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Housing a Family

**Sathya Prakash Varanashi**

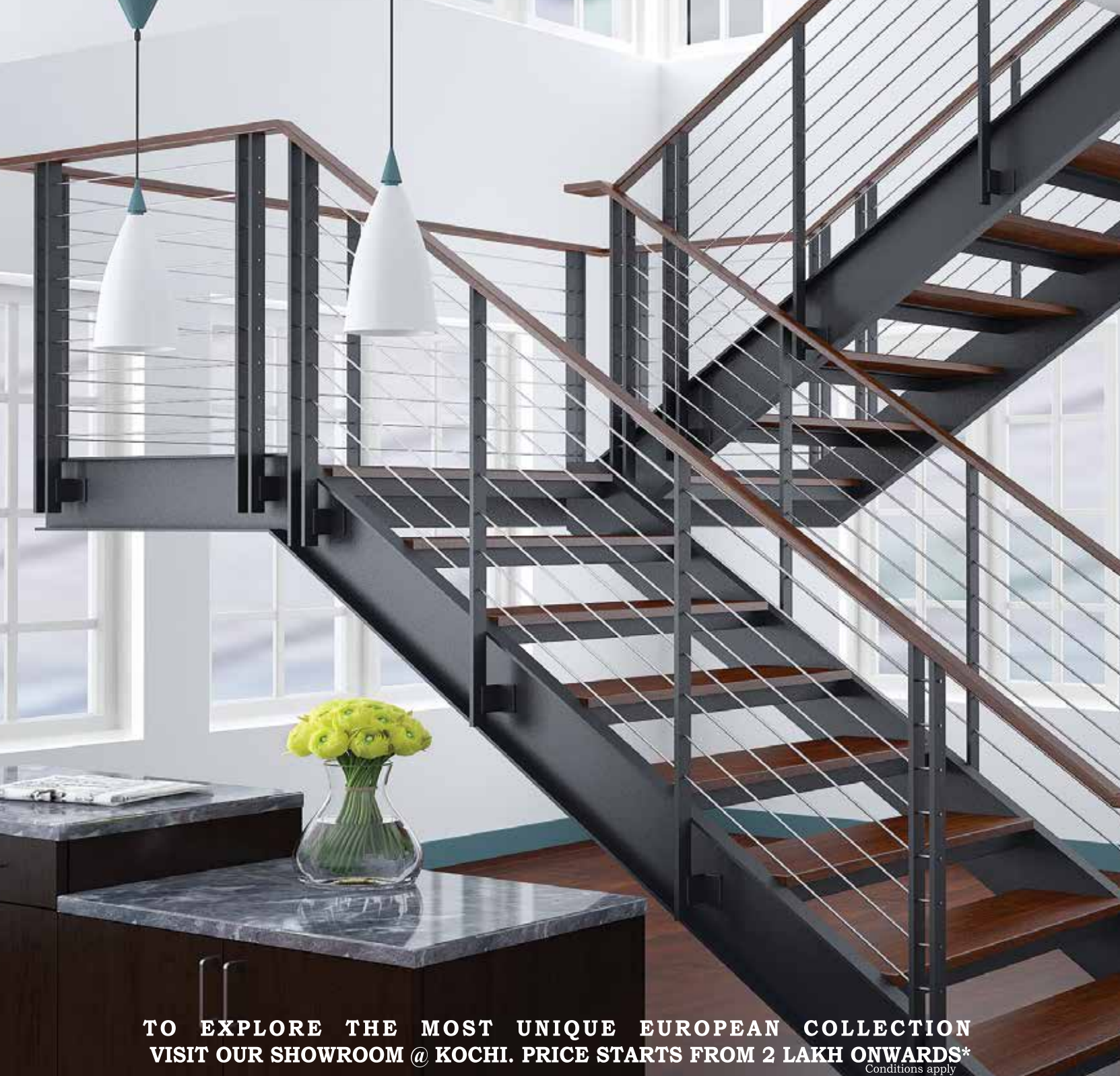
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Creative Director : Jiju Sarang

Contact : farhaan@designerpublications.com  
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Assistant General Manager : Nitha Oommen  
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Contact : marketing@designerpublications.com

#### Corporate Office:

Designer Publications Kerala Pvt. Ltd.,  
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## Editorial

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“They dream not of a perishable home. Who thus can build,” asked William Wordsworth. Homes for the well-heeled, as cultural and artistic undertakings date back to our rich history. We no longer look at them as places to entertain and sleep, but through an architect and interior designer’s genius where they achieve some measure of immortality. For the upwardly mobile, homes become magnificent edifices that are rich interpretations of the times.

I am happy to introduce to you a profound thinker and theorist Architect Satya Prakash Varanashi. Satya in his lead article shares his experience and wisdom of many years as a practitioner in a compelling overview of home as a living cultural entity. The clarity with which he defines the thought processes in the design of a home makes this article worth reading.

Our ‘homes’ special begins with an all-time favourite - Dipen Gada Associates, Vadodara. What strikes me as powerful is the symmetry of the volumes in this home for Dr Nene, and even better is the sensual quality of light filtering through playful jallis and rigid perforations. The entrance is monumental and the spaces ethereal. Is this the power of the “complexity and contradiction” strongly put forth by Robert Venturi in his compelling essays? Is this related to the uniqueness of a “versatility” in design?

Architects Nishan and Vivek of Calicut-based De Earth call themselves “social thinkers”. That’s interesting! Their oeuvre of work reflects innovative responses to nature and context. The Zoha residence has a certain curated antiquity to it: distressed colour washes, raw textures of laterite stone, vivid floorings, patina coated windows, lime plaster.....the architects have worked deftly to impersonate an old world charm and the narrative has been successful.

Close on the heels is Chavvi House - “An abode in the Dunes” by Abraham John Architects. Created in a hot dry climate as Jodhpur, the home conforms to the “ancient Indian design principles” of space, sunlight, flow and function. Walk into this sun lit home and feel the subtleness of textures, the streams of light, spacious rooms, courtyards and much more. What’s more is the attempt to capture the genius loci of the place through indigenous materials and elements that protect the home from the harsh climate, an innately inward microcosm.

Urban Zen’s work is understated elegance. Rahul has delivered a compelling design to the owners who have a large influence in the property business. The subtle shades of grey and white are refreshing and timeless. His impressive compositions through artistic lighting as “installations” create intrigue in an elegant setting. What’s common about these homes is the way they blend in with nature, creating open ended relationships that inadvertently blur boundaries between inside and outside.

Yonder Beyond is a “consciously curated composition of levels” designed by Letch and Antonio’s SAOTA Studio. The influence of Corbusier is noteworthy as the home stands as a magnificent mass against the steep cliffs. Every part of the home offers spectacular views and the game of privacy and public scrutiny with space has been boldly handled in volumes, juxtapositions and confident detailing.

We have more for you with ceramists like Vinod Daroz sharing space. Each one of the projects in this March Issue is worth remembering!

Happy Reading!

**Shamini Shanker Jain**

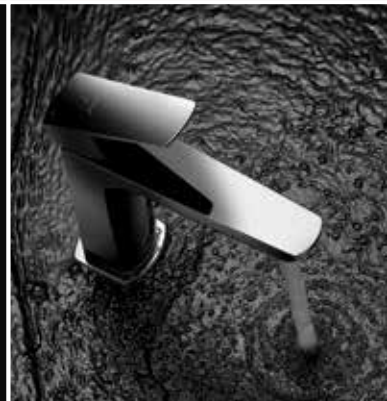


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# con tents



<b>11</b>	President's message
<b>14</b>	Housing a family
<b>22</b>	Sprawling symmetry
<b>32</b>	In the lap of nature
<b>42</b>	An abode in the dunes
<b>52</b>	A symphony of volumes
<b>62</b>	Yonder beyond
<b>74</b>	Ceramic serenity
<b>78</b>	Vision summit
<b>88</b>	IIID Chapter news





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## President's message



Vision Summit 2020- February 13th at Kochi. What an amazing start for the term! Launch of 'Vision – Where is North?' happened so beautifully than we ever hoped for. As the saying goes, it is no good to sow the seeds before we till the fields. The Grand Design Summit in the afternoon curated by Niraj Shah and Shilpa Gore did exactly that. With seven panellists they encouraged and engaged 200 design talents from across the country to go deep into today's design contexts and come up with problems and solutions; then literally shuffling it all to surface with 20 beautiful statements for us to take note. Thus enlightened, the Vision was launched in a three way manner with 500 special invitees bearing witness. Presidential Address- well, it was a Herculean task to try and put words on so much of an elusive and ethereal concept as North. The special movie about the vision was a more impossible task. A movie which will make viewers see that which cannot be seen! The black and white movie but left everybody touched with many a shades of interpretations. Finally, if at all there was anything untold it was sealed when Pritzker prize winner Padma Bhushan B V Doshi shared his idea about Dhruv – the North Star which shines its wisdom on us and leads us in our journey towards conscious and conscientious design. We are blessed to have him as our Vision Ambassador.

We also celebrated some high points - launched our 22nd edition of IIID AWARDS FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE! Released the first edition of our magazine INSCAPE; honoured our Lead Navigators as part of the Corporate Night; The Leadership Summit/ Open Forum/ two day Joint EC were all charged with many ideas from past Presidents, Navigators, IIID Leaders with lot of take aways! Thank You All! Hosts Kerala Chapter Team deserves big appreciation. Thank you, Kerala!

I am sure you will enjoy the INSCAPE which will now regularly greet you every month that too with contents discussing design based on typologies. Homes are where we start. Enjoy!

**Jabeen L. Zacharias**

*Write to Inscape about your ideas about homes in 800 words with your photo before the 25th of March. Your contribution will be acknowledged. If selected be featured in the next Issue of Inscape.*

*Mail in your thoughts to [inscape@designerpublications.com](mailto:inscape@designerpublications.com)*



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# Homes

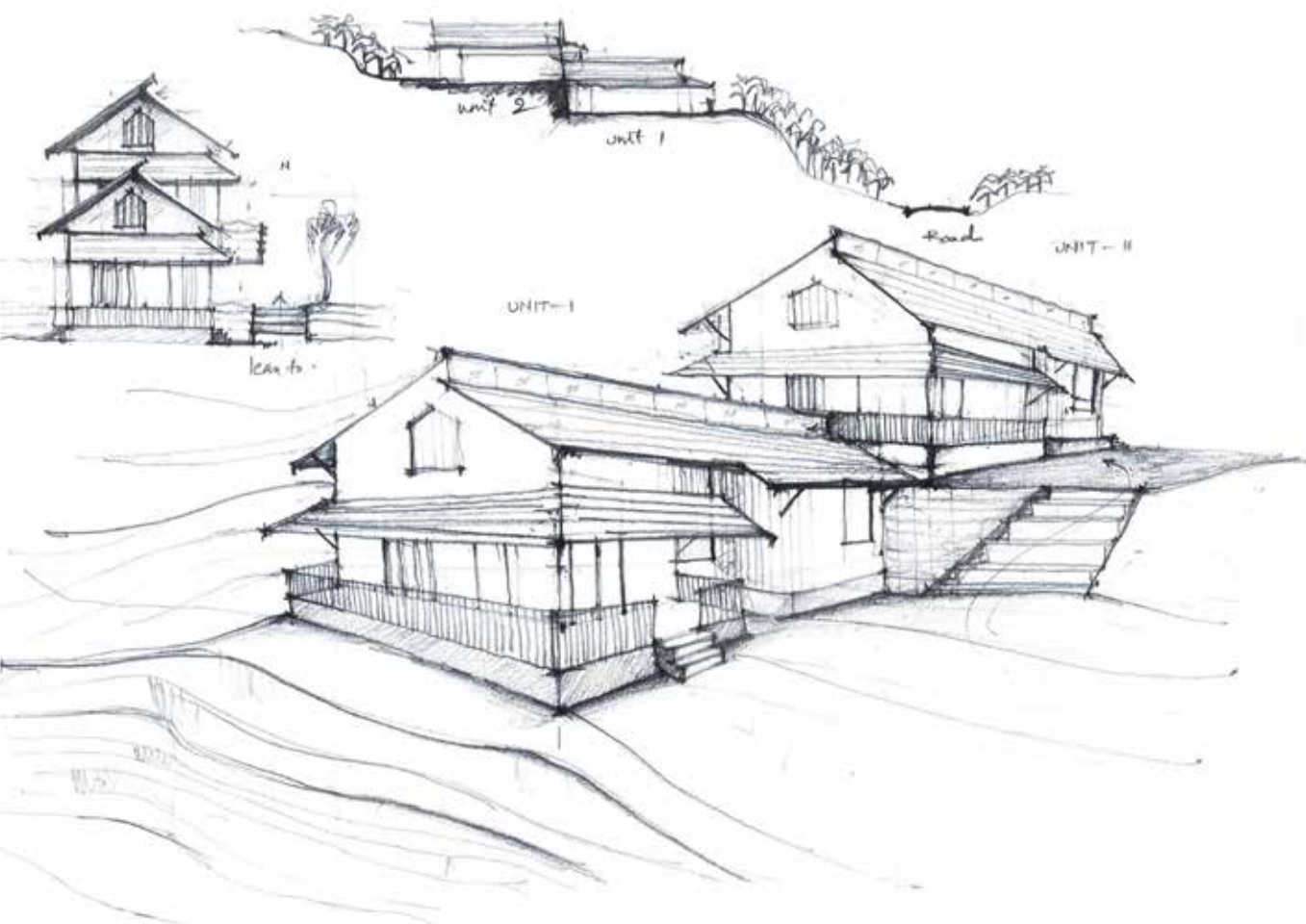
## Habitable hues of harmony

**F**ood, clothing and shelter are three fundamentals for sustenance of mankind. Right from the early ages of man, we have come across ever evolving derivations of a shelter. Ranging from diversity in scale, form, materials and its setting, the perception of shelters seem to transcend generations and civilisations as a whole.

The feeling of ownership over a defined space to call your personal possession dictates the emotion behind how a mere shelter expresses itself as one's home. The realm of design and its prowess over conceiving such spaces are thus to be considered with due importance. The power of architecture in crafting a scintillating space to delicately detailed designs of the interiors within, cohesively contributes in imparting an overall character to the space. It is this realisation of the essentiality of a properly thought-out design that has inspired the masses to turn to architects and designers to help them build their dream home. But therein lies the necessity of ensuring that the design fraternity is well-educated, informed and updated on the rapidly growing nuances of the industry and technology. To adopt and adapt, to change, and to reform is an unavoidable part of profession, but it shouldn't be at the compromise of the core values of our principles.

In this special issue of INSCAPE dedicated to homes, we have with us, a preceptor, with his unparalleled expertise of over 26 years, the renowned architect, heritage conservationist, academician and writer – Prof. Sathya Prakash Varanashi. He has come on board as the Master Mentor for the March issue, sharing his invaluable insights on the craft of designing a residence.

INSCAPE proudly presents a few fascinating homes around us that are truly unique in character and experience. Delve in and discover!



# Housing a Family

 Sathya Consultants

The best part of being a consulting architect is not the consultation itself, but the way it empowers introspection. Every new project is an experience to learn from and become wiser. This article intends to share a few such experiences and wisdom, gained over the course of our 26 years of practice based in Bengaluru. The firm's fundamentals being rooted in many theories, principles and beliefs, it has been an exploration of ideas, options and actions, further maturing even now.



## PARADOXES OF A RESIDENCE PROJECT

- Majority of architects start their firms with residential projects and as they get established, reduce taking them up or even stop altogether. Their focus gradually gives way to commercial, institutional, industrial and such other building typologies.
- Most schools of architecture take up house design in one of the lower semesters, with reducing importance to it in senior classes. Thesis semester hardly has topics revolving around individual houses or housing. Yet, majority of students in their internship and later too, end up working on houses and housing.

- Everyone is born into houses and live there lifelong. We are increasingly spending time indoors, especially in houses, yet the attention given to designing homely houses which perform better in function, perception, comfort and maintenance has not increased. Tragically, we are churning out mindless houses in larger numbers to meet the urban demand.
- Large number of clients think they know how to design a house, so dictate terms to obliging architects. They commission architects, but claim it was their plan and design idea that the architect helped in putting together. The house becomes a showcase of images for the owners and for the obliging architects, an addition to the CV of the firm, irrespective of the question – can that house become a good home?

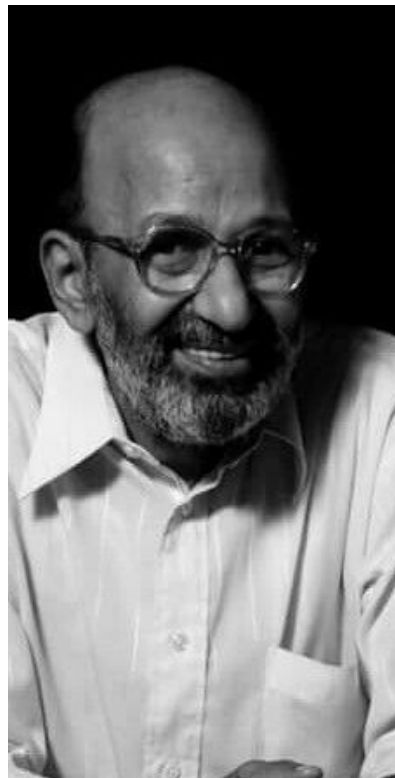


*Homes that celebrate nature*

## THEORISING THE HOUSES

- Houses began as shelters, may be from a shade under a tree when humans were hunters and gatherers. The primary objectives of a house however, haven't changed much since then – enclosure, shade, security, utility, durability, storage, image, space, comfort and contentment.
- If we study 'how people live', we find a distinctively diverse array of shelters – from slums to the sophisticated. Houses are beyond standardisation and there is no standard house either.
- There can be architect experts on hotel, hospital or stadium projects, who can specify how to design them, but house design cannot be so specific. It varies between activities, architects, owners and contexts.
- Early hotels advertised claiming to be a 'home away from home', but today many houses appear like 'hotels away from hotels'. With the kind of interiors, the living rooms emulate hotel lounges, dining area looks like a small meeting corner and bedrooms with toilets can put a star hotel to shame. Photographic architecture intended to portray spaces to be surreal, are slowly replacing the serenity of residential ambiances.





