



Making of

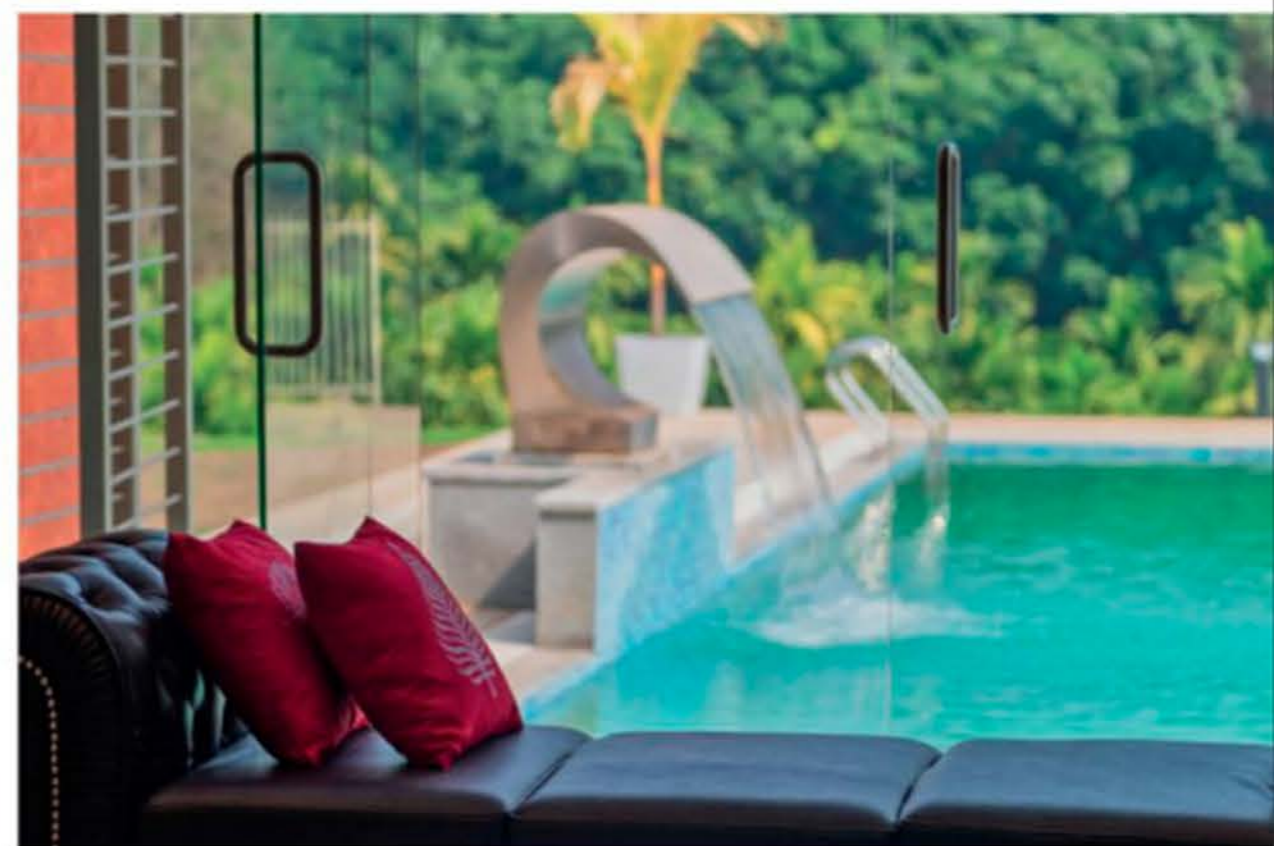
vaishistya

'Home Extraordinaire'

THE PROCESS OF THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN DEVELOPED FROM THE DESIRE TO CREATE AN EXCEPTIONAL HOME AND GREW INTO A COMPLEX AND VIBRANT CREATION -VAISHISTYA "HOME EXTRAORDINAIRE".

TEXT ARCHITECTURE CONTINUOUS & PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRAMES BY HARSH

Ancient Indian literature extols that all truth and knowledge are absolute and infinite, waiting not to be created but to be discovered, emphasizing the superiority of intuition over intellect. The importance of an open minded approach to design, a journey to explore the unknown through perception rather than intellect, facilitated the material manifestation of this striking abode. Perched on a hillock, a couple of divergent pentagonal prisms cantilevered beyond a solid red laterite wall and protruding out into the surrounding wooded area, give a distinct character to Vaishistya - 'Home Extraordinaire home'. Set on an idyllic site surrounded by areca nut- rubber plantations, the home was commissioned by Mr Krishnaraj's family at Uppinangadi Taluk, close to Mangalore. Traditional design is juxtaposed with contemporary features to create a harmonious blend of simplicity, luxury, connectivity and functionalism. The deliberate integration of the rich architectural and cultural heritage of Malanadu is evident in various layers. The traditional Mantapa², supported on stone pillars, has been reinvented as a dedicated car park while the Jagli³, or the entrance verandah, is defined by an exposed bright red laterite wall and granite pillars with ornate hand carved teak doors to welcome the visitors. The interior spaces are generous. The open



