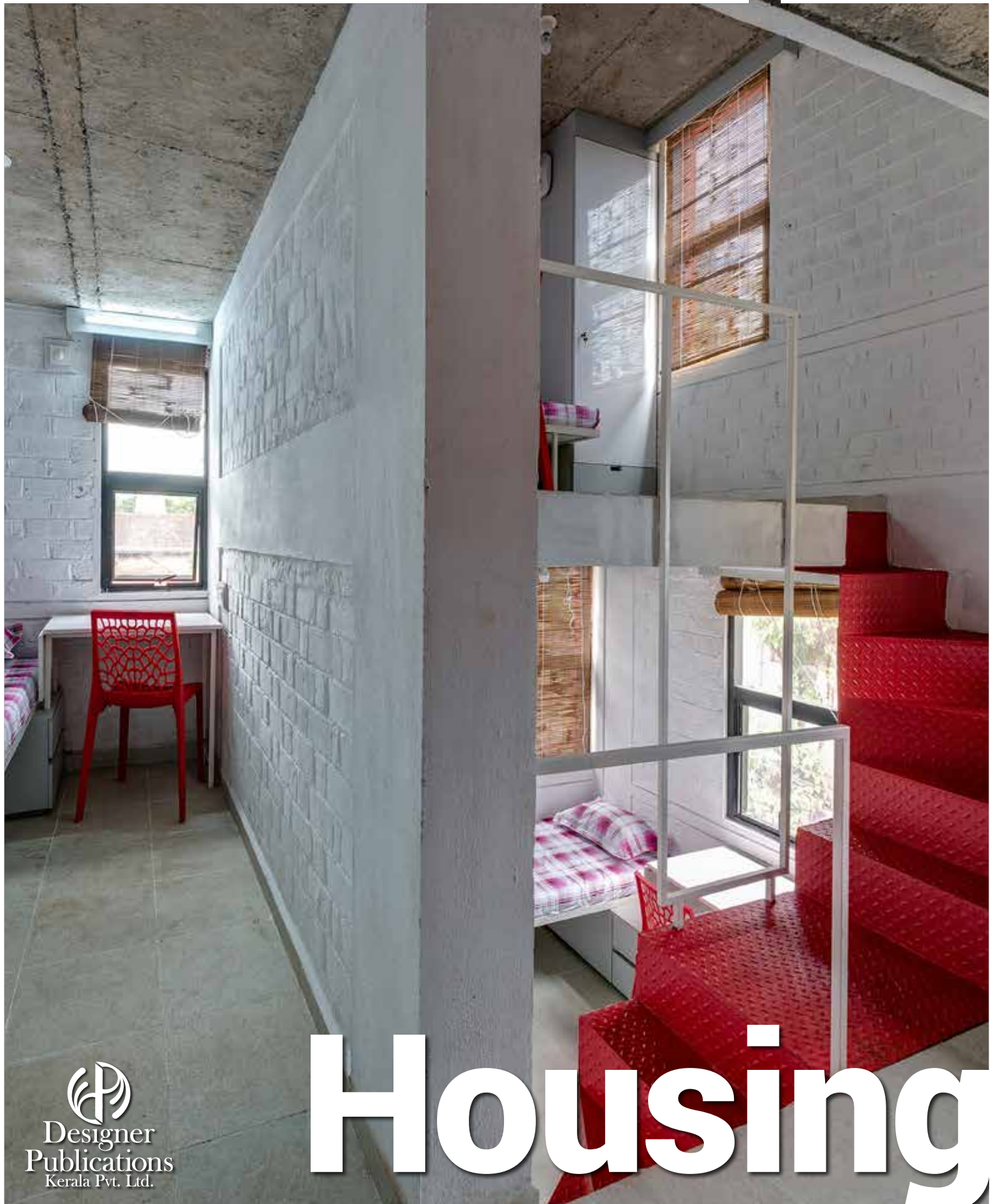


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MAR 2021 VOL. 02 ISSUE 02 ₹100



  
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# Housing



# Stay safe @home we shall come to you

Dear Readers, We value your health and safety and in the wake of **COVID-19** pandemic, we wish you to stay safe at home. To keep you engaged and posted about the latest trends and happenings in the world of architecture and design we have decided to provide architecture enthusiasts with access to our E-edition on our website [designndetail.in](http://designndetail.in)



  
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*Shamini*

Shamini Shanker Jain

## Editorial

Our March 2021 issue on HOUSING is a collection of projects where people and homes co-exist in community living, warmth and solidarity. Society has created fragmented microcosms of housing typologies with uniquely defining social structures expressed vicariously as social housing, public housing, senior citizens housing, student & workers housing etc... Going through the selected projects, what is particularly significant is that architects and designers look at housing environments not just as spaces for dwelling, but a variety of multidimensional spatial constructs that house entertainment, social gatherings, fitness, hospitality, community kitchens et al. Many of the designers create environments around natural habitats with the "weft and warp" of natural materials and synchronised spaces.

Our Lead Contributor Mona Doctor Pingle in her essay "Moulding a New Social Order" has interestingly summed up her experiences working at Auroville that houses a diversity highlighting the complexity of relationships and aspirations of culturally diverse homeowners.

A senior citizen home by Sanjay Mohe of Mindspace explores the state-of-the-art barrier free amenities. The unique addressal of social spaces interspersed at various pause points, glare-free circulation spaces for the elderly are some aspects of a sensitive approach to housing.

Zed Lab, Payal and Sachin Rastogi have created interesting interventions in the students housing designed for Andrew's Institute of Technology & Management. Notice the bold staircase against a dynamic punctured façade of voids - a critical climatic intervention and force to reckon with between the private hostel rooms and the vast heated exterior expanse.

Architectured, Biju Kurikose and Panikkar, are proud to introduce their multi-storied dwelling in Chennai with angular floor plates, recesses and cantilevers giving rise to shaded exteriors and cool transition thresholds.

We have so much more from Akshav Heranjal of Purple Ink Studio who has interestingly created with each dwelling garden decks and volumes to house tall trees; Student housing by Third space Architecture Studio by Praveen Bavadekar who has efficiently utilised space in a tight urban lot.

Walumba Age Care Centre at Warmun, Australia, for the elderly in the Giga community, Architects Iredale Pedersen Hook Architects from Australia have recreated a vibrant setting to the once devastated building, with structural steel, spliced roofs and corrugated roofing; the artist, the environmentalist and the pragmatic Architects work as a great collaborative team.

Our artist for this issue is the vivacious, suave and highly talented Jaipur based artist Shan Bhatnagar who has earned accolades for his depictions of Shrinathji. The revival of the art traditions has been a result of deep research and many visits to Nathdwara.

IIID Roots Fellowship for Young Architects in Journalism 2020-21 mentored by Durganand Balsaver has researched an essay on Contemporary Housing Design Ideas 2021.

Enjoy the new INSCAPE in March 2021.



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## *President's message*

Housing! Umm... Such a drab word, segment, sector for many 'creative' designers and architects! In 1986, I, therefore, considered myself the ultimate loser to take up the post of the Assistant Architect in charge of the Gandhi Nagar Housing Project for the Greater Cochin Development Authority. What an irony that the topper of the class with a Thesis Project as fanciful as Kenzo Tange's Indoor stadium at Tokyo itself, couldn't convince her parents that this coveted 'gazetted government post' is but for only the 'Les-miserables'; to be laughed at by all her friends who were set in the most happening of private firms with spectacular projects.

Looking back those two years of my work in housing shaped me: taught me how to feel for people and serve them - the higher goal of all design missions. People are not just people! They are masses and classes; with standard vocabularies! HIG (High-income group) - (for however high it is worth), MIG (Middle-income group) LIG-(Low-income group) and EWS (Economically weaker section). Designing for each of these categories was to live their lives enacting every family members move and their basic needs compressed and condensed into the most distilled minimalistic versions of space and structure to fit the stringent budget of those souls. Families across the world are fundamentally the same - parents, kids, kin, grandparents; their needs and dreams are the same; very much like our other clients. Aspirations are the same, but the spectrum on offer differs vastly.

Every line, every inch of space is crucial in social and public housing. A small mistake in one of our expensive villa projects may go unnoticed but might sound a death knell crippling a family critically in an EWS where every inch has to work overtime overload. Normally repeated multifold this can set go an avalanche cascading into their even otherwise pressured lives. For me, Social Housing is much more than spaces; it is an equation where you balance fairness and justice. It is the fundamental level playing field where we should be able to provide shelter, solace and support to people's pleas for decent existence irrespective of their means. Luckily the house is about certain ideas and ideals we cherish and can be implanted into minds and spaces with the right design philosophy.

Housing involving people, the so-called masses, is also our best bet within the little window of time we have to shape civilisations that can feel and ache for our planet before it is too late. Design is an engine for social change - said Von Boris! As designers we have a lot to do; difficult. But then we are the 'Angels in the outfield' (seen that movie?) with the magic wand of 'Design' with us. Swish! Also, remember what Correa said "People don't live in buildings but in stories and memories! Let us put our heart and soul for the best fairy tales to make beautiful housing happen.

Jabeen L. Zacharias

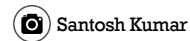
Write to Inscape about your impressions on this edition in 800 words with your photo attached, on or before the 10th of April. Your contribution will be acknowledged. If selected, you shall be featured in the next Issue of Inscape.

Mail in your thoughts to [ar.ridhafathima@gmail.com](mailto:ar.ridhafathima@gmail.com)



# Moulding a new social order

Captured by Ar Ridha Fathima through a telephonic interview with Ar Mona Doctor-Pingel



My practice is based in Auroville and that brings an extra layer of complexity to my work since Auroville is a hotpot of different nationalities and cultures. Each person is unique and different - but nowhere is it as potent as it is here. Especially when it comes to communal housing, where you have to grapple with the sheer variety of temperaments and boundaries of privacy (especially acoustic preferences) that have to coexist with each other.



## MONA DOCTOR-PINGEL

Mona Doctor-Pingel studied architecture at CEPT, Ahmedabad and obtained her masters degree in Appropriate Technology from the University of Flensburg, Germany. Based in Auroville since 1995, her studio Naqshbandi offers a personalized approach to each project with a stress on finding the right balance between Man-Nature-Economy. Her projects include Building Biology, landscaping and interiors as an integral part of the design process. Being rooted in Auroville and the local context of rural Tamilnadu has given her an unique opportunity to understand that "slowing down is the first step to sustainability." She likes to write, research and teach and is the author of two monographs on Auroville's pioneer architects: Poppo Pingel and Piero & Gloria Cicionesi.

## Striking the Balance

For example, Italians are boisterous people like Indians, but if you consider the Swiss or the Swedes, they are people who like their living spaces to be serene and quiet. If you make walls or double glazed glass windows, so as not to disturb each other, it collides with our priority for providing natural ventilation and natural lighting for spaces. Therefore, while designing for a community, striking a balance while being practical is the essence.

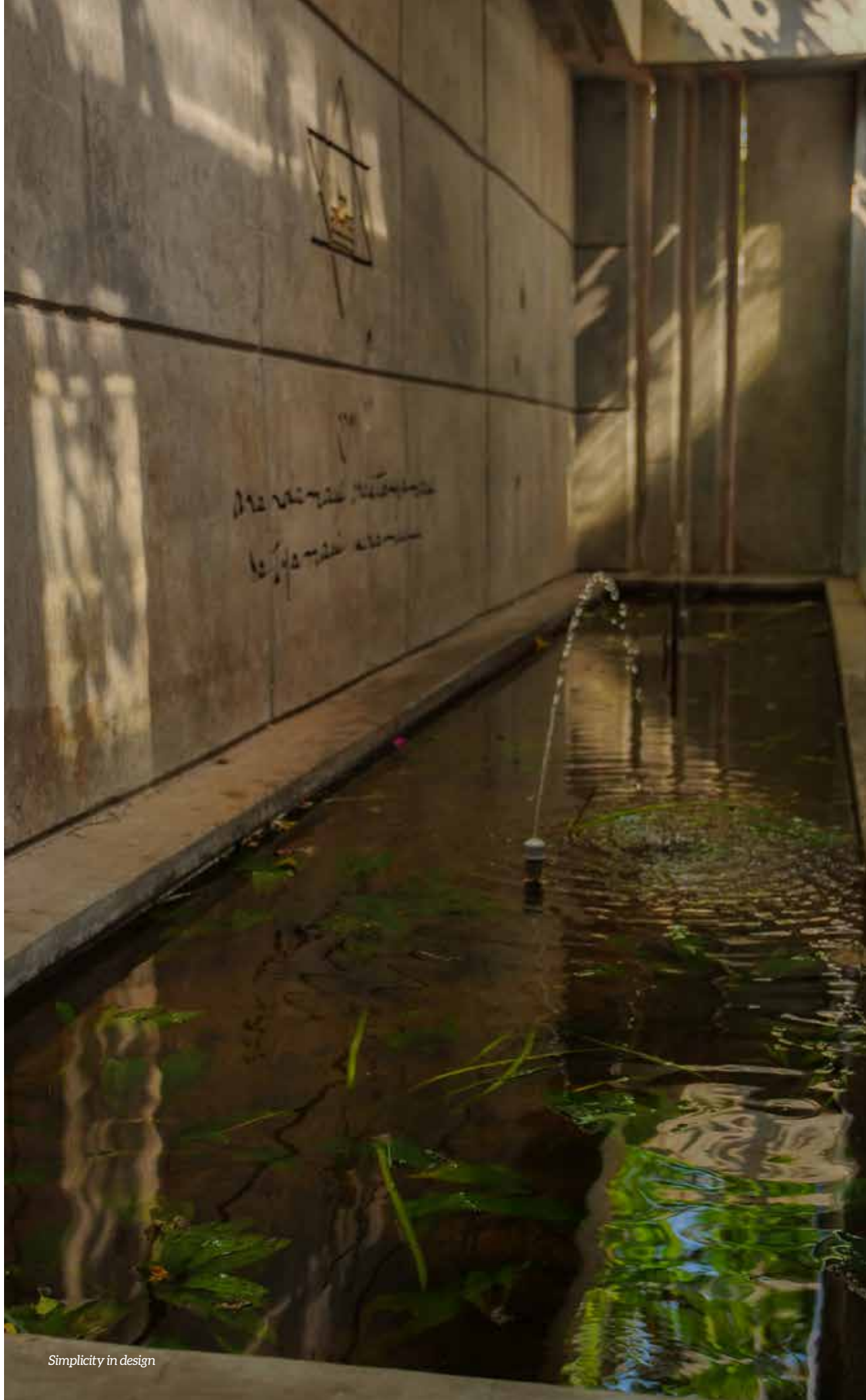
This basic problem has been addressed by many practices in very creative ways, but I am of the opinion that the simplest solutions are best suited for communal living. The more complex a building in terms of using more mechanical and fancy sophisticated

systems which are often not time-tested, the harder it is to maintain and upkeep.

Just like people, buildings also need regular maintenance to ensure a long life. There is no perfect human being, and as the fruit of our limited mind, there is no perfect building.

The issue of privacy and acoustic disturbance has been addressed in my project, Kalpana Apartments (2013, unbuilt) in two ways. I have designed the apartments in two blocks, the North and South blocks. Between them I have provided a central street that is treated in a lively manner through landscaping, which ensures that social interaction - like children playing, people meeting each other, group activities etc. are concentrated there. In essence, the street becomes a conduit for extroverted





Simplicity in design



Establishing a connect  
between the interiors  
and exterior

activity, drawing noise to only one area of the complex. This would to some extent tackle the issue of the low ambient noise level of Auroville and allow the inhabitants to have normal conversations in their apartment.

The second solution is that the building is designed in a linear composition with a service bay in the center and the living rooms are alternated. This means two bedrooms or two living rooms of adjoining apartments do not share walls. A bedroom shares its walls with the living room of another unit. I have also done this vertically, meaning no one's bedroom is on top of another person's bedroom, as sound travels in all directions, both horizontally and vertically.

### Optimising design - achieving simplicity

Architects today feel compelled to make "loud – look at me" buildings, which often mars the experience of a building. The show-stopping exteriors make way for mundane or worse, intimidating, unfunctional interiors. This may make for good photographs but a building should be a wholesome, subtle experience. There should not be a disconnect between the interiors and the exteriors. I like to think of buildings like people, one should not be carried away with the exterior and forget the inside. Getting to know a person is a process of slow discovery. Experiencing a building should also be similar, there should be an element of surprise, I want my buildings to be discovered again and again with different nuances, details, play of light and materiality.

In Fish house ( named after the fish market

Layout of Kalpana apartments





across the road, built 2019) for example, the design had to combat the smell of fish, the menace of crows, noise and dust from the adjacent road which is one of the main arteries of Pondicherry.

Catering to the client's needs, each floor plan is different. The ground plan is dedicated to meditation and visitors, while the upper three floors are private apartments for the family, each with its own entrance and access to a small state-of-the-art hydraulic lift. I had to deal with a dysfunctional family wherein the wife and husband had diametrically opposing views on almost everything. Now the second and third floor are offered on Airbnb and the husband has moved out!

Being a corner plot with the main façade facing east, the rising sun would have heated the building. The easy-to-maintain low tech green wall coursing its way up and down the east and south facades was designed for its thermal and aesthetic properties, as well as to provide shelter for local small birds, which have increasingly lost their nesting grounds in Pondicherry.

After studying the housing typologies of old Pondicherry, we found that small narrow courtyards offer great cross ventilation since there are no setbacks between plots. We used this opportunity to create a small courtyard (1.2 mt wide) that has all the service infrastructure while providing light and ventilation to all the bathrooms. Each bedroom and living room have balconies and the ground floor has a small bio-pond behind the wall which takes care of the major noise from the traffic too.

### Sustainability

Sustainability is not a standalone process in the design, but an integral pursuit. To fit into the zeitgeist, designers are foregoing the basic processes of finding a balanced and well-articulated architectural solution to a problem. Stick to the basics – proper site analysis, understanding of the macro and microclimates, sun wind & rain direction, etc. There is always a local solution to problems that are best suited to the cultural practices of a place.

Sometimes quite ironically, things we had discarded for fitting into the international scene comes into the style. Like how Moringa has become such a rage now. Our culture and traditions have their own inherent value, and our present should be about reimagining and reinterpreting that culture for the future, not about disregarding





Green wall on the sunwardside helps in temperature regulation



them. I have tried to put this into practice while designing, for example in landscaping which forms an inherent part of our studio's projects. The new landscaping mantra is to use local fruit trees and edible, curative rooftop gardens. These are then used by the people of the community. Since they are indigenous, they hold well in the climate and require the least bit of care. We have built bio-ponds that are simple to maintain without any pumps or exotic fishes by studying the local village water bodies of Tamilnadu. The water is always clear and the play of sunlight reflected on the ceiling or the sound of a fountain from a simple nozzle, running without a pump, is a delight to the senses.