**SATHYA PRAKASH VARANASHI**

## SATHYA CONSULTANTS

Sathya Prakash Varanashi studied architecture in Bangalore, urban design in Delhi and heritage conservation in England. A Professor of Architecture at KS School of Architecture, Bangalore, he is involved in academics, outreach activities, freelance writing, professional associations and NGO initiatives.

Right from his early days, he was attracted to designs ideas rooted in cost, culture, climate and creativity, thanks to the influence of architects such as Laurie Baker, Shankar Kanade, K. Jaisim, A.G.K. Menon and K.T. Ravindran. His consultancy firm, Sathya Consultants, in Bengaluru has been professing and practising eco-friendly cost-effective architecture for the last 26 years.



## SHELTER AND SUSTAINABILITY

- How much is too much in a house design and what are the minimum needs there? Do the architects advice the owners to that end? How often the owners force the architects to design minimally and ecologically?
- What are the elements and spaces that we need to live within a house and what we can live without? Are there ideas, objects and materials which may not make us happier

or healthier, yet are forced into the house? What are the design solutions towards a resource efficient house?

- In these days of climate crisis, should we design and build with no concern for environment or should we re-trace how our elders built with eco-sensitivity? Would an eco-friendly house be a poorly built, mediocre looking project or can they be a style statement as well, with the new aesthetics of sustainability?



## THEMATIC APPROACHES

- **Cost conscious construction:** The poor and the rich alike have budgetary restrictions, which need to be respected. Given the advices of Laurie Baker and many others, additionally the threat of resource depletion, it's imperative that every house be designed to save wherever we can. Additionally, we have the responsibility to erase the misconception in society that approaching an architect makes the house costlier, a commonly held comment which detracts many from commissioning architects. If architects can offer cost effective ideas and budgetary savings, there could be many folds increase in client numbers.
- **Culturally appropriate design:** People in India are moving houses into newer places, with jobs taking them to all places possible. Next to language, food and rituals, house is the best carrier of culture, to create 'feel at home' for the owners. To that end, designs can be rooted in the memories of the owners; elements should connect to the vernacular, spaces suited for the daily habits of the inhabitants and the spirit of the community expressed in the house design. This is not to discourage novelty in design, but to emphasise the importance of familiarity for the owners. Of course, then every house has to be individually developed, ruling out repeating same designs for every other client.
- **Climatically conforming elements:** Our bodies respond to heat, light, air, water, humidity, glare and green. A natural home

would embody designing for these seven basic eco principles, each with some more subtler points to adhere to. Our connection to eco elements happen and are perceived by our five senses of see, hear, taste, touch and smell. The commonly heard comment about recent architecture is all going visual, so the challenge is to design a house that can offer a comprehensive and complete sensory experience.

- **Contextual creativity:** Modernity suggests an illusion that to create is to do something never done earlier and originality is to do what others have never done. This has led to many strange, non-descript misfit designs. In real terms, originality is going back to the origins, so that our designs have a rootedness and creativity is being contextual, so we face the challenge of designing 'here and now'. When false notions of creativity override the logic of context, designing not only becomes easy and fast, it becomes a by-product of a software. Given this, even the well-intended architect designed house may appear out of place and inappropriate for the family.
- **Designing by dialoguing:** Routinely, house designs have been managed by an architect drawing it up, clients react, and then revised, again reacted to, revised and so on. Such 'designing by reacting and revising' cannot be as effective as 'designing by dialoguing', where the owners and designers (and builders too, if needed) together thrash out the design, sitting together with pencils and butter sheets.

## TOWARDS AN APPROPRIATE HOUSE

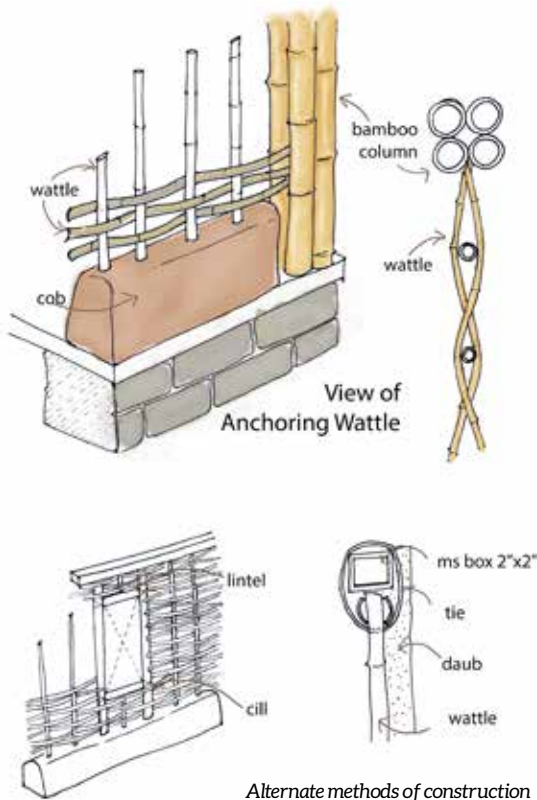
- **Plan making:** Real architecture does not lie in elevation making or form development, though they are important. Our everyday homely experiences are rooted in how the rooms are sequenced, the way we move around, perceive spaces, see light and feel air, besides many such other factors. Most of these can be achieved by constant rethinking and revising the plans, so plan making is of utmost importance, deserving many discussions.
- **Materiality:** Painting and concealing the wall material demands that we keep painting the walls again, with all the costs, heat gain and normal look of the wall. Let us consider the choices – stabilised mud, rammed earth, hollow clay blocks, laterite, stone, perforated bricks, wattle and daub, cob, earth bag, bamboo, paper tubes, waste debris, mud crete, lime, interlocking blocks, slates, wood planks – a range that can get us lost!



Natural materials impart an earthy character to the structure







- **Construction options:** In the past across India, every region built in its own way, proving that multiple options existed. Mainly load bearing walls prevailed, which are valid even today at much lesser cost too. Today's mainstream approach of RCC columns, cement block walls plastered and painted, RCC slabs, false ceiling, PVC windows, vitrified floors, RCC stairs and sunshades need not be the only way to build. It's time to revive the multitude modes of construction, with boulder pack or well ring foundation; exposed composite masonries, filler roofs, arch panels, oxide finishes, hourdi tiles, vaults, stone floors, perforated walls, jaali roofs and many more.
- **Embodied energy:** Construction activities contribute to nearly one third of Green House Gases (GHG), which directly cause global warming. Being aware of this, it's our obligation to Mother Earth to reduce the carbon foot print of our designs and ourselves too. It can be simply achieved by minimising manufactured materials, especially those which come from abroad and far off places. The artificially of many such products are also questionable. Let's go local and natural, where ever possible.

- **Urban location fit:** With site values spiralling up, first impact has been on site setbacks which shrink and house gardens which vanish. Series of house boxes, looking like concrete slums, affect everybody's light and air; each seeking air conditioning which is against environment. Architecture is a part of urban aesthetics as well, not only of the architect's. Also, it's time we realise; being a good neighbour is to build a house with bye laws.
- **Harmony with nature:** Humans are a product of nature; as such align with the vibrations and wavelengths of natural phenomena. With this in mind, our designs need to enable and empower our living with nature, especially in houses where we spend most of our lifetime. We cannot stop the radio frequencies resonating from everywhere due to digital gadgets, but at least can design with minimum cement, steel, glass, aluminium, paints and chemicals which disrupt the harmony between human and natural vibrations. Such houses are known to negate the 'feel good' factor for those living there and visiting too.



## THEORIES FOR HOUSE DESIGN

- **Sight of the house:** The house design should not focus only at what we see outside of the house, but how it would be seen from afar and closer by. While it is the site we locate a house within, the sight of the house should not be neglected, and it is not the same as elevation!
- **Sense of entry:** Entrances play a major role in people appreciating architecture, for they may appear inviting or repulsive. The few seconds or minutes we spend as we approach and enter can make or break our good feelings towards the house. The ideas and elements that define the entrance should be finally designed after most of construction is over, contextually connecting them to house as it has evolved.
- **Scale of spaces:** With many theories of architecture diluted or ignored today, human scale has become a casualty, more so in a house. Aspirational large living rooms may mean uncomfortable distances between people and more than double heights can create the feel of open well like depth. High budget houses simply tend to make every room large, to the extent of losing residential intimacy. It is important to realise houses are more for living than for showing, though the latter is also important.
- **Sequential privacy:** For most owners, privacy is a major concern, even while they

prefer open planning. It is a family specific criterion, but one may adopt linear planning, diagonal connections or sequential opening up of living, dining and then the kitchen, to satisfy the family needs – from completely private to completely open kitchen. However, open planning it may be, guests looking into the bed rooms right from living room may not be a good idea.

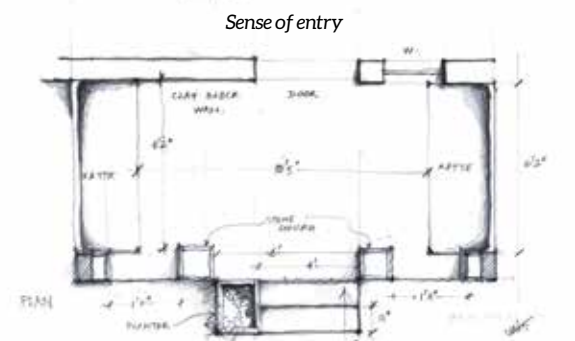
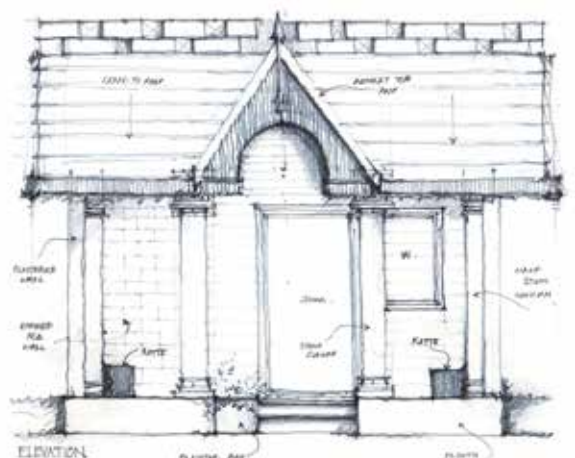
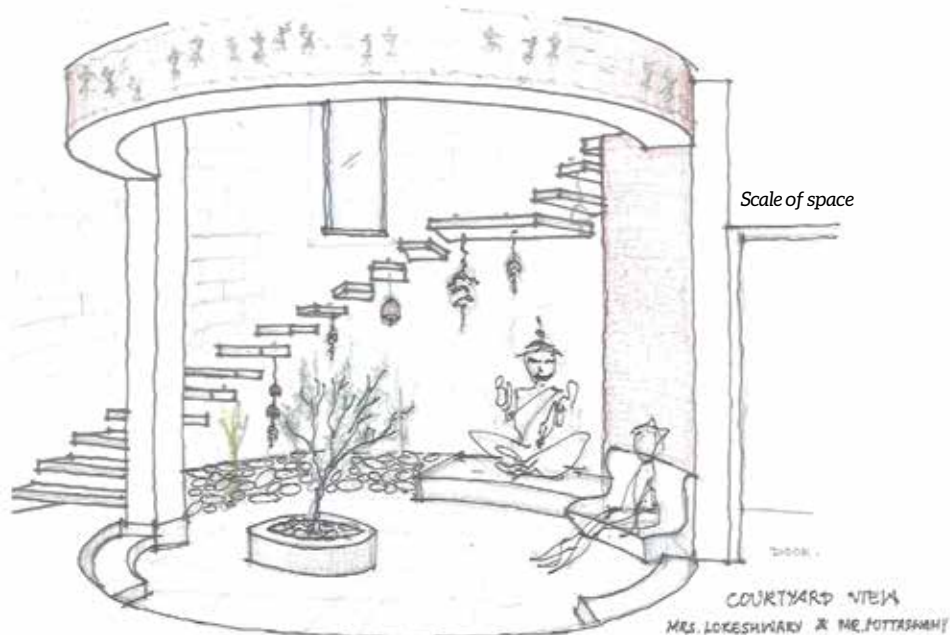
- **Indoor outdoor connectivity:** A major criteria in these days of crowded neighbourhoods, being able to connect to outside can be a de-stressing factor! Besides, nothing can replace the fresh air and daylight we get from outside. This design approach also enables the much talked about open to semi-open to enclosed sequences of spaces.

- **Visual depths:** Most architects revel in designing attractive interior spaces, and depth of space matters a lot here. From simple straight deep down to still longer looking diagonal spaces, or add on the double heights that allow lookup or multiple directional views in a split level house – all are designer's favourites. We need to ensure one main issue, in having no compromise in the performance of the house!

- **Functional flexibility:** Client briefing for a house can be deficient if they mention the present needs only. Once built the house would last many decades, performing varied functional and utilitarian uses. As family grows, children move out or move in



*Ingress of natural light and air through aesthetically appealing fenestrations*

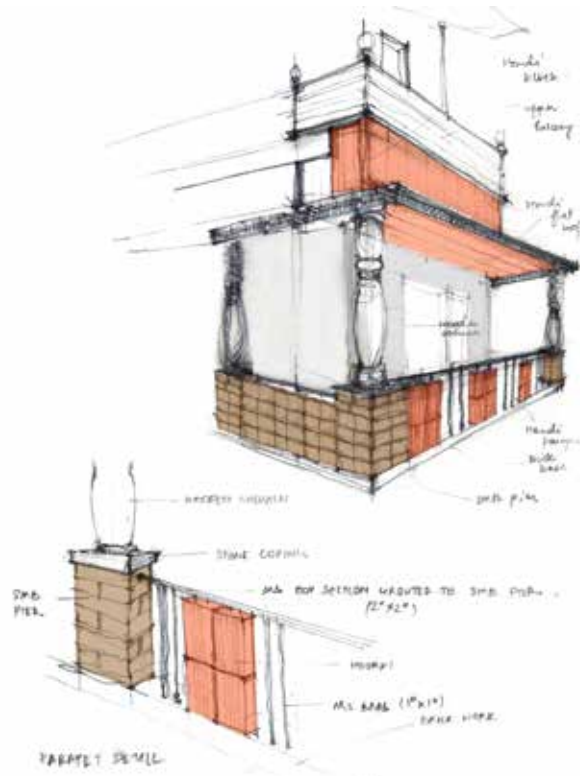






again married, the house has to fulfil every age. A flexible, multipurpose house is an all-purpose house, possibly winning accolades for the architect generations down the line.

- **Day light and air:** Light and air are among the most sought out but least supplied components of a house, due to many factors. As such, here we need to explore all possible options — skylights, floor to or lintel to ceiling windows, solar tubes, bay windows with glass tops, large toilet ventilators, window top with small voids for displacement ventilation, corner tall windows to facilitate cross ventilation and day light distribution, courtyards, rooms with two or three external walls to get air from any windward direction, staggered and not rectangular house plans and many such ideas. It's a challenge today.
- **Visual perception:** Among the ignored, but important criteria of a house is the mental faculty of cognition and perception, not only of the visitors but also of the daily inhabitants. For reasons mostly not explored, some houses are liked by the most while some are not. Upon careful study, we can realise at least few factors contributing to such varied perceptions like spatial sequence, room proportions, light and darker spaces, wall colours and textures, displayed objects and such others. Though difficult to visualise it all in advance, an experienced architect can foresee and design for a better perceived house.
- **User experiences:** Unlike public buildings, houses are not to provoke our senses, but calm us down and feel at home. The everyday experiences are different from those of the first day; published photos taken from a few good looking corners cannot justify an otherwise ordinary walk through the house; so, the fame of a house should not happen at the cost of ease of living in a house.
- **Life cycle matters:** Most projects are considered for their construction costs, but not for maintenance costs. Operational costs like increased electricity bills in a house with low day light or need for AC are also life cycle costs. Maintenance can be a bothersome additional responsibility, with its attached difficulties in getting agencies and labour. Well, as a hard core ecologist architect, one may even think what happens to the house when it comes to demolition someday and plan for its sensible dismantling!



### Indoor - outdoor connectivity



## CONCLUSION

Houses offer far more design freedom, application of theories, material choices, stylistic developments, locational fit, elevation options and many more such architectural explorations. Not to demean hospitals, but studying 10 of them may teach us far less than studying 10 houses, designed with client and context specificity. Hence, residential architecture becomes important for our own professional growth. Of course, everyone knows, designing a house is the most complex job in our profession. With the image and meaning of a house shifting, the purpose of a dwelling undergoing redefinitions, our very own ideas of a house are also bound to change. So, it is critical to be observing the present trends.

Every architect will have their exposure to houses and experiences from designing them. Hence, the variety and diversity, especially in a country like India. We need not necessarily agree with each other's thoughts and designs, but we can study them to learn from and offer better houses to the society. It is time we promote architecture, and not just our own architect firms.



