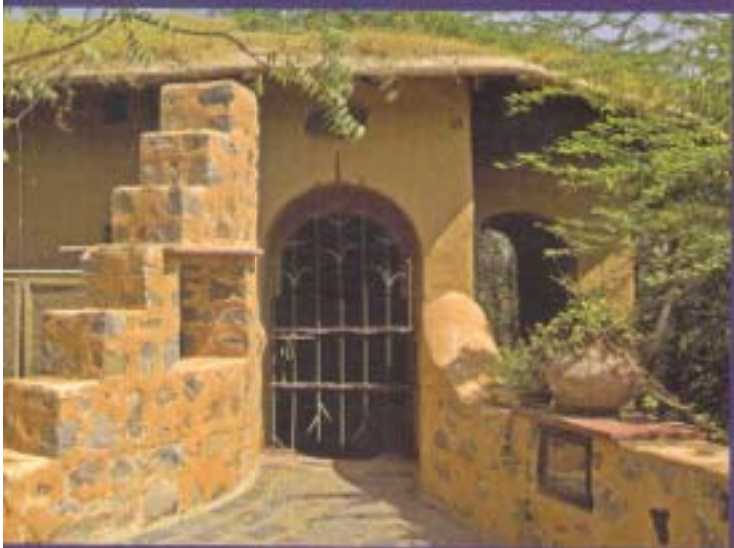


# The Modern Architecture of **New Delhi**

1928–2007

*Rahul Khanna • Manav Parhawk*



New Delhi has been home to extraordinary modern architecture from its inception: the monumental, brick-lined St Martin's Garrison Church, the elegant mansions of Sujan Singh Park Complex, the understated, finely detailed IIC, the pathbreaking exhibition complex at Pragati Maidan, the astounding, sculptural Belgian Embassy. **The Modern Architecture of New Delhi** lists the most important buildings in the city which every Delhiite needs to know about. The first handbook of Delhi's modern architecture, it includes a description of each building, and of the architect and his vision for the work; key features to look out for and a glossary to explain all architectural terms. Beautifully designed, with stunning photography, this is an essential book for all lovers of Delhi, and of modern architecture.

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## Tomar Residence

Vasant and Revathi Kamath, 1992



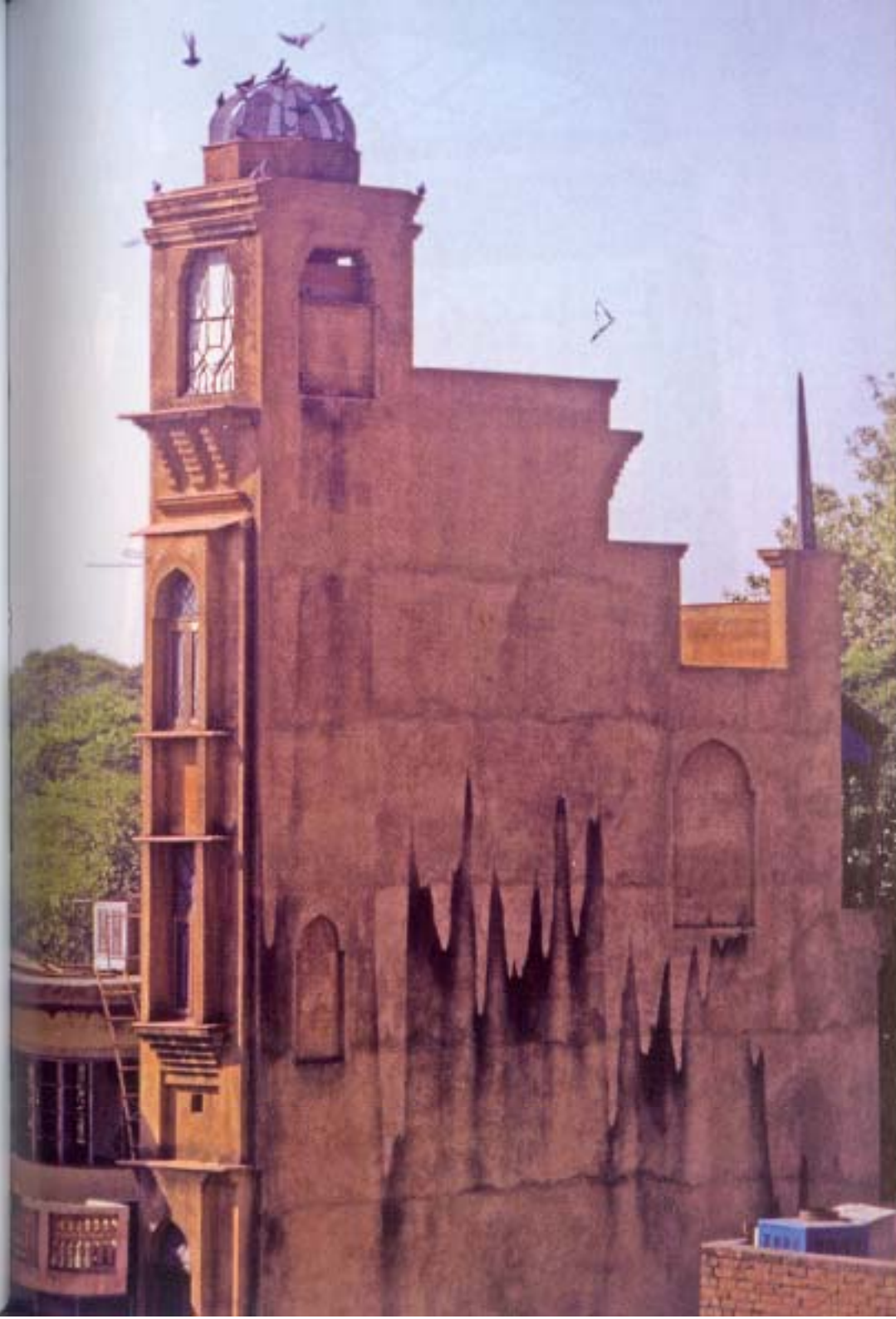
### Look out for:

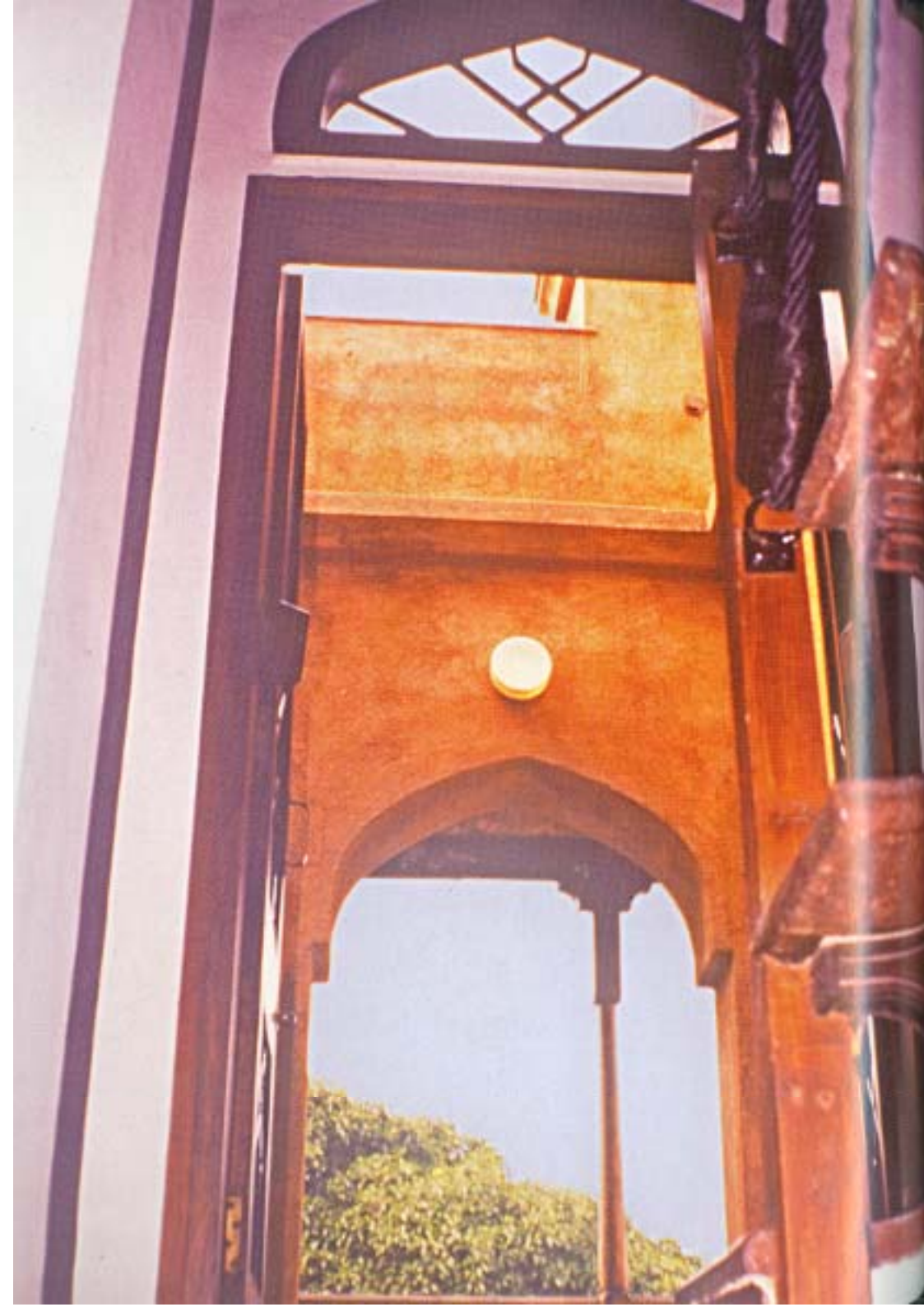
- The post-modernist version of the minarets (see above photograph).

