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architecture
& interiors

Innovative Clay Facade House

Vernacular material approach for cladding the facade
Vadodara, Gujarat
Manoj Patel Design Studio

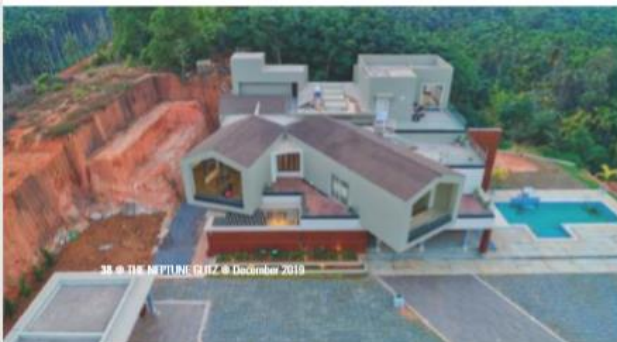
Villa on a Hillock

MANGALORE



The intuitive process of architectural design unfolded from a desire to create an exceptional home and metamorphosed into a complex and dynamic engaging spectacle.

Ancient Indian literature extols that all truth and knowledge are absolute and infinite waiting not to be created but to be discovered emphasising the superiority of intuition over intellect which is a mere organ of discrimination. This profound observation made by the late philosopher and art historian A.K. Coomaraswamy has been the underpinning for the design process. The significance of carrying 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.

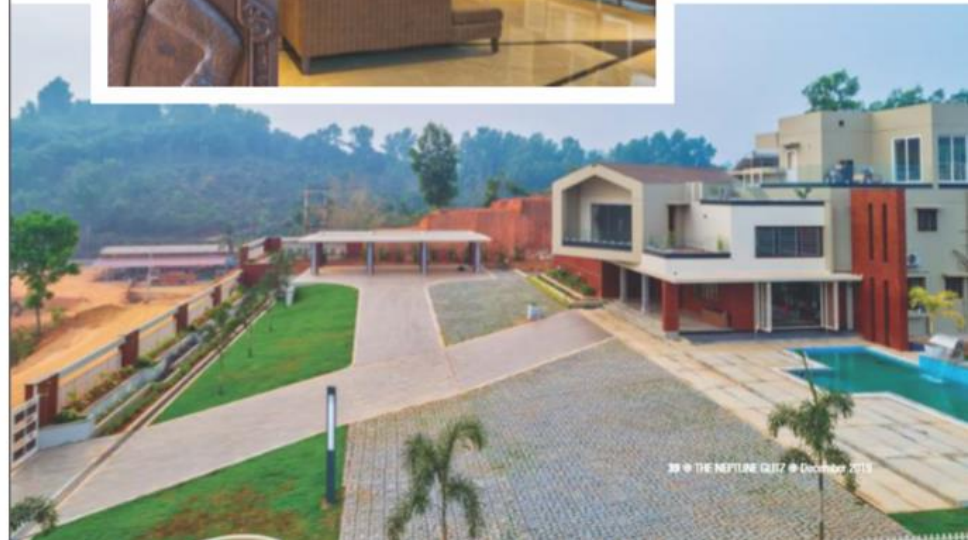


Perched on a hillock, a couple of divergent pentagonal prisms cantilevered beyond a solid red laterite wall and protruding out staring into the surrounding wooded greens gives a distinct character to this villa. Set amidst an idyllic site surrounded by areca nut- rubber plantation, this exceptional home was commissioned by Krishnaraj Bhatt in Mangalore. The traditional vernacular design vocabulary is juxtaposed with the contemporary to create a harmonious blend of simplicity, luxury, connectivity and functionalism.

Conscious integration of rich architectural and cultural heritage of Malanadu is evident at various layers. The traditional 'Mandapa' (the pillared pavilion) supported on stone colonnade has been reinvented



as a dedicated car park while the 'Jagli' (the entrance veranda) is defined by walls made of locally mined, exposed bright red laterite and ornate sadaralli granite pillars with a befitting embellished hand-carved teak doors with the divine tusker motif to welcome the guests.