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!!! MINIMAL MONOLITH



# Sprawling symmetry



Inscape Insider



Tejas Shah Photography





The common area and the adjoining spill-out lawn

#### PROJECT INFO

PROJECT NAME	: DR. NENE'S RESIDENCE
LOCATION	: MAHAPURA, VADODARA
ARCHITECTS	: DIPEN GADA & ASSOCIATES
DESIGN TEAM	: DIPEN GADA (PRINCIPAL DESIGNER), ISHANK PATEL, KRIMMY PATEL, SHRADDHA PATEL, VISHAL JANI, PRAKASH PRAJAPATI
SITE COORDINATOR	: RAHI CONSTRUCTION
STRUCTURAL DESIGNER	: ANIL MISTRY
ELECTRICAL CONSULTANTS	: CHIRAG ELECTRICAL
HVAC	: GAYATRI TRADING CORPORATION
SITE AREA	: 75000 SQ.FT
BUILT-UP AREA	: 7500 SQ.FT
YEAR OF COMPLETION	: 2018

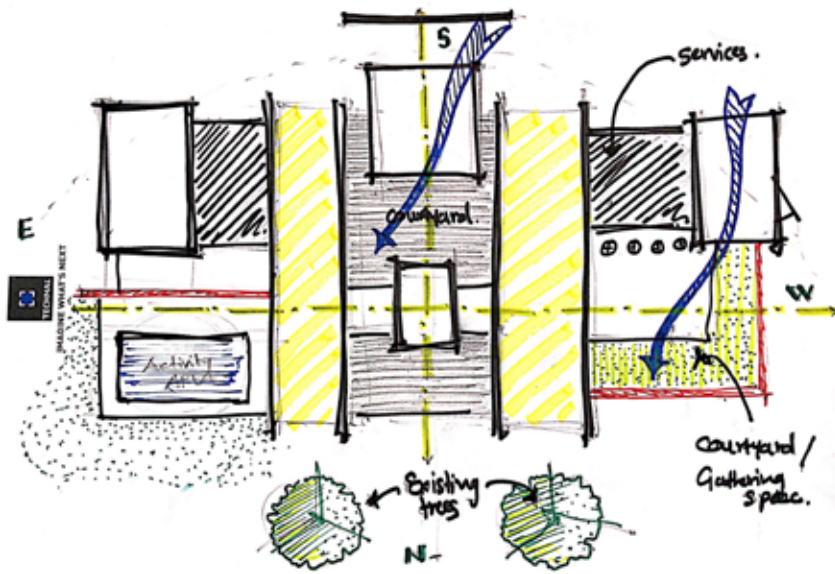
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*A judicious juxtapose of the built and un-built, the residence is an architectural delight that instills awe in the eyes of the beholder with its clean, bold lines and scintillating symmetry*

**A**midst an expansive patch of green in Vadodara, sits a home envisaged by Dipen Gada and his team. A judicious juxtapose of the built and un-built, the residence is an architectural delight that instills awe in the eyes of the beholder with its clean, bold lines and scintillating symmetry. The design is such that the spaces are completely panned across the linear layout of the structure, with a central entry axis that duly designates the differential degrees of privacy within.

Ample prominence has been given to facilitate the ingress of natural light and ventilation through the perforations in the form of jallis, screen walls and poised pockets of voids that puncture the built mass. The home accommodates four bedrooms, a lavishly luxurious living, a family area and a Zen courtyard by virtue of its placement and design. An open swimming





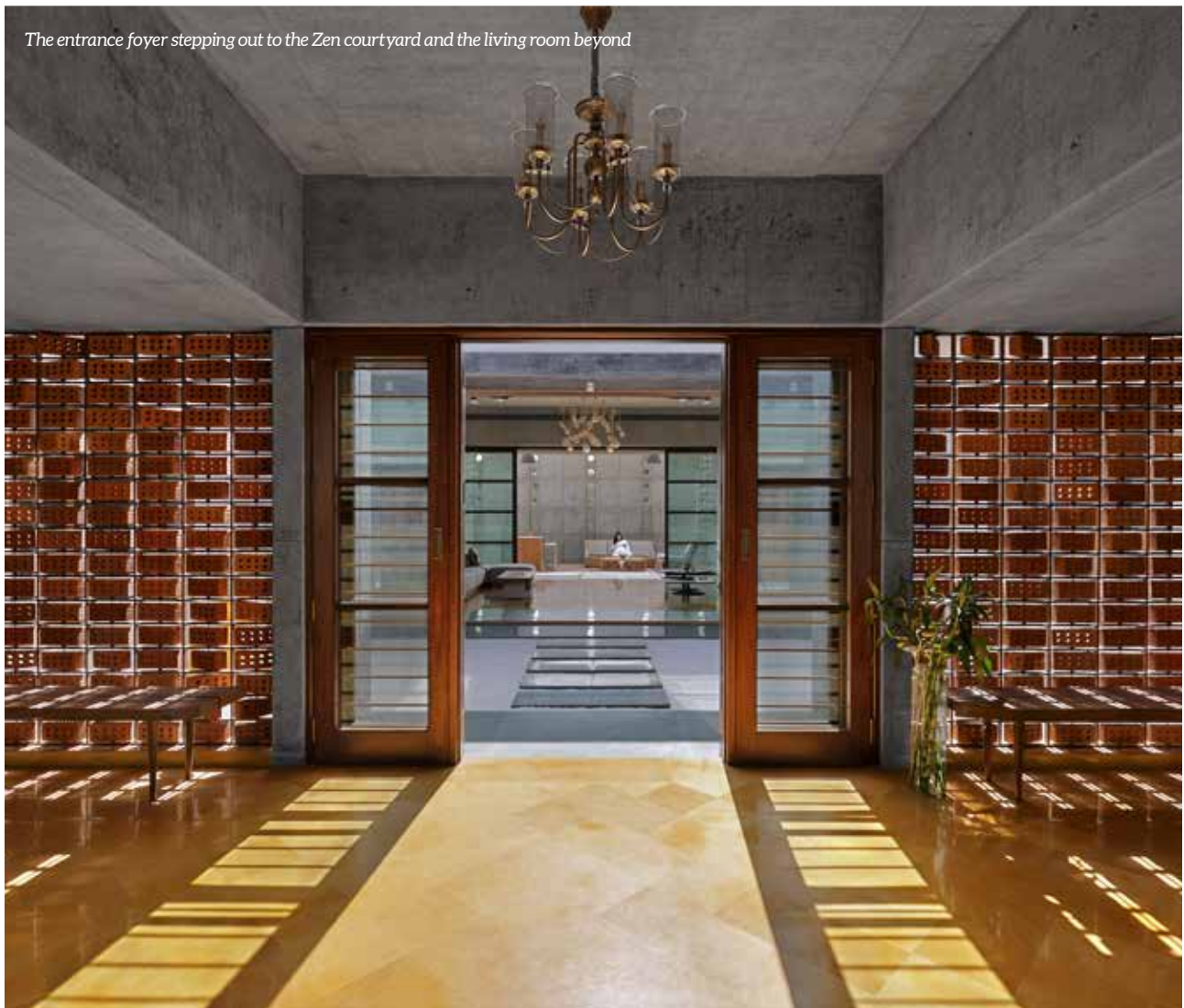
pool adjacent to the family living opens up into the sprawling lawns beyond, offering a mesmerizing sense of serenity for its users.

As one moves past a huge tree upon entry, the residence reveals itself dramatically with two stark cuboids with facades finished in corten steel, framing the entry portal that invites the visitor along a path guarded by water bodies on either side that culminates

in an elegant wooden door. The brass coated branch-like motif as the door handle adds to the element of wonder that is gradually built up. The whole spatial experience resonates with a Mediterranean muse, accentuated with a subtle synthesis of textured plastered walls and soaring screens, all the while rhythmically rhyming with the playfulness of trees and water features.



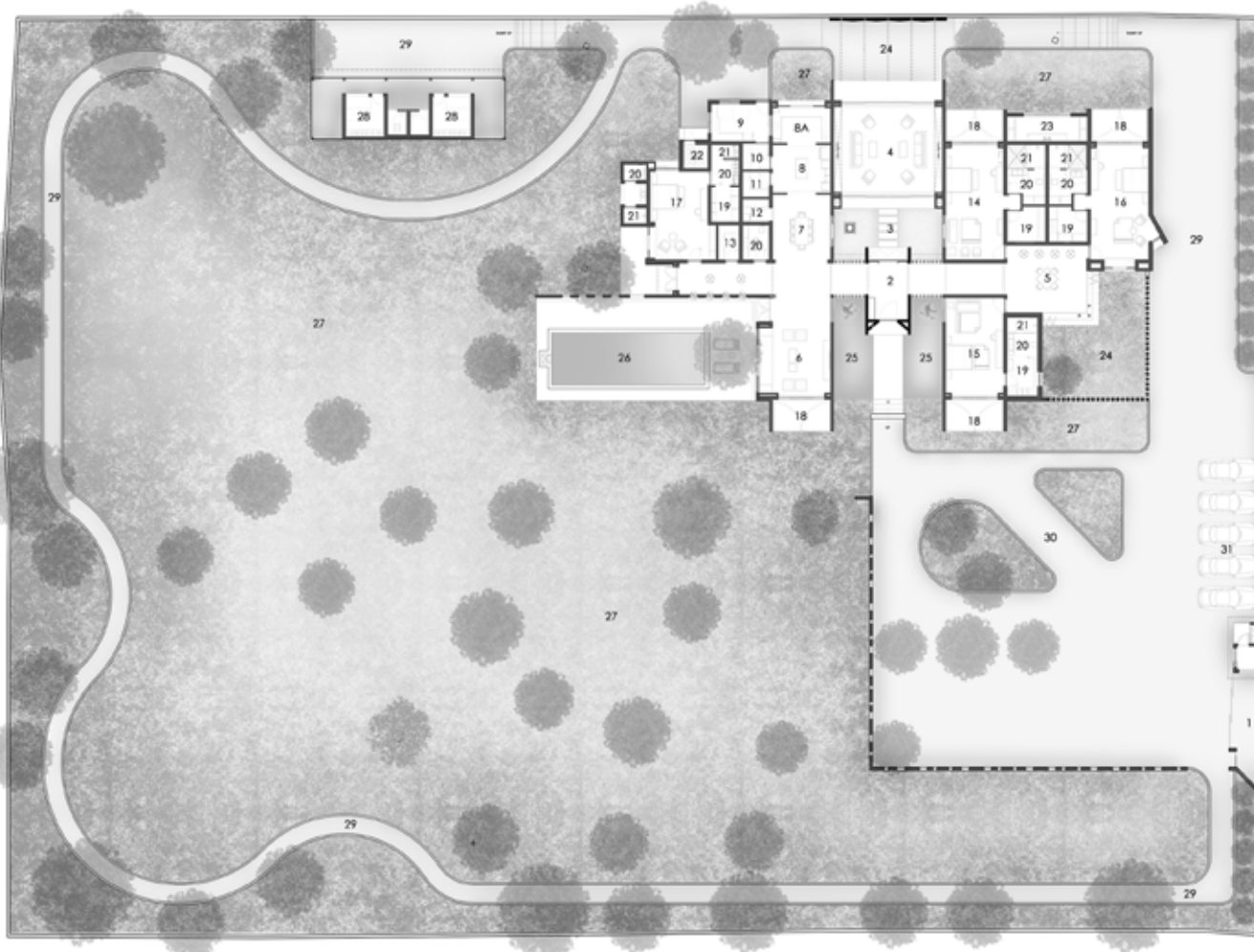
*The entrance foyer stepping out to the Zen courtyard and the living room beyond*







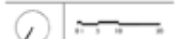
The entry portal



#### LEGEND

1. SITE ENTRY
2. ENTRANCE FOYER
3. ZEN GARDEN
4. LIVING ROOM
5. COMMON AREA
6. FAMILY AREA
7. DINING
8. OWNER'S KITCHEN
- 8A. KITCHEN
9. WASH
10. UTILITY
11. STORE
12. CROCKERY
13. TRAVEL STORAGE
14. SON'S BEDROOM
15. DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM
16. MASTER BEDROOM
17. PARENTS' BEDROOM
18. BALCONY
19. DRESSING
20. TOILET
21. SHOWER
22. STAIRCASE CABIN
23. JUNK ROOM
24. COURTYARD
25. WATERBODY
26. SWIMMING POOL
27. GARDEN
28. SERVANT QUARTERS
29. WALKWAY
30. DRIVEWAY
31. PARKING

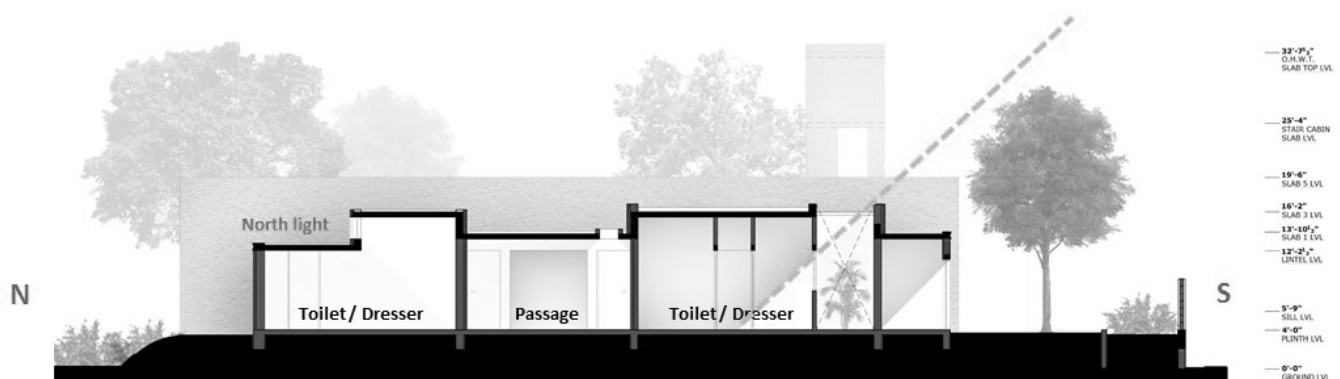
#### SITE PLAN











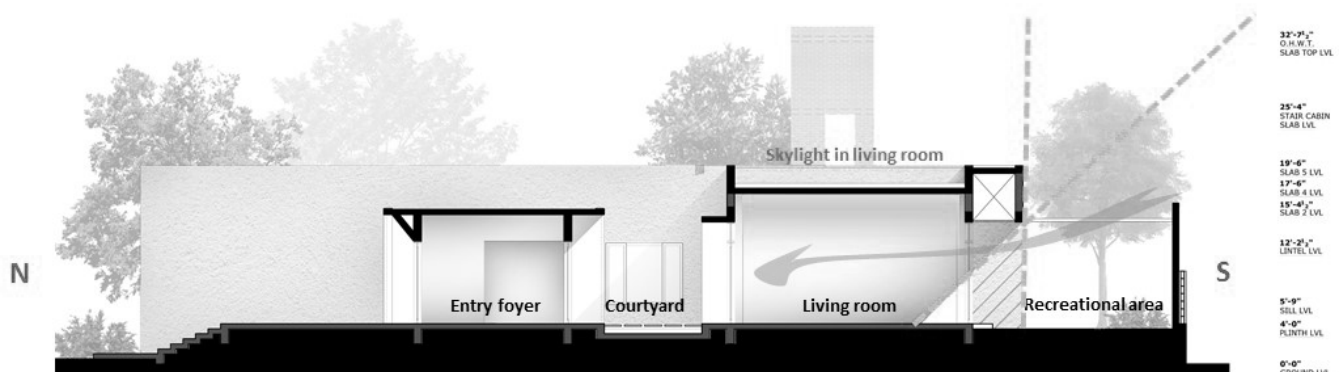




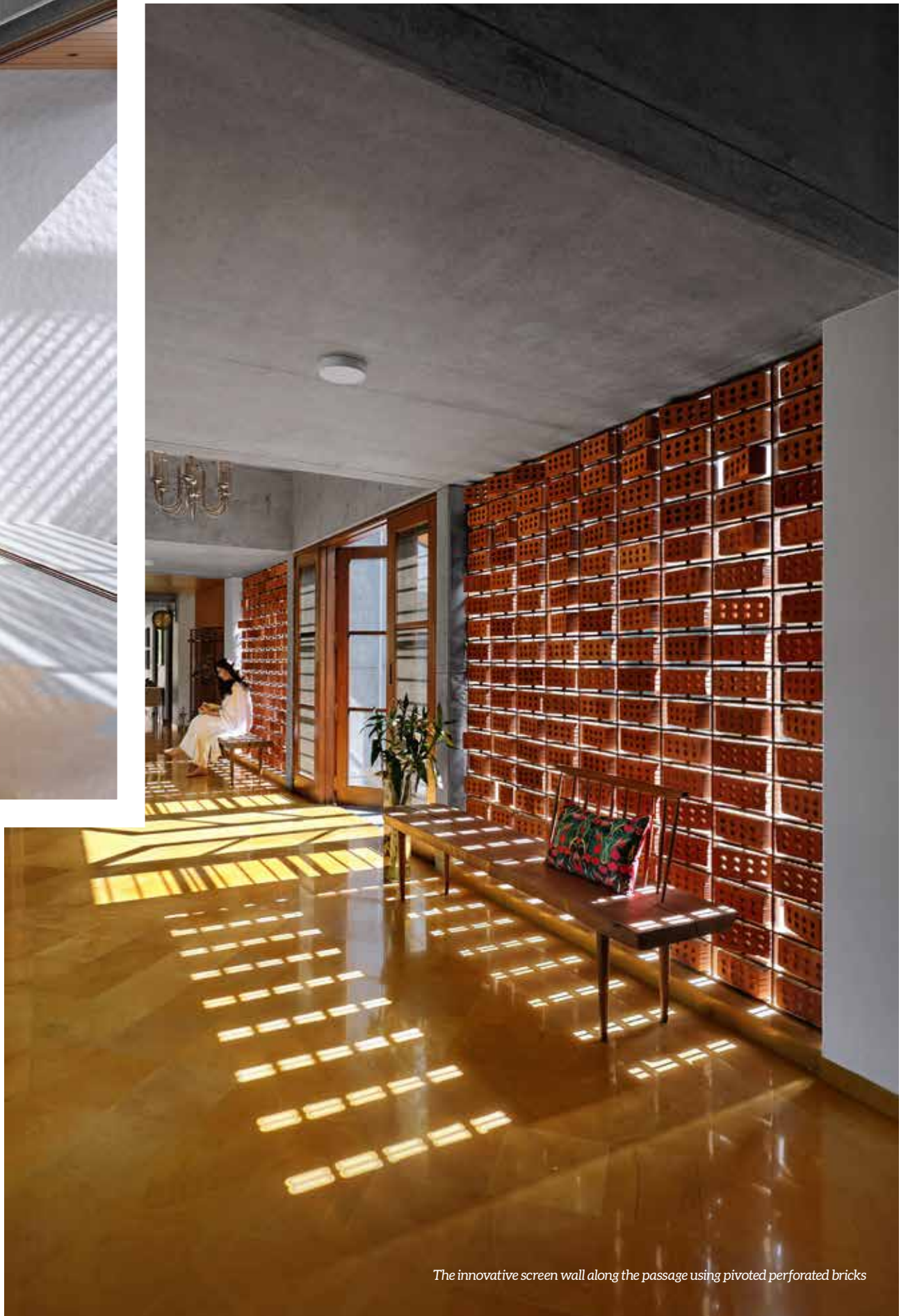
Shadows sweeping across the living room wall

The sheer scale of the structure is sequentially unveiled as the main door swings open to the Jaisalmer stone passage that overlooks the Zen courtyard, offering teasing glimpses of the enormous living room and backyard further ahead. The axial arrangement of vista follows the fundamental principles of design and thus is graciously perceived and cohesively conceived as one treads along the path.

