

When creativity hits the ceiling

DECOR The sky is the limit when it comes to decorating the ceiling. From false ceilings accentuated with patterned tiles to POP/gypsum ceilings, the options are many, writes Bindu Gopal Rao

Ceilings as a decor element can evoke mixed reactions, ranging from “what can you do on the ceiling” to “you can do so much.” With evolving technologies, changing times and people willing to experiment, the market has options like never before.

Starting with fundamentals, it is important that ceiling height is appropriate to the design of your home. The minimum height for dwelling spaces is between eight feet and ten feet. “The trend is to have a high ceiling with reference to scale and functional demands of a space. Lately, we are witnessing the use of 15-20 ft high ceilings in the most used spaces of the home, like living and dining areas. These ceilings are supported with skylit roofs which add to the aesthetic value of the space and provide good lighting,” says Basavaraj Sriraj, Realm Architects. Another vital consideration in India is the heat factor. “Natural cooling is the best solution to avoid health issues. This needs higher ceiling height, which allows greater circulation of natural air. For artificial cooling systems, you don’t need more height as the consumption of power to run the cooler will increase,” explains

Suman Chakaraborty, Interior Expert, Lafarge Home Building Center. Variation of ceiling heights along spaces can add to a sense of drama and enliven even the most mundane of spaces.

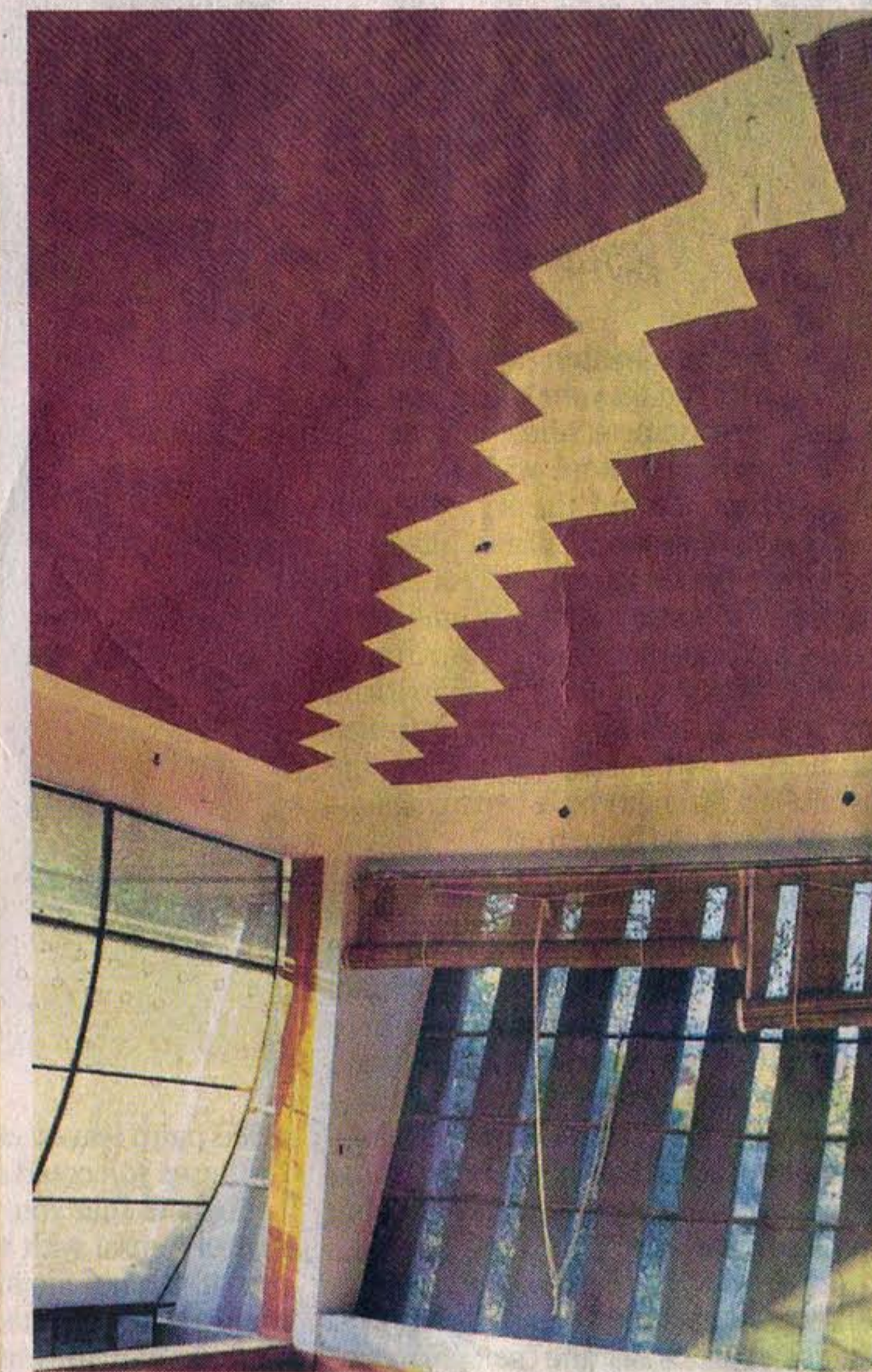
Options galore

Ceiling decorations are in. False ceilings accentuated with patterned tiles are highly popular in acoustical areas where the television or the music system is placed. Pop/gypsum ceilings help designers in lighting. Other spatial aspects like levels and finishes are very effective when trying to set up the mood and ambience of a particular space. “A relatively new design concept, we have explored the idea of using glass blocks and toughened glass as a roof, thus creating patterns in the ceiling with a light beam filter,” says Sriraj.