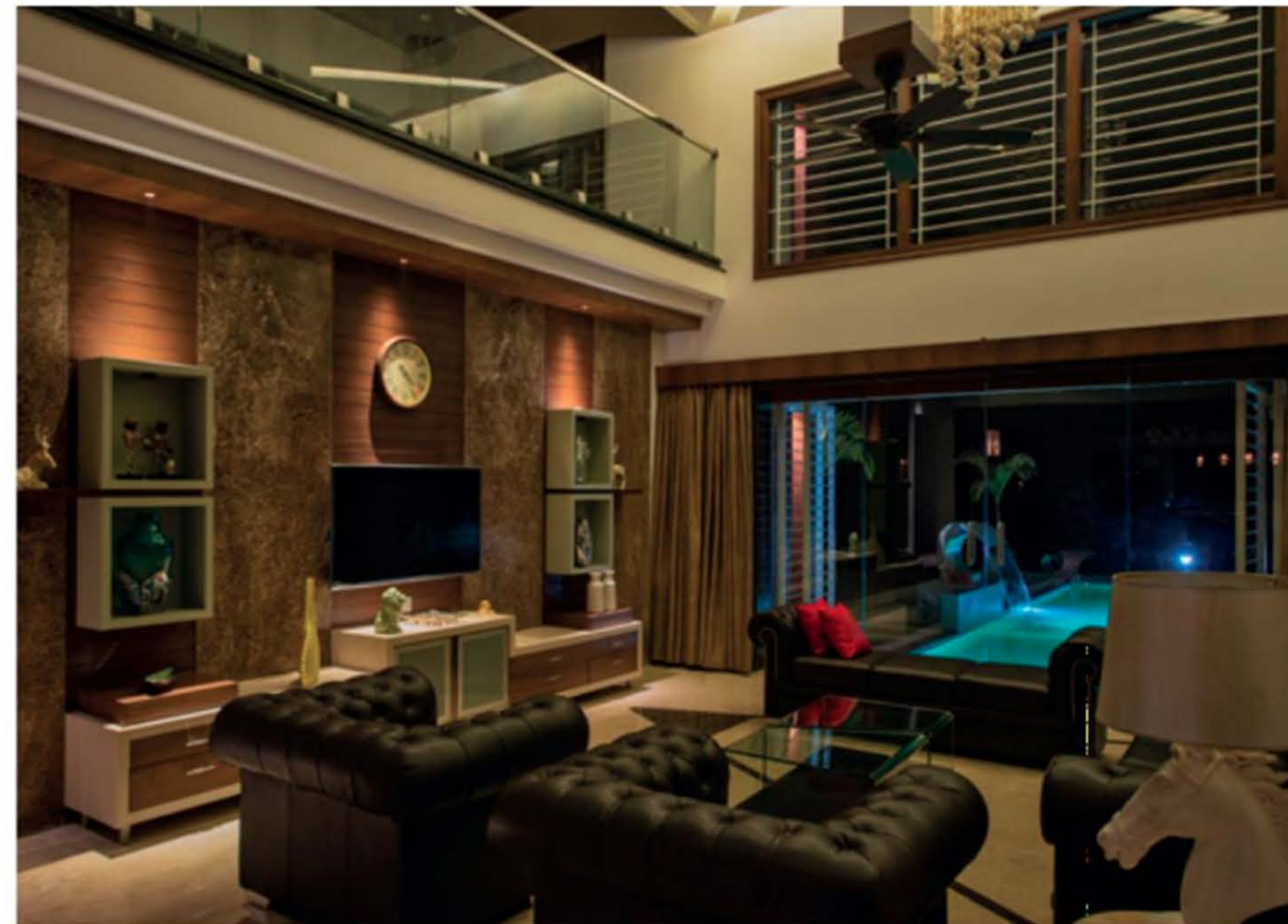


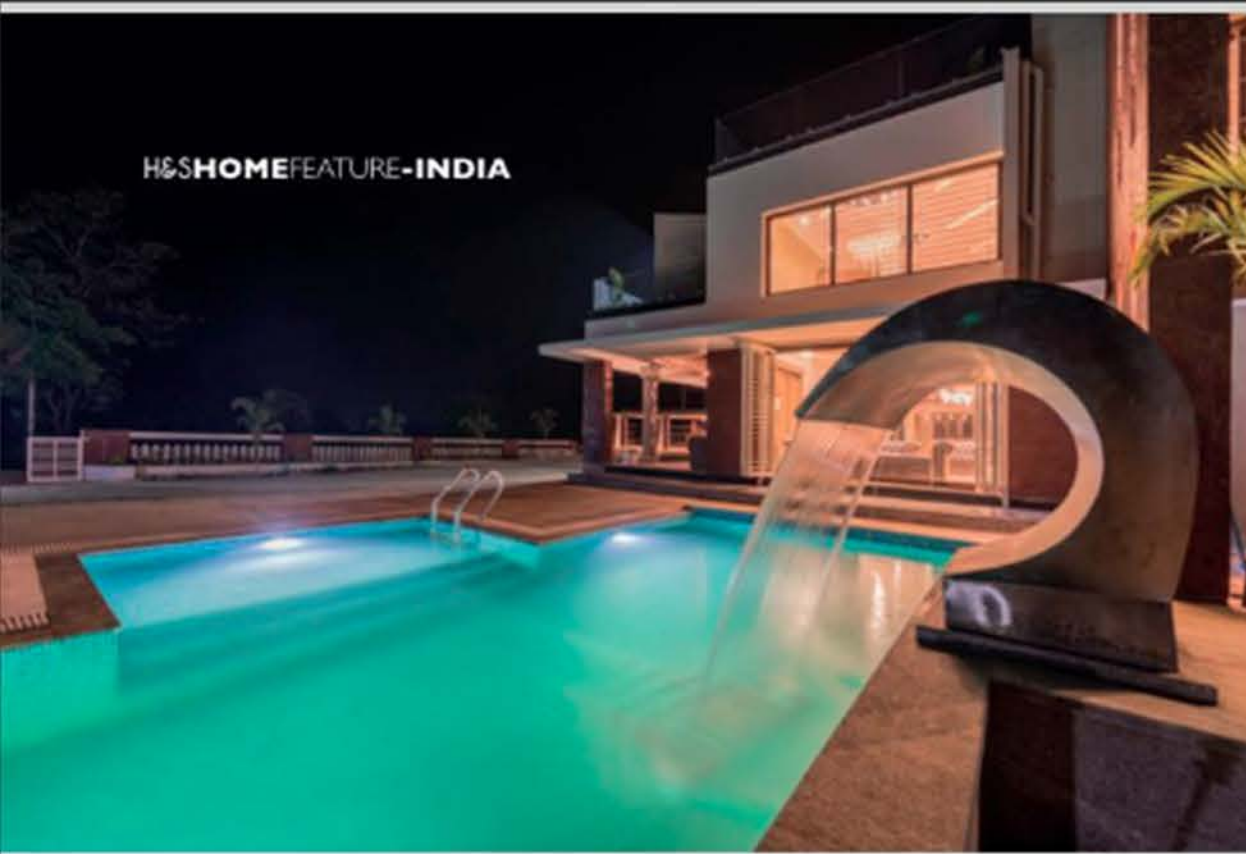
plan kitchen, dining room and family room join seamlessly to the double height living room separated only by a flexible, movable barrier when privacy is needed. Customised to accommodate around 10 vaidikas⁴ - the spacious Pooja Mandir is flanked by colourful greenery - Jasmine, Tulasi, Dasavaala⁵ and many other plants which blossom in a shaded herb garden that doubles up as an outdoor dining area. The space flows into the adjoining Atrium Gallery designed to accommodate various functions. A straight flight of wide stairs cuts diagonally through the skylit double height volume. When needed, it transforms into a table tennis court or it can become a party lounge for formal gatherings or simply a place to celebrate festivities with extended family. The visual drama continues as the living room further opens into a partial loggia which spreads out to the swimming pool deck. The pool has a simple cascading water spout creating the soothing sound of running water:

Vast expanses of glass were introduced as bedroom walls at both the lower and upper levels looking into the central gallery. The most expressive element in the striking façade is comprised of a dynamic intersection of two heptahedrons which house the (State-of-the-

Art) home theatre and gym. Protruding glass panels allow a view of the surrounding greenery creating a unique experience for the bystander as well as the occupant.