The immensity of space gracefully embraces an onlooker across various precincts within the house. The open kitchen-dining and the family seamlessly streams into the double-height living room separated only by a flexible movable glass barrier when privacy is needed. Customised with traditional décor, the spacious and sacred mandir is flanked by a dedicated shaded herb garden where colourful greens- Jasmine, Holy Basil, Hibiscus and many more blossom. This open-air zone also doubles up as outdoor dining thus providing visual relief to the family zone. The



delightful spectacle flows into the adjoining atrium gallery with a straight flight of wide staircase diagonally cutting through the sky lit double-height volume accentuating the experience.





Nestled in the lap of Mother Nature, the choice of building materials and design solutions echo the sensitivity to create a balance between sustainability, functionality and the client's lifestyle. Passive solar design features such as a double-height courtyard, clearstory 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 planes shade and protect the lower level openings and fenestrations. The huge vision 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 windowpane. Solar solutions have been integrated into the construction along with rainwater harvesting features, water-efficient design solutions, LED luminaire and efficient electrical equipment to optimise the operational energy. The vegetarian owners also practice composting methods to deal with the organic kitchen waste thereby contributing their bit to restore the ecological imbalance.



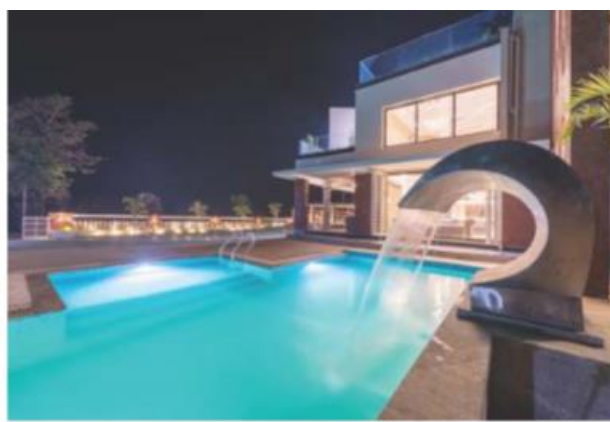
Architects Sharada Seshadri & Adithya G Kashyap

“Every team member at Architecture Continuous works as a project partner and strives for the wellbeing of clients, culture and our environment through the design intervention process and we believe that our participation has been thought-provoking, enriching, engaging and most importantly a humbling experience.”



FACT FILE:

Project : Villa on a Hillock
Location : Mangalore
Client : Krishna Raj Bhat
Design Firm : Architecture Continuous
Principal Architects : Ar Adithya G Kashyap
Ar Sharada Seshadri
Design Team : Kavitha Raju, Pallavi Patil,
Kiran Joshi, Pallavi Patil,
Rachana Prasad
3d Model Technician : Vikram Nag
Project Coordinator : Ankush Shetty
Built Up Area : 8000sqft
Structural Consultants : Eco Consultants, Praveen Kumar.
Photo : Frames by Harsh, Harsh Sharma.



Conceptualised to accommodate versatile programmatic functions, it transforms into a table tennis court or into 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 outspreads into the swimming pool decked with a simple cascade creating gentle hums of water ripple. The vast expanse of glass was consciously introduced as bedroom walls at lower and upper levels, visually connecting the central gallery highlighting the arresting experience.

The most expressive element in the striking façade comprises of a dynamic intersection of 2 heptahedrons which holds the Home theatre and Gymnasium with protuberant vision panels that gaze into the surrounding green vistas creating an awesome experience for the bystander as well as the occupant. Each of the five bedrooms is tastefully designed with customised interior décor for meeting the requirements of various family members. 📐

Courtesy: Architecture Continuous

www.architecturecontinuous.com