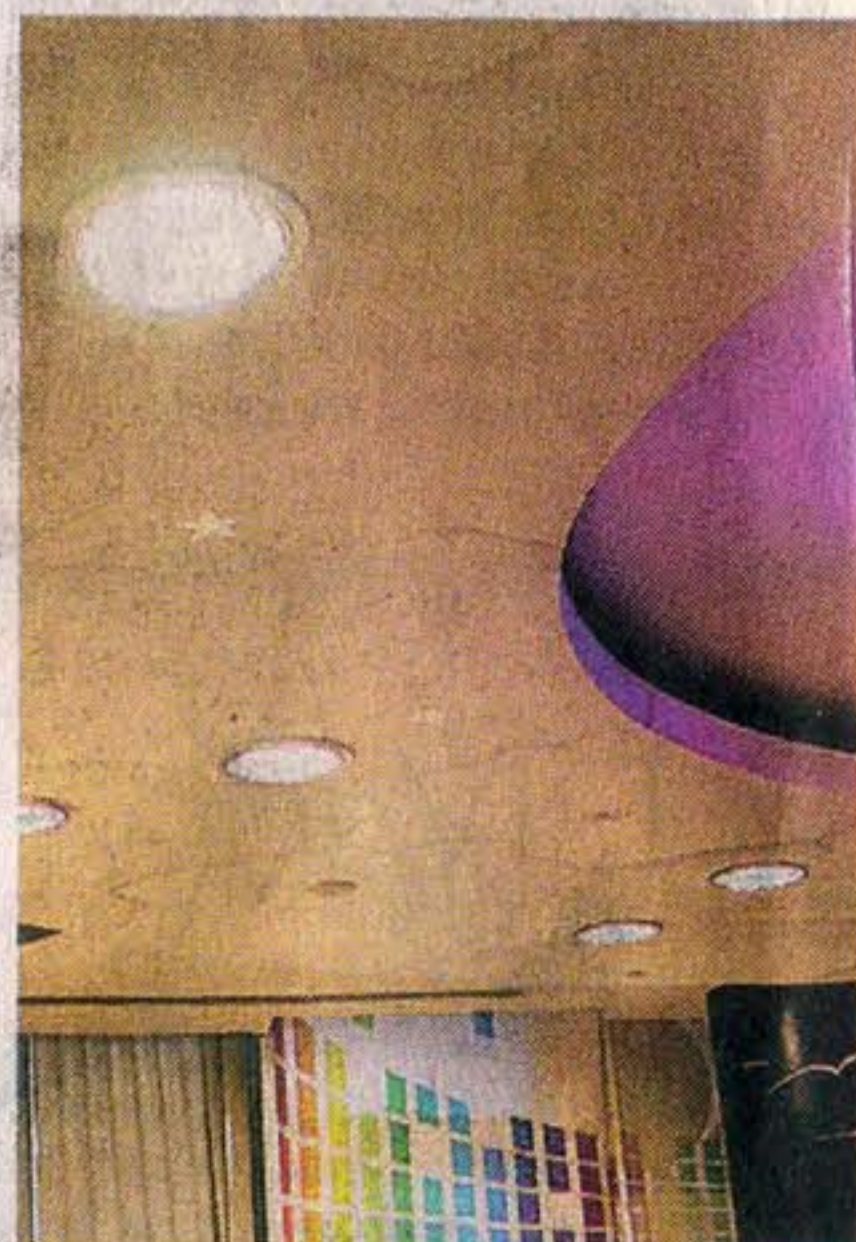
Stencils and wallpapers are a great way to accentuate ceilings. Both are inexpensive ways to add drama to your home. Ceiling panels are available in a wide selection of styles, sizes, colours and materials, which often include aluminium, brass, chrome, copper, steel, tin and more. “Depending on the style used, they can give the room a bold, contemporary look, a very formal look or a shug, inviting feel.



EYEING THE SKY Ceiling mural in the Vaasna Room, Le Sutra. (Right) A patterned ceiling (PHOTO COURTESY: JAISIM - FOUNTAINHEAD). (Below) Lights in the ceiling. (PHOTO COURTESY: HP)



A RELATIVELY NEW DESIGN CONCEPT, WE HAVE EXPLORED THE IDEA OF USING GLASS BLOCKS AND TOUGHENED GLASS AS A ROOF, THUS CREATING PATTERNS IN THE CEILING WITH A LIGHT BEAM FILTER.



When it comes to decoration, the designs of metal panels can be the most elaborate and grandiose of styles. They can be modestly embellished, which is great if you want them to complement simple decor. Ceiling medallions are used to draw at-

tention to chandeliers and light fixtures or to enhance crown molding. They can also be combined with a rosette and used to decorate an otherwise plain ceiling. You can use these architectural ornaments as wall decorations too. Ceiling domes are

similar to ceiling medallions in that they can transform any room into a work of art,” says Anjum Jung, Managing Director, Morph Design Company.

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