The fall of natural light on the bare textured walls incorporates an interesting sciography throughout the day with pergolas that line the skylights. The primary east-west passage has a fascinating enclosure of perforated bricks that pivot axially along metal members fixed on frames that lets in light in controlled compositions. The right wing accommodates three bedrooms, placed on the corners of the respective built

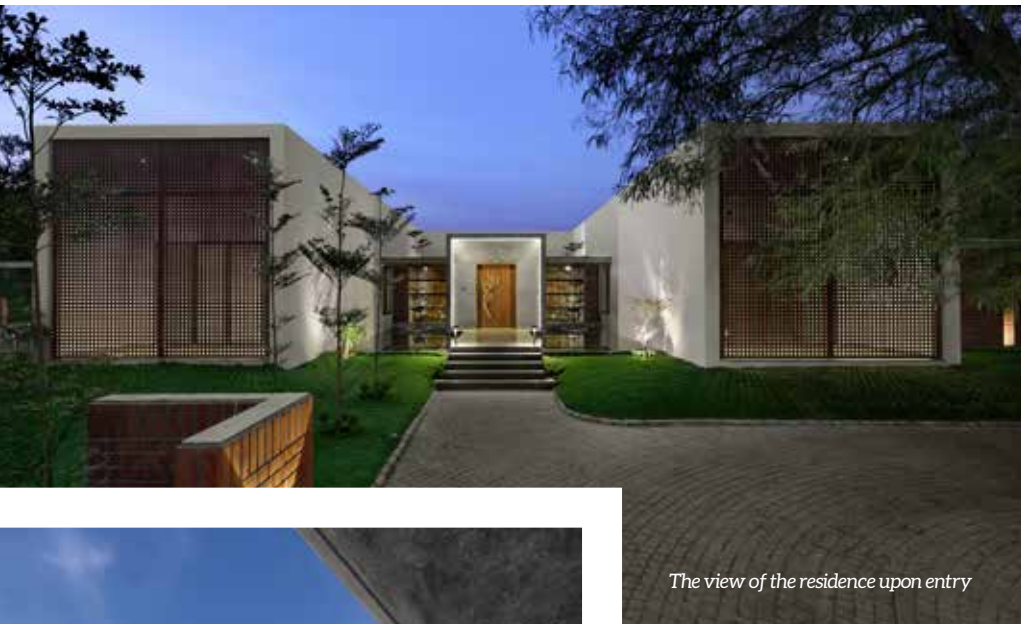






*The innovative screen wall along the passage using pivoted perforated bricks*





*The view of the residence upon entry*



*The Zen courtyard*

volume, while the fourth corner is occupied by an external courtyard that spills out from a common area in the centre. The bedrooms are designed such that each module has its own designated private balcony along with a spacious bathroom with a court. The balcony further doubles up as a deck that has an inherent character associated with its orientation defined by the play of light and vision through the perforated corten steel jaali doors.

The left wing houses the parents' bedroom, dining, kitchen and allied service areas – all of which are linked to the surrounding landscape visually and spatially. A detached servant's quarter is also present lining the southern boundary wall accessed by a peripheral walkway encompassing the manicured lawns of the residence.

The team at DGA has been diligent in their duties of delivering a timeless work of art that blissfully blurs the boundaries of nature, moulding a masterpiece that reverberates on the righteousness of simple design interventions that dwell into the depths of its detail.



**DIPEN GADA**

## **DIPEN GADA & ASSOCIATES**

Dipen Gada & Associates, popularly known as DGA, began as a very modest interior design firm. Gradually with time and every project accomplished, DGA evolved from an exclusive interior design studio to a civil and architectural planning firm and attained the position as one of the respectable and admired practices in India.

Since its inception in 1993, DGA has made its presence felt through innovative, minimalistic and timeless designs. Principal designer and founder of the firm, Mr. Dipen Gada holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from M.S University, Vadodara, Gujarat.

The practice has won accolades from many eminent affiliations. Dipen Gada also headed as the Chairperson of IIID, Vadodara Chapter from the year 2006-2008.



*The spacious living room*



# SketchUp 2020 is here.





# In the lap of nature



Inscape Insider



Yadu Pradeep

## PROJECT INFO

PROJECT	: ZOHA RESIDENCE
LOCATION	: KOTAKKAL, KERALA
ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE	: DE EARTH ARCHITECTS
PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS	: AR VIVEK P P, AR NISHAN M
AREA	:: 3132 SQ.FT
BUDGET	:: 80 LAKHS

“

*Inspired by the design thoughts the clients curated each of the elements to be put together in framing the poetry of spaces while the craftsman responded with their innovations on-site*

Exploring the Zoha a residence at Kotakkal by De Earth Architects, which incorporates the ethos of a traditional Kerala house, is like deciphering a beautiful poesy. The dramatic positioning of its roofs, numerous courtyards and seamless integration of built and unbuilt spaces set against its lush surroundings create a beautiful dialogue between nature and spaces. Built using natural materials the residence is a wonderful amalgam of art, crafts, and architecture.



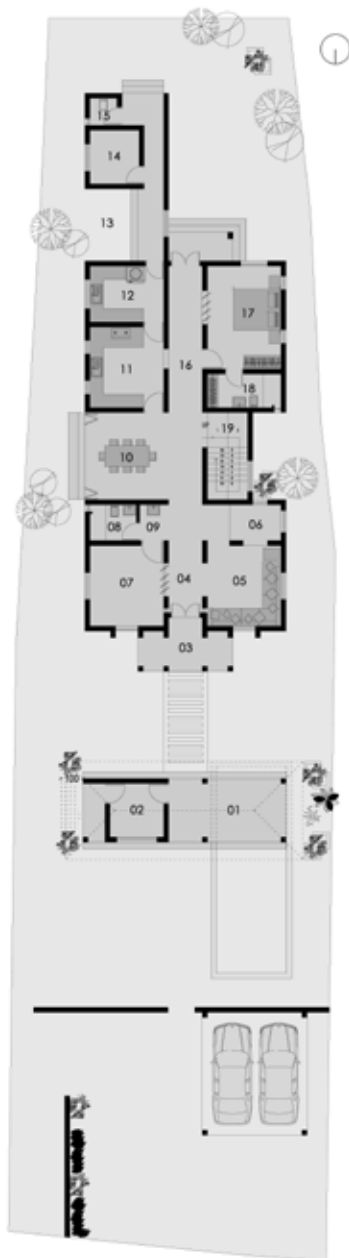


The abode with its series of courtyards and corridors is a sensual space to enjoy the tropical climate of Kerala, especially the romantic monsoon. The entrance articulated with well-arranged courtyards has been divided into multiple spaces and the main gate leads to a porch designed using bamboo and steel. From there one could access the inner main courtyard area through a traditional padippura (a gateway with a roof to enter an enclosed space). Since the client is a medical professional a consulting room without disrupting the privacy of the residence was a must. This was achieved with the introduction of a traditional poomugam (foyer). The consulting room is on the left of this foyer and from this space, one could enjoy the main courtyard that includes a pond, also used for rainwater harvesting.



The open to sky shower area





- 01. Poomugham
- 02. Consulting Room
- 03. Varandha
- 04. Passage
- 05. Drawing Room
- 06. Kottli
- 07. Study Room
- 08. Powder Room
- 09. Wash
- 10. Dining
- 11. Kitchen
- 12. W/A
- 13. Kitchen Courtyard
- 14. Servant Room
- 15. Toilet
- 16. Passage
- 17. Bed Room
- 18. Toilet
- 19. Stair

#### GROUND FLOOR PLAN

GROUND FLOOR	- 1862.05 sq. ft.
POOMUGHAM	- 280.32 sq. ft.
FIRST FLOOR	- 993.60 sq. ft.
TOTAL	- 3165.97 sq. ft.

A stone cladding pathway leads from the Poomugham to the sit-out which in turn provides access to the corridor that connects the living room to the other spaces. A study room is also set on the left of this passage. A powder room is located next to the dining area that opens to the outside courtyard. The ground floor also consists of a traditional-looking kitchen with all the contemporary amenities, work area, two bedrooms with attached bathrooms and courtyards, including the kitchen courtyard. Another prominent design feature is the usage of windows between the rooms that open to the corridor providing maximum ventilation to the interiors. The kitchen courtyard separates the servant quarters from the rest of the house. The rest of the two bedrooms of this four-bedroom residence are located on the first floor which also consists of an upper living and an open terrace.



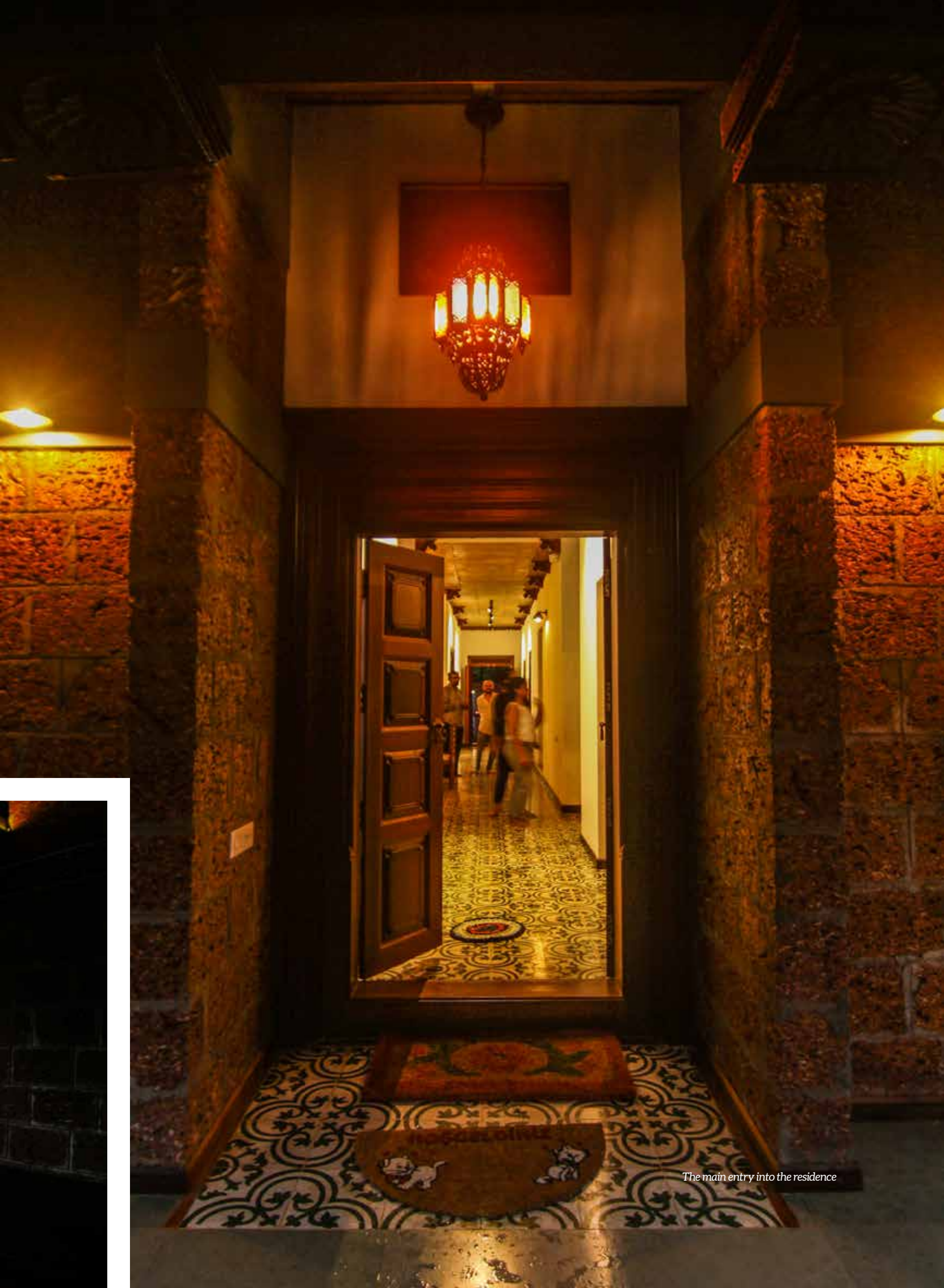
### BACK TO ROOTS

HOUSE FOR - Dr. SUNIL  
TOTAL AREA-3165.97 sq. ft.

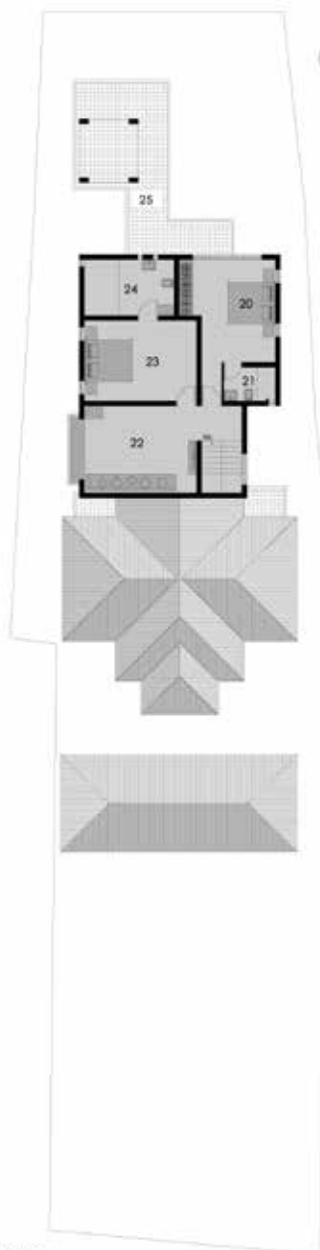


The waterbody upon entry as viewed from the Poomugham





The main entry into the residence



- 20. Bed Room
- 21. Toilet
- 22. Upper Living
- 23. Bed Room
- 24. Toilet
- 25. Open Terrace

FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
FIRST FLOOR - 993.80 sq. ft.



## BACK TO ROOTS

HOUSE FOR - Dr. SUNIL  
TOTAL AREA- 3165.97 sq. ft.

The architects have not only used the landscape to give the house an alluring effect but have effectively incorporated it into the residence's design by transforming them into built space to experience the seasons.

The house created on a vernacular material pallet incorporates carefully collected antique materials and artifacts. "Inspired by the design thoughts the clients curated each of the elements to be put together in framing the poetry of spaces while the craftsman responded with their innovations on-site. The client's passion for designing created a long-lasting bond with us making the process more interesting. Site engineer Jamshid played a very critical role in executing ideas on site. Zoha, is such a collective hands-on effort, where the designer is invisible and design is celebrated," says the architects.



*The ornamental Athangudi tiles on the staircase risers adds a tinge of charm to the overall character*





*The wooden furnishing and decor in the dining room offer a warm and invigorating ambience*





*View of the residence from the site boundary*

The house has around 17 types of windows differing in transparency, workmanship material quality, and functionality. Amongst all, the traditional double shuttered wooden windows inlaid with Belgian glass detailed with Trasi work which was procured from Calicut antique market draws attention. The single shuttered windows were crafted in a similar style on-site using stained glass. 'Thappa' window, an integral part of the traditional Muslim households, is reused as a partition on the inner wall. Providing a diverse look to the house became easier as a rapport was developed between the client and the architects through their

shared interest in art and craft. So they travelled together to find suitable sustainable materials and antique furniture to go along with the design.

Traditional building materials, including Athangudi tiles, recycled wood are used for flooring, meanwhile, the foyer flooring is made of coconut wood. Skirting details are done using used wood. The exposed laterite walls give the exterior walls of the house an old-world charm, while the interior walls are lime plastered. The usage of traditional clay tiles on the roof acts as thermal insulation. Cornice detailing is done using eaves boards










*Bay windows with stained glass shutters*



*Focal element at the end of the waterbody*

incorporating carved wooden column head. Exposed concrete roofing is done on the ground floor. Adaptive reuse of jalis, traditional windows adds to the décor.

The influence of traditional Muslim houses is not limited to the windows; the décor and indoor lighting of the house also have been inspired by it, for example, the Moroccan style lights with tessellated patterns from Saudi Arabia. Traditional furniture sourced and remade on sight is used to give this house a bewitching aura. 



