

Trump Card

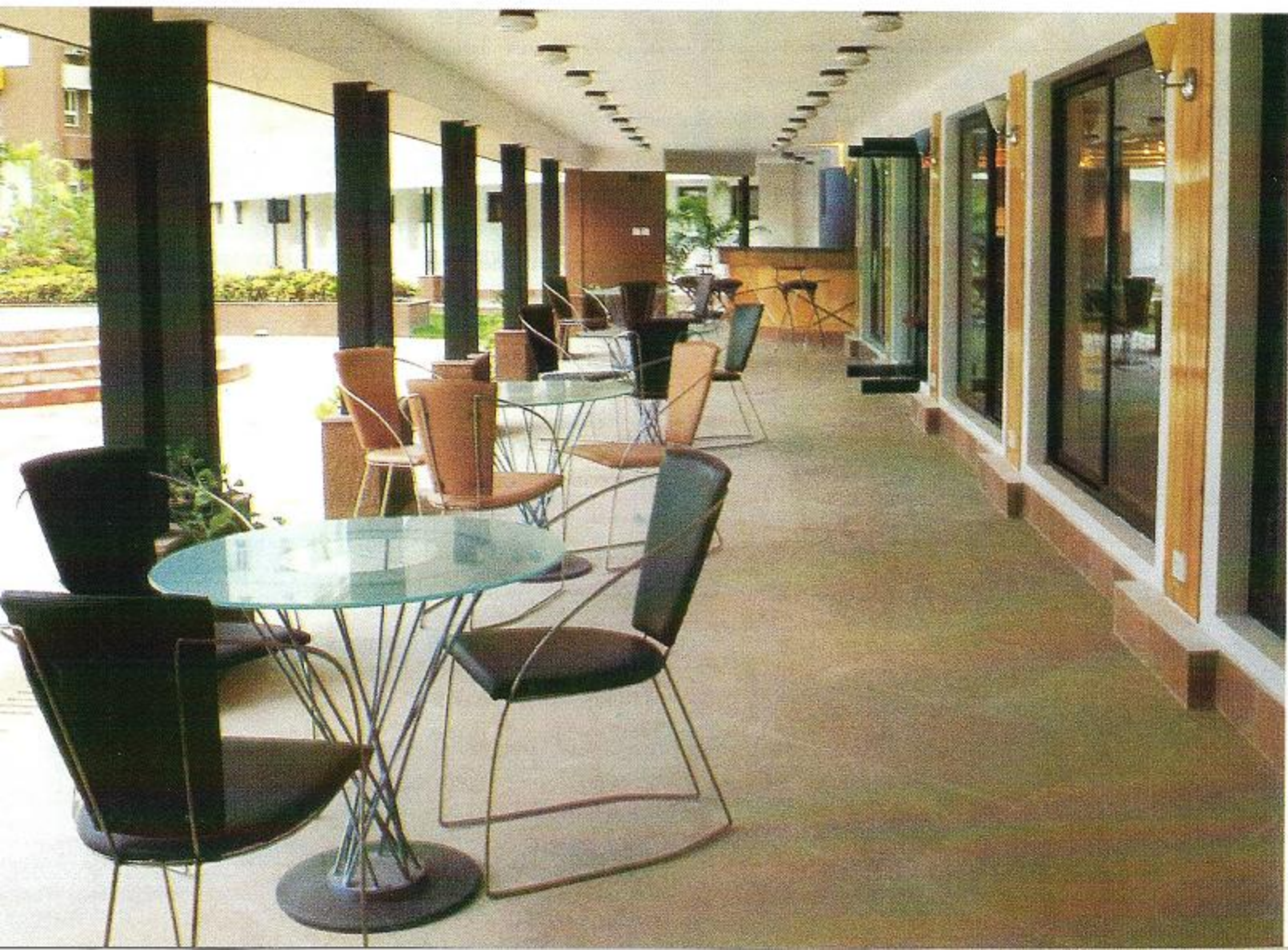
CLUB DE VILLE adds another attraction to the picturesque setting of Udayan, the residential complex in Kolkata.

A verandah which runs on both sides of the restaurant, has glass-topped tables and stainless steel and leather chairs — whose shapes maintain parity with the geometry of the building.

UDAYAN, the sprawling residential complex of Bengal Ambuja in Kolkata, with its lush green lawns and picturesque landscaping was complete — but for a place where residents could unwind and relax. This is how managing director Harsh Neotia came up with Club De Ville — a 10,000 sq. ft. two-storey structure, which is a hallmark of modern-day urban architecture. Renowned architect Balkrishna Doshi has designed the sleek geometric exteriors, while the interiors are the brainchild of Devika Banerjee.

The ground floor houses the reception area, the lobby and the restaurant. Glass doors which mark the

(right) With its various design elements, the lobby exudes a contemporary look. A mirror in the middle of a glass wall in the other wise vacant first floor hall creates an optical illusion.





The restaurant is a rectangular room with glass doors fitted across the length. The wave-shaped pieces of wood on the false ceiling animate the decor.

two sides of the restaurant open onto the tennis court on one side and the swimming-pool on the other (both recreational areas have been built on international standards). Facilities like a gymnasium, children's play room, a table tennis room, etc. can also be found on the ground floor. A flight of steps leads to the first floor which houses a large hall used for functions and banquets. The verandah surrounding the hall adds to the available space.

Architect Sohan Nilkanth of Mandala, who executed Doshi's dream into reality, says, "Since there are tall towers surrounding the club, we wanted the structure to be as unobtrusive as possible. In addition to this, the design had to make best use of the small space that was allotted to the club. There was no luxury of expansion." (In fact, the effort to make a judicious use of space is the reason why the tennis court and the swimming-pool are located on opposite ends.)

The interiors of the club offer yet another delightful experience. Devika recollects