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The evolution of a legacy

A&B

Asian Granito India Ltd plans one of World's largest Tiles showroom in Gujarat



Company's showroom in 1.5 lakh sq feet is planned in India's Tiles Hub at Morbi; Showroom to display AGL Group's entire product range under one roof



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Highlights:

- The five storey showroom to display AGL Group's entire product range under one roof including Tiles, Sanitaryware, Bathware, Quartz & Engineered Marble
- Showroom to have 150+ Engineered Marble & Quartz, 350+ Sanitaryware, 50+ Series of CP Fittings and 5,000+ Tiles products range in all sizes, designs, and finishes in sync with evolving customer preferences
- Company set to increase its retail touch points to over 10,000, Exclusive showrooms to 500 plus
- Company currently exports to 100 plus countries and aims to expand

the export network in 120 plus countries

- Company is also launching FRESCO decorative Mosaic tiles in different sizes

India's leading tiles brand - Asian Granito India Ltd is planning to launch one of the World's largest Tiles showroom in India's Tiles hub - Morbi, Gujarat. The showroom is conceptualised in 1.5 lakh square feet area and aims to showcase AGL Group's production, technological

excellence at one place. The showroom will have the entire range of the group's exquisite and innovative range of Sanitaryware, Bathware and Engineered Marble and Quartz range including 5,000 plus Tiles products in all sizes, designs and finishes under one roof. Bhoomi Poojan of the showroom is scheduled on 15 January 2022.

Speaking about the development, **Mr. Kamlesh Patel, Chairman and Managing Director, and Mr. Mukesh Patel Managing Director, Asian Granito India Ltd said,** "This will be one of the landmark projects for Asian Granito Group as well as the country's ceramic industry and we are very excited to unveil the same in Morbi, Gujarat. Morbi is India's hub for ceramic tiles & sanitaryware and accounts for more than 70% of the country's total production with over 1100 manufacturing units in the zone. ■

**GUCHCHA SINGH
ON VACATION
PHIR BHI CHORON KO
MILI FRUSTRATION**



What happens when Guchcha Singh is out on a family vacation and the evil assistants break inside his house? Watch VACATION, the next in the series of digital films that showcases the prowess of affordable and robust Ozone Digital Locks, in safeguarding your home completely.



Bentley Systems Announces Seequent's Acquisition of Advanced Resources and Risk Technology (AR2Tech)

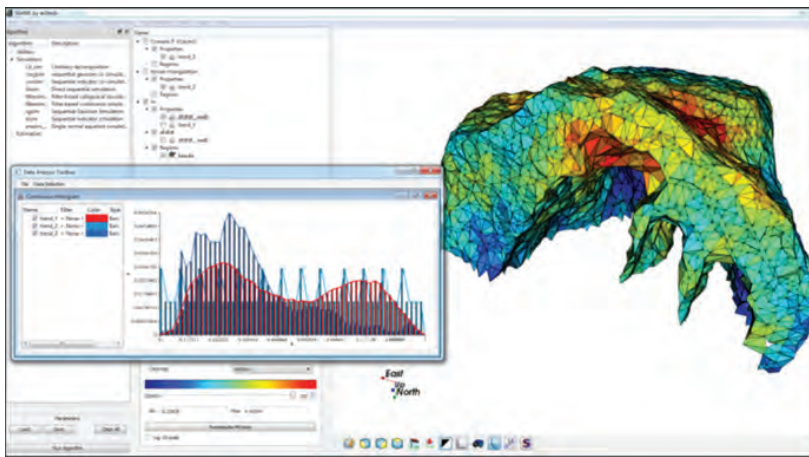


Bringing State-of-the-Art Geostatistical Algorithms to the Geomodeling Community to Solve Complex Geospatial Problems



technology stack and world-leading expertise in geostatistics, geomodeling, and spatial

data integration strengthen Seequent's capabilities in these areas. The acquisition will help accelerate our development of new geostatistics solutions and create seamless end-to-end workflows with Seequent's advanced modeling solutions. We're excited to make this investment for our mining, environmental, civil, and energy users to take geomodeling to the next level."



