

Yusuf is one of our oldest clients and has been steadfastly following our work over the years, even though the last project we did for him was seven years ago. We couldn't say no to him, even though the project was too small to be taken up,' says Lalita.

Lalita and Mujib treated the project as a case study, exploring new directions in residential design, which they are developing at Collaborative Architecture. Yusuf offered them full freedom to innovate, as long as it did not exceed his budget.

'At times you are lucky to have projects in which you can really use innovation...innovation in design and details, which triggers a totally new streak of thought

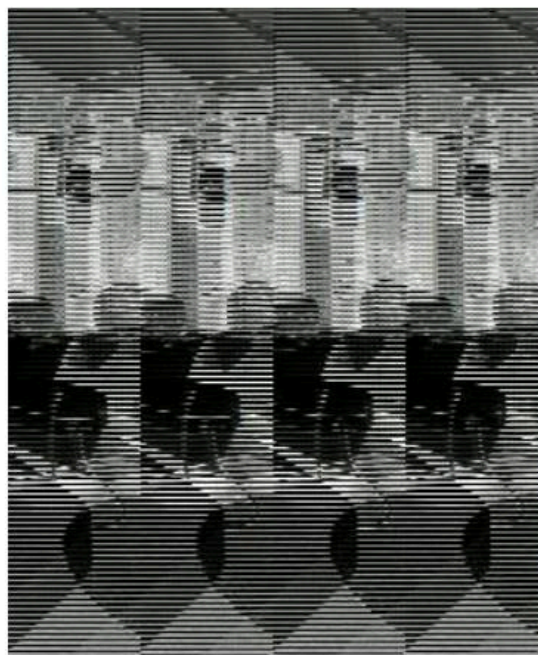
in the studio. These are projects where you push yourself and everyone associated with the project to the limits,' elaborates Mujib about the design process. Everything here is designed with Corian, combining its sophistication and fluidity with inventive detailing, that merges with the space around the furniture.

This makes the furniture visually dissolve into the space, appearing like undifferentiated entities in the room. Mujib and Lalita are almost paranoid about the minute details that go into their projects and this one is a quintessential example of their design sensibilities. The details are so seamless, that they are inherently associated with the space. The wardrobe, bed and the TV unit choreograph the space around them

in wonderful unison, to create a dramatic space.

The architects selected an all white palette owing to the tiny size of the bedroom space, but adopted a reverse palette in the bathroom. Hence the bathroom is all black, except for the brilliantly designed vanity counter in white Corian. The counter traverses along the longer side of the bathroom and becomes seating in the shower area.

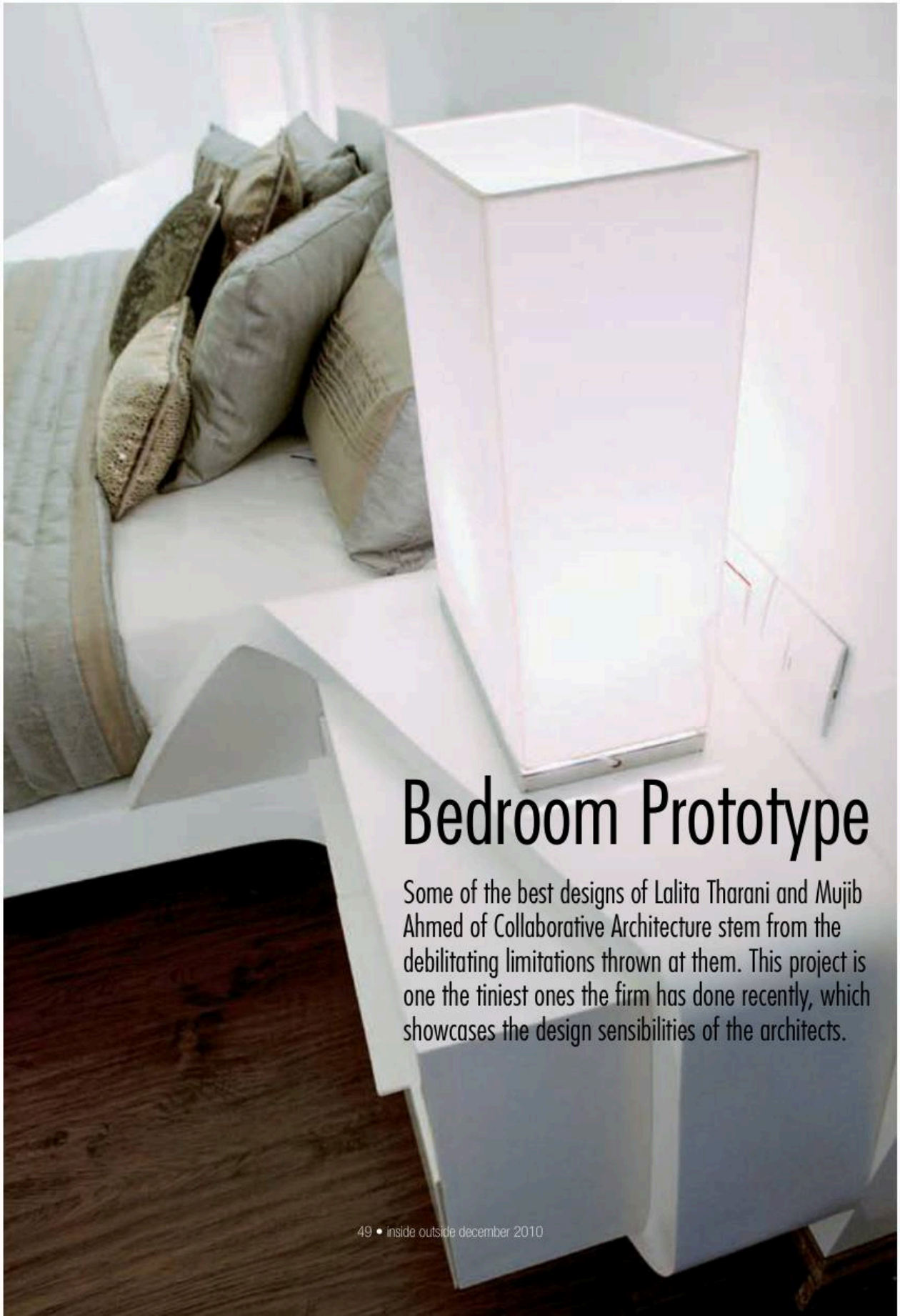
Lighting design has always been one of the design strengths of Collaborative Architecture and this project is no exception. 'The lighting design is never an afterthought in our design process, but integral to the design concept – it always overlaps with spatial and furniture design, lending them a distinctive character,' explains Lalita. 



PHOTOGRAPHS:
LALITA THARANI &
AJEEB KOMACHI,
COURTESY THE ARCHITECTS



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Bedroom Prototype

Some of the best designs of Lalita Tharani and Mujib Ahmed of Collaborative Architecture stem from the debilitating limitations thrown at them. This project is one the tiniest ones the firm has done recently, which showcases the design sensibilities of the architects.