**AR. NISHAN. M**



**AR.VIVEK PP**

## DE EARTH

The Calicut-based De Earth Calicut team lead by architects Vivek P P and Nishan M comprises of young architects, urban designers, engineers & social thinkers working towards nature inclusive and contextually responsive designs with a vision of making a greener & better tomorrow. Their expertise includes single family homes, eco-responsive housing projects, specialized hospitality ventures, hospitals & urban spaces. The firm's designs evolve from being sensible to the needs of the clients while keeping the seeds of thoughts strongly rooted to the cultural & social background and sensitive towards nature to create dynamic and soulful spaces. Their motto, 'nurture-create-belong' is conceived keeping in mind the philosophy of nurturing community relationships and happiness by connecting the spaces and nature to the human souls evoking a sense of belonging.



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# An abode in the DUNES

 Inscape Insider  Alan Abraham





Dining elements present a soulful decor

#### PROJECT INFO

PROJECT TITLE	: CHHAVI HOUSE
LOCATION	: JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN, INDIA
PRACTICE	: ABRAHAM JOHN ARCHITECTS
TPOLOGY	: RESIDENCE
GROSS BUILT AREA	: 710 SQM
PLOT AREA	: 280 SQM
DESIGN TEAM	: ABRAHAM JOHN, ALAN ABRAHAM, ANCA FLORESCU, NIRANJAN FULSUNDAR, PRACHI DONDE, NEHA GUPTA

“

*Sharp angles and clear lines define the crisp silhouette of the dwelling, with projected edges and perforations that illuminates in a golden glow*

A magnificent place that scintillates in shades of blue, a scramble of cubes with winding streets and walkways, a majestic fort that defines the background are the sights that excite anyone who visits the city of Jodhpur also known as the Blue City located in Rajasthan. This place exudes medieval style of architecture that resonates in every nook and corner of the residences, shops and bazaars filled with crowded buzz and decorative scent of flowers. Abraham John Architects took the challenge of designing a residential villa in Jodhpur known as the Chavvi House. This abode located in the Thar Desert conforms to the ancient Indian design principles regarding space, sunlight, flow and function.

The designers were presented with a plot that was restricted within a society scheme. They were encumbered by the existing adjoining buildings along its compound walls and roads along north and east. Sharp angles and clear lines define the crisp silhouette of the dwelling, with projected edges and perforations that illuminates in a golden glow. The colour scheme favours the desert tone with shades of beige resembling a sand sculpture. Wooden panelling in the front facade adds an authentic charm to the residence that merges along with the overall theme of the design. Local Jodhpur stone is fairly used in construction that adds an invigorating texture and feel to the whole house. The design comprises of adding privacy through orientation of views,







*Ample natural light is brought into the bathrooms*



*Bedrooms with sky lit green area and cosy bench seating*



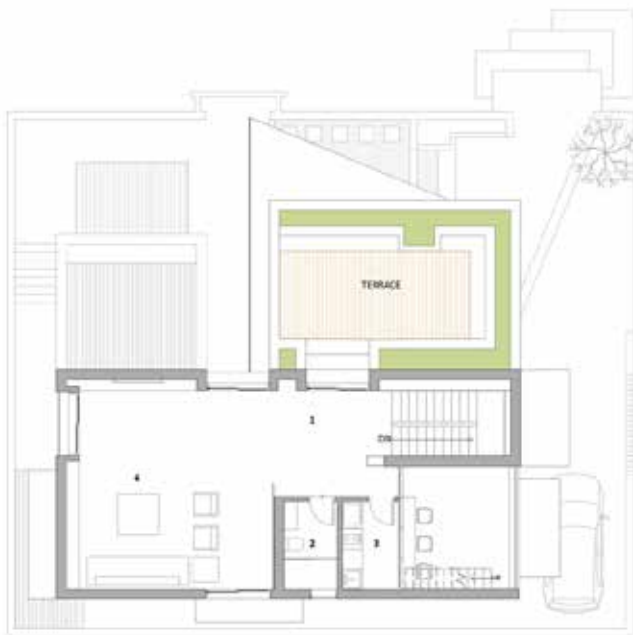
- LEGEND
- 1. ENTRANCE
  - 2. ENTRANCE COURTYARD
  - 3. LIVING ROOM
  - 4. KITCHEN
  - 5. DINING ROOM
  - 6. POWDER ROOM
  - 7. BEDROOM 01
  - 8. BEDROOM 02
  - 9. BEDROOM 03
  - 10. BEDROOM 04
  - 11. SWIMMING POOL
  - 12. PARKING

LEVEL 1



- LEGEND
- 1. LOBBY
  - 2. BEDROOM 05
  - 3. BEDROOM 06
  - 4. BEDROOM 07
  - 5. BEDROOM 08
  - 6. POWDER ROOM

LEVEL 2



- LEGEND
- 1. LOBBY
  - 2. POWDER ROOM
  - 3. PANTRY
  - 4. FAMILY ROOM

LEVEL 3



SECTION A-A'

screens and courtyards. An intricate system of landscape design along with little gardens, decks and water bodies, brings in a soothing and refreshing atmosphere into the spaces. A sculpture court presents a unique drama of shade and emotions. Sky lit balconies brings in ample natural light into the interiors and terrace gardens adds vibrancy by

enhancing the spatial experience. Floating steps unveil an exciting entrance dazzling with lighting and landscape imbuing the sense of arrival. As you move through the front door, there are moments of pause to embrace the soothing sounds of the cascade beyond. Imposing wooden doors, double height volumes and projections are



Double height volume in the living space adds delight and charm



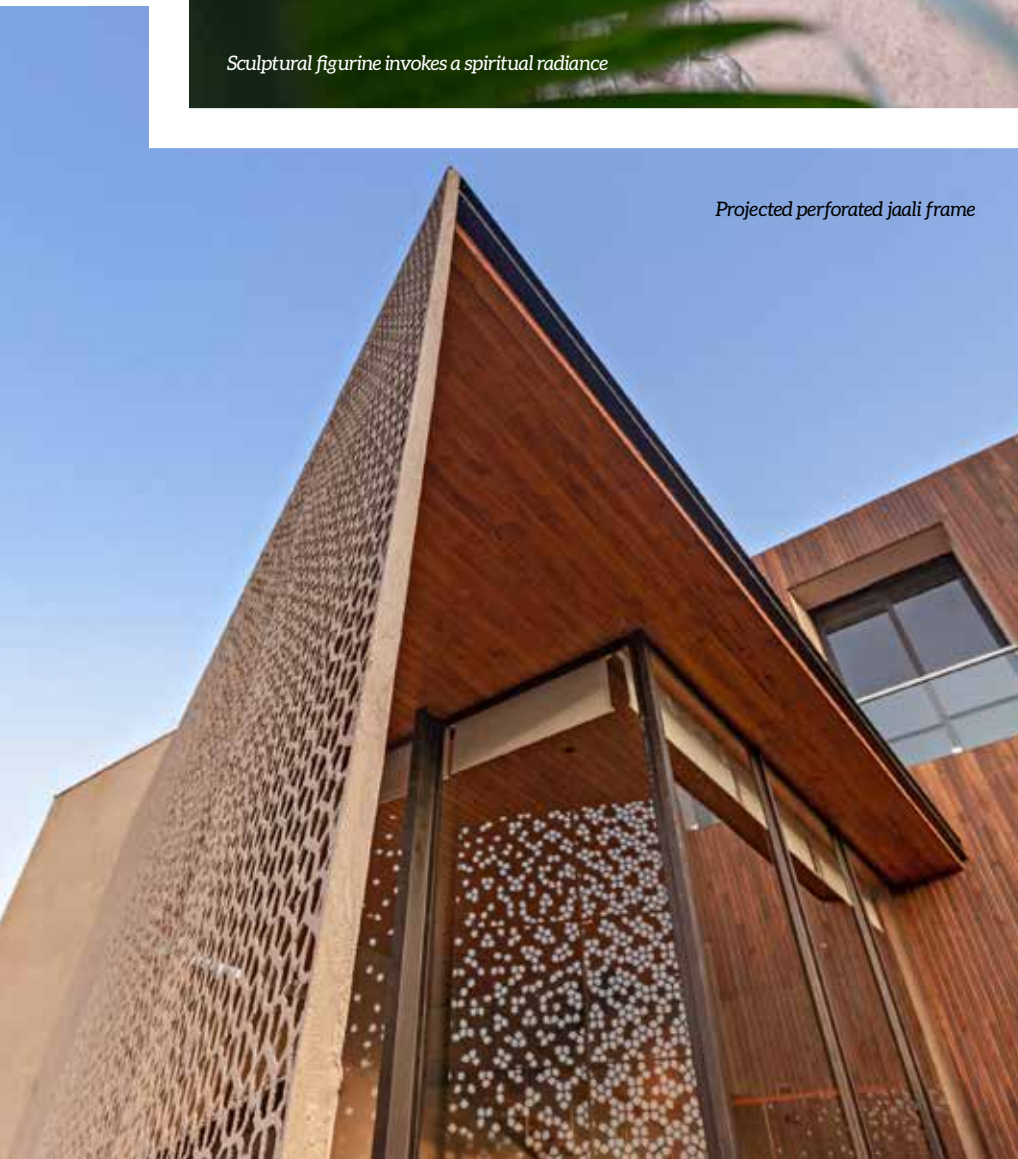




*Sculptural figurine invokes a spiritual radiance*

reminiscent of many palaces, forts and temples set in stark landscape of the desert. The double heighted space in the living area with L shaped floor to ceiling glazing integrates the inside and outside. A water body abuts the living area invoking a calming effect into the spaces, which also aids in cooling the volumes within, enhancing the microclimate. Grey shaded upholstery in the interiors compliments the layout and design expressing elegance and warmth. Sliding doors in the kitchen provide ample space as and when required. In this city, temperature routinely exceeds 40 degree Celsius, which is addressed by an aesthetic filigree screen that protects from the harsh sun. The screen resembles the traditional jaalis of the region.

The ground floor bedrooms display concealed doors to the attached bathrooms exposing a clinical design. One of the bedrooms open up onto a deck and garden, while the other has a sky lit private deck



*Projected perforated jaali frame*







*Aesthetic brilliance encompass the interior space*



*Exterior embellishes in a clean defined facade*





Waterbody and landscape merges with the living space



Sky lit openings invoke auspicious sanctity

to augment its sense of space. The wood finished staircase leads to the first floor, where a platform extends out into the living. The first floor houses the master suite with sky-lit green area and cosy bench seating. It then extends into the dressing area and a spa like bathroom. A private terrace is butted along which invite birds invoking a relaxed ambience. The projected mass over the courtyard is the temple, with a screen that filters light achieving the required privacy and sanctity. The media room on the second floor encloses a private cosy environment that spills onto a family terrace which becomes a communion space for the family. A pantry is also aligned near the staircase along with a powder room.

The overall composition of the whole house brings delight and joy to the residents; the interior design scheme silently touches and embellishes grandeur invoking an auspicious zeal that transforms our soul. 🏡



ABRAHAM JOHN & ALAN ABRAHAM

## ABRAHAM JOHN ARCHITECTS

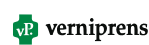
Abraham John Architects is a multidisciplinary architecture, interior design, landscaping and urban planning firm founded in 1967. Abraham John and Alan Abraham are the Joint Principal Architects of the firm. The studio works at multiple scales with various organizations right from private clients to corporate & NGOs. Their designs experiment and diversify the language of architecture and interiors. The firm works on projects such as luxury villas, high end residences and unique offices, hospitality & institutional projects, even charitable works, including earthquake and cyclone proof buildings. Their design approach is to re-connect architecture with nature, make optimum use of space, natural materials, lighting and landscape to reinvent and transform living environments and urban spaces. The firm strives to create design that inspires, approaching each project attending to its details with an understanding that architecture has a unique power to influence lifestyle and society.



# STYLISH SPACES INSPIRED LIVING

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# A symphony of **volumes**



Inscape Insider



Monika Sathe Photography

## PROJECT INFO

PROJECT NAME	: DANCING WITH NATURE
LOCATION	: JUBILEE HILLS,
HYDERABAD	
ARCHITECTS	: URBAN ZEN
DESIGN TEAM	: ROHIT SURAJ, HARSH
	AGARWAL, ROHIT
	PATNALA
AREA	: 12500 SQ.FT
YEAR OF	
COMPLETION	: 2019

“

*By organizing the landscape in accordance with the aesthetic principles of artistic vanguard especially 'cubism,' 'modernism' and 'abstractionism,' we created a new and modern architectural grammar.*

Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. In the realm of architecture however, this subjective perception takes on a further dimension in the form of an experiential expedition. As one physically interacts with the conceived volumes, the quality associated with a given space comes into the fore. The tangible and intangible parameters of gauging optimum levels of human comfort become more evidently evaluative. It is this experience; the instance where the mesmerizing moments of the space within lingers long after the initial novelty of the establishment fades, is what determines the true success of a project.





*The neutral colour of the interior furnishings and decor complement the green landscape*



1. Car Parking
2. Driver's Room
3. Electrical & DG Room
4. Multipurpose Room
5. Servant's Room
6. Lift
7. Lift Lobby
8. Office
9. Toilets
10. Massage Room
11. Dock
12. Lawn



1. Family Living
2. Drawing
3. Pooja
4. Dining Room
5. Maid Kitchen/Store
6. Kitchen
7. Master Bedroom
8. Dress
9. Toilet
10. Powder Room
11. Alfresco Dining
12. Sit Out
13. Lift

This, for Urban Zen, has been its greatest achievement as almost everyone who has visited this home considers it truly 'Dancing with Nature' and a home that breaks out of the conventional mould. The residence is home to a client with years of property development experience and has had the opportunity to work with several industry leading architecture firms which was thus a commanding challenge for the team. To impress, to deliver a compelling design and yet stand out from the existing design exemplar set by the peers.

The lay of land screams for a certain justification that couldn't be ignored. The sloping contours gently cascading down to the access road naturally opened up a provision for a perched stance in form. The residence thus gradually crafted itself from the existing topography, a design that cradled the landscape within a pristine built environment. Seeking inspiration from 'dancers' in an intimate embrace we developed the union between 'building' and 'surroundings' as a cohesive entity. By organizing the landscape in accordance with the aesthetic principles of artistic vanguard especially 'cubism,' 'modernism' and 'abstractionism,' we created a new and modern architectural grammar.

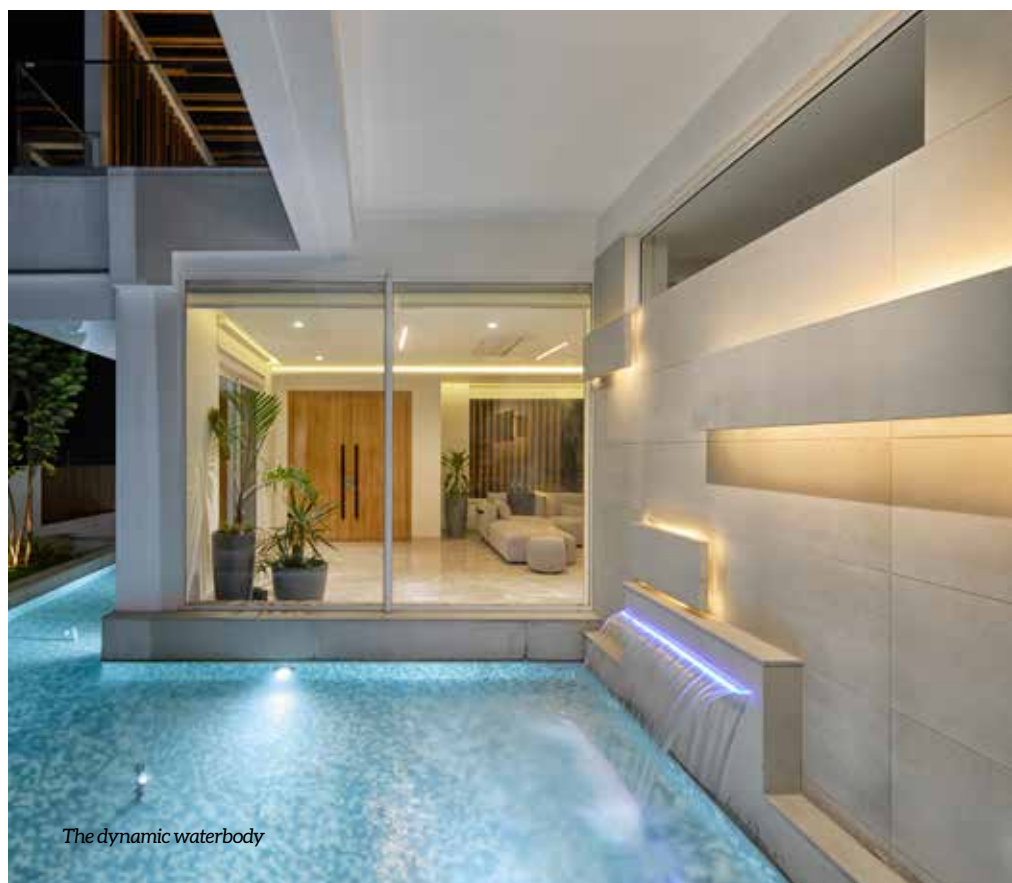






*Entry lawn as viewed from the ground floor*

*The material palette portrays a sense of luxury*



*The dynamic waterbody*



1. Family Lounge
2. Master Bedroom
3. Daughter's Room
4. Son's Room
5. Toilets
6. Dress
7. Laundry
8. Open Terrace
9. Lift
10. Jacuzzi



