

ELLE DECOR

SPRING 2001, RS 100

ITALY

Homes in Pure
White and
Faded Rose

DELHI

Ethnic Mud House

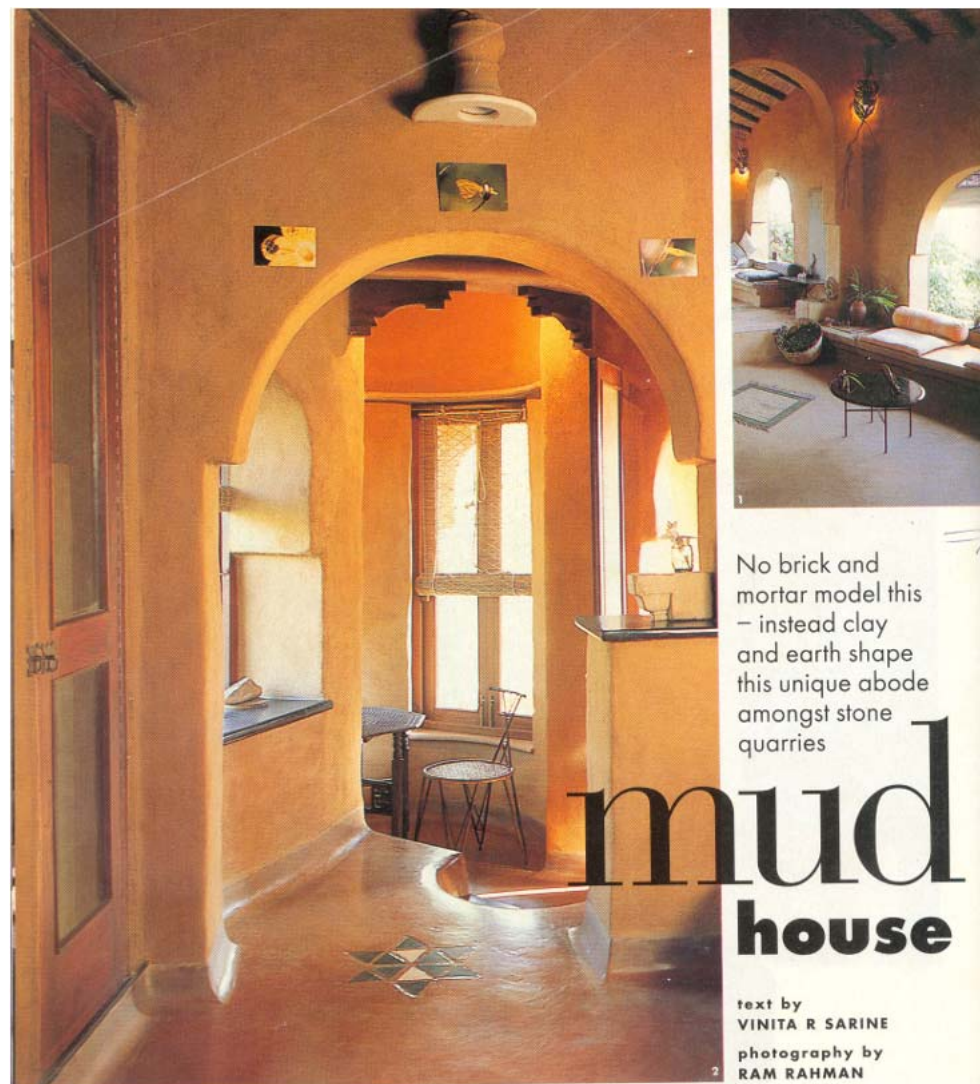
EXCLUSIVE

Armani's Home
Collection

romantic.
spring

DECOR
SPECIAL

LIGHTING
Moodsetters
Unusual
Ideas and
Shopping



No brick and mortar model this – instead clay and earth shape this unique abode amongst stone quarries

