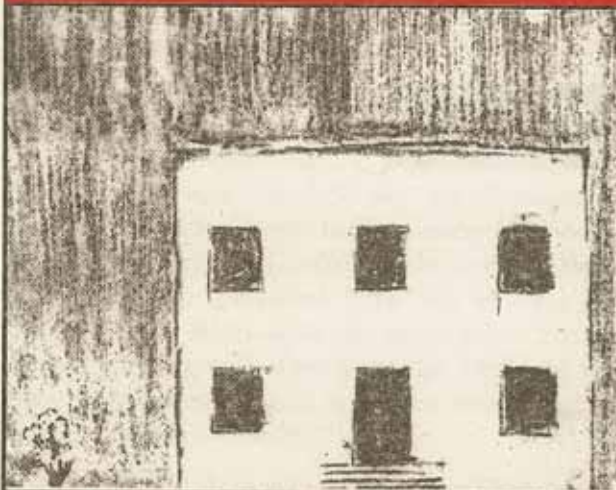


BUILDER BAROQUE



Step 1:

Build four walls using baked bricks and cement. At bottom centre take hole all the way to floor. Once walls have set, place concrete lid above. Add front door if desired. Preheat oven.



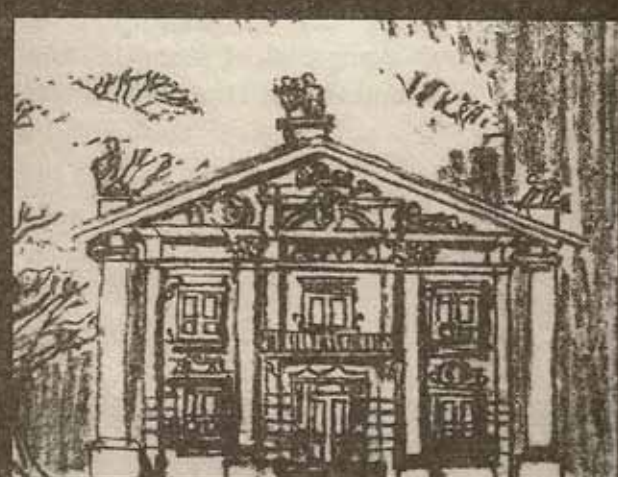
Step 2:

Fill holes with windows and place rain protection above each. Support door projection on pillars and get contractor to add random horizontal lines wherever he wishes. Sleep over the horizontal lines and pillars.



Step 5:

Open up *Dictionary of Classical Forms*. Borrow studied and known elements from the past and apply them with scholarly flourish—plaster panels, pediments, medallions, curls, Ionic and floral patterns. Stick them unself-consciously all over the facade, keeping in mind that architecture is poetry in stone. Twirl plaster as window edging till it drips. Add delicate Italian baluster to projection to resemble French balcony—with no door leading to it. This becomes a French balcony that can't be used. But don't fret. As long as it's art, it's OK.



Step 6:

Finally release all pent-up ideas from your system. All images of building collected over years of foreign travel, bits of detail picked up from German cathedrals, English country estates and Gujrati *havellis*. Add other lurking memories and desires. Use Greek and Roman columns liberally to frame composition. Statuary may be applied according to taste. Sprinkle Indian terracotta and filigreed screens as garnishing. The final result should give off deep whiffs of European history suffused with a traditional Indian present. Let dry for a day. Serves family of six.

Whitewash
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Recipe for a Villa



Step 3:

Remove columns and horizontal lines and decorate windows with fresh early morning view of classicism. Run plaster bands around windows; check central window for possible crown. Place balustrade above door projection. Sit back, relax. Flip through European design magazines.



Step 4:

For a moment forget comfort and practicality. Concentrate on 20th century ideals that need to be stated on the facade. Think revival and imitation. Knowing that the best things have already been done, start by building up cornices around windows in plaster. Add fake frame around door; stick traditional looking brackets under projection. Create artificial double corner to give depth to the composition. Stir Spanish stucco onto surface. Let simmer.



Step 7: Accept builder's offer to demolish house and build flats. Take money and buy plot in suburbs. Start again from Step 1.