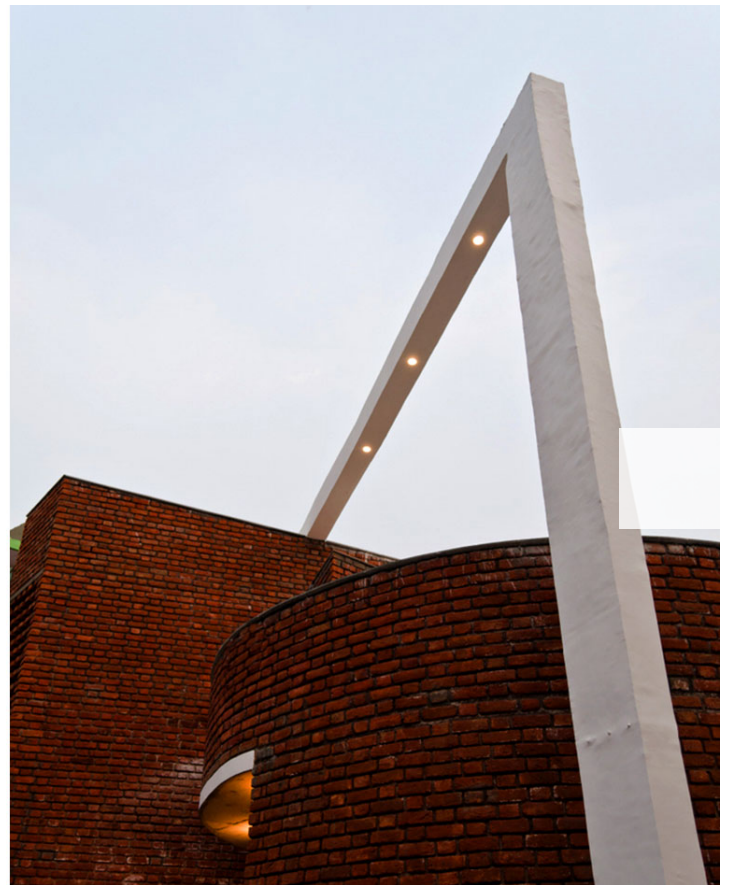




Building blocks: our edit of the most striking structures around the globe

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Brick work
9 August

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AKDA's House X sits on a very tight plot within a dense suburban area in Noida, India. The build features three main design

elements: a circular drum, which hosts the main living area, a triangular wedge for the circulation and a rectilinear cube that establishes the boundary. Given its setting, the architects had to address fundamental issues of light access, noise and a close proximity to neighbouring buildings.

The three-bedroom house, designed for single-family use, also responds to energy performance issues and raises the bar for ethical construction standards. Indeed, AKDA, established by Amit Khanna in 2004, makes regional specificity and sustainability intrinsic to the design processes and outcomes.

In that respect, building materials were chosen and arranged to stop the hot Indian sun from heating the living area while allowing light to enter the large open spaces. Brick, a widely available material and easy to fabricate, is very resistant to heat and is easy to create customised patterning from, given its standard size. Across the house's façades, different patterns come together to create both small wind vents and larger angulated openings for light.

Inside, the spaces are demarcated by translucent separations, curved shadowed walls and, in the circulation area, a large light tunnel illuminating the entire house.

Writer: Alix Biehler. *Photography Courtesy AKDA*

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