



09:27PM Friday March 25, 2011

Every time you repeat the words, 'I can do it!' with conviction, you cancel or override your fear and increase your confidence.  
 -- Brian Tracy

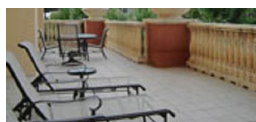
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## Terrace nirvana

By Sangeetha G. Mar 09 2011  
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**Whether for those private moments or to host your next party, there is nothing like a well laid out private terrace in your apartment**



If you like to spend some private moments under an open sky in your apartment, the best thing to go for is a private terrace. Unlike the common terrace on the top floor of a building, a private terrace opens from the bedroom/s of an apartment. They are also different from balconies, as they are not covered on the top.

"Private terraces are becoming increasingly popular in apartments across metros. The top floor of an apartment can easily house a private terrace without any structural change to the building," says Dameem Ansari, principal architect, Ansari Architects, Associates & Interior Designers.

For protection from rain, private terraces are usually covered with a glass sheet. It can be either polycarbonate-toughened glass with different shades and levels of opacity or plain toughened glass. The glass is placed on wooden, metal or concrete beams. In case of metal beams, it is designed to look like wood. Usually, handrails made of laminated glass are installed, as they do not cut the vision on the sides.

"Landscaping is important for private terraces. Front-end gardens can be designed and lawns, either natural or artificial, can be laid. Creepers and potted plants too add to the greenery of private terraces," Ansari said.

People also prefer to have pergolas on the terrace. These serve as an ideal place for hosting parties and get-togethers. Hammocks, swings and potted plants can be hung from the beams. Pebbles too can be laid on the ground to give your terrace the look of a garden.

The minimum size of a private terrace should be 10x10 sq ft. Attractive landscaping in a 150-sq ft terrace can cost around Rs 2 lakh. But much depends on how the owner wants his private terrace to look like.

"If you look for a little more privacy on your terrace, the side walls can be built higher, while the top can be left open. This will help you include a swimming pool on your terrace and also keep those peeping Toms in nearby buildings at bay. Private terraces are great for hosting parties and for spending a relaxed evening. Even for individual houses and bungalows, there is not much space left on the ground to sit and relax. Increasingly, individual houses and bungalows are also going in for private terraces. But for apartment dwellers, who live above the ground level, such a terrace provides privacy and comfort as the open roof terrace is usually common for all residents," said Ansari.

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