#### Catalyst for change

The design of communal housing has great potential on a broad scale. Housing is a framework for a way of life. Here in Auroville, we are constantly reimagining lifestyles. We have consistently experimented with introducing new spaces as a way to actualise social harmony and better integration, across different social classes, cultures etc. For example, we have introduced public housing where we tried to erase the traditional organisation of spaces - instead of a private kitchen for each house we have given a public kitchen, where everyone can jointly make meals, or we have given common rooftop social spaces instead of a private living room and so on. We have put into place unique rules for some, like 'no house help allowed', which means the tenants have to do the cleaning themselves. While such interventions have succeeded in certain situations, it is important to accept that it has also failed in some scenarios. One cannot put too many rules with the mind as the guiding principle since change is a slow process and as architects, we cannot be impatient to enforce lifestyle changes.

It is quite evident that we lack a grassroots approach to housing. Housing is a broad category. It can be for the poorest of the poor, like public housing, or it can be for students, senior citizens, the elite of society. We often restrict ourselves to the client brief and do not explore what the end-users really want. It is crucial to have an understanding that we are designing for the community and not only the client. While we must introduce novel methods to aid social change, we have to give people choices. We have to prove that the novel method is better, so that people may adopt it of their own.



# Contemporary Housing Design Ideas in 2021

*Creative design adaptations for social isolation, lockdowns and quarantine*

IIID ROOTS FELLOWSHIP RESEARCH PROJECT - 2020-2021

Vaishalee Sree. N, Renuka. N, Pooja, Sindhuri, Aarti Rajaram

It's been a year since the lockdown was first announced in March 2020. The quarantine home is now playing a greater role in our lives. The prospects of isolation have generated new challenges as well as opportunities to redesign home interiors. Consequently, the influence it has on large-scale housing can evoke a paradigm change.

The IID-ROOTS FELLOWSHIP Research Project raised certain seminal issues to pragmatically address the adaptation of the home interiors during the pandemic and isolation.

How will housing design change and adapt to the influence of the pandemic? What are the new services that "quarantine housing" has to accommodate? Through a series of small workshops, with young architects and designers, the IID-Roots Fellowship has put together a list of design details and elements that apartments and houses could incorporate, to respond better in the face of isolation.

Several architects and interior designers feel that life after this phase may never be the same again. Several feel we are at a new phase of life on this planet. Is there a need for human beings to change their living patterns and become more judicious in the way they consume resources and energy? Is the consumerist society leading the planet to a breakpoint? How will this behaviour change impact the design of housing and home interiors?

These are some of the challenges as human society prepares to regain its mobility and freedom of movement. Work from home and with children doing their online schooling from home is having a deep impact on housing design. How can architects and interior designers respond creatively to the design of apartments and other forms of community housing?

## Elements

The forced isolation in the homes has raised the need for a semi-open space like a balcony for each home. The housing typologies of Mumbai which have versatile, flexible, semi-open balconies that can also enclose themselves, during rains, seems the most suited to create a sense of space, even in relatively small homes. A space for small plants is a growing need, either on stair landings or in the setback spaces. A combination of semi-open verandas

(balconies) along with indoor plants, generates a sense of being closer to nature, even in dense city environments.

While housing provides for privacy, new ways to explore social gathering, keeping basic safety norms are being intuitively explored. How can these behavioural changes become new aspects that architects can incorporate in their housing design?

Several housing colonies have redesigned their terraces.



DURGANAND BALSAVAR



Photo: ©Sebastian Zachariah & Ira Gosalia (Photograph)





Photo: © unTAG Architecture & Interiors

Time-schedules have been provided to families in the apartment complex for exercise and morning walks on the terrace to create flexibility. This recalls the famous terrace designed by Le Corbusier, for the Unite d'habitation in Marseilles.

The redesigned, "open to sky" terrace space has kitchen and bathroom amenities, children's play areas, library, gathering space and greenery as well. Well designed spaces for yoga have also emerged as families are becoming more health-conscious. Psychologists suggest that the balance of confined spaces and open spaces for living provide a balance of mental and physical health.

In the early 1900s, the search for a hygienic house was the basis of mass housing. Another significant shift is that urban housing is exhibiting a gradual shift to towns and smaller villages from the big cities. Digital communication has enabled this shift to less dense neighbourhoods.

The Modern Movement in the early 1930s had generated house plans which had undifferentiated spaces, inspired by Le Corbusier's concept of the free plan. A unified

space that flows from the arrival foyer to living room and dining rooms, and at times open kitchens. With the risk of contagious diseases, a segregation of the arrival foyer to disinfect shoes and other paraphernalia like bags, clothes, etc has become a necessity. A distinct separate foyer with an attached bath (on the lines of some of the housing complexes in Singapore) is emerging as the new requirement. The sanitized arrival foyer is providing a greater sense of security to families.

### Energy and Water Recycling

The pressures on the economy imply that housing now needs to become self-sufficient and self-reliant on the lines of some of the experiments at Auroville or Mahindra World City, Chennai as well. These enclaves recycle water and are constantly searching for new ways to augment energy with solar panels, renewable wind energy etc. Recycling of water along with rainwater harvesting is also important to ensure sustainability.

Well designed, climatically responsive housing with appropriate shading devices and orientation can enable reduce electricity bills with natural light, natural ventilation

and cooler environs. Ensuring a healthy air quality has become paramount.

Segregation of kitchen waste into organic, paper and glass can contribute to recycling and a balanced consumption pattern with a saving of resources. Special attention to the detailing of kitchens and their relationship to the outside is a new requirement. Architect and Planner Lokendra Balasaria and TREEWALKS, based in Ahmedabad are coordinating several training programs for architects as well as communities, on incorporating the innovative environmental design.

Urban agriculture is gaining popularity. Greenery in the balcony or terrace and the car park areas is preferred to humanise the housing environments and offer a closer relationship to nature around us.

### The Office Home

With most of the world, working from the home, new demands to meet these new requirements have emerged, for instance, office storage (both physical as well as digital data servers). Soundproofing certain spaces to engage n online classes or office

conferences have been a new requirement. Thus a greater demand for interior designing and the growth of portals like Pepperfry and IKEA, that merchandise furniture and home accessories seem to be growing at a rapid pace. They provide a DIY kit of parts furniture to be assembled at relatively affordable prices.

The natural process of "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" has been spurred by the pandemic. Communities are glad that they are consuming lesser, as well as using fewer services or appliances. Natural materials are preferred to artificial. Sustainable production norms are closely gaining popularity. In the absence of International transport systems and National travel bans, local industries and production centres are growing. This has resulted in the decline of unwanted products.

### Flexible Plans

There is now a growing need to design plans which are flexible and can accommodate different functions. The traditional Japanese concept of incorporating sliding walls (like in the Katsura Palace) is one option as rooms can be made bigger or divided by temporary partitions and sliding walls. This implies that a room may be closed to become a bedroom at night and open itself in the day to be part of extended living space.

### New Designs of Home Office in 2021

While several families may be glad that work from home has saved them from long journeys to the workplace, the need to create soundproof office space has been a challenge in small home environments. Flexible furniture design has also become popular, providing interior designers and architects with a wide range of new projects to adapt the home to the demands of quarantine and isolation. Innovative storage furniture is the need of the hour for home offices.

The adaptation of the home interiors in 2021 has been significant as well as a creative design possibility in response to isolation and quarantine, never experienced at this scale by humanity before. Some of the most creative design solutions arise in some of the most challenging times in history.

*The IIID - ROOTS FELLOWSHIP empowers young architects to engage in writing and research on contemporary needs that impact both interiors as well as society. The young architects are mentored by Prof. Durganand Balsavar. Architects interested in applying for the 2021-2022 ROOTS Fellowship may write to xxiroots@gmail.com*

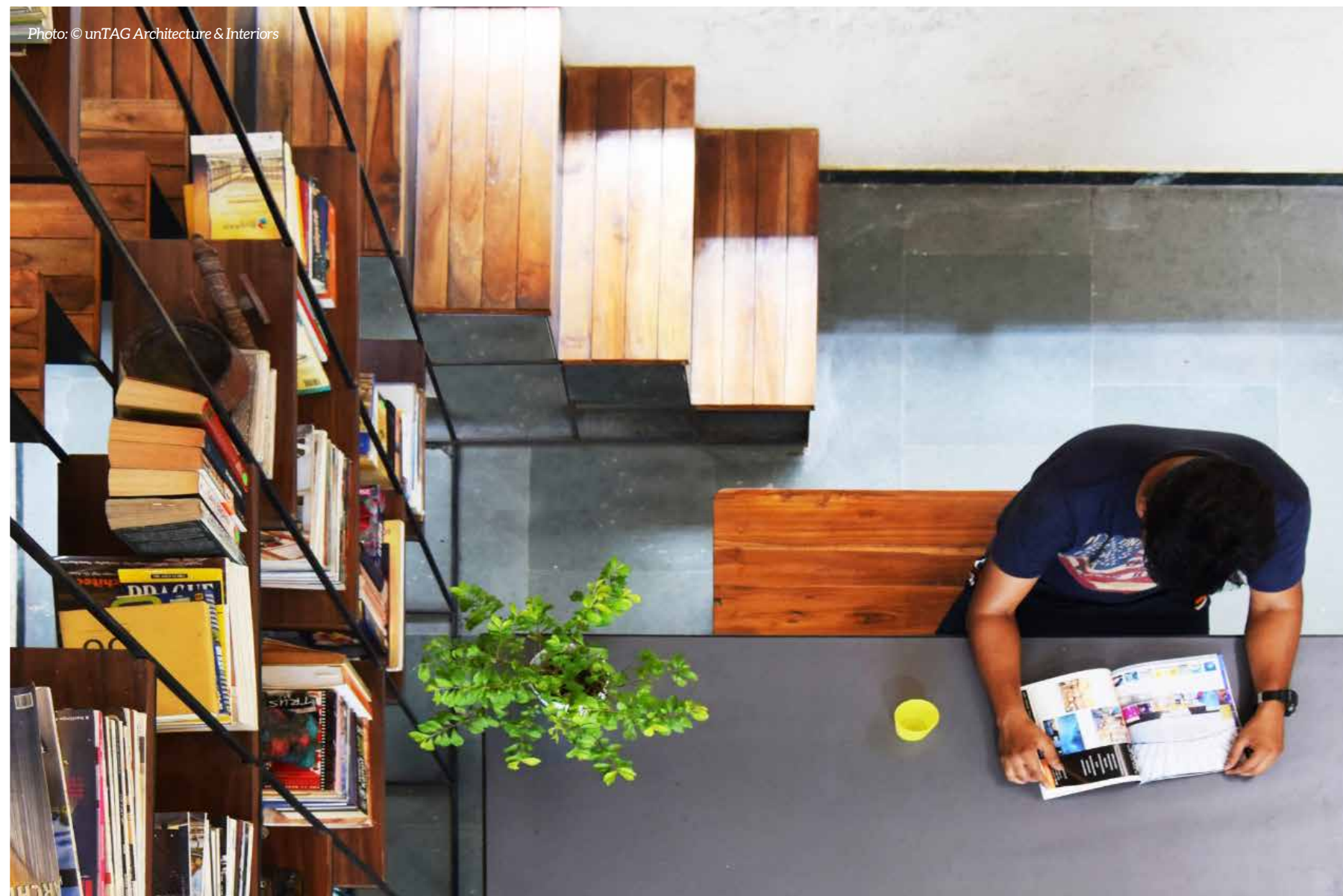
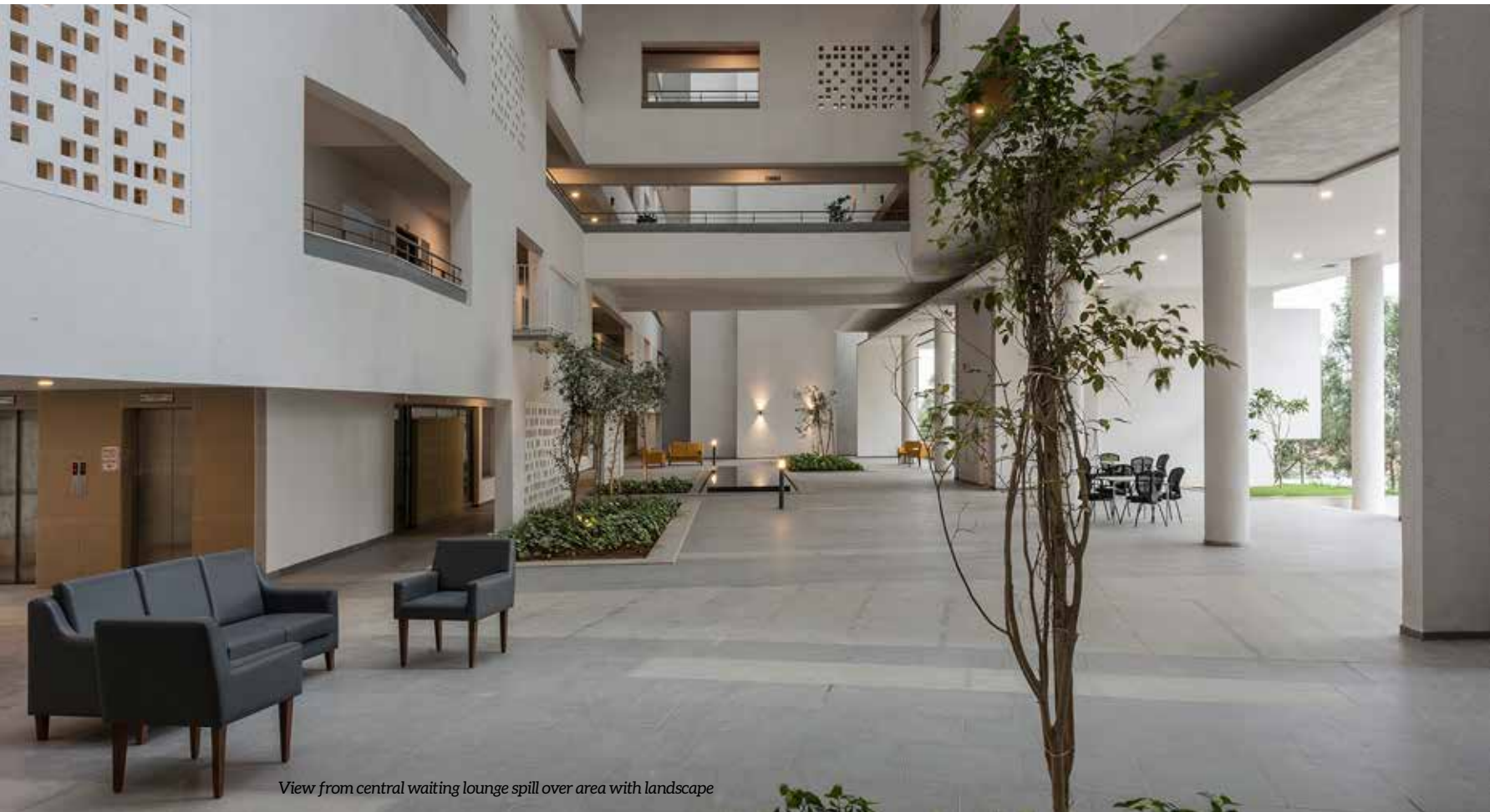


Photo: © unTAG Architecture & Interiors





View from central waiting lounge spill over area with landscape

# Lighting up the twilight years

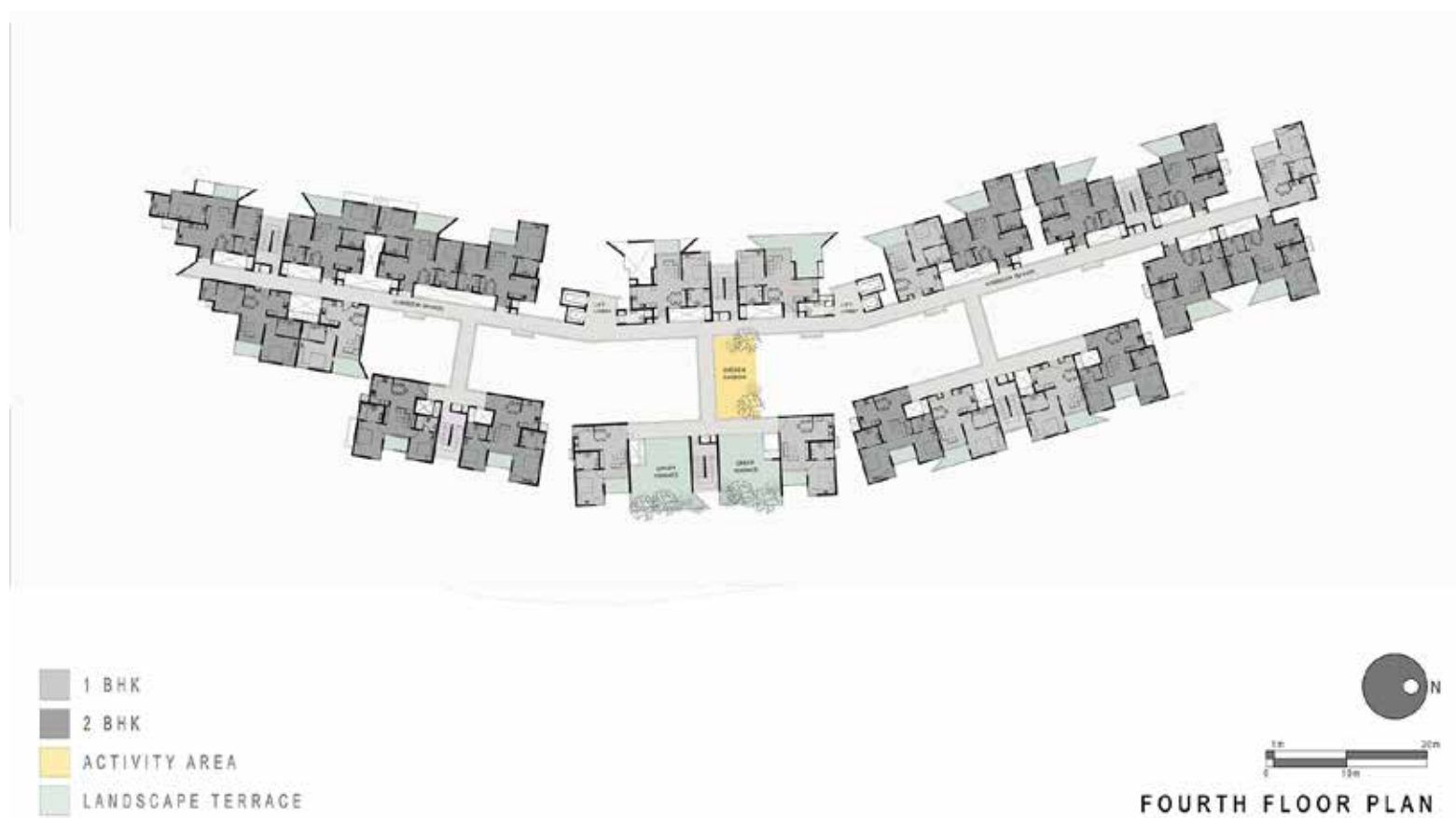
 Inscape Insider  PHX India, Mindspace

PROJECT INFO	
NAME	: PARKSIDE RETIREMENT HOMES
LOCATION	: BRIGADE ORCHARDS, DEVANAHALLI, BANGALORE, KARNATAKA, INDIA
DESIGN TEAM	: SANJAY MOHE, AVINASH ANKALGE, SRAVANI VOBILSETTY, GOWTHAM SRINATH.
BUILT UP AREA	: 2.75 LAKHS SQ. FT.
SITE AREA	: 2.5 ACRES
CONSULTANCIES	: S AND S ASSOCIATES [STRUCTURAL], EXPAT GROUP [CONTRACTORS]
LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS	: DESIGN MILIEU
YEAR OF COMPLETION	: 2018

“  
The design challenge was to have a clear understanding of the unique needs of senior citizens

Parkside retirement homes are a part of Brigade Orchards, an integrated township located at Devanahalli in Bangalore. Parkside houses 150 number of 1+2bhk units equipped with state of the art handicap friendly amenities and wheelchair accessible spaces.





