooking common areas, thoughtful lighting complemented by tasteful art and accessories, private entrances or elevators, higher/vaulted ceilings, terraces, higher square footage and over-sized windows, which add a sense of richness that goes beyond aesthetics.

Such luxury embodies offerings that only money can buy: personal panoramic views, wine cellars, spas, private home theatres, open air jacuzzis, swimming pools, barbecue nooks, private elevators, plunge pools and private terrace gardens. Within all of this, clients often want a lived-in quality: comfort, an expression

of individuality, connection to the vast, livable space, a natural elimination of clutter and seamless integration with technology. In addition, there is guaranteed safety, privacy, exclusivity, power and water backup, swimming pools, landscaped gardens, gyms, meditation centers, manicured lawns, access to a number of building services like laundry, butler, housekeeping and even restaurant reservations.

High-end integrated automation has become an essential part of high-end design. Domotics systems that assimilate communication between all devices and appliances such as: lighting, facade controls, air conditioning, music and movie streaming, have become part of the upgrade to 'smart' homes. Aditi Vora Nair, Principal Designer at AVN Interiors, Mumbai, says, "From solar generators to remote-controlled window shutters and smart lighting, everything is directed at meeting the demands of homebuyers looking for an ultra-modern lifestyle."

penthouse pafekuto, up, india | conarch architects, india





# PENTHOUSE PAFEKUTO, UP, INDIA

Conarch Architects, India

## Design brief and aim

To transform two generic apartment units into versatile and inspiring living spaces.

## How this was accomplished

Two separate apartments and a terrace have been combined into a luxury penthouse with a rooftop garden. The three levels, stacked upon each other, provide 8,000 sq ft of indoor area and 6,000 sq ft of outdoor space.

One apartment is designed primarily as a master suite, private workspace, a guest bedroom and sit-out area while the second apartment, internally connected with the first one, includes a spread-out

indoor and outdoor living area, a kitchen and three bedrooms. The focal point of the space is the cantilevered floating wooden stairway with an artistic fall protection in a Prussian blue backdrop.

## How green was my project

The stairway floods the unit with natural light, eliminating the need for artificial lighting throughout the day and reducing energy use. The roof terrace with its hydroponic 'living wall' and water feature attracts migratory birds.

## Happily ever after

There is a sense of space between the family's togetherness and plenty of exposure to natural light.

photos : vibhor yadav, conarch architects