AR2Tech's geostatistical library offers a state-of-the-art version of all foundational geostatistical algorithms, with a user interface to leverage the power of these algorithms.

Bentley Systems, Incorporated (Nasdaq: BSY), the infrastructure engineering software company, today announced that its Seequent business unit has acquired Denver-based Advanced Resources and Risk Technology, LLC (AR2Tech), a developer of geostatistical software applications. The acquisition provides Seequent with state-of-the-art geostatistics algorithms, technology, and IP for complex geospatial problem solving, complementing its geological modeling solutions and workflows, to help solve earth, environmental, and resources challenges.

Graham Grant, chief executive officer of Seequent, said, "We're delighted to welcome to Seequent the elite and talented AR2Tech team in Denver and Brazil. AR2Tech's

AR2Tech founder Dr Alexandre Boucher said, "We're proud to be joining Seequent and sharing our cloud-first approach to solving geosciences challenges. With Seequent, we will realize our goal of bringing the next generation of geostatistical algorithms to the geomodeling community. We have developed and optimized algorithms for geomodeling for over a decade, including conditional simulations for risk and uncertainty studies. Combining forces with Seequent, we can create new practical and accessible solutions for geoscience professionals." ■

For further details, please contact:

please visit <https://www.ar2tech.com>

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2 Industry News

ARCHITECTURE

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The Gadi House by PMA Madhushala is a modern-day fortress that presents an ingenious amalgamation of traditional designing and construction techniques brought to fruition by local craftsmanship. This crown like structure, with its undulating composite façade, is not only able to withstand extreme climatic conditions but also helps to maximise natural light and ventilation and resist seismic forces.

INTERIORS

22 The humble abode

This hyper-minimalist apartment in Mumbai is MuseLAB's response to a simple brief that was inspired by Philip Johnson's Glass House.

30 Blurry boundaries and stark white canvasses

After several renovations over the last few decades, this century-old residential bungalow in Belgaum eventually found its calling as Shreyas Patil's design studio in the heart of the city. The revised layout takes visitors on a calming walk through a landscaped court before entering the rustic and free flowing office interiors.

IN CONVERSATION

38 The evolution of a legacy

Rahul Kadri, Partner and Principal Architect, IMK Architects, elaborates on his guiding mantras that have resulted in several celebrated sustainable and future-proof designs. With a keen focus on public engagement, the firm endeavours to create inclusive designs by optimising the talent of the entire team.

Cover: © ZED Lab

CERA Unboxes Smiles



will redefine bathing experience, Unboxing Functionality – which lets you experience never seen before purposefulness, Unboxing Modern Living – which offers classy & elegant designs along with premium pricing and maintenance and Unboxing Customers' Expectations – which showcases irresistible & innovative designs to make the best use of space.

Since its inception, CERA is known for its unique sensibility, cutting-edge designs and modern technology when it comes to its products, which forever appeals to the customers evolving needs. Continuing this philosophy of utmost care and precision, CERA ushered its newest product range by launching it under the theme – Unboxing Smiles – on 15th December 2021 in Delhi. This versatile range of products unboxes Modern Living, Style, Functionality as well as Customers' Expectations.

From superior design and aesthetics to awe-inspiring styles, futuristic products to the most competitive prices, Unboxing Smiles has everything covered. Addressing the event Ms. Deepshikha Khaitan (Joint Managing Director – CERA) said, "We have recently consolidated our product categories so that we can deliver better service and meet market expectations. Going forward, our efforts will be to build our core businesses - Sanitaryware, Faucet and Tiles."