Nestled in the lap of Mother Nature, the choice of building materials and design solutions create a balance between sustainability and luxury. Passive solar design features, such as the double height skylit courtyard, clerestory ventilation, garden pockets and skylights are an integral part of the design vocabulary. The building envelope is comprised of locally available laterite blocks for optimal thermal performance. Large cantilevers on upper levels shade and protect the lower level openings and fenestrations. The huge glass panels on the upper level have insulating window blinds that act as internal shading devices as they provide a layer of inert air between the blind and the window pane. Solar solutions have been integrated in the construction along with rain water harvesting features, water efficient design solutions, LED lighting and other electrical equipment which optimise energy consumption. The vegetarian owners also practice composting methods to deal with their organic kitchen waste thereby contributing their bit to reduce the carbon footprint.





Credits: Architecture Continuous Photos:
Frames by Harsh

Structural Consultants: Eco Consultants

1. Essays on Early Indian Architecture by
AK.Coomarraswamy

2. Mantapa' The entrance verandah in front
of the house with a colonnade on one side

3. Jagli - The entrance verandah in front of
the house with a colonnade on one side

4. Vaidikas-Priests

5. Sacred flowers that are used for pooja
rituals.

6. According to the Building Research
Establishment (BRE), the average lifespan
of a PVC windows is 35 years, which means
PVC-U can offer up to 350 years of high
performance, with minimal impact on the
environment.

H&S