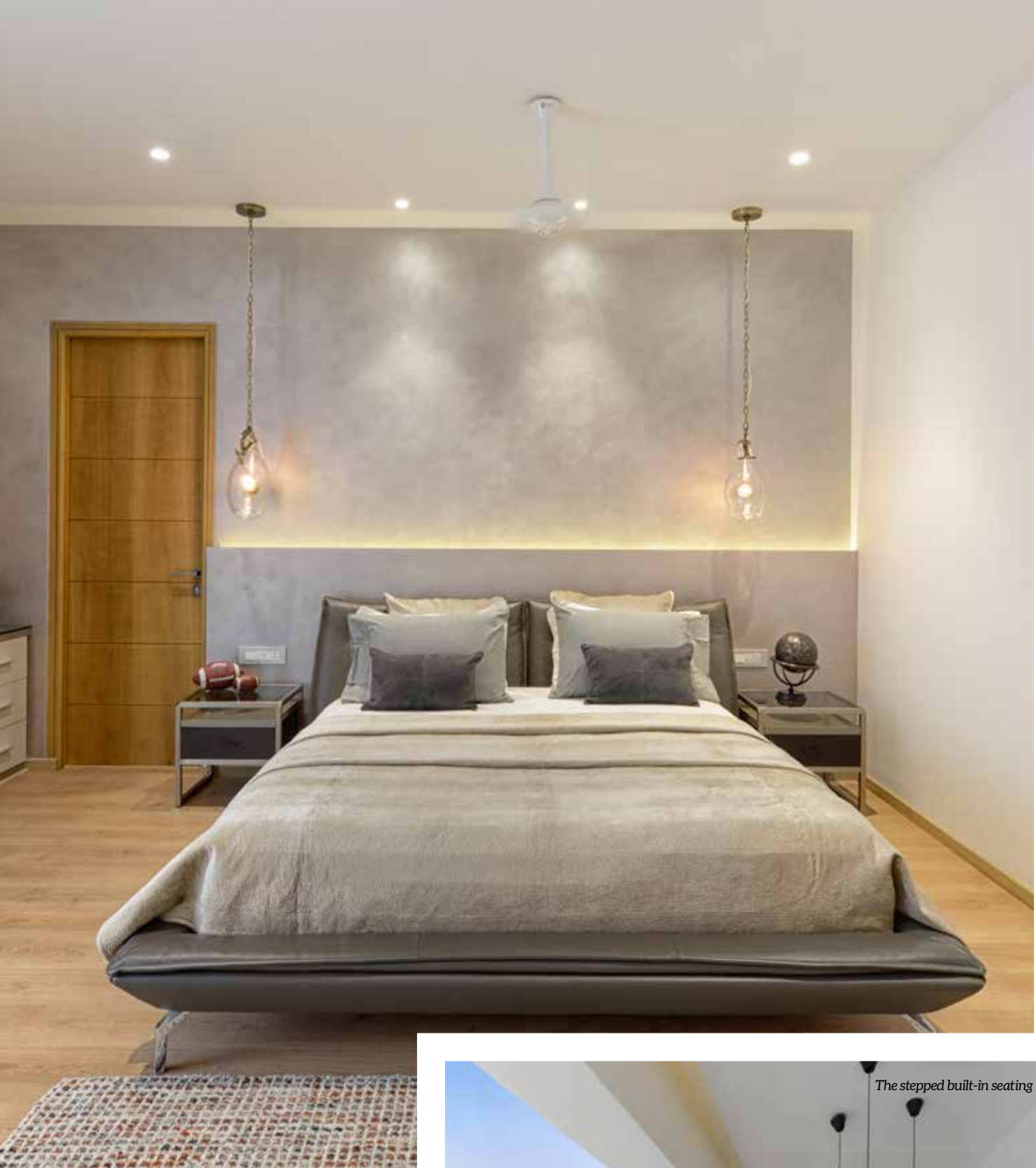
1. Home Theatre
2. Bar
3. Toilet
4. Pantry/Wash Area
5. Open Terrace
6. Dry Garden
7. Life Lobby
8. Lift



*The elegant interiors of the bedroom*

The raised platform caters to the primary living spaces, thereby providing a provision to scoop out the service and auxiliary areas in the stilt level itself. The ground floor accommodates living rooms, kitchen, dining and the master bedroom. Adjacent to the indoor dining, a spill-out alfresco dining that flows out to the lawn, provides for an ideal relaxing semi-outdoor gathering space for the family. This yard is further made lively by a water feature that extends beyond towards the periphery enveloping the formal living area as it ripples by.





The multi level residence is accessed by a central core of stairs that wraps around a lift well. The first floor pans out to an expansive foyer that guides one to a family lounge that overlooks the garden below and the three other bedrooms on this level. The road facing elevation has an aesthetically striking deck lined with a shallow waterbody, complete with a cantilevered Jacuzzi upfront. The cantilevered composition of the superstructure, spreading out from slanting columns, symbolically mimics the ballerina's leap where she's caught mid-flight, frozen in time representing the infinite.



*The stepped built-in seating*



*Metal and leather combo of the furnishing along with designer lighting fixtures impart a regal ambience*

Just as a performer occupies the 'centre stage' the terrace stands out as the central element in the architecture of the house and is the life of the whole. The residents of the home enjoy this deck as a social space, a space for contemplation and as that perfect indoor-outdoor space for their morning coffee.

Treading onto the details, the overall palette of Grey, Lightwood, Bianco Beige marble and Brass repeats itself over the home, in unique and interesting patterns. The interior feels light and airy and is regularly punctuated by lush green pockets; either indoor palms or outdoor trees. This treatment of spaces facilitated the clients requirement of a home that is clutter-free and almost minimal yet fundamentally functional. The lighting fixtures fall in tandem with the inherent

spatial character, only accented by subtle cove lighting in some spaces or statement pendant lighting.

The lift wall cladding is a Bianco marble stone wrap with a minimalistic control panel. As the core is centrally located, the subtle onyx lighting and combination of light and dark stone leaves a luxurious label on all levels. The puja room door has been inspired by the natural phenomenon of light filtered through natural tree foliage. The combination of light coloured heavy grained timber and inset triangles of brass bring in an aesthetic that is modern with a tinge of antique sentiment. The puja room being adjacent to the formal drawing room and along the passage way paves its prominence of functioning as an apt portal that takes you from the realm of everyday living to spiritual sublimity.



Breakfast counter and open kitchen





*The minimal approach has been followed for the washrooms as well*

The orientations of the spatial zones and its associated landscaped parcels have been carefully curated around a climate study where the team has mapped, modeled and animated both wind and sun paths. Thus, all outdoor spaces are shielded and usable both in the rains and in the summer when the weather isn't as co-operative as the comfortable winters of Hyderabad.

As a whole, the house is a testament of design being boundless yet bound, infinite yet finite, stone yet liquid; it remains continually captivating and as the name suggests, it engages the user in a tantalizing trance while it dances with nature.



*Exterior view of the residence*



**ROHIT SURAJ**

## URBAN ZEN

Instilling fascination, elevating the human spirit and initiating conversation are the cornerstones of Urban Zen's design story. A passionate proponent of independent thinking and creative change, Rohit Suraj, Urban Zen's Founder and CEO, is a TedX Speaker and has been hailed as one of the Top 50 Architects and Interior designers of 2019. Apart from several national and international awards over the years, Rohit has, designed and executed a vast spectrum of projects of varying scales and profiles. Starting from multi-million dollar international mega ports to masterplan developments, mid-rise buildings, niche villas and boutiques, Rohit has lived true to his belief that no challenge is too big or too small, engaging in the design process with equal enthusiasm. His level for attention and detail has been quickly noticed in the design fraternity and Urban Zen has come to be known for dramatically different designs that deliver a strong message. Urban Zen and its founder stay committed, now and always, to designing and delivering living environments that are timeless, experiential and on the leading edge of design innovation.



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# Yonder **Beyond**



Inscape Insider



Adam Letch & Stefan Antoni

## PROJECT INFO

PROJECT NAME	: BEYOND
LOCATION	: CLIFTON, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
ARCHITECTS	: SAOTA
INTERIOR DESIGNERS	: ARRCC
INTERIOR DÉCOR	: OKHA
ENGINEERS	: MOROFF & KÜHNE
CONTRACTOR	: CAPE ISLAND CONSTRUCTION
LIGHTING CONSULTANT	: MARTIN DOLLER DESIGN
LANDSCAPING	: NICHOLAS WHITEHORN LANDSCAPE DESIGN
YEAR OF COMPLETION	: 2018
PROJECT AREA	: 1 400 M2

“

*Crafted in tandem to Le-Corbusier's definition of architecture as a "magnificent play of masses brought together in light"*

On the most sought after address in South Africa, the Nettleton Road, sits an elegant modernist building with a façade crafted in tandem to Le-Corbusier's definition of architecture as a "magnificent play of masses brought together in light". Perched on the shoulders of 'Lion's Head', the structure springs off a steep hillside that drops off to the famous sequence of Clifton's white beaches to the Twelve Apostles beyond. A consciously curated composition of levels, of which four of six stand easily evident, the other two ingeniously tucked further inwards only to offer tantalizing glimpses invoking suspense. With unparalleled and unobstructed views to the sea that yonder beyond, the fundamental





*The gallery foyer is situated on the bedroom level with pyjama lounge at the end. Seen beneath the lounge is the 'Blowfish' by Porky Hefer*



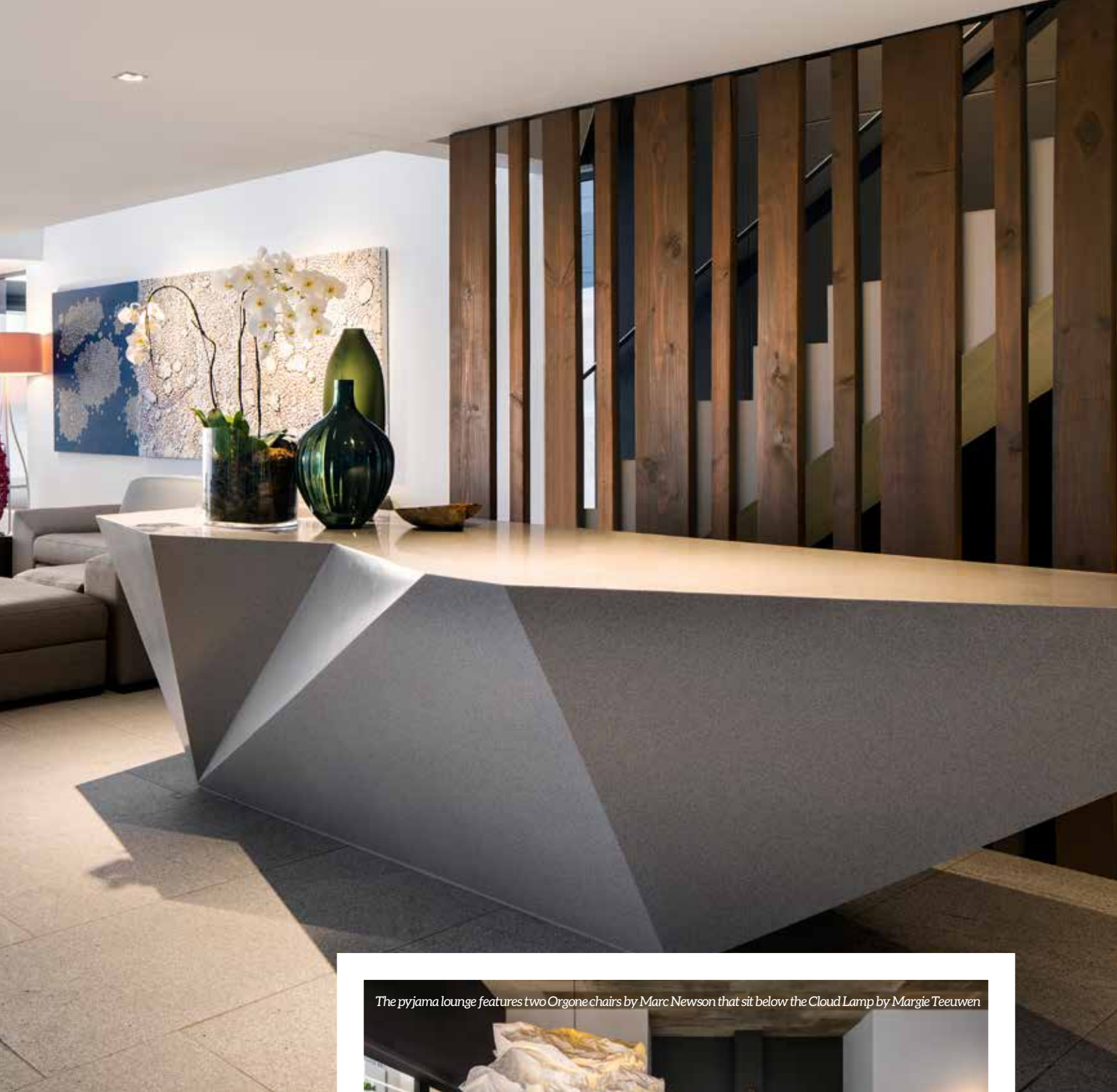
Double volume entrance foyer with a rusted steel and glass staircase. Artworks: 'Three Blind Mice' by Kevin Brand on the wall and on the landing ledge is a totem by David Brown



The bar lounge is suspended over the pool and incorporates the Curator couch by OKHA, Dragnet lounge chair by Kenneth Cobonpue and an artwork by Martie Kossatz

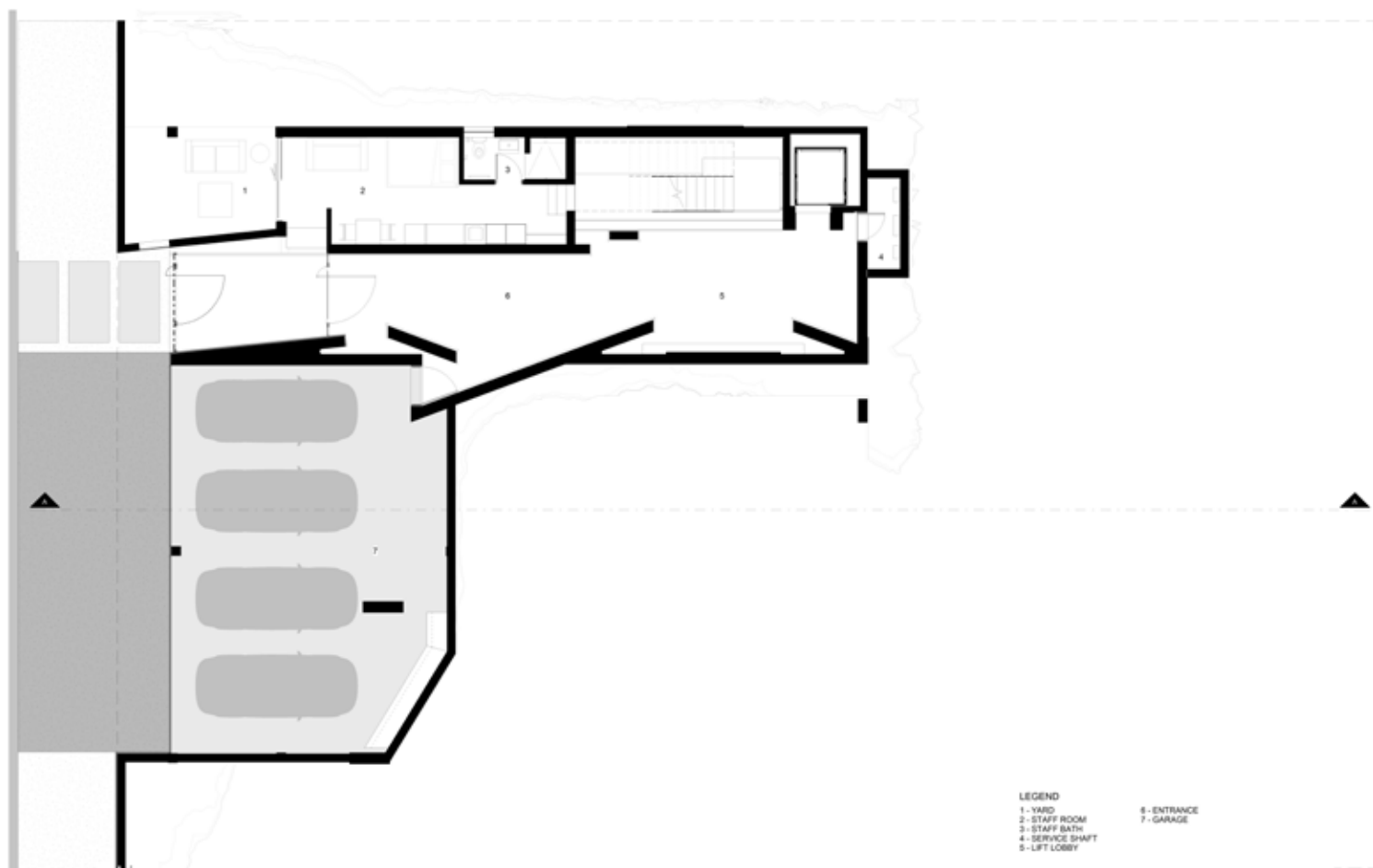
spaces across the levels all offer panoramic views upfront. The lower four levels play host to six generous bedrooms, a double height entertainment area complete with a scintillating spa, gaming zone and a spacious home theatre. The design further extends beyond the realms of enclosed spaces by offering a flexible provision of interconnecting the three bedrooms in the lower level to form a combined family suite room as and when required. This innovation facilitates the ingenuity of preferential degrees of privacy associated with a residence.





