Simple & Functional

For many designers, designing is a means to a livelihood but for Varsha Jain, it is a greater vision into life itself. Here, in an interview where she talks about her design of a simple residence made by combining two adjacent flats, and her plans for pursuing a future in designing.

An obstructive column can be transformed into a focal point and a piece of art. This is a sure example of it.

a Warm Welcome

The home of **Ashok Rathi** in Chennai emits a warmth, which welcomes not just the inmates but the guests as well.

The low seating and warm colour scheme in the family lounge welcomes one to unwind and relax.

When Varsha Jain, the Chennai-based architect and interior designer, was given to create a single-sentence brief by Ashok Rathi, she set about putting it to reality. Ashok wanted his Chetpet residence to look not only pleasing but also to function well, both for the family as well as the guests.
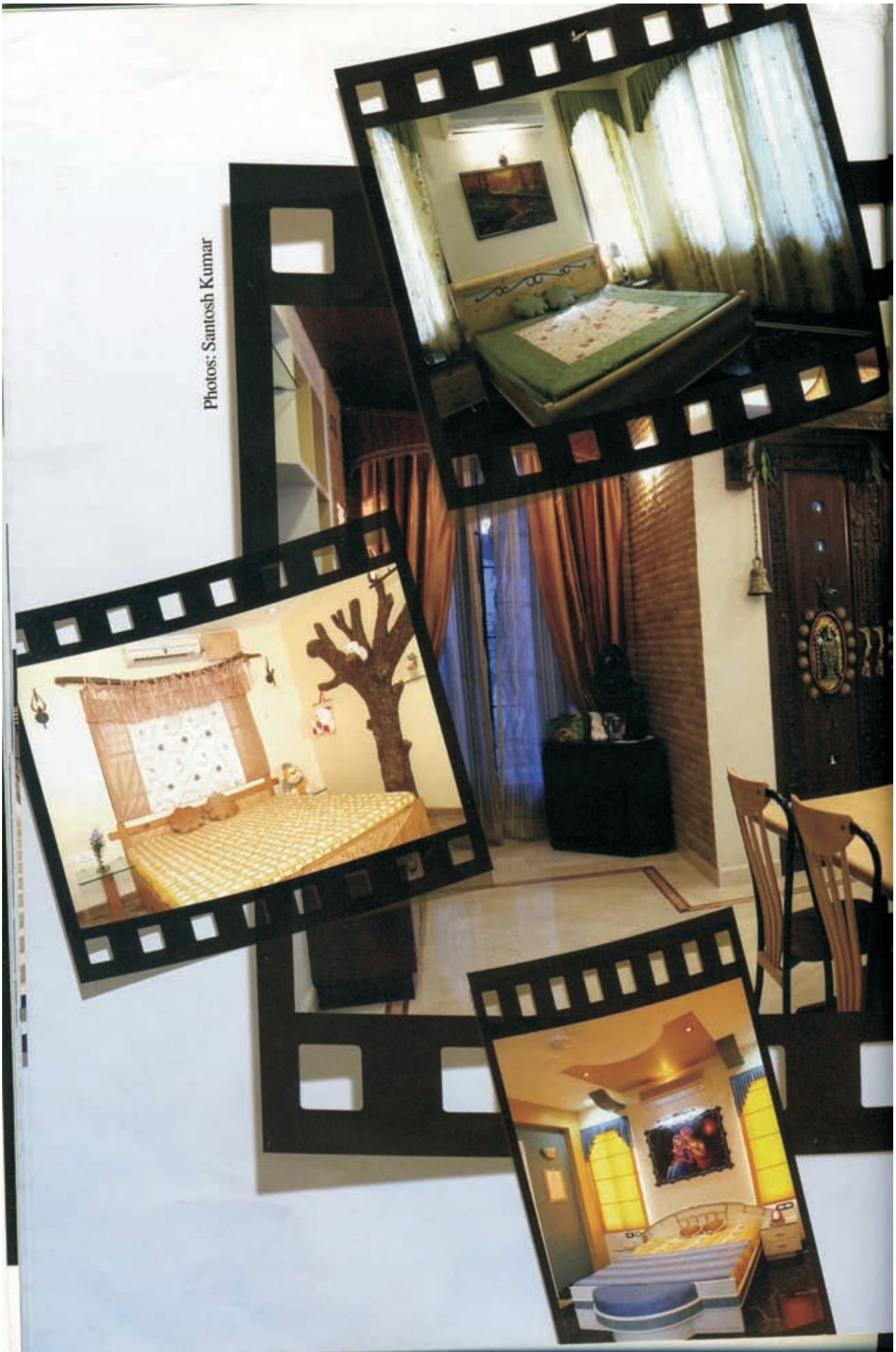
"I was set to present a faithful picture of the people who were to live in it so that ultimately the home would be a place of joy for the inhabitants," explains Varsha.

This 3,000 sq. ft. penthouse, placed on the third floor with a beautiful terrace garden, is meant to give the inhabitants a feel of nature along with all the other comforts which have been incorporated in the design following the tenets of Vaastu. It is designed to provide privacy in all respects. The common areas like the entrance foyer and the formal living area are separated by the dining room. Kitchen is placed on one side and the bedrooms on the other.

Keeping in mind the brief, which emphasized the importance of welcoming the guests and making them feel at home, the family lounge opens into the sunny front - the terrace, making it very lively and naturally lit. This gives a feeling of openness to the informal family-cum-living

Varsha Jain

Varsha Jain from Chennai is quite unable to break out of her cultural influences, and thus the aesthetic choices she makes reflect that. This is the core of the discussion between good and bad design. There are no real rules here – but basic norms do need to be applied. Otherwise, designers run the risk of creating tacky designs. There are several attempts where Varsha (of Creative Architects & Interiors) has been able to rid herself of her influences – and created true Contemporary decors – but we still see glimpses of the 'design debate' here and there…..

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