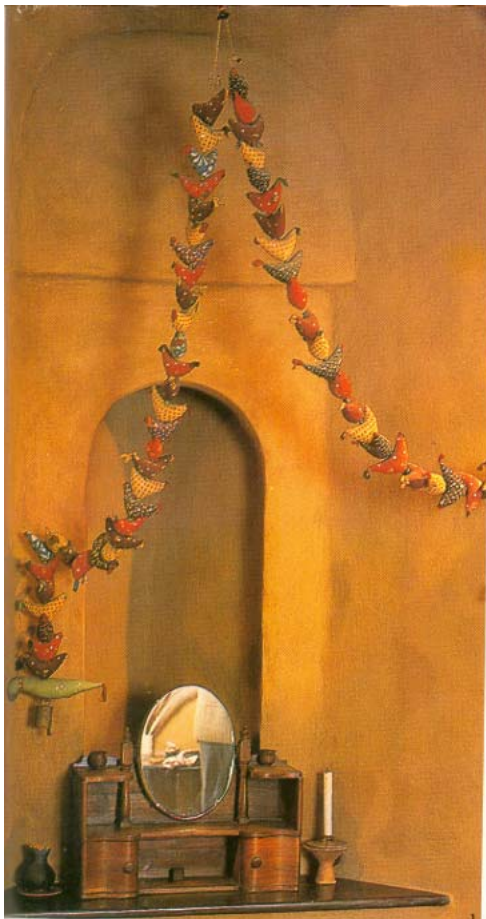
mud house

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Revathi and Vasant Kamath have achieved a reputation as renowned architects who have designed many commercial and residences using mud as the medium. Their home built amongst the stone quarries in Anangpur, in the

Surajkund area of Haryana is an actual "Mitti ka ghar" as Revathi calls it. There is no cement and mortar used, and no glass or chrome facade, but a house of immense appeal with its distinctive style, and rustic appeal. Revathi has a passion for clay, earth and mud. She says

mud is ecological, authentic and economical. She advocates ecology, "The human being is a biological creature – even living in cities can have an ecological quality. There has to be a relationship with the environment, one has to live in balance with nature. Unfortunately



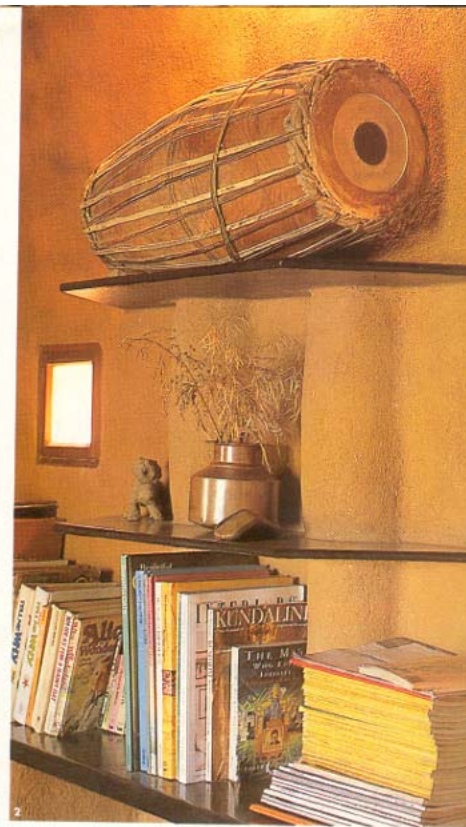
THIS PAGE:
 1. Dressing table in the daughter's bedroom fitted in a wall niche
 2. A *ahol* adorns a bookshelf in the living room
 3. Granite shelves stand in sharp contrast to the unevenness of the mud walls.

FACING PAGE:
 Natural open ventilators fitted in while building the home

urban planning lacks this. The city and forest have to be one place both physically and metaphysically. Human beings and nature have to be contiguous like the Yin and Yang merging into one another." It is with this theory that they build their personal retreat five years ago.