The site has a view towards Kempegowda International Airport on the South and an existing temple of worship towards the North. In response to these characteristics, the podium level of the facility is opened up towards the temple, whereas the Southern side is provided with wide steps and cascading terraces that help the users to view the flights gliding in and out of the airport runway.

The design challenge was to have a clear understanding of the unique needs of senior citizens so that the team can address them through a comprehensive design solution. So to facilitate their ease of living, the team has provided wide corridors, doors accommodating for easy wheel chair movement, grab bars in corridors and bathrooms, and also added little nooks to rest tired limbs and to keep shopping bags near the entrances.





First floor central landscape opening towards amphitheatre for multipurpose functions

However, the uniqueness of the project lies in the reinterpretation of the idea of a single clubhouse. Instead of housing all the activities in one place, it is distributed across the floor for easy access and to have a lively atmosphere that encourages interaction across the facility. Each of the floors has one Activity center which is visually connected across the different levels through a central atrium awash in natural light through the skylight above.

Podium level houses common activities like reception, lounge, common dining and kitchen along with landscaped recreational areas and water bodies. An amphitheatre on the podium opening out to the central atrium is provided to enjoy cultural events, with varying natural light. The atrium skylight is designed in a way to bring in eastern light and avoid glare. The varying light quality and animated shadows on the wall surfaces further enliven the space.



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#### ACTIVITY CENTRIC DESIGN



Central atrium overlooking towards yoga, meditation centre





Overlooking views from central atrium over cafe lounge on fourth floor



SANJAY MOHE

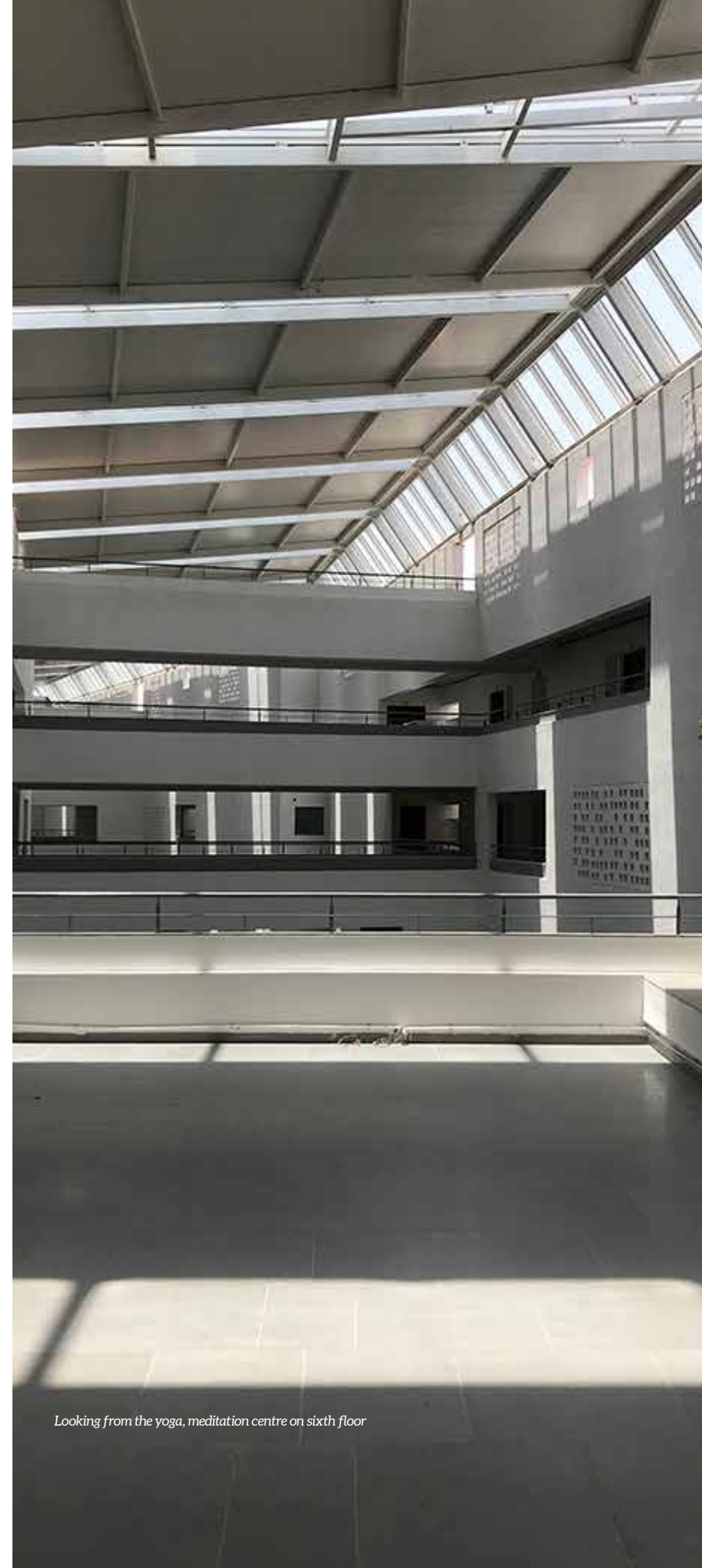
## MINDSPACE ARCHITECTS

Mindspace, formed in October 2004, is an architectural firm with extensive experience in handling residences, institutions, research labs and corporate offices. Founded by Sanjay Mohe, Vasuki Prakash and Suryanarayanan, the projects done by Mindspace have resulted in several national and international awards and consistent features in architectural journals. Sanjay Mohe also regularly gives lectures in architectural schools across the country.

Mindspace presently comprises partners Sanjay Mohe, Medappa, Suryanarayanan, Amit Swain and Swetha along with 21 architects, engineers and support staff, all of whom work as a team.

From the podium level, a stepped plaza leads to the existing temple. This behaves like a social gathering space to hold bhajans, yoga and meditation activities. The facade is articulated with overlapping double-height volumes accentuated with bold colours to visually scale down the ten-floor facade. The ten floor building could have looked imposing and brooding had it not been for the designer's deft hand.

The retirement home is designed to make the users feel welcomed as part of a close-knit community. It is a place that supports both a sombre, meditative frame of mind as well as a vibrant social life for those that seek it.



Looking from the yoga, meditation centre on sixth floor





# A sustainable revision for community living

Inscape Insider Noughts and Crosses | Andre J. Panthome

## PROJECT INFO

NAME	: ST. ANDREWS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT - GIRLS HOSTEL BLOCK
LOCATION	: GURUGRAM, HARYANA, INDIA
DESIGN TEAM	: SACHIN AND PAYAL RASTOGI (LEAD), ROHAN MISHRA, NAVEEN PAHAL, SHIVANGI BANERJEE
BUILT UP AREA	: 25,000 SQ. FT
STRUCTURAL CONSULTANTS	: DESIGN SOLUTIONS
CIVIL CONSULTANTS	: LS ASSOCIATES
COMPLETION YEAR	: 2020

“

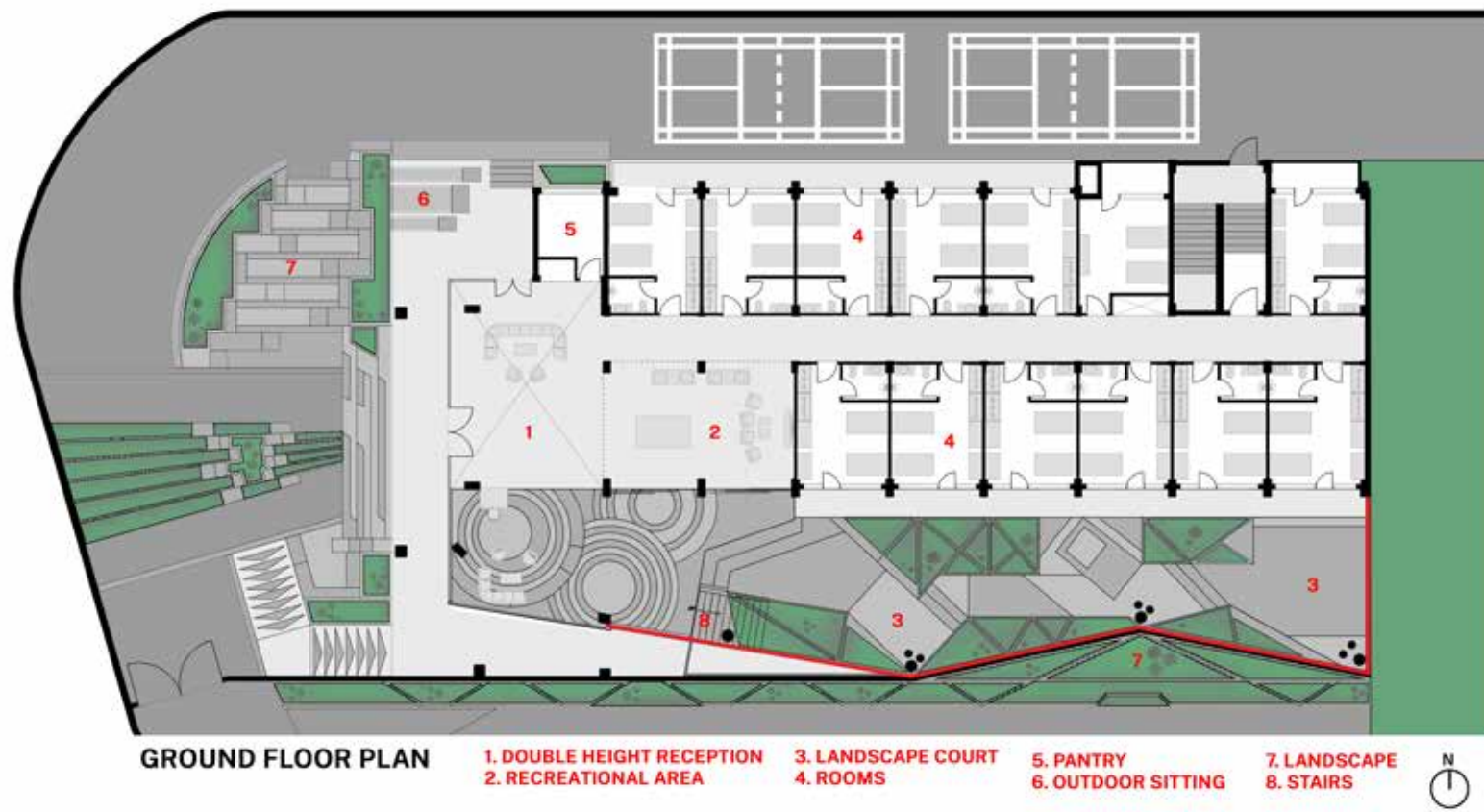
*The layout has been designed to incorporate indoor and outdoor spaces that connect physically and visually at different levels to enhance interactions and social activities.*

The Girls' Hostel Block at the St. Andrews Institute of Technology and Management in Gurugram explores the intersection of education and sustainability through the lens of the vernacular. Completed in 2020, the design for the 25,000 sq.ft. Girls' Hostel is articulated in brick and fair-faced concrete, with exposed structural members abutting the structure along all sides.



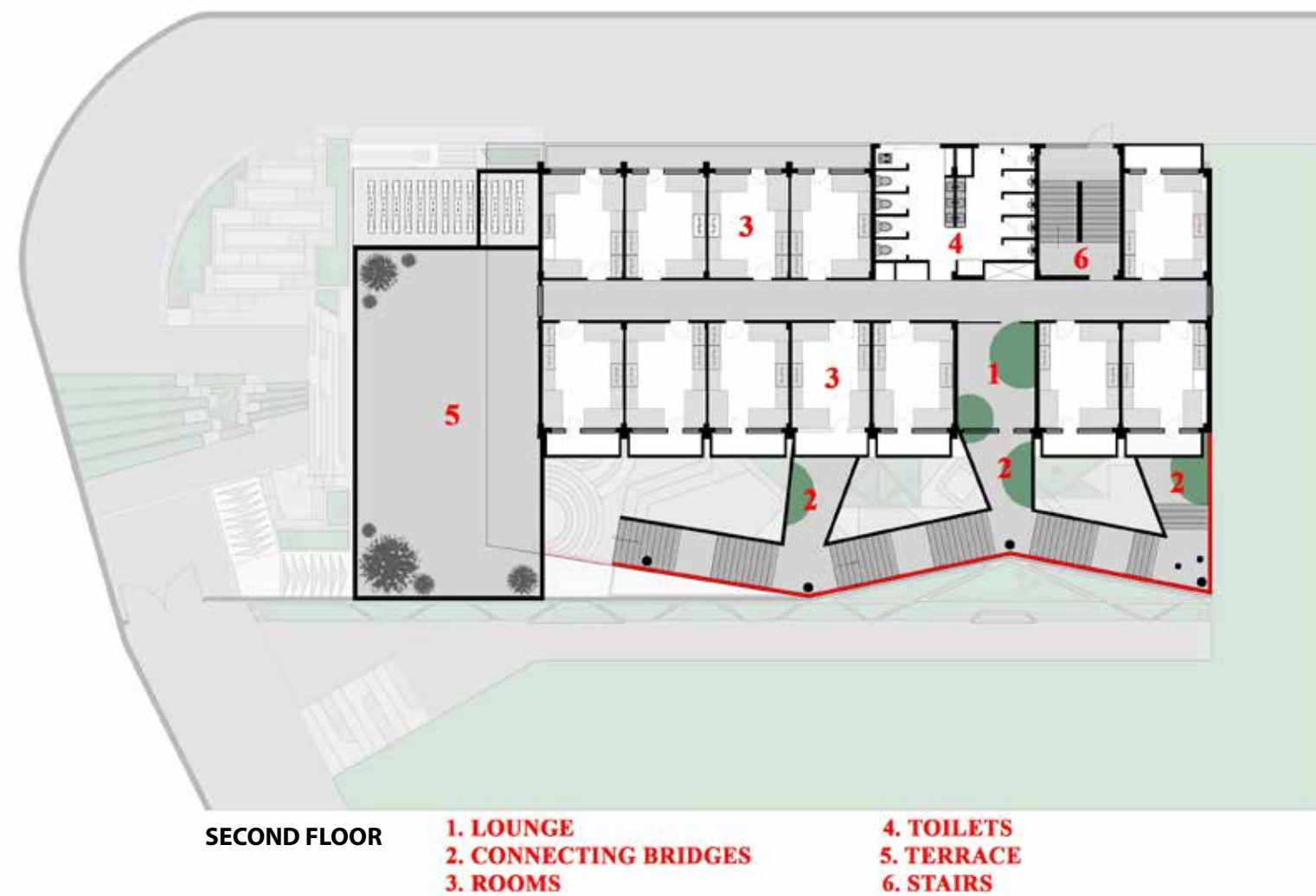
Bridges and Corridors Forge Connections





The hostel is home to approximately 130 students, with dorm rooms spread across four levels in addition to ancillary spaces. The layout has been designed to incorporate indoor and outdoor spaces that connect physically and visually at different levels to enhance interactions and social activities. The entrance foyer and lobby are designed as outdoor spaces to face the west and are connected to the pantry so that students can enjoy their evenings outside with a spill-out into the green landscape.

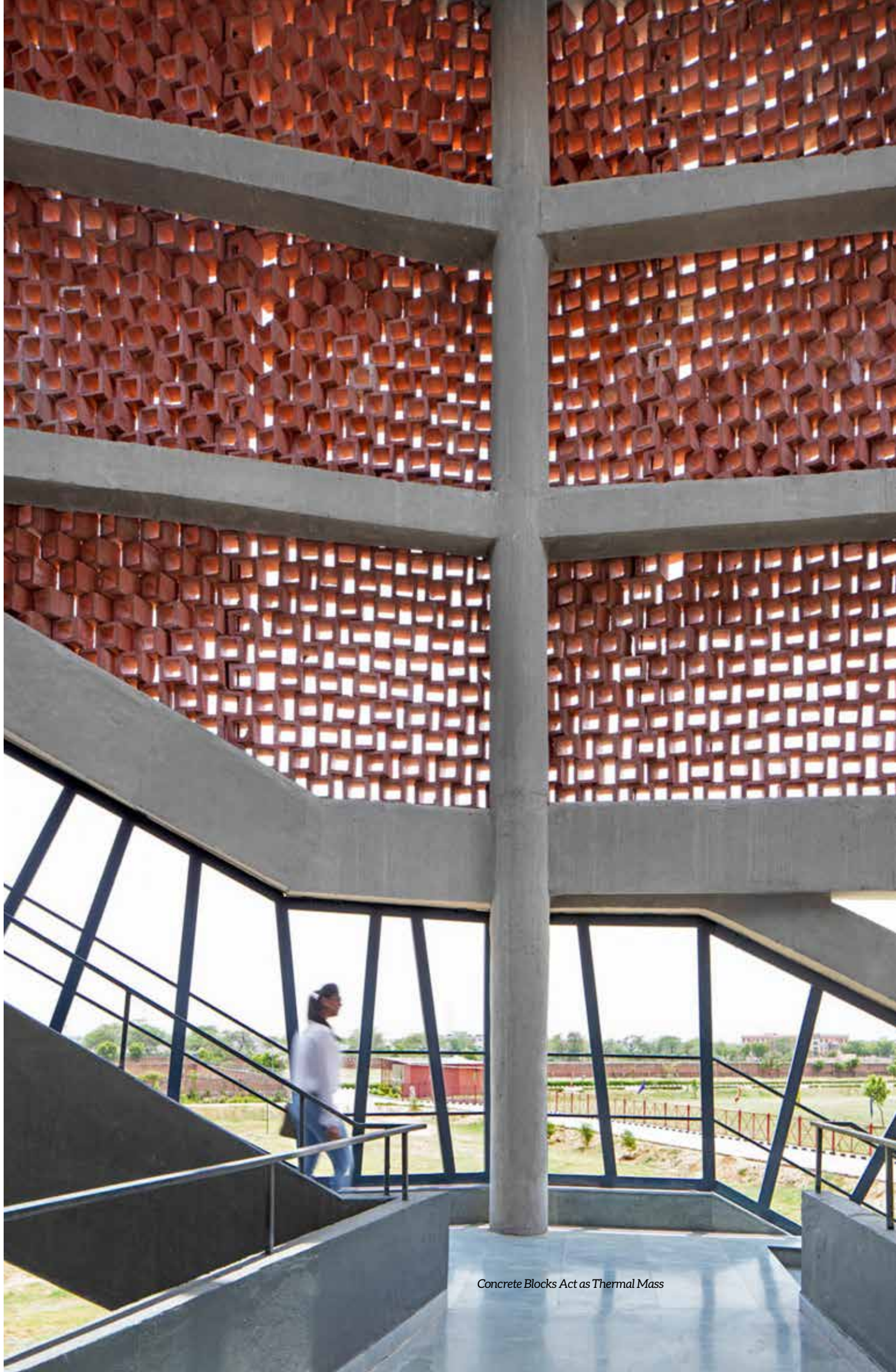
As students move from the interiors of the building into the open, they experience distinct transitions in varying thermal environments. The activity lounge on the ground floor is placed next to the landscaped court. The lounge creates an intimate environment for studying or conversation. The adjacent internal landscaped court features a dense plantation. From the core of the building towards the outdoor, the next transition is the second-floor terrace along the building's west façade that attracts students in the mornings and late evenings in summers and serves as an all-day space to congregate during winters.