Just as Shiv Nath Prasad has used exposed, reinforced concrete to mould astonishing structures, Revathi Kamath has also displayed great dexterity with her preferred material of mud brick. The design for the house at Hauz Khas village, however, uses brick, cement, stone slabs and steel, and concrete (used only in the basement) and is a departure from Kamath's usual style.

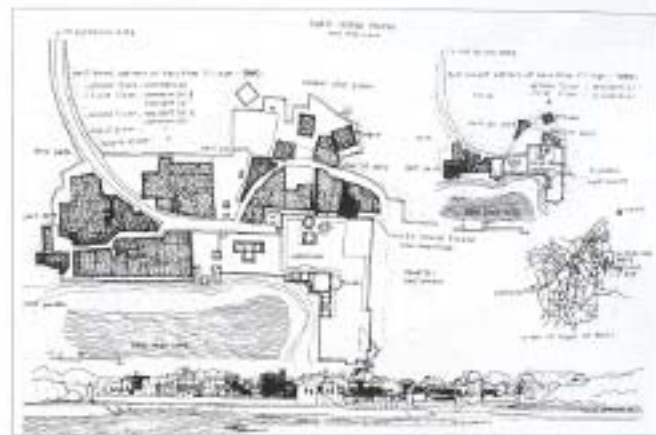
The site itself pre-determined most of the plan, since it was only forty square yards. Kamath had to devise a narrow, six storey plan that contained a bedroom, dining and living rooms, a study, servant quarters and conveniences (see plan on pp 153). The house is made around a series of landings with the central staircase acting as the vertebrae. It is column free and the walls are designed to be the load bearing structures.

The façade is designed with minarets (see photograph) and arches, so that it blends into the surroundings of Hauz Khas' many old Islamic monuments. All the pointed arches of the house are composed of bricks. Another striking feature, other than the pointed arches and the minarets, is the treatment of the side wall of the house (see photograph). Made out of Badarpur plaster that is left exposed, the architect treated the plaster in layers in a manner such that the water falling daily on the wall created a distinct but natural effect and gave the wall its vivid colour (see photograph).

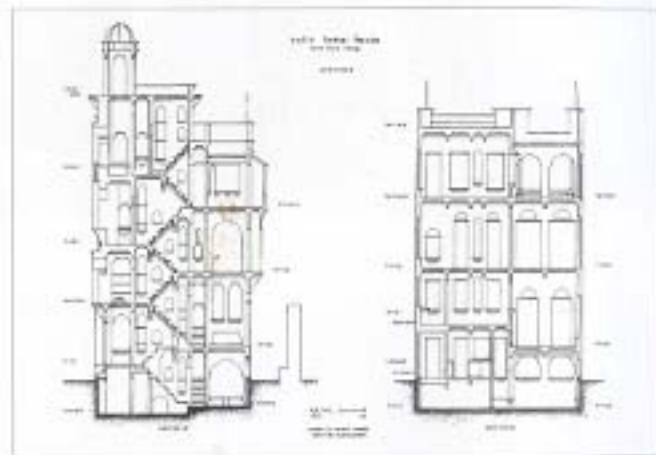




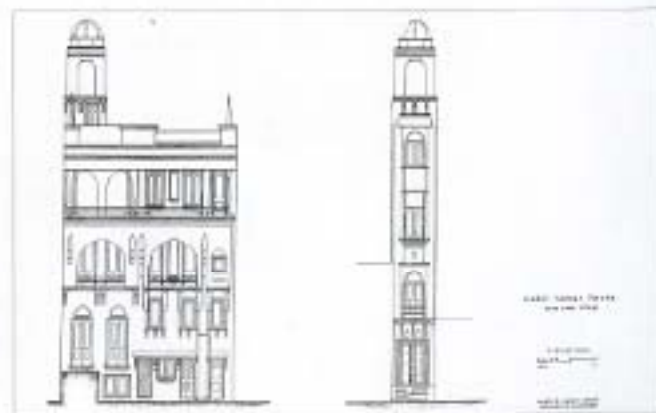
Left: detail of interior



Kamath's Architectural 'story board'



Section drawings of the plan of the house



Detail of the narrow plan of the building