*The pyjama lounge features two Orgone chairs by Marc Newson that sit below the Cloud Lamp by Margie Teeuwen*





Basement (Level 1)







Basement (Level 2)



The kitchen, dining room, lounge and bar lounge are situated on the fourth floor. The courtyard garden is on the mountain side facing Lions Head with distant views of the Atlantic Ocean



The principal living area occupies the two upper floors – an expansive double height open plan space that houses a kitchen, bar, dining, living and family rooms with a designated winter lounge, study and art studio at a mezzanine level. The glazed treatment of the vertical partitions renders a seamless blend of indoor and outdoor

landscape that further accentuates the enormity of the space. The floor plane extends onto the hill-side thereby facilitating the provision of a generous back garden that opens directly onto the Table Mountain National Park on one side and a rooftop pool on the other that frames serene scenic vistas of the sea ahead.



Ground Floor





The main bedroom incorporates a Bird chair by Harry Bertoia and Jada couch by OKHA, over the Flokati rug. Carnival artwork by Yvon van der Heul



First Floor



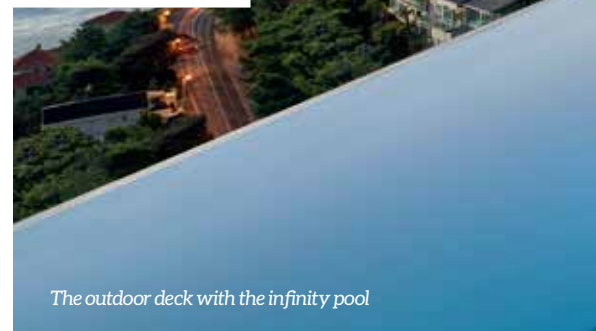


*A Greek traditional rug in the games room.  
Tapestry from the President Hotel 1967 in  
Johannesburg by Cecil Skotnes*

The characteristic chiaroscuro effect upon entry to the cavernous entrance hall leads the visitors upwards to the voluminous ingress of natural light in the upper living levels. The house feels like a robust, coherent form whose functions are defined by intersecting planes, ceilings and floor treatments. This concept is essayed from the macro scale of the bar whose glazed form slides dramatically out of the house, floating over the pool with a glass floor, to

the materialistic scale of the rough concrete over the main lounge and the timber ceiling on the level below – which, in the true spirit of this house – is made from the very same blemished boards which shuttered the concrete above.

Complete with a unique and consciously curated collection of contemporary South African art, the residence can essentially be dubbed a gallery of exquisite art and craft.



*The outdoor deck with the infinity pool*



**Second Floor**

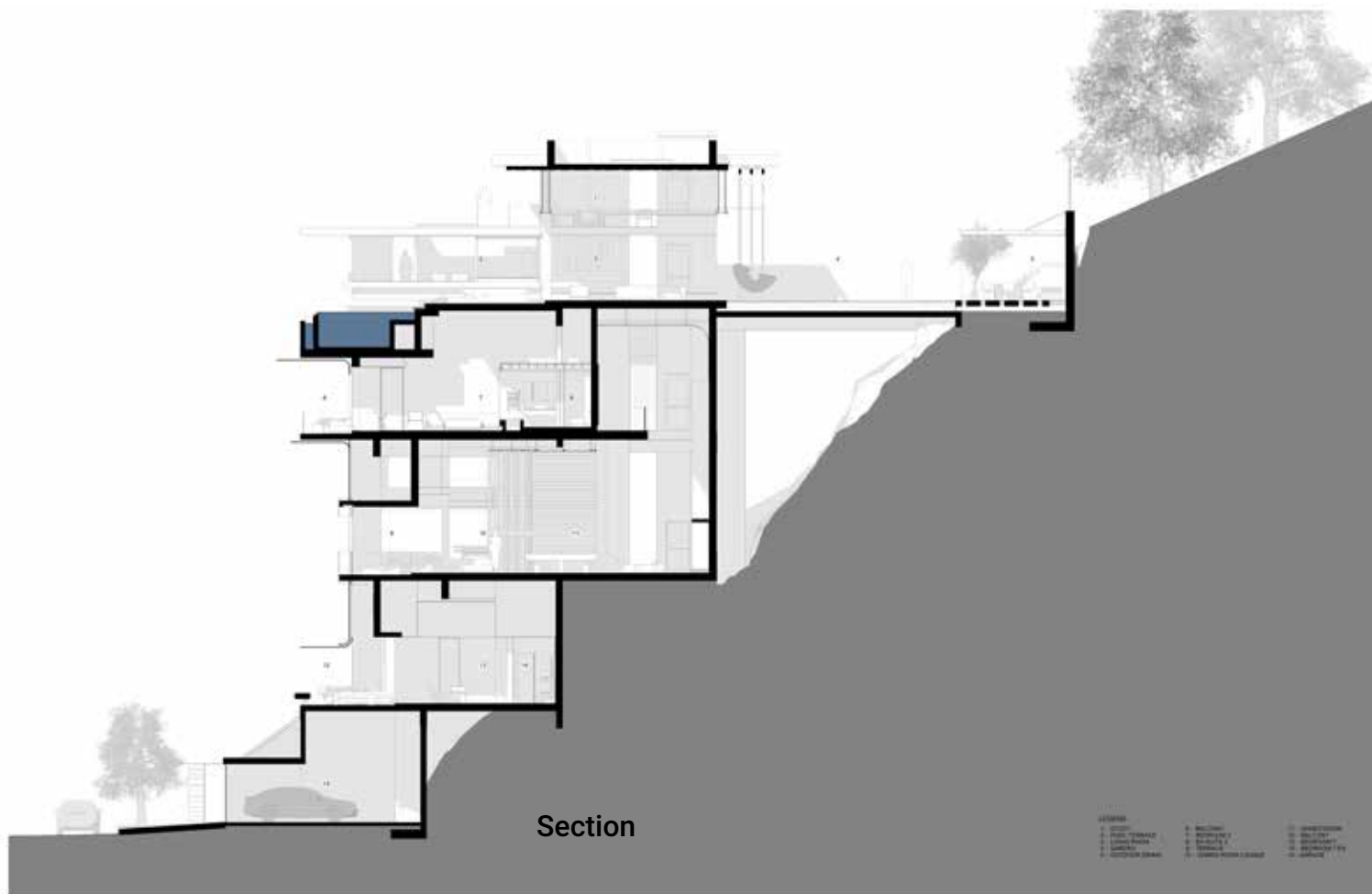






Mezzanine Floor





AR. STEFAN ANTONI

## SAOTA

SAOTA, a leading firm of architects is driven by the dynamic combination of Stefan Antoni, Philip Olmesdahl, Greg Truen, Phillippe Fouché and Mark Bullivant who share a potent vision easily distinguished in their design. This, paired with both an innovative and dedicated approach to the design, documentation and execution of projects globally, has seen SAOTA become an internationally sought-after brand.

SAOTA has a global footprint with projects on six continents. And have a clear understanding of the place of design in the world and how to deliver architectural projects in diverse markets. This success is driven by a design philosophy that connects function and form, and the pursuit of true architectural design to create appropriate solutions. The focus on achieving maximum value has also led to global invitations to design, build and create highly prestigious projects.

The philosophy of practice is embodied in the spirit of enquiry that flourishes amongst its staff. This spirit not only guides the firm, but enables it to maintain its position as definitive designers in a highly competitive and fast-changing industry. Increased exposure to the global marketplace has seen SAOTA flourish as cities and contexts allow for infinite inspiration which can be seen radiating from the approach to design.

The lines between home and gallery are always blurred; from the Paul Blomkamp tapestry and Paul Edmunds sculpture which animate the mystical entrance hall, to Porky Hefer's playful (and inhabitable) "Blowfish" which floats within the double volume entertainment area, to the African masks worked into the dark walls over the kitchen, all of which are judiciously picked and placed in a way that it concurrently coalesces with the overall architectural spatial experience.

The interiors were conceived by ARRCC hand in hand with OKHA that chose and crafted the décor to perfection.

'Beyond' can thus rightfully be stated to be a contemporary setting for life and art, wherein the congruous comfort of a modern home is meaningfully merged to an elemental architectural marvel that has drawn inspiration and skillfully exploited the nuances of nature encompassed within the dramatic landscape the site has to offer. 🏡





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# Ceramic Serenity

 InScape Insider  Vinod Daroz

“

*As long as there is earth and fire and two hands to shape an imagination, the potter's wheel will keep spinning.*

Ceramics in India dates back to a time even before the Indus Valley Civilization and some examples of Harappan pottery reflect remarkable skill and beauty that amaze us even today. Modern-day Gujarat extends from the very region that the Harappan sites once existed and traditional potters still use clay from the same region as was used 5,000 years ago. India is a country steeped in traditions, many of which continue to live and transform in accordance with changing times. The arts in India have mostly survived on knowledge and skills being taught from one generation to the next; a process that invariably infuses a depth of understanding, which gets reflected in the intricacies and nuances of artistic expression.





Vinod Daroz a contemporary artist in this context adds another dimension to the existing cultural dialogue. He hails from a family of traditional jewellers, which gave him refined craftsmanship, pristine quality of finish to all his works and intricate detailing which are perhaps the standards imbibed from his family profession. Vinod credits his uncle P. R. Daroz, a well-known ceramist based in New Delhi, for introducing him to studio pottery and the medium of ceramics. He founded his studio closer to his hometown back in Andhra Pradesh, which has a lot to do with the availability of resources. He plays with the scale and appearances of forms derived from religion and architecture, especially the gopurams

and sculptures of South Indian temples. The tendency to elaborate on basic forms of vases, platters, urns and bowls draw from the lyrical elaboration seen in the stone sculptures; and his use of gold and copper glazes as incidental embellishments in the works echo his background of the decorative innovations seen within jewellery making. His interest in observing mountains, valleys, rivers and natural phenomenon like rains adds to his philosophical quotient of capturing and crafting his elemental art. He was an ardent traveler who has been to various cities, working with established ceramic studios, have expanded his oeuvre providing him with wider ambit of interaction with studio potters.



*Vyuham (Labyrinth) display a vibrant fusion*



*'Samudra Manthan' exude a harmonic play*





*'River' echoes with the rhythm of the landscape*

Vinod exercises complete freedom in choosing to make his own clay body suited for high-temperature firing and has over the years developed a palette of glazes unique to his sensibilities. The repetitive elements in his works evoke aspects of recall and emphasis that one would otherwise associate with chants and meditative practices. The power of nature can overwhelm one to contemplate on the fundamental aspects of life and for Vinod; the tsunami of 2004 that hit many parts of the western coast of India led him to seek a new direction within his work. His series titled Silent Sloka reflects his exploration of notions of universal peace.

Vinod's works exude a tranquil space of articulation, the vibrant glazes, stark contrasts and incessant repetition speak of a restless temperament; one that is insatiable in its attempts to achieve perfection and hence arrives at a poetic refrain within his prolific production of high-temperature ceramics. As long as there is earth and fire and two hands to shape an imagination, the potter's wheel will keep spinning.



## VINOD DAROZ

Born in Southern India, Vinod Daroz studied Sculpture at Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University, Baroda. He further pursued post-graduation (MFA) from the same alma-mater. He has successfully conducted more than 13 solo shows to date with prestigious galleries in India. Vinod Daroz's ceramic art works are visually enchanting, very abstract, and modern in expression and contemplative in spirit. He has worked at Bharat Bhavan in Bhopal and the Goldeun Bridge Pottery in Pondicherry which were both hugely beneficial in expanding his understanding of processes and production. He is a recipient of many awards and recognitions for his exquisite array of works that are magical and transcending.



*'Holytree' compliments the interior decor*





# Facilitating Architecture



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*'North' was the mast and anchor that led many an expedition in history. Man's search to find new directions in life has been an inbuilt direction of his journey for progress from ancient times and was the ultimate guide to everything from farming to improve life and livelihood. This journey can never end, the search through design to better and improve our life and environment as designers, It is about the need of 'Conscious and Conscientious Design' where everybody alike professionals, trade and even people at large take a call on the dreams we dream, the lines we draw and the choices we make to ensure that we are on the right path for a better tomorrow for the people and the planet.*

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The 'Vision Summit 2020' hosted by the Institute of Indian Interior Designers (IIID) Kerala Regional Chapter in Kochi on February 13, 2020, highlighted the need for a holistic design approach, based on the needs and the culture of the local society. The event included a workshop and brainstorming panel discussion which culminated in the grand launch of the apex body's vision for the year 2019 – 2021 - 'Where is North?', by IIID's first lady President Ar Jabeen L Zacharias. She also introduced the new Executive Council for the term 2019 -2021.

"North was the mast and anchor that led many an expedition in history. Man's search to find new directions in life has been an inbuilt direction of his journey for progress from ancient times and was the ultimate guide to everything from farming to improve life and livelihood. This journey can never end, the search through design to better and improve our life and environment as designers, It is about the need of 'Conscious and Conscientious Design' where everybody alike professionals, trade and even people at large take a call on the dreams we dream, the lines we draw and the choices we make to ensure that we are on the right path for a better tomorrow for the people and the planet. It is necessary for weaving long term dreams which can touch the lives of everybody everywhere, including future generations. This is what IIID is setting out to do via THE QUEST FOR NORTH", said Ar Jabeen L Zacharias at her Presidential address during the Grand Leadership Summit.



*Red carpet walk by IIID's first lady president Ar. Jabeen L Zacharias*





*Lead Navigators and NEC members at the event*



*Presentation by Ar Johnny Chiu*

She also pointed out that design can act as an instrument of change in the present scenario of global warming and unemployment. Any design has to be future-oriented and beneficial for the generations to come. Any designer can look for the guiding North Star to complete their journey in this quest.

The Grand Design Summit saw the presence of over renowned delegates from all over India, including 100 selected top designers and exclusive Corporate heads, who donned the mantle of 'Lead Navigators' for the term 2019-2021. Corporate heads from Jaipur Rugs, Jaquar, ATUM Visaka, Dormakaba, Vitrium, Watertec, Godrej & Boyce, Hafele, Somany, Timble, Sketchup, Kich, Hindware, Studio Espacio, Hettich, Changi Lighting, Cera, AICA Sunmica, RK Marbles and Schneider were present at the summit. The high profile event witnessed 240 top designers from India who brainstormed on the vision, 'Where is North?'

The brainstorming session of the event was guided by eminent personalities from the design world like Niraj Shah, Shilpa Gore, Vivek Gupta, Jeyanthi Nedesalingam, Anish Bajaj, Ravi Hazra, Chiranjivi Lunkad, and Sanjay Agarwal. The session concluded that to ensure high levels of intelligent business management the design industry must be more technologically equipped. The way to achieve this integration is by joining and collaborating with the Industry catering to design-related products. Another key factor which emerged at the summit was the need for Design Institutions to come down to the grassroots level and address the actual requirement through design solutions.

The summit also addressed the social needs by developing and providing alternative design solutions to be reached through a multi-disciplinary process. Here again, the active participation of the designers with the joint effort of the industry is a key input to achieve higher levels of sustainable

*Guru Dakshina honouring past presidents and seniors*







Audience enjoying the dazzling show











Jignesh Modi, National Hon. Secretary of IIID

design. It also emphasized the need to apply techniques to create something unique and useful by reusing discarded items and by 'upcycling' instead of creating more waste while redoing or recreating older spaces.

The Grand Leadership Summit held in the evening attended by 300 leaders of IIID deliberated on how design impacts the life of humanity. Chief Guest of the event was Architect Johnny Chiu from JC Architecture, Taiwan who gave a live presentation of some

of his admirable design works. The event also witnessed a video address on 'Where is North?' by Padma Bhushan awardee Architect BV Doshi.

The re-launch of the official magazine of IIID 'Inscape' published by Designer Publications Kerala Pvt Ltd was also held during the Vision Summit. A monthly design oriented publication that will feature the most outstanding projects and also the minutest transformations in the field of design.



Vision Summit Film



Ar. Jabeen L Zacharias delivering the presidential speech



Padma Bhushan Ar. BV Doshi in conversation Ar. Jabeen L Zacharias







Panel discussion



Shilpa Gore



Grand Leadership Summit



Niraj Shah



Q&A Session



Shingarimelam performers in action



Guests at the summit  
enjoying the 'Shingarimelam'





NEC Members  
Getting  
Gold medals  
By President  
For their Portfolio  
and Mentor  
Reportings



Chairpersons  
Getting  
Gold n Silver medals  
By President  
For their MC meeting  
Minutes and Yantra  
Reportings

President Jabeen felicitated medals to Chairpersons and NEC Members as follows: 1. Chairpersons for the timely submission of Yantra Reports & Managing Committee Report.

**Medal Winners At NEC -06 Gold Medalists & Silver Medalists**

1 Ganesh Kumar Wable - Pune	1 Anshuman Sharma - Jaipur
2 Anshuman Sharma - Jaipur	2 Dinesh Verma - Bangalore
3 LeenaNimbalkar - Mumbai	3 George Mathai - Kerala
4 Ranna Parikh - Ahmedabad	

Likewise NEC Members were felicitated with Rose Gold Medals for the timely submission of their Portfolio and Mentors reports in Joint NEC held at Kochi on 15th Feb 2020.

**Medal Winners At NEC -06 >>Rose Gold Medalists**

Manish Kumrat, PareshKapade, RavindraAnchuri, RajinderPuri, AparnaBidarkar, GayathriShetty, Rajeev Neelivethil, ShyamalaPrabhu, SajanPulimood



Joint NEC Meet



Joint NEC Conference



IID members enjoying a boat ride



Celebrating in ethnic wear



Dancing with spirits



The open networking event was commenced traditionally with 'Shingarimelam', the traditional drums of Kerala. The Grand Leadership Summit saw felicitation to the Lead Navigators, the captains of Industry. The launch of "IIID Awards for Design Excellence" for the current term was also announced during the event. This is a prestigious project of IIID, and much awaited by Indian designers to showcase their leading projects.

The people behind the grand success of the event were Jignesh Modi (IIID National Hon Secretary), Sajan Pulimood (IIID Vision Summit Convener), S Gopakumar (Vision Summit Chairman) and George Mathai (IIID Chairman Kerala Regional Chapter).