*Materialization in Brick and Concrete*





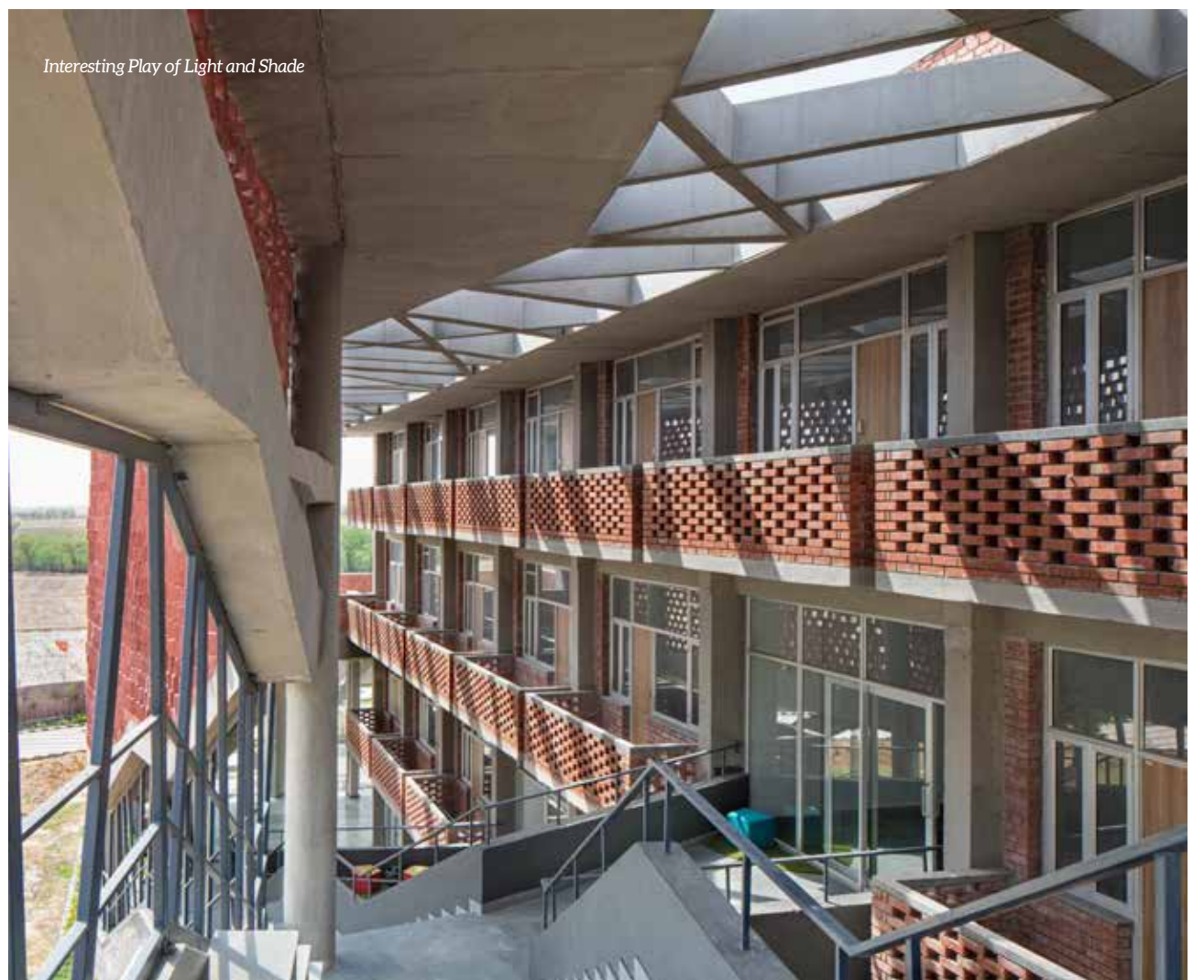


Concrete Blocks Act as Thermal Mass



Home to Socially Functional Spaces

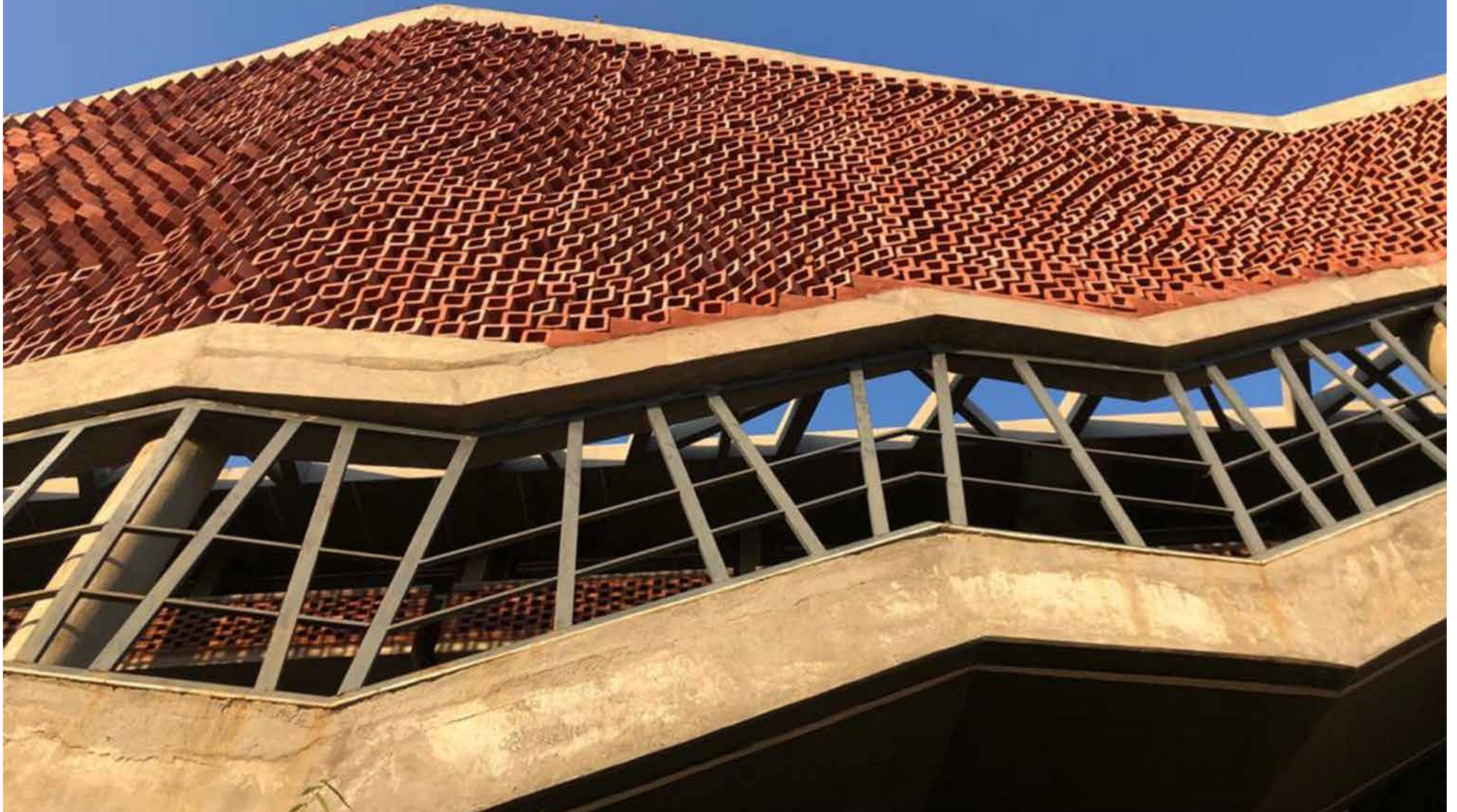
The free-standing façade was to be constructed at a thirty feet distance from the building, spanning a height of three floors keeping in mind structural integrity and earthquake resistance. This was brought to life through an extensive scaffolding and casting process. The facade, made of red concrete blocks, not only provides adequate thermal mass to absorb the heat but with a depth of eight inches, the direct radiation has to penetrate through several layers within the block before entering the interiors, thereby reducing glare. Since the block is penetrable, the air volume passing through this mass loses its heat through compression based on Bernoulli's principle. The blocks are also slightly rotated at a specific angle based on the insulation analysis concerning solar heat gain.



Interesting Play of Light and Shade



*Rotated Concrete Blocks Cut Radiation*







PAYAL SETH RASTOGI



SACHIN RASTOGI

## ZED LAB

ZED Lab is a research-driven architecture and interior design studio based in Delhi, India. Founded in 2009 by Sachin Rastogi and Payal Seth Rastogi, it specializes in net-zero energy buildings. With sustainability at the core of its design process, ZED Lab works towards improving people's quality of life in symbiosis with the environment through the lens of research, design, and construction. Through its award-winning projects across residential, hospitality, institutional, commercial, and industrial sectors, the studio seeks to push the envelope for zero energy design and carbon neutrality while devising economically viable building systems.



Internal Forms the Core



By Night



Transitional Spaces

The interior second skin also provides a volume where the user can step out to a shaded environment such as a balcony or court. The second skin takes on the role of a breakout space such as a terrace, between the interior and exterior.

The shaded courtyard hosts a diverse variety of plant species that require a lesser exposure to the sun. The peripheral areas feature bamboo that creates a screen. Outside the building, Champa trees have been planted for their large canopies. The surface of the outdoor landscaped court is water permeable, facilitating groundwater penetration. The wastewater is reused to maintain the landscape. The hostel is a prime example of how design can help optimise the maintenance of a building while keeping it a pleasant experience for the users, which are both key factors in designing housing projects.





Natural light softly washes over the interiors



# Dance of the Divergent form

Inscape Insider Prem, Rajan Gero

PROJECT INFO	
NAME	: HOUSING DUPLEXS
LOCATION	: CHENNAI, INDIA
DESIGN TEAM	: BIJU KURIAKOSE, KISHORE PANIKKAR, APOORVA MADHUSUDAN, PREETHA JOHN, KANI PANDIAN, YASIR AZAMI
BUILT UP AREA	: 17000 SQ. FT.
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS	: SOMADEV NAGESH CONSULTANTS
CLIENT	: XS REAL PROPERTIES
YEAR OF COMPLETION	: 2014

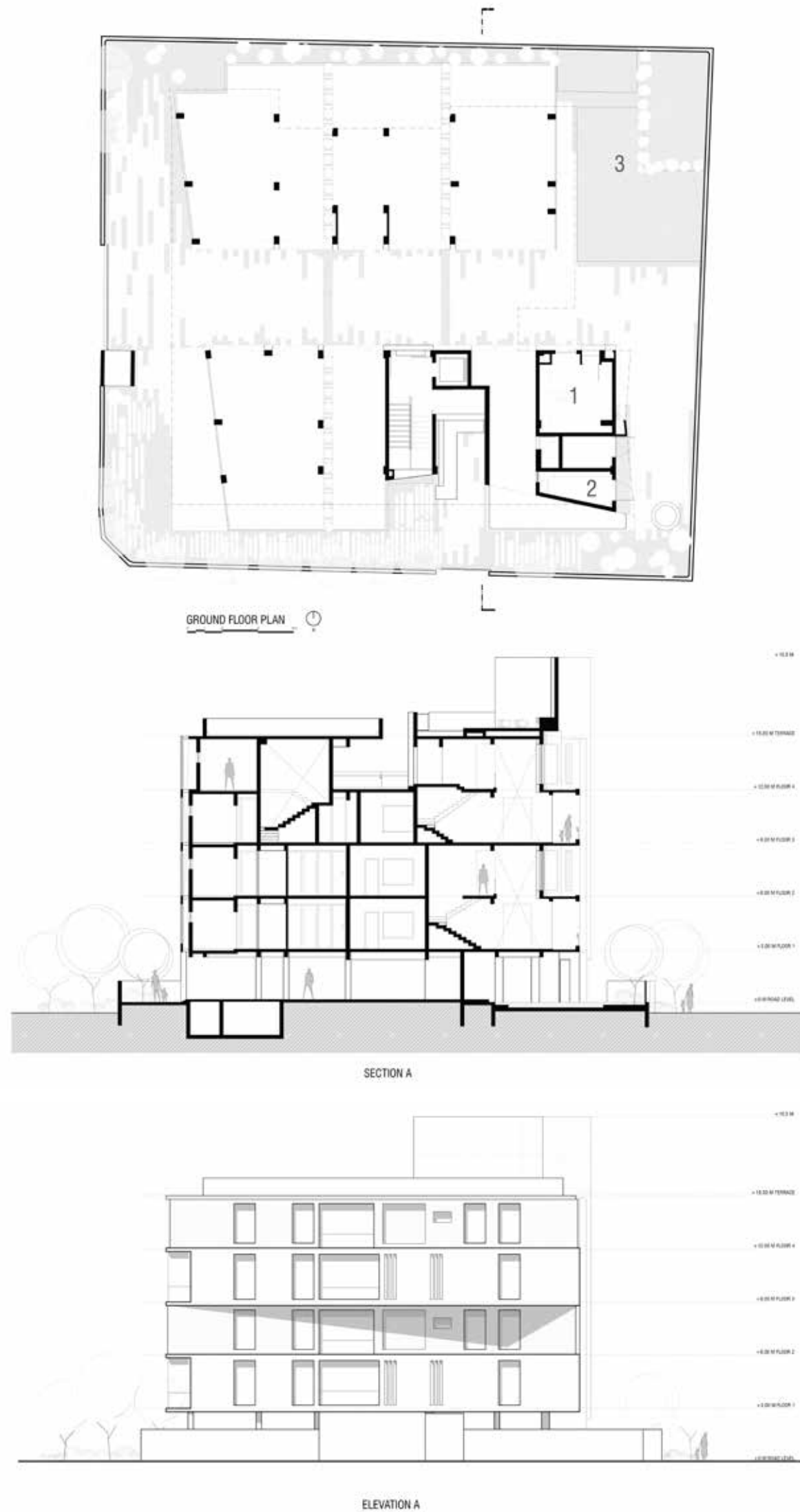
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The iconic project located in the crossroads of two streets in Chennai sets itself apart for its eye catching facade, which was an integral part of the brief handed to the architects

The project is sited in one of the quieter pockets in the heart of Chennai, with close linkage to major arterial roads that run through the city, this corner plot enjoys the position of being one of the first prominent residential buildings on entering the neighbourhood, garnering attention while being passed by.

“Sharing and integrity define a community, but valuing the presence of every individual within fulfils a holistic community living”.





*The interplay of sleek geometry defines the aesthetic*

The intent emphasizes the need to create a diverse community within the building. The building's 17,000 square feet floor area facilitates 11 exclusive apartments, five of which are 3-Bedroom Duplexes; six are 3-Bedroom units, with the density limitations determined by the lot's size and location.

Each dwelling incepts a sense of place to its own resident varying by size, volume, orientation and position within the building. These versatile dwellings fused together to sustain the integrity, conceiving a pure geometry to perceive the community in totality, was the challenge at hand.

The versatile nature of each dwelling being embraced in the form of evolution by consciously intervening in pure geometry. Marginally twisting the alternative floor masses across the street axis strengthens the perception of distinct edges to demonstrate the prominence of every dwelling, the building uses the opportunity to create a powerful visual statement, capitalizing on the views from the junction.



Natural light pierces into the common area



The wooden louvres create a light pattern within the dwellings as well as create a contrast on the external appearance of the building



A strong visual anchor, a defined exposed concrete mass seeded to the ground on one quadrant of the building strengthens the integrity as an efficiently weaved vertical transition gracefully intertwines every dwelling within. Creating a rich visual landmark from the junction by holding the diverse masses together, engaging with the ground plane and vanishing towards the sky.

To heighten the sense of identity, another layer of material contrast, a louvered mass plugged into the volume along the

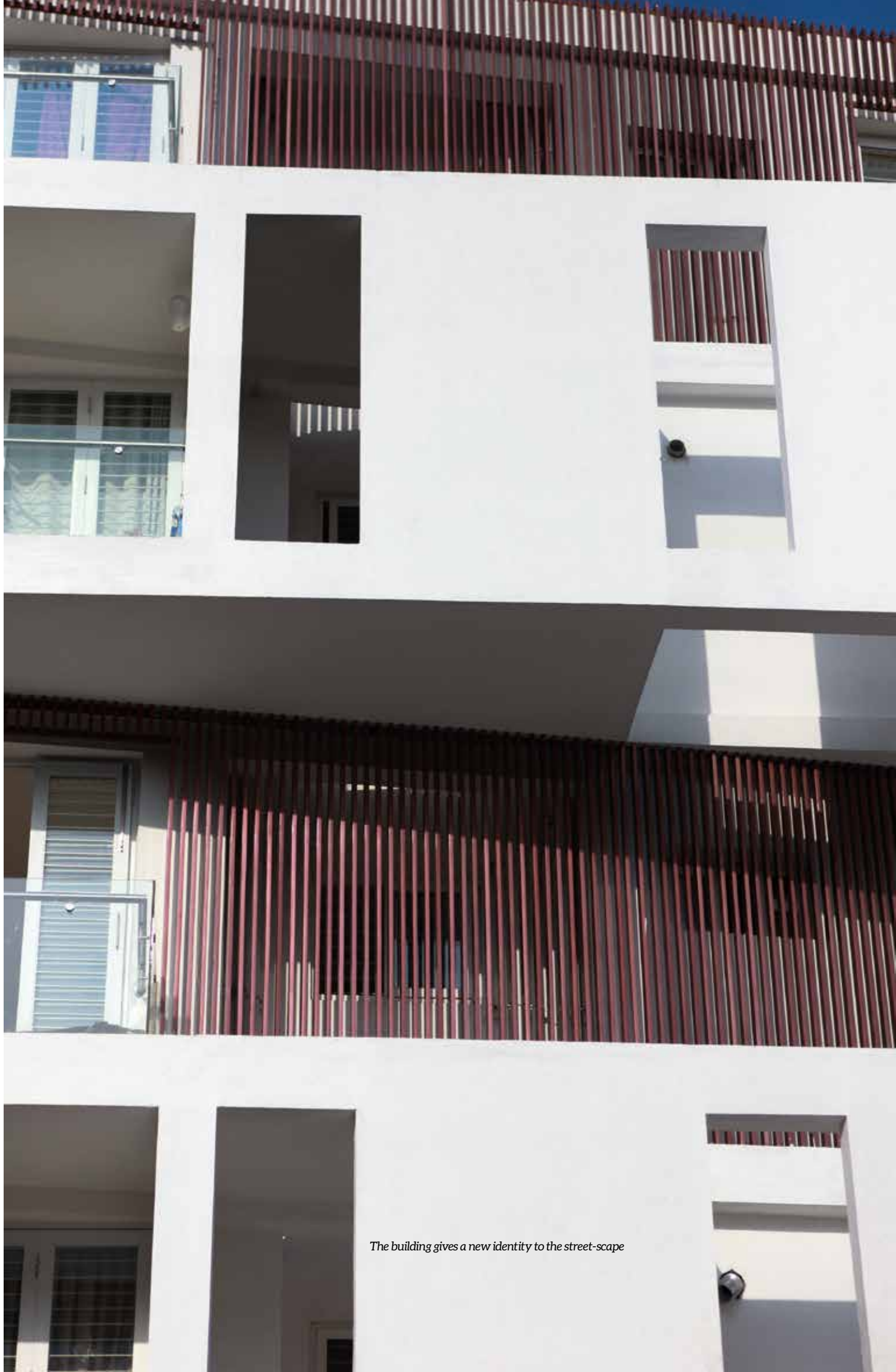
marginally twisted axis, creating a dramatic spatial demarcation along the exterior, where the light and shade create a dynamic special experience internally varying in every unit. The double-height living volumes in the duplexes take advantage of these louvered staggering masses that create changing patterns on the wall surfaces, throughout the day.