The entire house is built with mud, dug at the site and mixed with lime. The land when acquired by them was originally a stone quarry. They had no pre-conceived notion of the layout plan of their mud house. The land was undulating and natural ponds were left to store

water. They started building around the natural contours of the land. Merging their needs and style with the physical limitations imposed by the natural environs and completing the ensemble with co-ordinated decorative accents and accessories. The entire curve of the living room on



the main floor was made along the curve of the pond outside.

The entrance of the home leads directly into the living room. Their son Ayudh's bedroom is also on the same level with steps leading down

to a lower level. Here there is a central courtyard which opens into the dining area. To the other side are two other bedrooms.

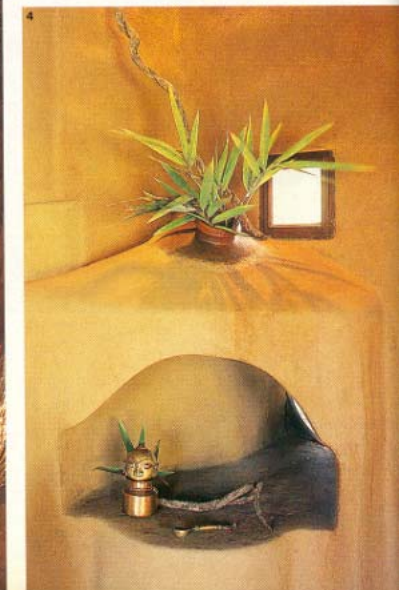
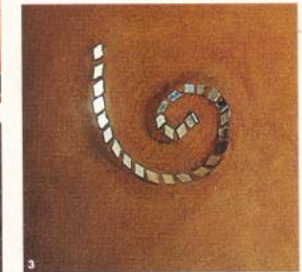
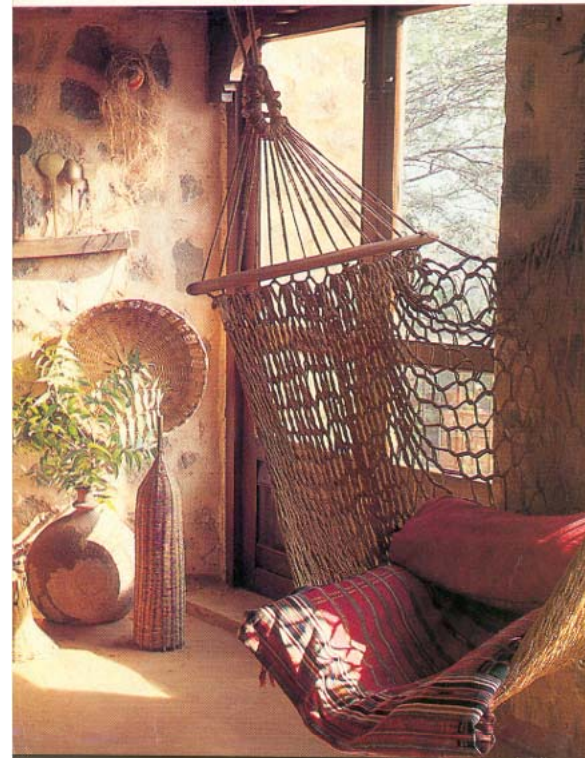
Building this house was a complete and fulfilling experience for

them. "Nature has everything for you. You have to reach out to get the best out of it," according to the Kamaths'. Diversity and tradition is their inspiration and anyone visiting them can believe that. ♦



THIS PAGE:
 1. Open display on kitchen shelves
 2. A cosy corner in the kitchen
 3. Mirror chips create interesting embellishments on the wall
 4. A pot embedded into an opening, moulded specially for it, above an arched vent

FACING PAGE:
 In the dining space, upturned ceramic pots make interesting ceiling lamps. The chair with a rope back is one of Revathi's earliest creations