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# Herald



The last month saw the tremendous success of IIID VISION SUMMIT 2020 at Kochi, which brought together 20 top corporate brands, our very own 'Lead Navigators' of the term and 300 top designers who put their brains together and came up with 20 Vision Statements which would help guide IIID and the Interior Design professionals in its quest for TRUE NORTH.

The Vision Summit was followed by an extensive 2 day Joint NEC meeting, where the NEC along with the Chapter Chairpersons deliberated on a range of issues pertaining to NEC Portfolios as well as Chapter proceedings. It was wonderful to note numerous activities taking place across all chapters & centres and the enthusiasm to outperform each other with respect to YANTRA directives as well as the eagerness to host creative and professionally relevant events.

Another highlight was the re-launch of our magazine in its new avatar IN-SCAPE, which you are holding in your hands right now, and which brought tremendous cheer to all our members. The IIID DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2019 have been launched and I am sure each and every one of us is eager to participate in this most awaited and sought after trophy. The IIID website has been made fully functional and the new look and feel is all about being at par with the best in the profession.

In the international arena, the President, along with Honorary Secretary and Mr. Manish Kumat, Treasurer NEC, attended the International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers, the IFI General Assembly, at Dubai from 25th to 28th February taking another step towards IIID's efforts for rejoining IFI as a full member.

**Jignesh Modi**

*National Honorary Secretary, IIID*

## In & Happening IIID CHAPTER NEWS



### **Ahmedabad : Walkathon 2020**

The Walkathon 2020 held on 16th February at the Sindhu Bhavan Road was truly a high-on-energy event. The dawn saw various members of IIID Ahmedabad Regional Chapter start the fun morning with a Zumba session. This was followed by the five km. walk. The chairperson flagged off the walk by releasing colourful helium balloons into the sky. It made a pretty sight. All team owners of the forthcoming Sports Carnival held their respective flags with pride and happiness! Upon return, there were several games that took one back to school days like slow cycling, run in the sack, neembu chamach etc. The winners were given saplings as prizes. All in all, a great event where fellowships and bonding grew stronger!



### **Ahmednagar : Trek to Manjarsumba Gad**

Trek for IIID Ahmednagar Centre promoting interaction between members and for better health.





# Pune : Hall of Fame

On 1st February 2020, IIID PRC hosted the event titled "Hall of Fame" where students were given a forum to interact with four eminent designers from Pune. - ID. Pratap Jadhav, Ar. Ashwin lovekar, Ar. Sandeep Bamb and Ar. Manish Banker.

Each panellist elaborated their journey into the world of design, their backgrounds, the hurdles they faced, the opportunities

they got, the mentors they met along with explaining what led them to become the designers that they are today. The students enjoyed the story telling by the stalwarts especially the anecdotes each one gave.

The enriching event was attended by over 200 student members along with faculty members from affiliated institutes.



## Amaravati : ADF-2

"Diversity feeds creativity and it is only through a collaborative influence that we can hope to progress".

With 250 delegates, 10 speakers and panellists, IIID Amaravati centre had created a very distinctive platform in collaboration with NAREDCO that evoked the very importance of collaborative practices in architecture. The event focused on sessions where several eminent architects gave an insight into collaborative practices in their architectural journey.



## Bhopal : Master Forum 2020

The Institute of Indian Interior Designers (IIID) Bhopal Centre organised a Master Forum to mark its 8th Foundation Day. Italian architect Romano Mastrella presented his work before members, young aspiring students and professionals. He emphasised on how important it is to sketch and find a connect with the most important tool 'the pencil'. especially in today's tech savvy times. "Sketching is a powerful process to use because it always helps discover the best ideas and solutions to a design problem," he said. What makes Mastrella's work noteworthy is his respect for nature , memory of history and proportion and rhythm of spaces. Through his work Mastrella expressed his views on the pleasure and function in interior design and the beauty of exhibition design.

# Bangalore : B.S.U. Vision for Next Gen Bldg Services & Outreach Initiatives

The architecture - design fraternity of Bengaluru was recently brought under one roof by a gratifying event organised by the Designer Publications Kerala Pvt Ltd and Dayanand Sagar College of Architecture, Bengaluru. The event was held in collaboration with the Council of Architecture (COA) and supported by the Institute of Indian Interior Designers (Bangalore Chapter) and Indian Institute of Architects (Karnataka Chapter). The audience comprised of professionals, academicians, and students from the architecture-design-building industry.

Continuing with their much-appreciated Outreach Initiative across the country, the newly elected Council led by President Ar. Habib Khan, Vice-President Ar. Sapna Prabhakar, Former COA President Ar. Uday Gadkari and its executive members interacted with the fraternity. Habib Khan, the Keynote Speaker called for an interactive and symbiotic relationship between the Council and members. He emphasized that the Council wants to be recognised as an inclusive people's body. The interactive sessions on issues concerning academics and profession included Khan diligently

answering to the various questions put forward by the perceptive audience and taking in a few critical suggestions to better the field at large.

The keynote lecture BUILD, SERVICE, UNITE soon followed and was delivered by Ar. N Mahesh, acclaimed architect and the managing editor of Building Services & Utilities (BSU), the newly launched magazine of Designer Publications. Ar. Mahesh's talk reflected on the contemporary developments in building services.



## Delhi : Synergies - An exhibition of the Bihar Museum - Narratives of Opolis

IIID Delhi organised a wonderful event on the famous Bihar Museum in Patna - designed by the famous architectural firm Maki and Associates, Tokyo - along with Opolis Architects, Mumbai. The event included an interesting talk by architects Rahul Gore and Sonal Sancheti - and was followed by a guided walk-through of the exhibition on display. The talk on the design philosophy behind the Bihar Museum was commenced by Rahul Gore - and halfway through the presentation, he handed over to Sonal Sancheti. The presentation was followed by an interesting and interactive Q&A session - before the start of the guided tour of the exhibition. The event was attended by almost a hundred leading architects and interior designers of the city and members of IIID.



## Goa : Longest Painting By Numbers

An initiative of VIBRANT GOA curated by IIID GOA. The aim behind creating the longest painting by numbers (1010 ft in length) spread over two days painted by artists, architects, designers, delegates and visitors visiting Vibrant Goa expo and exhibition is to show our commitment and to emphasize importance of balancing environment while developing Goa. The painting depicts the rich flora, fauna and natural beauty of Goa and spreads the message of "Green Development" a way forward.

A 308.00m (1010 ft) of 42" wide painting was created in presence of Dr. Manish Vishnoi representative of Golden Book of World Records.





### Hyderabad : Fellowship Meet with Ar. Bharath Ramamrutham

The second Fellowship meet of IIID-HRC was held on 16th October 2019 at the Avasa Hotel, Madhapur. The keynote address was delivered by Ar. Bharath Ramamrutham who is not just an architect but also one of India's leading interiors, architecture, landscape and travel photographers. Bharath is also the founder of a company called Graph – an integrated design, visual communication and publishing company through which he collaborated with a wide network of creative professionals. According to him, designers must explore the art of photography. It changes the way one observes objects, and the relationships between objects. And just like design, composition is also a critical parameter in photography.



### Indore : IIID Showcase 2020

This was one of the Central India's biggest exhibition of building & interior products at Labhganga Convention Center in Indore (M.P.) held on 30th January to 2nd February 2020. IIID Indore Regional Chapter had been successfully organizing 'Showcase' once in two years for the past 11 years. Every new discovery and product in the field of architecture and interior, suiting every kind of space and budget were presented. The inaugural ceremony was graced by our Guest of Honor, IIID National President Mrs. Jabeen Zacharias, our key note speaker from Mumbai Ar. Chandrasekhar Kanetkar, Naeemuddin Qureshi, the chairperson of the IIID Indore along with all the IIID NEC Members as well as IIID Indore team.



### Jaipur : IIID Foundation Day Celebrations

JRC celebrated IIID FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS at Arch Academy of Design with a special workshop on 'TARKASHI' followed by a Panel Discussion.



### Kolkata

Our Kolkata Centre is all set to make a roaring comeback under the guidance of Ms. Tanuja B K, President Elect. After consistent dialogues and meetings and sorting out the local issues, a final meeting was fixed with probable committee members. The meeting was assisted by Mr. Vivek Singh Rathore. Three office bearers and total six committee members were selected who can take forward the centre with zeal concentrating on membership growth, having dialogue with schools imparting interior design education and to conduct some events for members and enthuse them for participation.

Following are the 3 office bearers:

Mr. Kamal Periwal, Chairman

Mr. Ayan Sen, Hon. Secretary

Mr. Abhishek Dutta, Treasurer

We welcome the team into IIID fraternity as family members and wish them all the best for their future endeavours.



### **Lucknow : Knowledge series by Ar Nitin Killawala**

A presentation and discussion on works of Ar Nitin Killawala. A huge audience was present to listen to him. The event was followed by a fellowship dinner. The event was sponsored by Divine Carpet



### **Marathwada : MC Meeting - February 2020**

We had our MCM at our Vice Chairman's office! All pumped up after attending the Design Summit 2020 Chairperson Sharwari Deshpande Joshi had a lot to share with all the MC Members regarding the upcoming tasks that they need to focus on in the near future as we have set our search to find 'Where is North?'



iiid MARATHWADA CENTRE



### **Mumbai : IIID MRC: IIID Foundation Day**

'Value Addition' talk was initiated with NITCO for having a MC meeting at Alibaug bungalow. Chairperson curated an ultimate take home experience of Design, Ideate, Collaborate & Envision by "Design Thinking Workshop" with Ar. Ratan Batliboi & Prof. Ar. Uday Athavankar. The IIID MRC has actively conducted several activities- Design Yagnya & Schneider event "Unlock your Extra Sensory Perception & Creative Ability" with Mastermind Mr. Deepak Rao. "Hospitality First Show" & "Infocomm Tech Design Summit". "Charter Day Celebration" & Informal Managing Committee meet with all Past Presidents, Vice Presidents, Chairmen. "Educational Field Visit" to kick start educational activities. "Story of Czech Glass" event in appreciation of art & craft. 1st green event "Mangroves Visit". "Touch the Brick" with Ar. Chandrashekhar Kanetkar. The Joint NEC felicitated Chairperson with Gold Medal this month during Vision Summit 2020 for timely submission of monthly administrative reports till date.



### **Nagpur : Thirsty Minds On Photography**

The young and dynamic Ar.Prajakt Karmarkar was the speaker for the technical session on "architectural and interior photography" which is an integral part of our architecture and interior designing profession. He graduated from PAID Nagpur and subsequently completed his masters in digital architecture from Southern California Institute of Architecture, LA. He worked with Studio Gang Architects, Chicago, where he had the opportunity to explore photography with world famous photographers, who were shooting award winning projects. His work has been published in Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) 2016 yearly magazine. The session was started by his beautiful click termed as 'Gods Copy'. In his journey of learning photography he did portrait/landscape as well as experimental photography. He explored various aspects of photography while doing excessive traveling and catching the Chicago skyline. He shared tips on best time to shoot, prioritizing and preferring good natural light as base light focusing on unique angles, exploring details, to take multiple exposure, to revisit site multiple times before hand to exploit hidden views.

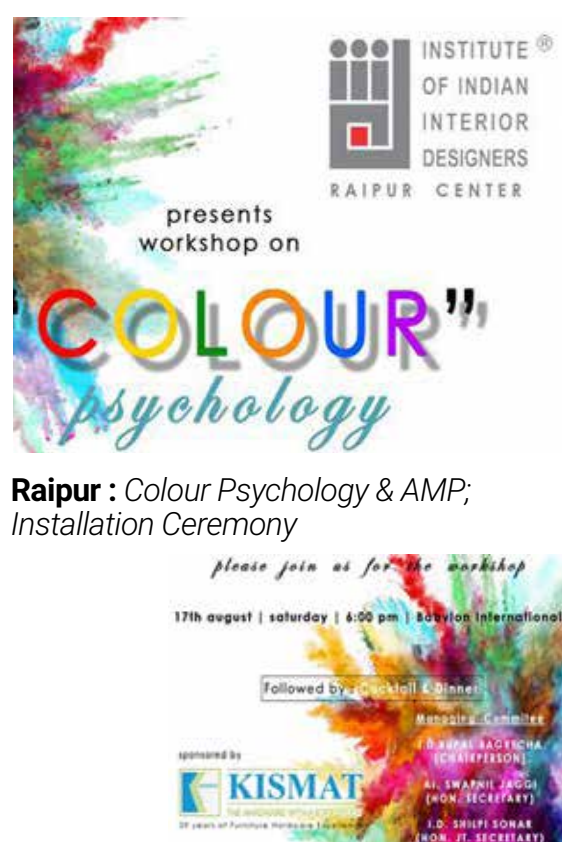




### Nashik : Beyond Lateral Thinking

An excellent programme with a different approach, beyond lateral thinking conducted under the guidance of Ar. Kavita Jawdekar and Ar. Ketan Jawdekar (studio k7), 108 students from seven different architectural and design institutes participated. Senior architects like Ar. Bakir Zafar and Ar. Arun Kabre made their presence inaugurating the event.

Interactions and teamwork, enhancing the communication skills of students was the main motto behind the event. Overall a good and fruitful event.



### Raipur : Colour Psychology & AMP; Installation Ceremony

## Saurashtra : Sports Event

IIID Saurashtra always aimed to develop fellowship amongst its members for which fellowship committee has planned various events like sports, family gatherings, walkathon, study tours, etc. As a part of it under the chairmanship of Hareesh Parsana, the fellowship committee did more than 310 hours of brain storming. In the presence of NEC member Manish Kumar we launched the sports carnival in Udaipur on 13th September along with first MC meeting of

our tenure. We have just finished our Sports Carnival 2020 with a huge success. More than 100+ IIIDians had taken part in this carnival. The main sponsor for this event was Vijaybhai Dhoru from Bhavya Aluminium - Khidki ki Pathshala. There were four different teams sponsored by our Co-sponsors.

Our NEC member and our IIID mentor Rajender Puriji were presented as a chief guest. Our Sports Carnival held at Jyoti Cnc metoda.

Later in the evening, we had grand gala-night function to appreciate all the participants for their enthusiasm and to give awards to the winners and their team owners. The winning team was Team Red Rowdies.

All members enjoyed dinner along with their families. Our Sports Committee - Darshita Joshi, Vishal Patoliya, Mittal Chauhan, Dipak Mehta and Rakesh Pipliya worked very hard from a long to make this event successful and memorable.





**Surat : Installation Ceremony**



**Thane : KNOWLEDGE SERIES**

With the motive to fly high, for the first time in the history of IIID TRC, we had an international speaker Mr Phillip Burton, master coach from ASENTIV. He was accompanied by another great relationship referral marketing expert Mr. Bharat Jethani. The event was sponsored by H & R Johnson. Mr Dinesh Vyas, head of Marketing and Corporate Communication, highlighted the need and importance of co creation in his presentation. Principals from different colleges were also invited and felicitated to promote student membership. The event was an another feather in the cap of IIID TRC.



**Vadodara : IDL 2020**

Fellowship event cum cricket carnival, game played by 110 registered members along with sponsors.



**Vizag : Trends in illumination**

A Knowledge sharing event by Subhadra Group in association with Wipro Lighting , the event was well attended by the Chapter members.





## Address

### Abraham John Architects

31 Green Acre,  
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## Compass

### Designing Homes – A challenge

In today's times, the vast reach of technology has enabled one to emulate the designs and styles of dwelling places anywhere in the world. While the buildings are thus getting an international face, the challenge is with the architects to ensure uniqueness, variety and relevance to such structures. The contemporary style of residential architecture is something that can be defined in any acceptable way and realised according to one's own imagination. Whether the house has to be luxurious, cost effective, small or vast - all these will fall under the contemporary style, the greatest plus of which is the fact that it does not have to conform to any set pattern. This in itself has rendered its acceptance, cost effectiveness and brought about a marked discipline in the design field.

The new trend is seeking sustainability and relative permanence in everything being constructed. A walk back to nature and expressing that sensitivity in all the structures built has become imperative. As vertical constructions are becoming the norm of the day for want of space, interior architecture is gaining greater significance. In modern times, we spend a lion's share of our time indoors. We are smart, holding the entire world in the rectangular space of our cell phones. And, hence, only when our living spaces provide us with pleasant experience along with all modern amenities, can they acquire the status of home from the non-descript 'house'. It is an established fact that the spaces where we spend most of our time affect our mental state and behavioural patterns. The challenge before the modern day architect is to create such breathing, living, pulsating spaces as we had in the traditional constructions, which fill us with nostalgia. Along with that, as designers and even owners of such spaces, there is one thing we should always bear in mind - any structure which is a standing testimony to the splurge of wealth, indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources and a fit case for the squandering of energy resources, often tends to be an eyesore to the onlookers.

As Architect Sathya Prakash Varanashi has written in his article "We need not necessarily agree with each other's thoughts and designs, but we can study them to learn from and offer better houses to the society." Let's design, ever adhering to our social responsibility, such spaces, as would provide the occupants and onlookers with pleasant, soothing, memorable and lasting experiences.

**Dr. Rema S Kartha**

*Co-Editor*

*E-mail: remaskartha@designerpublications.com*



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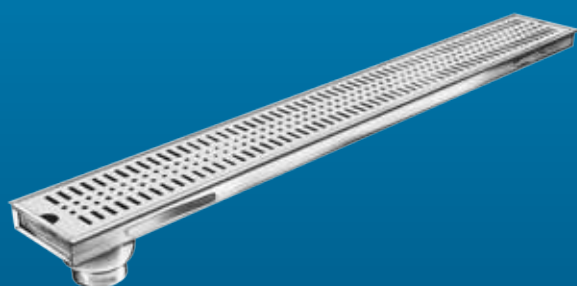
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