The consciously created voids allow each unit to enjoy the views out onto two sides of the building, allowing for well-ventilated









*The building gives a new identity to the street-scape*



**BIJU KURIAKOSE**



**KISHORE PANIKKAR**

## ARCHITECTURERED

The driving urge for the firm is a passion for defining an environment, to be participative in its evolution, to seek joy from its existence. It is a commitment for enriching the environment, and eventually, to do this better all over again the next time around. The studio creates design by picking clues from the context and the program, to weave this with an exciting and responsible design fabric, to evolve a built form strategy that captures the essence of the project, forms the crux of the firm's ethos.

and amply lit homes. The angular floor plates create recesses and cantilevers in the floors above and below, giving rise to shaded belts along the threshold of the building, climatically responding to the context.

Residential buildings tend to focus more on the living spaces, leaving little thought for opportunities for community interaction. Here, entrances to all units face each other and semi-private entry courts have been created, that are bathed in light from the adjacent light wells, serving as luxurious foyers for chance interaction between neighbours and others.

By placing the building raised above the ground, the volume provides relief from the immediate context and wrapped with the void, allows direct access to the habitats and parking, creating an external perception that allows the mass to float and define a strong skyline against the universal backdrop. 🏠

*Internal view of the lounge area*







# A spot of green in the Urban Jungle

Inscape Insider NIVEDITAA GUPTA

## PROJECT INFO

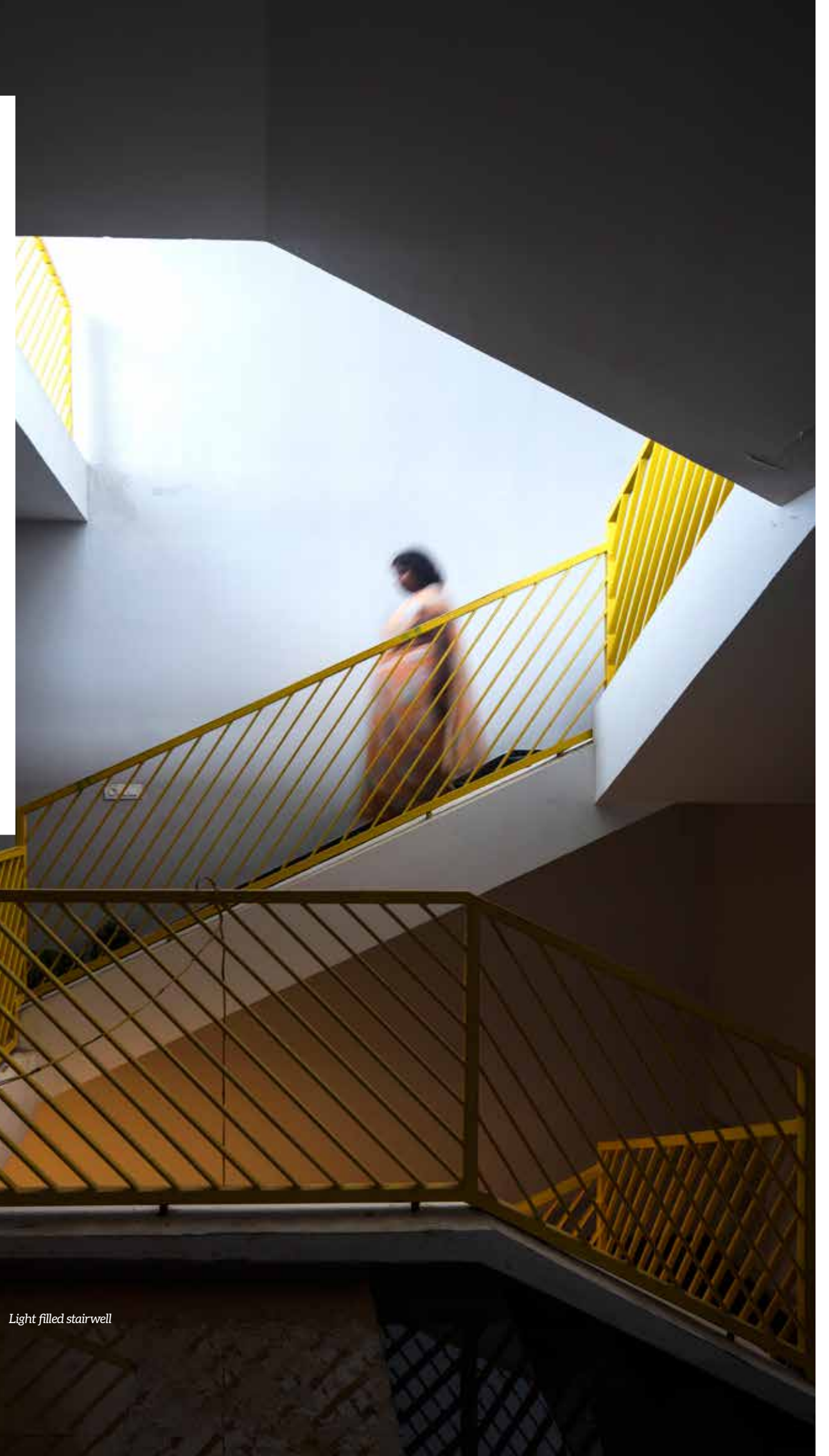
NAME : AXIS VANAM  
LOCATION : BANGALORE, INDIA  
DESIGN TEAM : AKSHAY HERANJAL, NISHITA BHATIA, ADITI PAI, JAIKUMAR, PRIYANKA BANKAPUR, SHARANYA, AMAL  
BUILT UP AREA : 20,000 SQFT  
CLIENT : AXIS CONCEPT CONSTRUCTION  
STRUCTURAL CONSULTANTS : NAIK ASSOCIATES  
MEP CONSULTANTS: CEECON ENGINEERS.  
YEAR OF COMPLETION : 2019

“

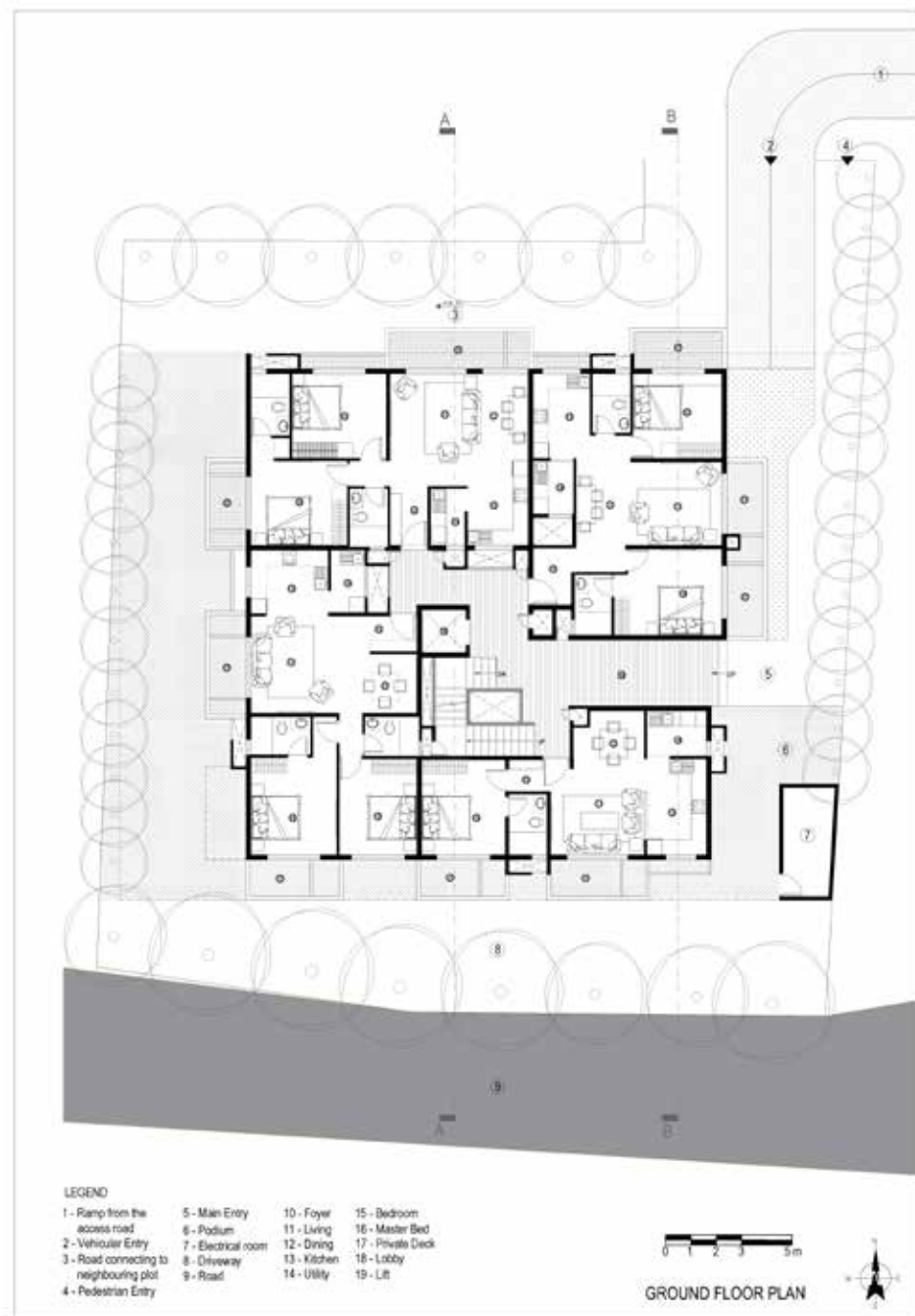
*This building located in the garden city, Bengaluru takes inspiration from depleting greenery in the neighborhood and succeeds in creating living spaces close to nature.*

Located in the heart of one of the busiest neighbourhoods in Bangalore, Vanam [meaning forest in Sanskrit] is a mid-size housing project with 20 living units stacked across 5 levels. Every unit is outward-facing, with openings planned to integrate ample light and cross-ventilation. The central core is well lit with skylights and louvres at the terrace level assisting in stack ventilation and making all the extents comfortable and less dependent on mechanical ventilation.

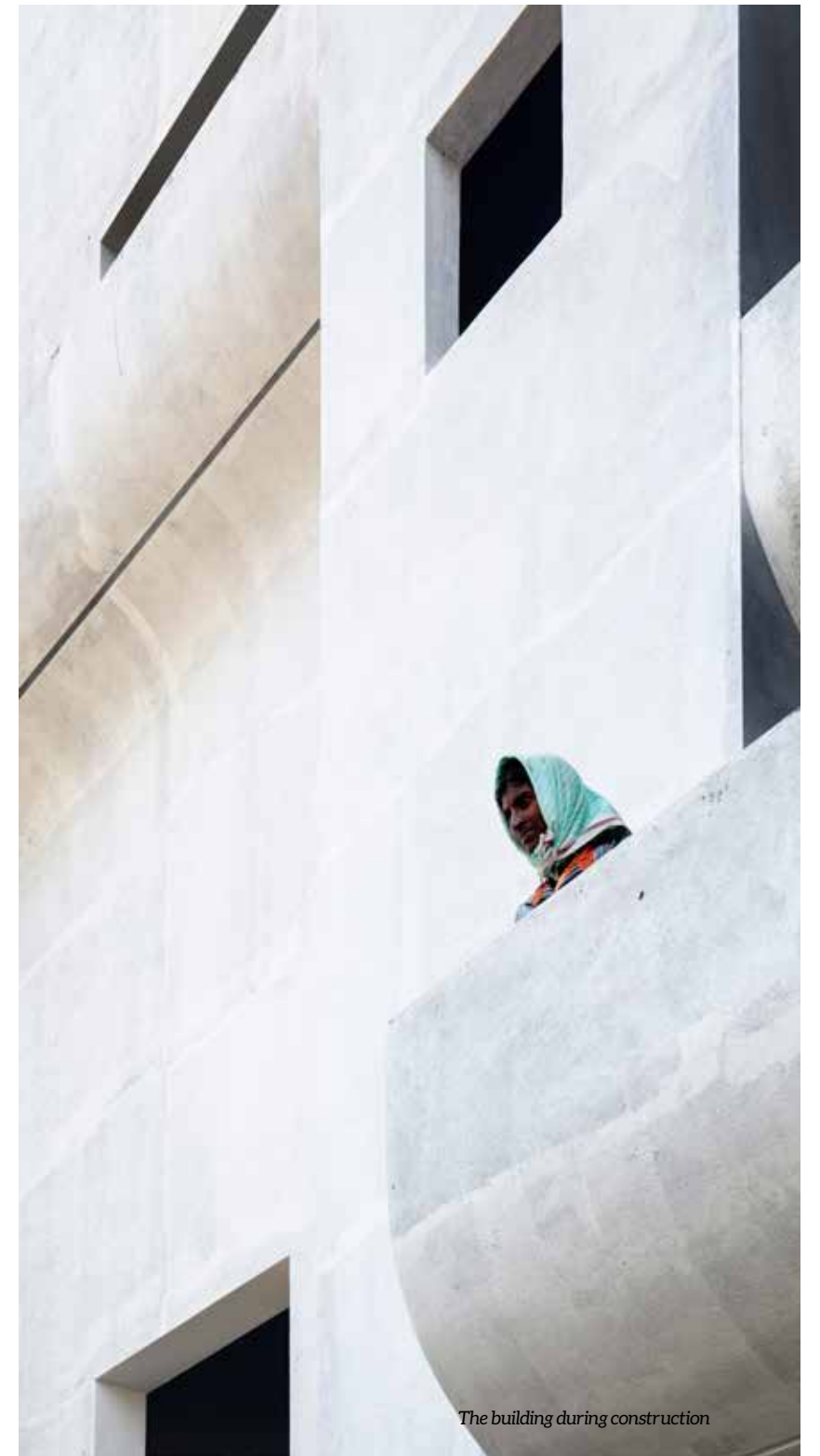
Light filled stairwell







Due to limited financial resources manual labour was used instead of pre-casting and all the balconies were individually casted with the available number of modules within the available time frame



The building during construction

Each unit is compact and planned as a 2 Bedroom apartment with an additional flexible area, planned to be an extension to the deck. This space can be actively used by the residents for their various activities of the day. The structure also gives the flexibility to convert this area into a green pocket; hence no two units are alike. The multi-functional space changes in accordance with time and is adaptive to the lifestyle of the users.

The openings in the apartment are planned in the wind direction to induce ample natural ventilation. The balconies/decks are staggered to offer double-height volumes that are attached to either the Living or the Master Bedroom, also opening itself for taller trees in the balconies.

The balcony is re-defined as a "garden deck" to hold soil and paving, providing each home





The balconies are designed to support plant-life

There are deeper beams within the structure that helps to take the extra soil load



with its private garden at all levels. Moving away from the conventional box for the deck, the form of the balcony takes a cue from the soil repose angle and facilitates a sunk for soil filling. The fragmented, yet fluidic

overall building geometry. The structure for the balcony is planned by adding deeper beams to undertake the soil load which in course also opened the way for taller windows touching the beam bottom for the lower unit.



