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THE HINGE SURAT, GUJARAT

DESIGN TEAM: SNEHAL SHAH, JIGAR DALAL,
DHRUV CHALIAWALA, SALONI SHAH & KETNA MORKER

PROJECT AREA: 45,000 SQ.FT.
COMPLETION OF PROJECT: MAR 2024
CLIENT NAME: MR. ISHVERBHAI ARJANBHAI DHOLAKIA
& MR. AKSHAYBHAI ARJANBHAI DHOLAKIA
PHOTO CREDIT: NILKANTH BHARUCHA

SNEHAL SHAH & DHRUV CHALIAWALA
ESSTEAM DESIGN SERVICES
SURAT, GUJARAT

Set within a 22,000 sq.m family campus belonging to four brothers who are global leaders in the diamond industry, this villa forms part of a master plan shaped around harmony, privacy, and shared legacy. The overall layout creates a clear distinction between pedestrian movement and vehicular circulation, all anchored by a vast landscaped central green. Every villa on the estate opens toward this verdant heart, where a sculptural gazebo crowns the underground clubhouse and serves as a communal gathering point.

On one of the more challenging plots, defined by an acute angle, the primary villa emerges as an architectural response to both geometry and family vision. The family patriarch requested two independent houses for his sons that should function autonomously yet appear from the outside as one cohesive mansion. This directive shaped the identity of the project, inspiring a unified façade and a dramatic central rotunda that connects both homes. The rotunda acts as the symbolic and spatial hinge, bringing the families together while maintaining their individual privacy.

Spanning an expansive 49,000 sq.ft, the residence accommodates sixteen luxurious bedrooms, generous living

zones, and multiple layers of circulation that subtly organise the private and shared realms. Both homes are accessible from the central garden as well as the peripheral road, ensuring seamless movement while reinforcing the idea of unity within independence.

Despite its scale and intricacy, the entire villa was designed and executed in just thirteen months. The architecture carefully balances grandeur with intimacy, using thoughtful spatial planning, coherent materiality, and refined detailing to create a home that feels both monumental and deeply personal.

The result is a modern family estate that honours lineage, nurtures togetherness, and sets a benchmark for luxury living shaped by vision, efficiency, and collaborative design.