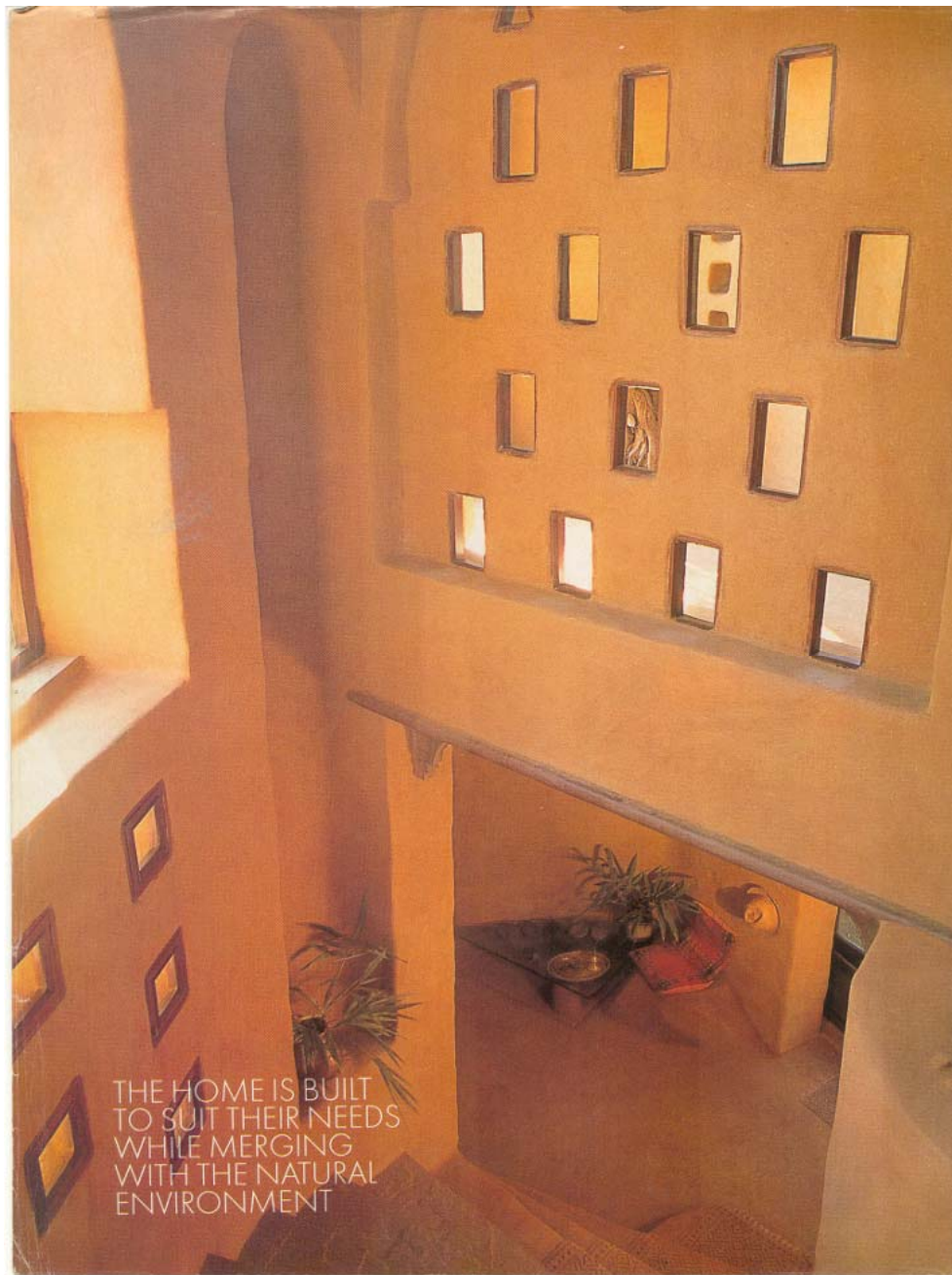


FACING PAGE:

1. View of the dining area from the entrance, which is at a slightly higher level.
2. The living room has fixed in-built seating made of mud alongside the window openings.



THE ENTIRE HOUSE IS BUILT WITH MUD FROM THE SITE



THE HOME IS BUILT TO SUIT THEIR NEEDS WHILE MERGING WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