- LEGEND
- 10 - Foyer
  - 11 - Living
  - 12 - Dining
  - 13 - Kitchen
  - 14 - Utility
  - 15 - Bedroom
  - 16 - Master Bed
  - 17 - Private Deck
  - 18 - Lobby
  - 19 - Lift

0 1 2 3 5 m

FIRST & THIRD FLOOR PLAN





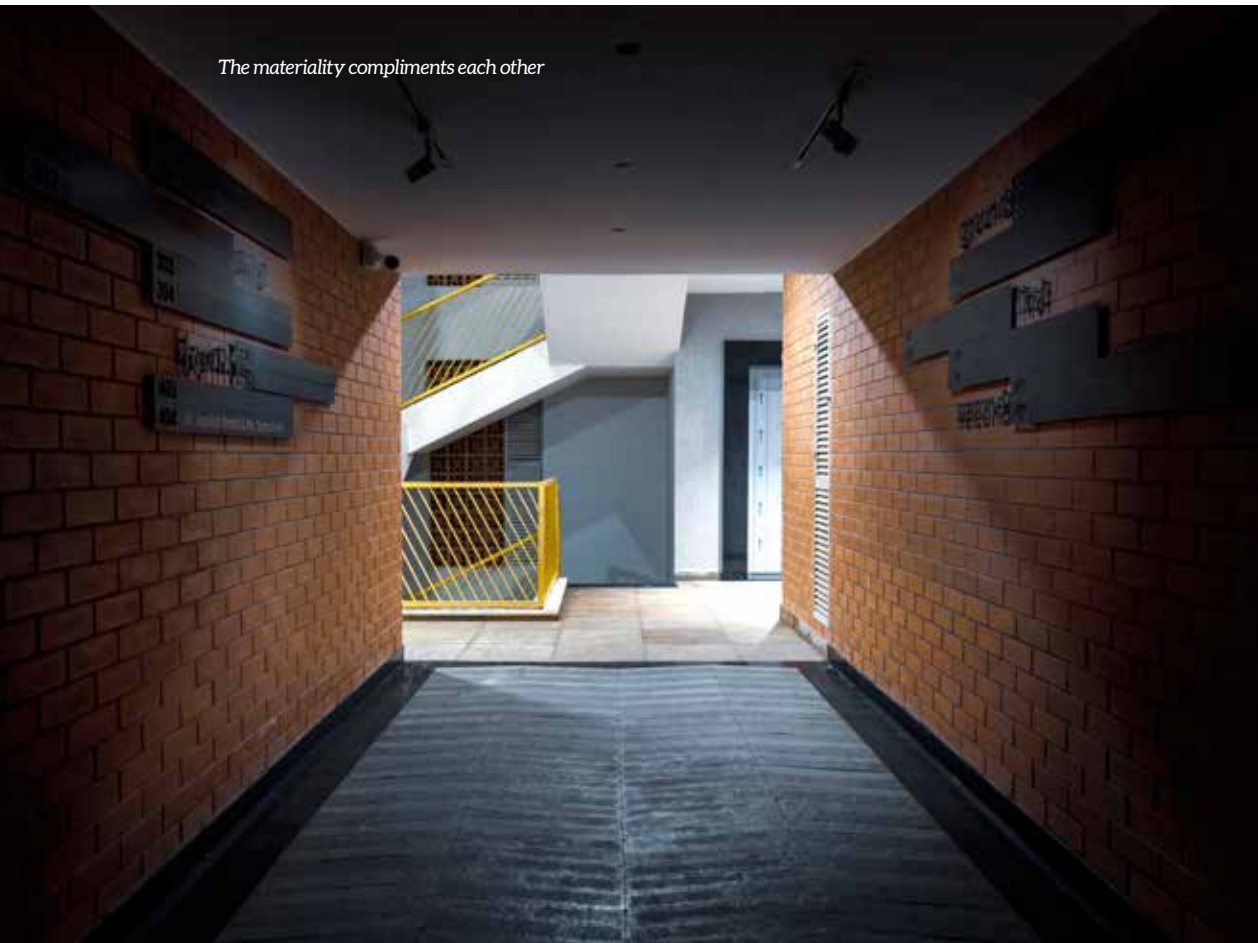


*The overall material palette interweaves with the greens from the balconies and planters*

The formwork for the balconies was planned in a prototype of 4 feet width, 6 feet height. With several mock-ups done in GI to test the form, the final shuttering modules were done in MS. While the ideal methodology would have been to pre-cast the balconies, due to limited financial resources manual labour was involved and all the balconies were individually cast with the available number of modules and time frame. The planter boxes also followed the form and function of the balcony with integrated sunk to add more horizontal green spaces at each level.

The overall material palette interweaves with the greens from the balconies and planters. It is planned to highlight the double-height corner volumes and scale down the visual vocabulary. 12mm thick brick cladding along with exposed grey textures formed the prime façade materials. The alternate deck projections and materiality of the façade is also enhanced by the sun movement and the quality of light and shadow. The common areas are further held together by natural stone flooring and terracotta jalis for the skylight areas.





The materiality compliments each other



Perspective of the external stairs



The local plants have been given predominance in the landscaping



AKSHAY HERANJALI

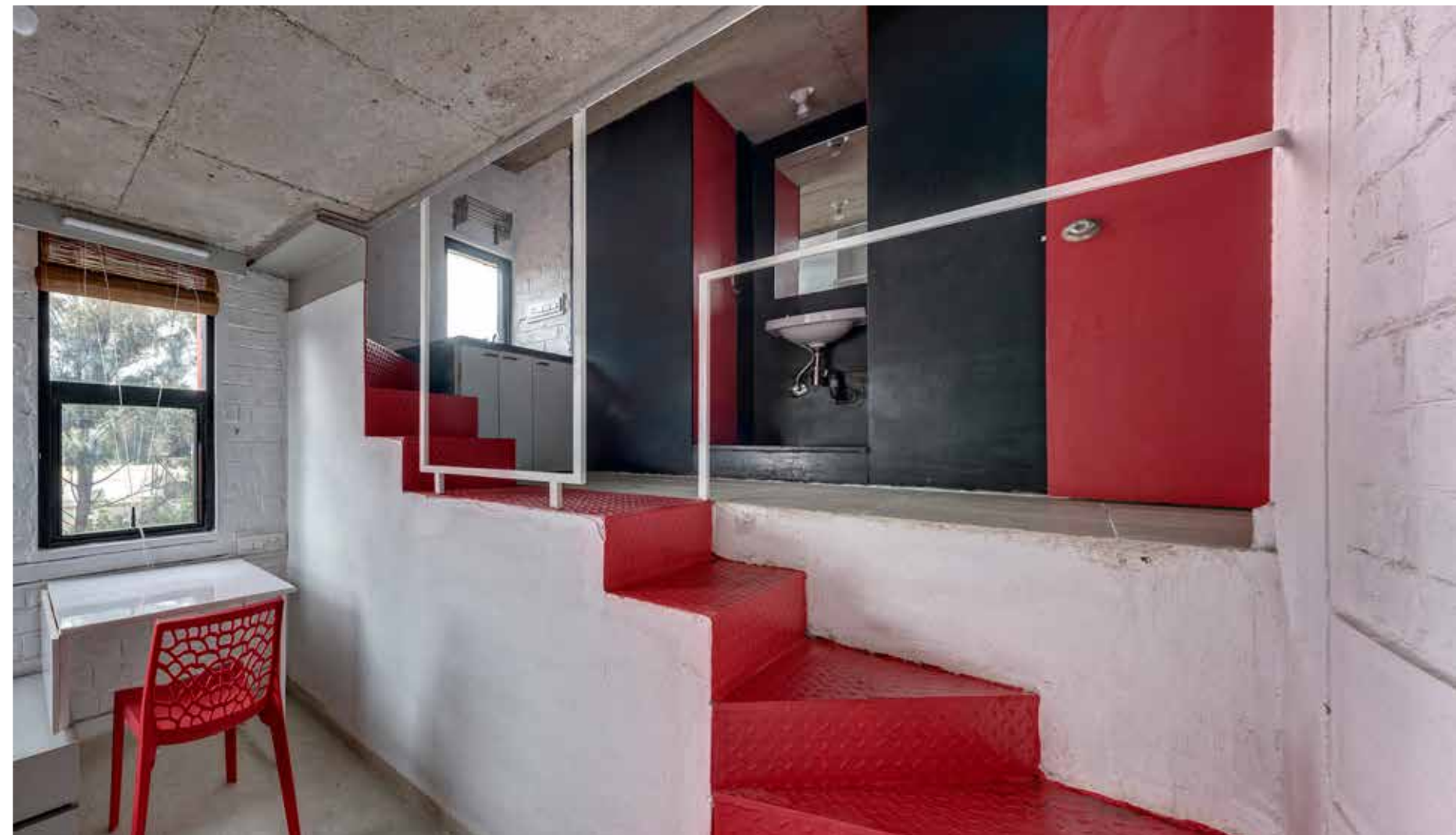
## PURPLE INK STUDIO

The purple ink studio is a multiple award winning practice in Bengaluru, which was started in 2011 with the ideas of two individuals who strongly believed in their respective design concepts and had nurtured the feeling over the past couple of years. Considering that both Aditi and Akshay came from different architectural backgrounds, one being extremely rational, aesthetic yet responsive and the other that is based on strong responses to nature and inclusion of natural elements in design, the studio has had passionate influences of both and sees a continuous evolution in exploring the best of both worlds. The studio believes in constantly exploring the parameters of design and blurring the boundaries between architecture, landscape and sustainability.

The planting pattern is tropical and native to the local region. Each balcony is provided with a tree engaging the users with their greens. The extended cantilevered spaces in the form of balconies and planter box give the user the opportunity to grow greens along the entire length. Expectantly, in the years to come, one would find more greens from the building than one would expect from an otherwise concrete surface.

The building is an attempt to function as an environmental filter by introducing "intermediate landscapes" that connect the residents with their green spaces.





# The vermillion monolith

Inscape Insider Mr. Hemant Patil

“

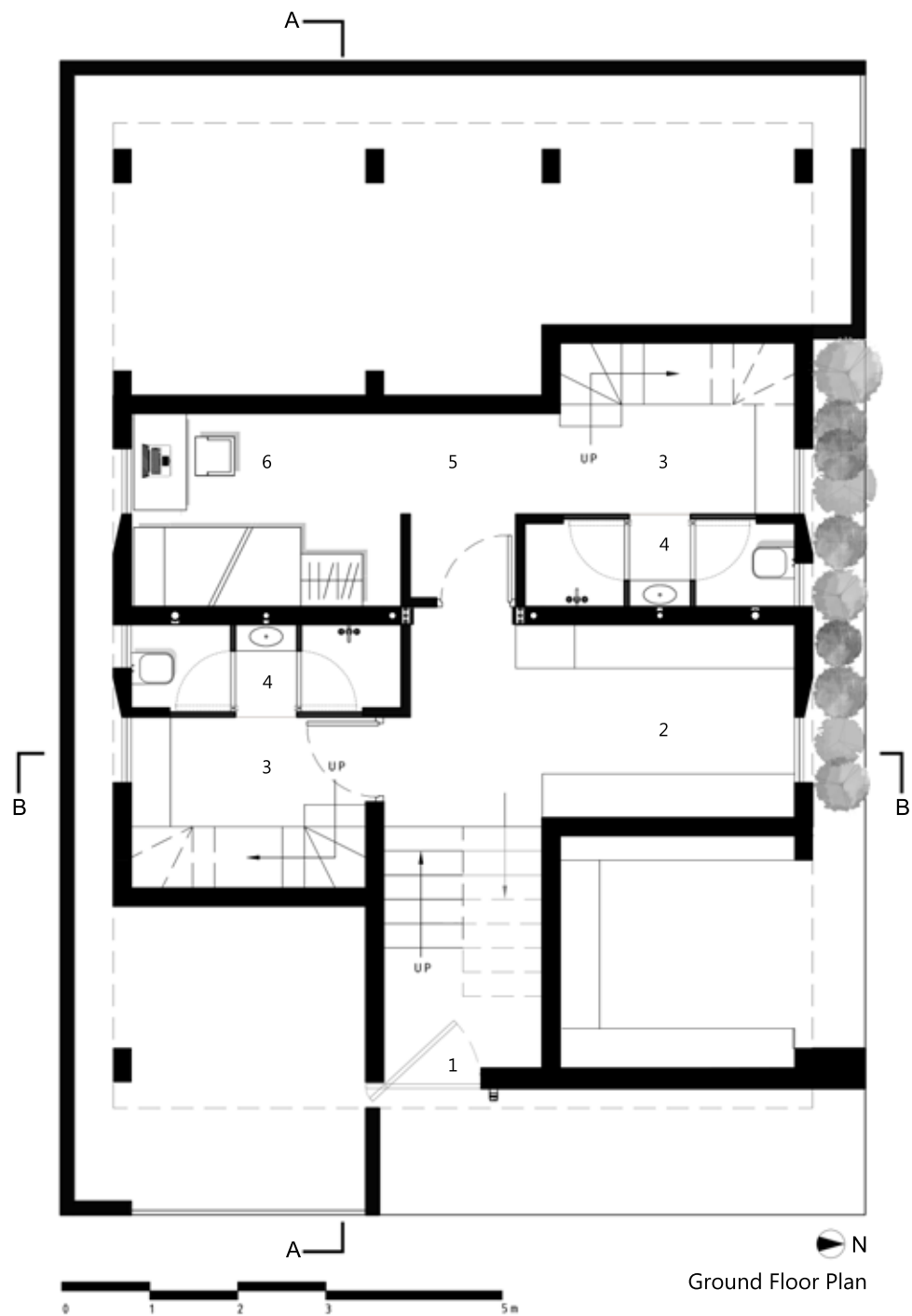
Stacked student housing by Thirdspace architects tries to capture the flexibility and playfulness of youth while providing a solution that solves the minimal space and financial constraints of the client

PROJECT INFO	
PROJECT NAME	: STACKED STUDENT HOUSING
DESIGN TEAM	: THIRDSPEACE ARCHITECTURE STUDIO - PRAVEEN BAVADEKAR PROJECT
LOCATION	: BELGAUM, INDIA
COMPLETION YEAR	: APRIL 2017
SITE AREA	: 1200 SQ.FT
GROSS BUILT AREA	: 4000 SQ.FT

The design for the project explores the section as a device to layer a series of semi-private living spaces vertically. The straightforward division of space the plan is a complex layering of self-contained living units to achieve maximum density yet maintain comfortable living standards for the occupants. The site for the project is a minuscule parcel of land measuring 1200 sq.ft. The number of students to be accommodated is more a result of the economics of scale and return on investment. The building of about 4000 sq.ft accommodates 29 students in semi-private triple and double occupancy units. With such a small site, space could only be stacked vertically, but it still had to be below the height restriction of 15 meters.

Vermilion red evokes playfulness in this student housing building

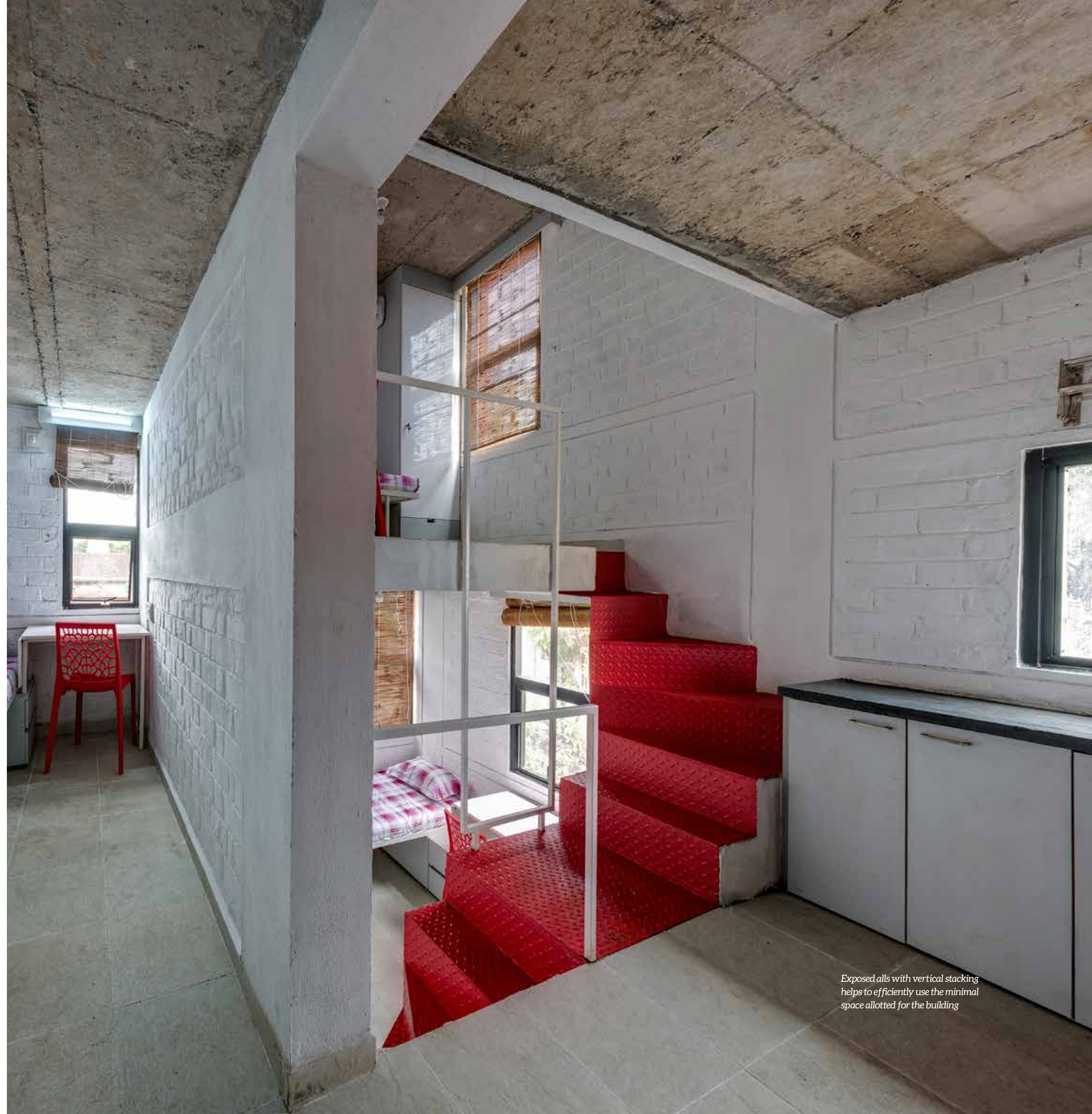




#### LEGEND

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. BUILDING ENTRANCE @ +0.15M LVL | 4. TOILET @ +1.0M LVL                    |
| 2. LOBBY @ +1.0M LVL              | 5. TRIPLE-SHARING ROOM LOBBY @ +1.0M LVL |
| 3. COMMON AREA @ +1.0M LVL        | 6. ROOM @ +1.0M LVL                      |

Thus the building's envelope was fixed by the side margins and the height restriction. To make the rooms less claustrophobic and more interconnected, a strategy was evolved to develop the rooms in sections with a floor to floor height of 8 feet. Semi-private spaces for the occupants are nestled around a small common area consisting of an entrance lobby, pantry and toilet, all of them strung together by an internal staircase. The two types of room configurations sectionally dovetail into one another, like in a jigsaw. Considering this is a cost-effective project, everything is pared down in design.

