

SHIP SHAPE



YOU SEE A TRAIN, BUT WHERE ARE THE TRACKS? AND COULD THAT BE A SHIP ANCHORED ON DRY LAND RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE CITY OF JOY?

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erubour eyes in disbelief, for this is not a picture from Disneyland nor a page from a children's book of fairy tales. It is the home of the Hore family in Calcutta — headed by B.K. Hore, whose late wife Anima's name has been bestowed on it.

The idea of the ship shape came to the family after a holiday in Mauritius, where many of the beach houses are so designed. On returning to India, Bajrao (B.K. Hore's son, who is deeply



A view of the garage, which seems to have a Maruti car parked in it. interested in aeromodelling) built a model of the house — which was later constructed in Salt Lake by the well-known architect, D.C. Paul. The models for the train, engine and Maruti car were also made by Bajrao.

Bajrao and his wife Hasi, who is an excellent hostess, have three children: Sreshal Dutta (20), who was married two years ago, Diana (14) and Debaditya (8), who go to the Salt Lake English Medium School.

The house reflects Bajrao's love for the different means of transportation. It is also appropriate because it is a junction point for all the relatives who drop in at all times. However, he admits, "It is uneconomical in terms of space or the interior, and would be difficult to let out."

Whoops of delight emerge from a passing school bus as the children catch a glimpse of the house. A shortage of space is obviously compensated for by a surfeit of joy!

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A close look through the slightly open door, however, will reveal the silver Ambassador parked inside the garage.



"Raja" is Debaditya Hore (aged 8) poses in front of the gate of his house. The rest of the family is somewhere.

A view of the grill which has the notation of the popular Tagore song, *Tomar hule shara sater hule shara*, which Bajrao used to signify to his parents that by building this home his task was complete. It was now time for them to hand over their burdens and begin a new phase in their lives. The house is named after Bajrao's mother, who is called "Mum Murr". The overhead lamps bear the nicknames of his children.



A view of the 'ship' house. The train compartments form the boundary wall, while the engine is the gate.