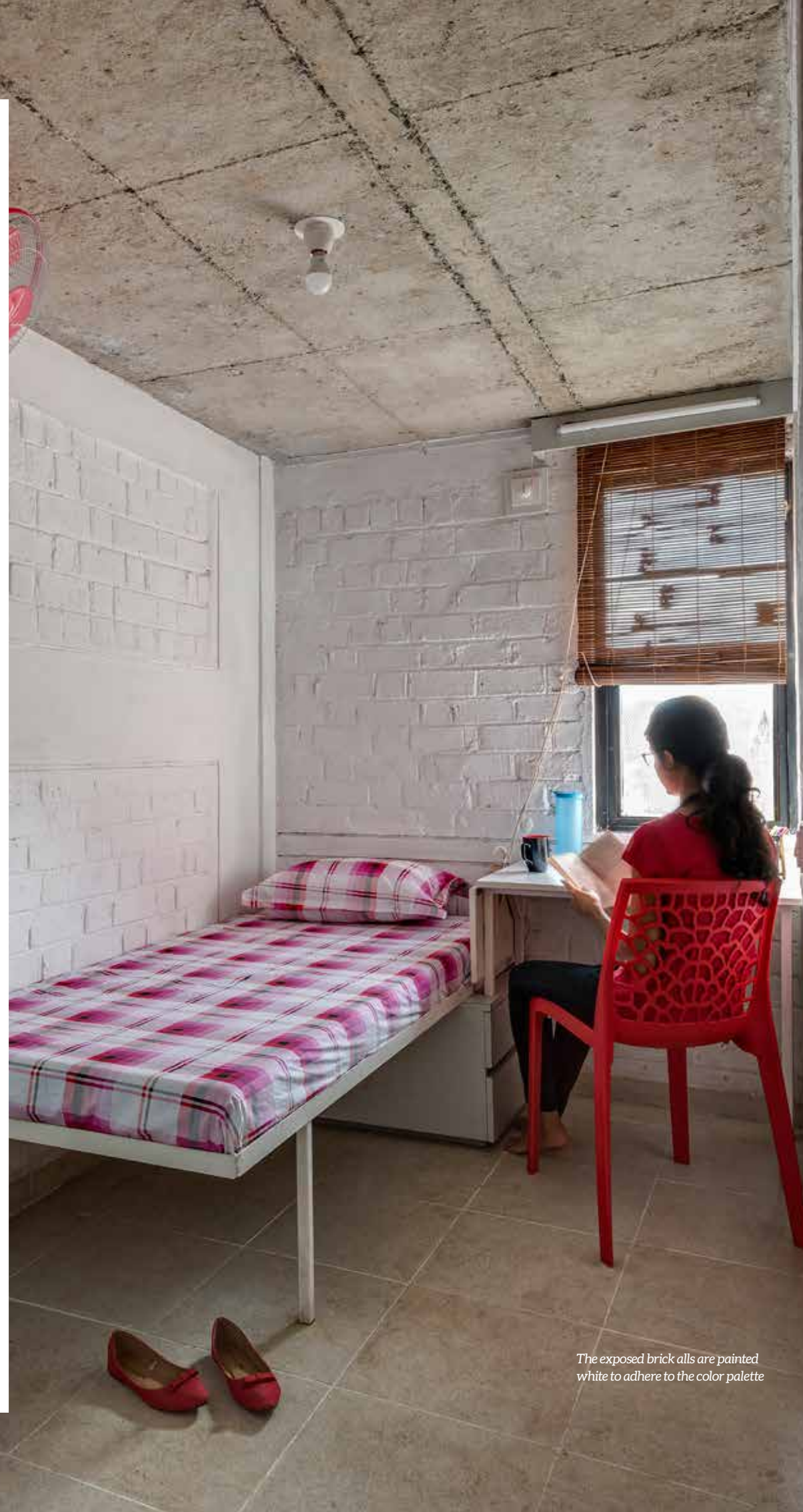


Exposed alls with vertical stacking helps to efficiently use the minimal space allotted for the building

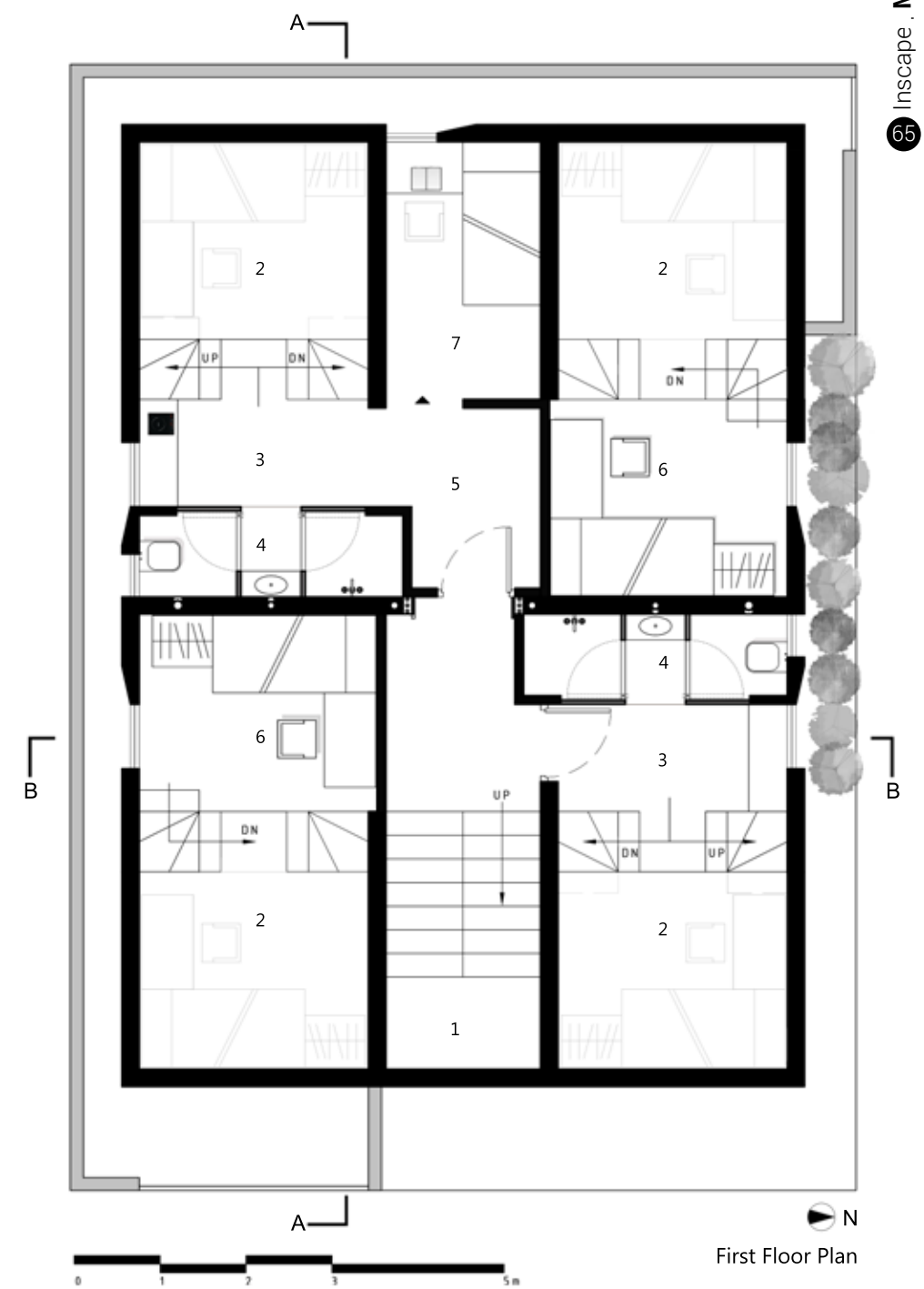




The unique exterior detailing elevate the design



The exposed brick walls are painted white to adhere to the color palette



#### LEGEND

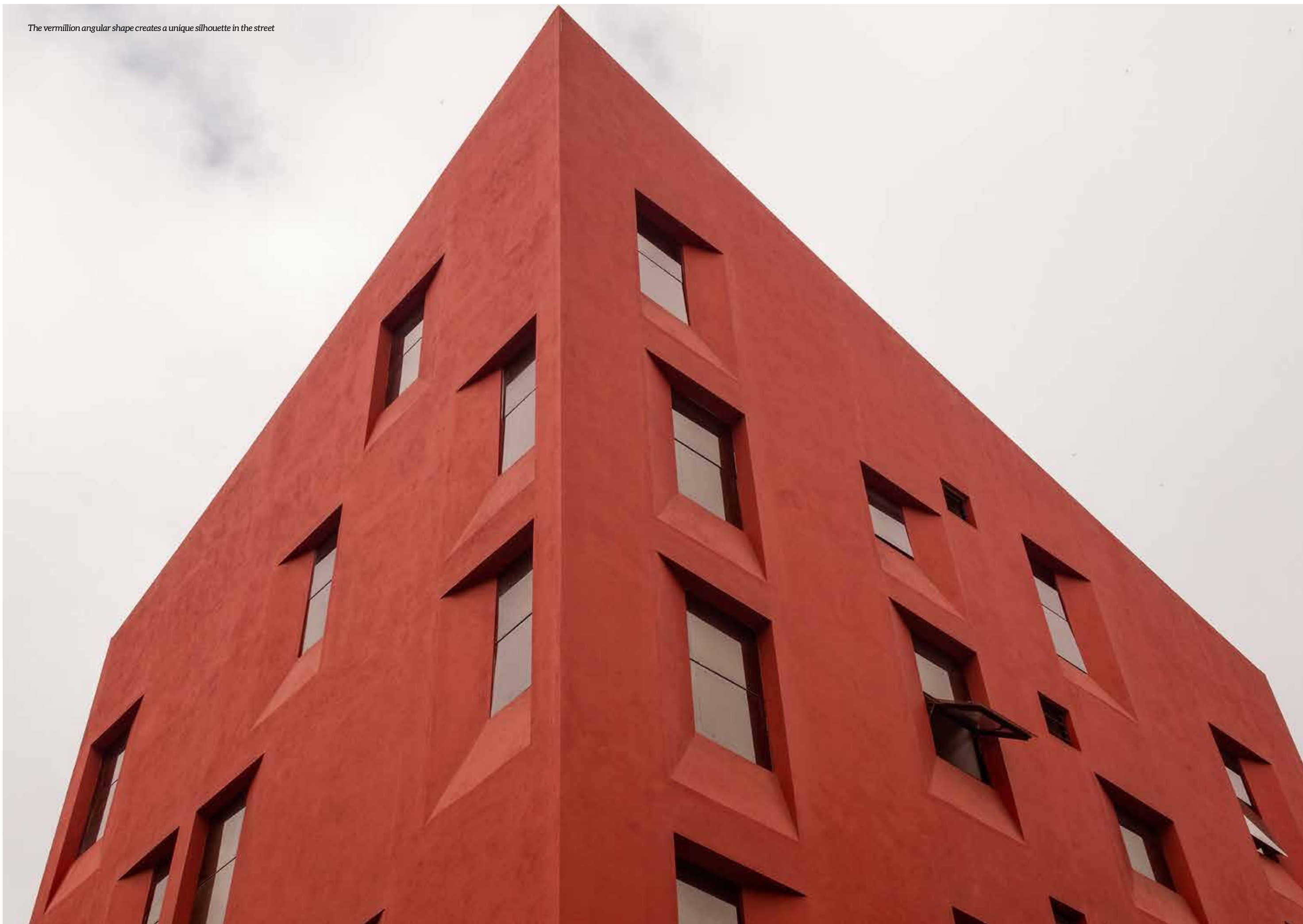
- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. STAIRCASE BLOCK         | 5. TRIPLE-SHARING ROOM LOBBY @ +3.4M LVL |
| 2. ROOM @ +2.2M LVL        | 6. ROOM @ +3.4M LVL                      |
| 3. COMMON AREA @ +3.4M LVL | 7. ROOM @ +3.4M LVL                      |
| 4. TOILET @ +3.4M LVL      |  |

Every inch of space was debated upon. If the walls of the toilets were thought to consume too much space, they were replaced by 40 mm Kadappa stone slabs, a detail that also eliminated the need for tile work in wet areas. Plastered surfaces are

kept to a bare minimum, with unplastered brick walls painted white to visually open up the space. The individual rooms with bare minimum space with minimum furniture are interconnected visually as well as physically with the shared areas. The elevation is



The vermillion angular shape creates a unique silhouette in the street

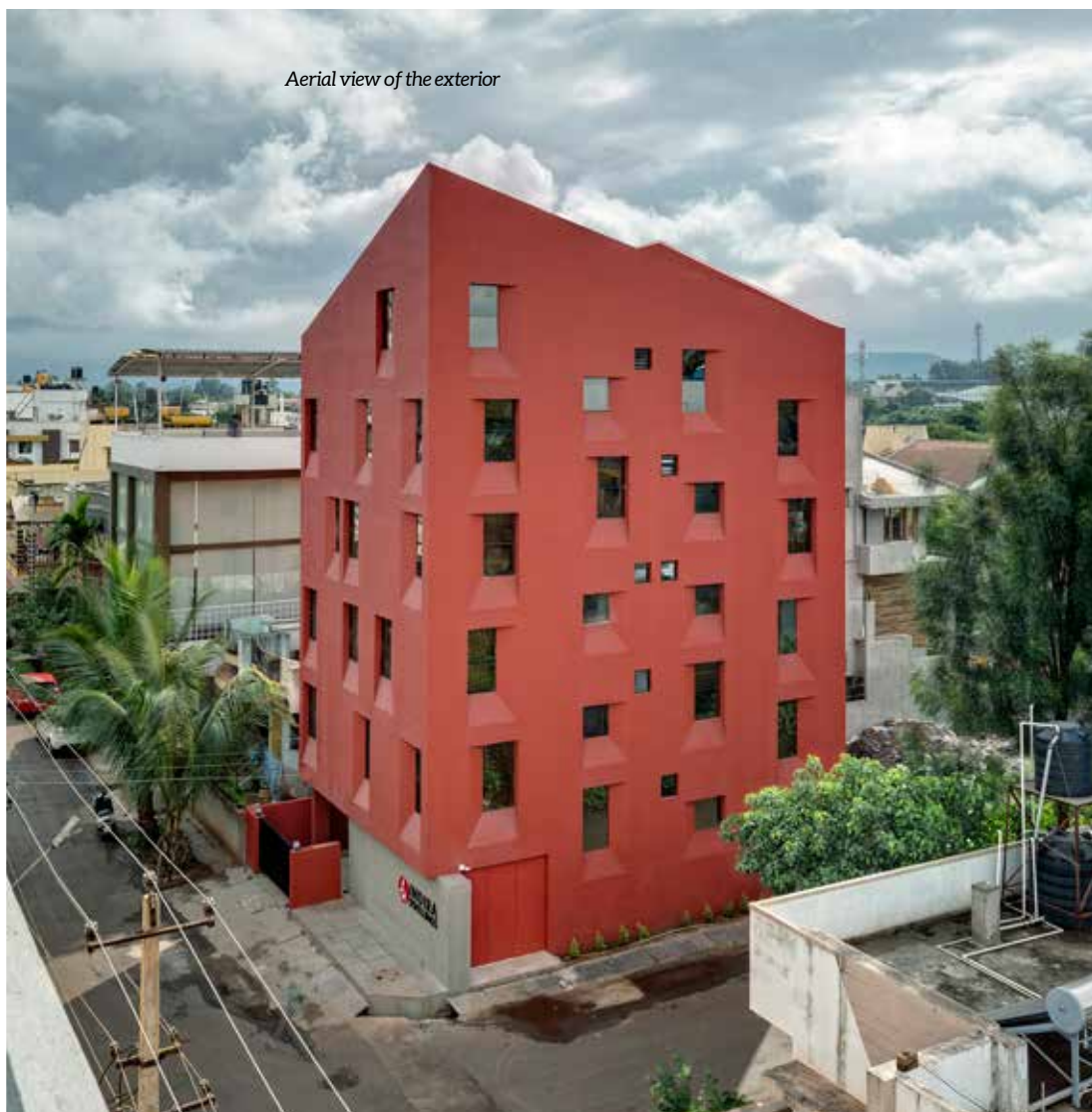




Perspective of the stairwell



Aerial view of the exterior



View of the interior vertical stacking of housing units



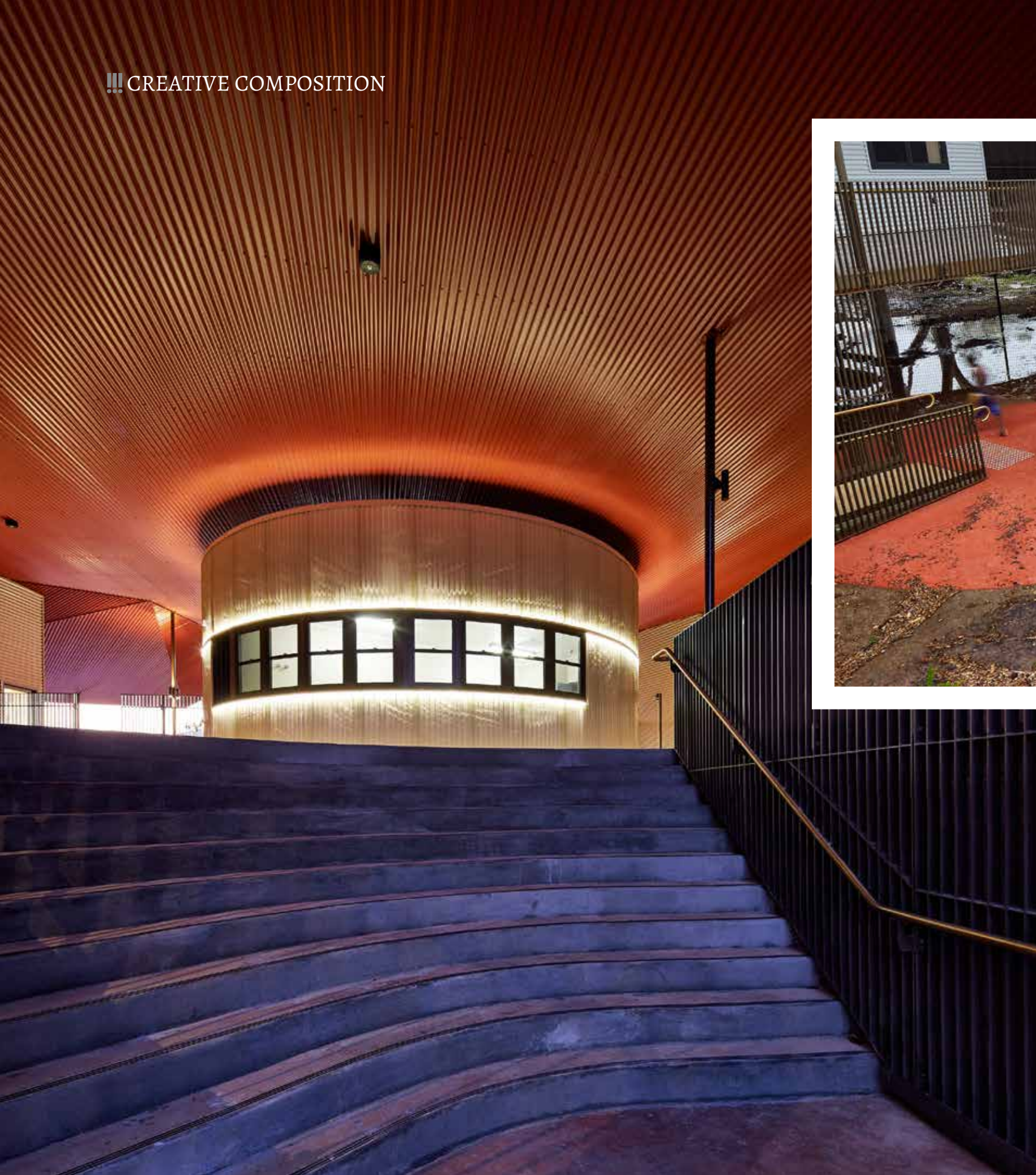
PRAVEEN BAVADEKAR

## THIRDSPEACE ARCHITECTURE STUDIO

In a span of 19 years, Thirdspace has worked across a range of scales, project typologies and geographies. The studio has won many awards during the last two decades. 'ThirdSpace' is the name of the space that the studio operates in, trying to make sense of such polarities as urban / rural or architecture / interiors. The studio seeks to explore the third space that exists between seemingly defined oppositions while embracing and celebrating the in-between through their projects. Our projects themselves blur traditionally accepted boundaries, looking at urban issues in interior projects and architectural issues within urban proposals. The diversity of the work also lets us experiment with similar generative techniques across different scales of budget and size.

a total of small strategic decisions to sectionally displace the room units. The window fenestrations just about hint at the sectional complexity within but also add to the monolithic nature of the facade. The staggered section creates a dynamic roof profile that dominates the skyline and is painted in a deep red to accentuate its almost monolithic form. In the colourful cacophonous milieu that is mofussil India, it still dominates the neighbourhood, yet displays an irreverent playfulness that is characteristic of student life anywhere. 🏠





# Rebuilding hope

Inscape Insider Peter Bennetts

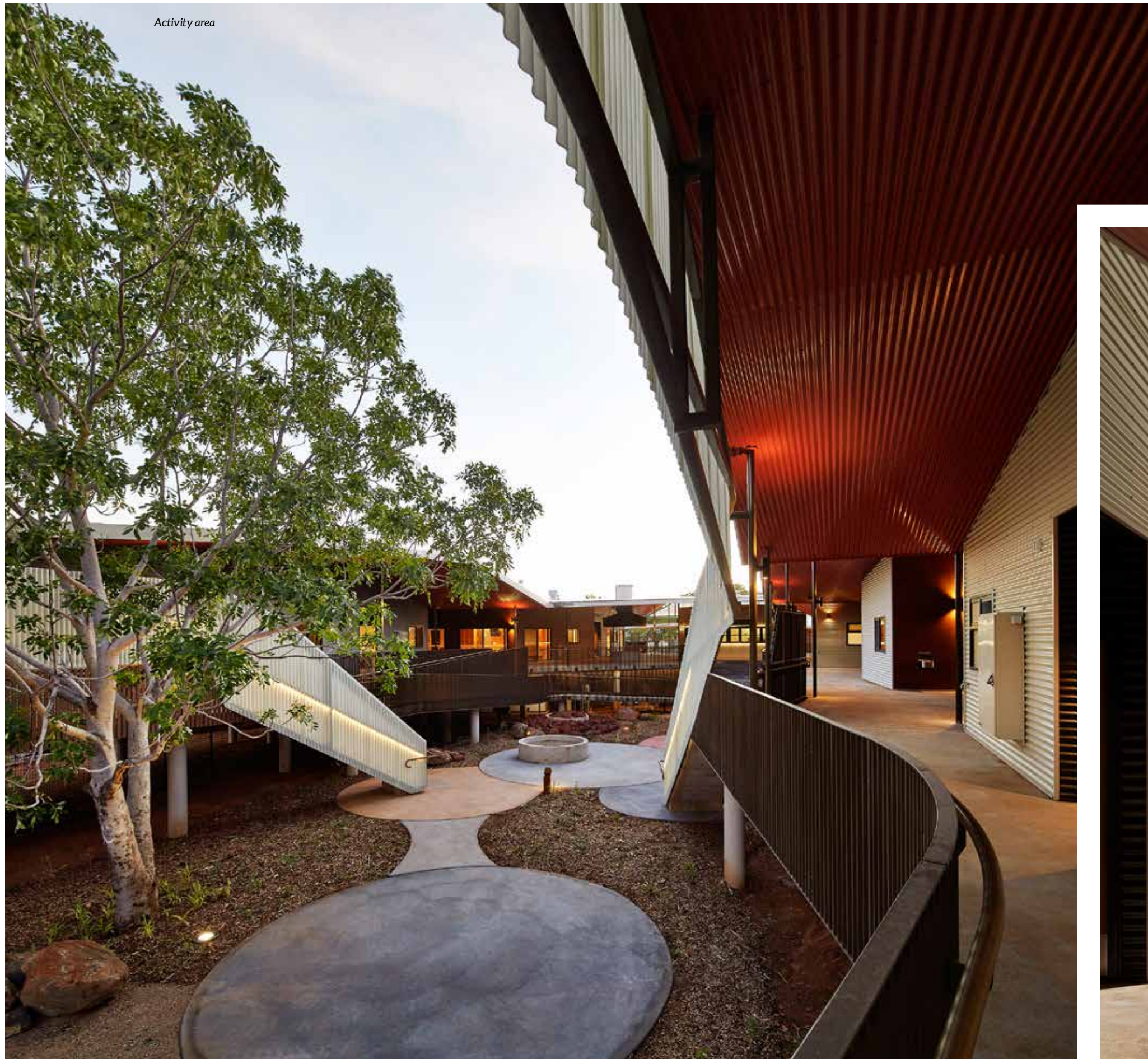
PROJECT INFO	
PROJECT NAME	: WALUMBA ELDERS CENTRE
LOCATION	: WARMUN WA 6743, AUSTRALIA
ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE	: IREDALE PEDERSEN HOOK ARCHITECTS
DESIGN TEAM	: FINN PEDERSEN, ADRIAN IREDALE, MARTYN HOOK, JOEL FULLER, REBECCA ANGUS, JASON LENARD, NIKKI ROSS, CAROLINE DI COSTA, KHAIRANI KHALIFAH, DREW PENHALE, MARY MCAREE, LAYLA CLUER, JONATHAN ALACH, MATT FLETCHER, JONATHON WARE

“Working directly with the Giga community members, the team designed an inclusive new habitat for the older people based on their socio-cultural needs.”

Some years ago the team from Iredale Pedersen Hook Architects was presented with the challenging task of rebuilding the Walumba Aged Care centre at Warmun which was devastated by a catastrophic flood a year earlier. Working directly with the Giga community members, the team designed an inclusive new habitat for the older people based on their socio-cultural needs while meeting the requirements of the 'Commonwealth flexible aged care provisions'. Close to the school and town centre, it ensures that the elders will be able to continue their role as educators and cultural leaders. As the site is in the flood zone, the edifice was designed to be above the expected maximum flood level – three-meter high, like a bridge, and linked to the ground by a stone pitched driveway, walkways and stairs.



Activity area



Addressing the requirements of the Giga people was also an initiative on their cultural sustainability. Reciprocal responsibilities are respected by providing distinct spaces for members of each family. There are two separate wings for men and women while the 'beachhead' of the entry and common activity area anchors the building to the land. Gender-specific activity areas and a generous common courtyard for recreation were integrated to ensure required levels of

division. Home to the residents and staff, the centre has a commercial kitchen with meals-on-wheels service while the external dining and activity area sustains healthy interactions between the members.

Further, bush medicine plants and smoking ceremony plants were planted to support the tradition. Overlooked by the laundry and the administration department, the fire-pit in the common area supports the cooking of bush foods.

Vertical polyster shading panels







Exterior view



Verandah soffit



Waterfall created by the box gutter



As night-time activities are significant in their lifestyle, the spaces are lit with LED lights to address Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Passive internal and external surveillance in the design keeps a check on unwanted interactions. Vertical polyester shading panels are employed to ensure optimum lighting and desirable shade in the interiors to aid the residents with poor eyesight while the carefully placed pavilions offer natural cooling.





Fire pit and activity area





ADRIAN IREDALE, FINN PEDERSEN, MARTYN HOOK

## IREDALE PEDERSEN HOOK ARCHITECTS

A progressive architecture practice with studios in Perth and Melbourne with a rapidly expanding body of work throughout Australia from the wine region of Victoria's Yarra Valley to the desert of the North Kimberly region, through suburban Perth and the rural edge of Melbourne to remote Christmas Island, Iredale Pederson Hook Architects operates around three different individuals. Iredale is the artist who draws incessantly and produces evocative watercolours of the conceptual ideas within each project, Pedersen defines the social conscience for the team as his strong environmental bias is underpinned by a functional elegance and Hook is academic with a direct and pragmatic agenda that seeks clarity in each scheme. After many years together, the refined combination of the three partners' talents supplemented by a strong, ambitious team provides a unique depth to their architectural services.



The central courtyard



Serpentine steel balusters

The structure is an elegant expression of colour-bond corrugated sheet cladding and structural tubing. The RCC floor slab and robust circular columns support an essentially all-steel project with undulating roof planes of sliced gable roofs. The rich colours of the soffit lined with 'hedland' colour-bond corrugated sheeting and the cladding create contrasting emotions during day and night. The building form responds dramatically to the landscape of Warmun and when the rains come, the box gutters create six unique waterfalls that the children of the community play under to the delight of the elders in residence.





Diwali at Nathdwara, mixed media on canvas



# Darshan

## The gaze of devotion

Inscape Insider Mr.Sourabh Kaviya

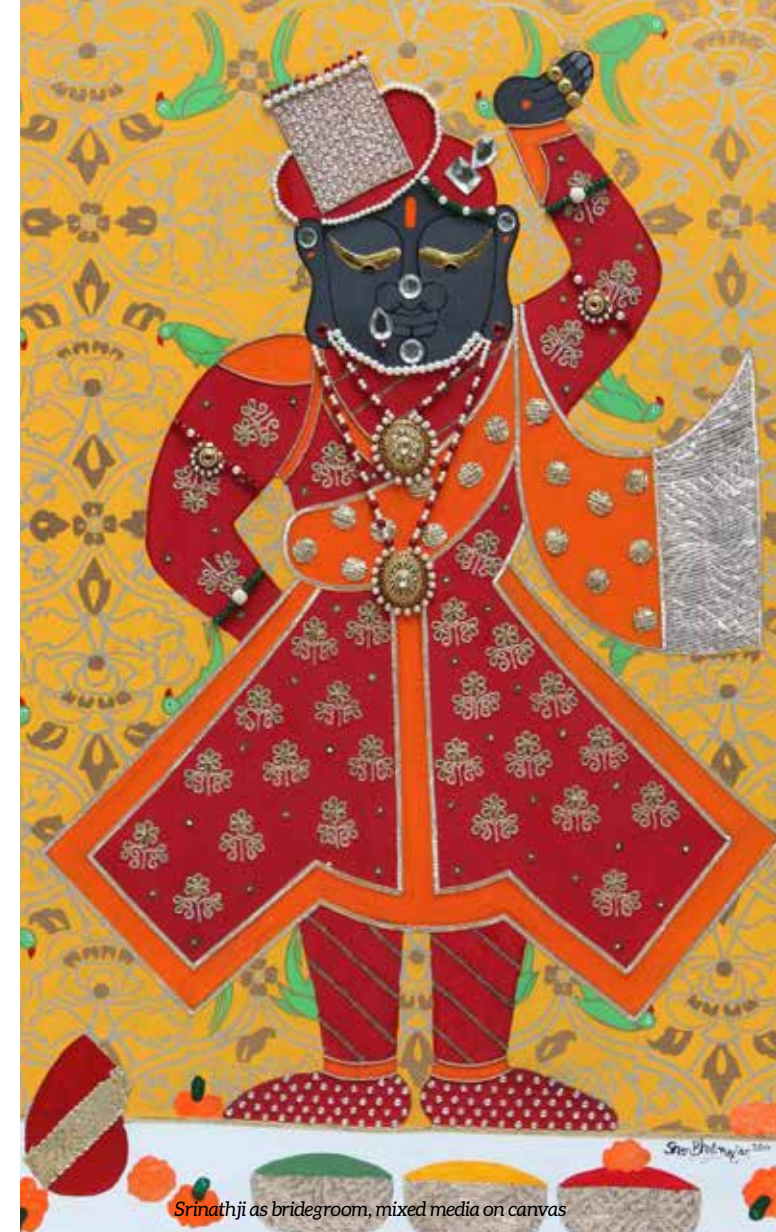
Shan Bhatnagar's Shrinathji collection called "Darshan" makes you feel that you are actually standing in front of the Deity in Nathdwara. These large canvases ( 5 feet x 4 feet) are almost lyrical in their depiction. The Shrinathji paintings, based on poems written in praise of the Lord, are basically oil on canvas, but there are additional details on the paintings inspired from traditional crafts. The technique of the paintings are the result of detailed research of the temple and the deity from Shan's regular visits to Nathdwara. The paintings





## SHAN BHATNAGAR

Shan is a true lover of Jaipur - the pink city. Even though he is from New Delhi, he chose to settle in the pink city because here he found direction to channelize his love for all things aesthetic and that this place offers him the most conducive environment for his work with the palette and design. Armed with a Business Degree and his love for all things Jaipuri, Shan now runs a successful business of designing spaces and garments. Along with regularly participating in exhibitions of his paintings across the globe. He closely works with artisans and craftsmen to produce products that are compatible and useful in today's context at the same time a dying craft is saved.



mostly depict the frontal image of the lord, which has a compelling presence, and each painting focuses on a distinguished aspect of the lord. There are stitches in intricate patterns with gold or silver thread on the painting, which embellishes Shrinathji's poshak (garment) with gotta patti (traditional applique work with gold and silver ribbons) he also adorns shrinathji with beautiful jewelry, like traditional kundan necklaces. Other objects like the choki (stool) and shrinath ji's toys, pan box, etc. are all cut out of thick pure silver foil.



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## In & Happening

IIID CHAPTER NEWS

### HYDERABAD

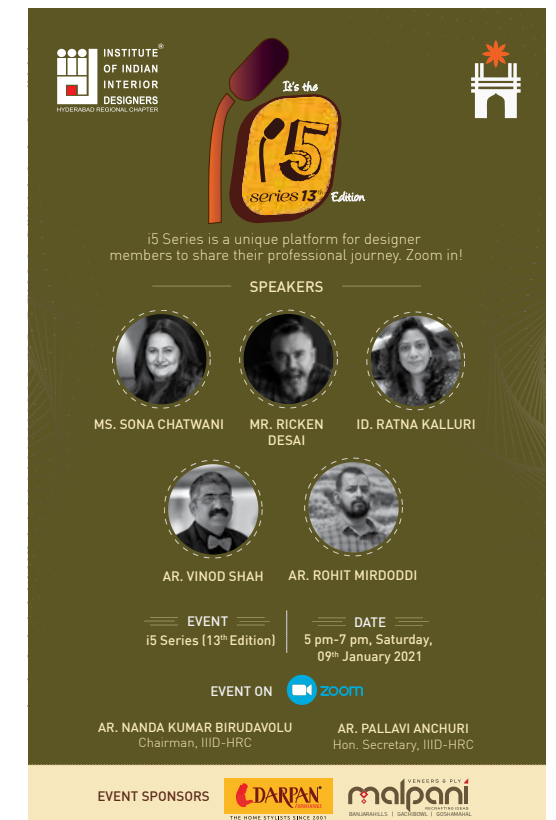
9-1-2021

i5 Series (13th Edition)

A HIGH FIVE FOR i5

The return of i5 Series in its 13th Edition is a matter of great pride for IIID Hyderabad Regional Chapter and its members turned out in large numbers to attend the webinar on Zoom and live on YouTube, Facebook on Saturday, 9th January 2021 at 5PM. This edition featured an interesting line up of speakers: Ms. Sona Chatwani from SC design Studio, Mr. Ricken Desai from Ricken Desai Photography, Id. Ratna Kalluri from Rad Studio, Ar. Vinod Shah from The Firm Design Studio and Ar. Rohit Mirdoddi from Rohit Associates.

As Honorary Secretary Ar. Pallavi Anchuri pointed out the main purpose of i5 Series is to introduce Interior Designers and Architects along with their ideas and work methods to the IIID Hyderabad Regional Chapter fraternity and in this context, Chairman Ar. Nanda Kumar Birudavolu observed that this unique platform had started featuring some really interesting new voices from diverse domains. In essence, i5 Series takes the audience deeper into the minds and experiential canvases of the speaker, exploring their backgrounds, ideas, knowledge, approaches and body of work. And in this edition the speakers used their own projects as illustrative examples for the concepts being presented. This 13th edition of i5 Series comprehensively lived up to the platform's objective of bringing the audience with new concepts, changing trends and diverse perspectives.



**INSTITUTE OF INDIAN INTERIOR DESIGNERS**  
HYDERABAD REGIONAL CHAPTER

**It's the i5 series 13th Edition**

i5 Series is a unique platform for designer members to share their professional journey. Zoom in!

**SPEAKERS**

MS. SONA CHATWANI MR. RICKEN DESAI ID. RATNA KALLURI

AR. VINOD SHAH AR. ROHIT MIRDODDI

**EVENT**  
i5 Series (13th Edition)

**DATE**  
5 pm-7 pm, Saturday,  
09th January 2021

**EVENT ON**  
zoom

AR. NANDA KUMAR BIRUDAVOLU  
Chairman, IIID-HRC

AR. PALLAVI ANCHURI  
Hon. Secretary, IIID-HRC

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### MANGALORE

20-2-2021

The much-awaited installation of the Mangalore Regional Chapter finally came to fruition on the 20th of February 2020 on the lawns of Eden Club, Mangalore. Team IIID BRC was present in its full accompanied by President Elect Ar. Tanuja Kanvinde from Delhi and Jignesh Modi Hon. Secretary from Baroda. The evening began with a short welcome speech by Ms. Jabeen Zacharias, National President, followed by a quick introduction of the entire Mangalore Team. The oath taking was presided by Ar. Tanuja Kanvinde. The ceremony was concluded with two brilliant presentations by Ar. Tanuja Kanvinde and Ar. Vishwanath showcasing their award-winning projects.



### PUNE

Design X Talks

2-2-2021

IIID PRC hosted its first AVP of the year ON 29.01.21 sponsored by The Wood Story and PPC.

The speakers were Ar. Nitin and Apkesha Kute and Ar. Dhananjay Shinde from Nashik. This multi-fold event was curated by Ar. Tushar Kothawade. The speakers took the audience through their design journey's and philosophy whilst presenting projects of various scales. This was followed by an insightful Panel Discussion moderated by Ar. Ashwin Lovekar and Ar. Madhav Joshi joined the speakers as a panelist. The panelists highlighted the need to be sensitive towards the changing need, character of the city and be responsible for its context.



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## Compass



### What all does the housing house?

Social Housing or Community Housing or Mass Housing is a subject that has drawn active interest in our nation always. Whenever the necessities of 'roti kapda aur makaan' (food clothing and shelter) are discussed, the responsible authorities never fail to ponder over what among these, is affordable to the common man. The design for housing projects envisaged for the common masses holds more significance than that of the stand-alone Villas constructed at an exorbitant cost of lakhs and crores. This is not without a reason. When you design a house, the interest of the family alone needs to be addressed. But when the housing is for the common masses, what is commonly liked by a large number of people need to be identified and implemented. This is not an easy task. The designer's responsibility is to ensure the privacy of a home and common acceptance of group living. The interior design of such buildings is a formidable task. This is so because the designer in most cases never gets a chance to meet the actual future occupant of the house in person. The entire design of the interiors is based upon the assumed and imagined likes and dislikes of the prospective end-user.

Since the design is for the ordinary or common man, it becomes imperative to ensure optimal use of every inch and every brick. The designer also has to make sure that there is good value for the money spent.

I would like to conclude this with a few lines from architect Mona Doctor Pingel's article in this issue. "Housing is a broad category. It can be for the poorest of the poor, like public housing, or it can be for students, senior citizens, the elite of society. We often restrict ourselves to the client brief and do not explore what the end-users really want. It is crucial to have an understanding that we are designing for the community and not only the client. While we must introduce novel methods to aid social change, we have to give people choices. We have to prove that the novel method is better, so that people may adopt it of their own."

This issue has a few well talked about worthwhile projects which have been designed, taking into consideration, the likes and dislikes of the common man.

Happy Reading!

*Rema Kartha*

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