The products are smartly segregated into different categories viz. Unboxing Style – which

New products are a key growth driver for CERA. This is why they continue to bolster their portfolio with newer products year after year to suit the changing needs of the market. Despite several hindrances in supply chain and logistics imposed due to Covid-19, CERA has been keeping pace with its turnover. Mr. Vikram Somany (Chairman & Managing Director – CERA) said, "CERA delivered excellent results in H1 2021-22, with top-line growth of 34%. With the 'Unboxing Smiles' range of products we are poised to close this financial year at a higher than estimated turnover." Moreover, CERA has significant plans to achieve robust growth in the coming financial year and beyond.

Unboxing Smiles intends to raise the smile quotient with its new range of incredible products for a beautiful living. ■

Godrej Interio targets to increase the delivery points to 300+ cities by the end of FY 22-23



"Strengthens omni-channel presence to drive enhanced shopping experience"

"Plans to open multiple small format stores to drive greater accessibility for consumers"

Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group, announced that its business Godrej Interio, India's leading furniture brand in home and institutional segments has revealed that it is strengthening its omnichannel presence to enhance accessibility for its customers. Using a mix of technology and processes, the brand will increase the involvement of channel partners as a part of its Omni-channel strategy. By increasing its delivery points to over 300 cities, Godrej Interio is targeting a growth of 40% in its e-comm sales.

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The brand is also growing its e-commerce reach from 23 cities to 300+ cities by the end of FY 22-23 in a phase wise manner. This reach will eventually translate into delivery to 10,000+ pin codes. In FY 2021-22, Godrej Interio will be adding up to 90 stores throughout India in Tier 1, 2 and 3 towns to ensure greater accessibility to customers across a broader geography. To enhance the consumer experience, Godrej Interio will also be experimenting the newer technologies and digital tools in smaller stores.

While the demand for work from home (WFH) furniture dwindled after an initial spurt, primarily due to advanced stages of unlock, Godrej Interio witnessed an increase in furniture purchases in Q2 due to the onset of the wedding season and the festive season after COVID-19's second wave.

customers across the country is our primary objective. We will continue to expand our offline retail presence along with ramping up our online presence. Given that furniture is a touch and feel category, we noticed that many customers purchased from our stores after browsing online and so we ramped up the use of digital technology to assist them in making a purchase they would be happy with.

Godrej Interio has been investing heavily in key digital technologies, automation, processes and people to build a robust, truly Omni-channel, Omni-present furniture brand with the largest footprint across the country. With consumers today preferring to browse online before making a purchase, Godrej Interio has initiated Virtual & Hybrid selling, Contactless payments, virtual walkthroughs, Room Planner & Product Configurators to cater to the newfound trend. The brand has blended their digital and retail stores to deliver a truly omnichannel experience to customers. ■

For further details, please contact:

please visit : <https://www.godrejinterio.com/>

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Subodh Mehta, Senior Vice President (B2C), Godrej Interio said "Being accessible to our

HP expands its distribution network with TechNova to accelerate digital printing in India's mono carton and label segment



This strategic association will allow businesses to capitalize on packaging trends like personalization, short-runs of multiple SKUs, print-on-demand, sustainability and smart packaging.



In a bid to expand its distribution network in India for digital printing business, HP today announced a strategic association with TechNova Imaging Systems - the largest offset plate manufacturer in India catering to print & packaging industry for over 50 years. Committed to help businesses increase speed, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of digital print solutions, this association aims to advance HP's market leadership in India's digital printing business.

HP's innovative products and TechNova's market reach and deep customer trust will help drive digital transformation in the imaging & printing space. TechNova is partnering with HP to introduce HP's highly digitalized and automated Indigo printing presses and solutions in mono carton and label segment. This association will also improve TechNova's product offering and enable exploration of more high value applications and benefits of digital printing.

Announcing the association, A Appadurai, Country Manager - Indigo & Inkjet Business

Solutions, HP India said, "We are extremely excited to associate with TechNova for HP's Indigo range of printing solutions for the folding carton & labels segment. TechNova's reach, relationship, local infrastructure, workflow knowledge and deep understanding of the Indian

printing & packaging industry will help customers make a seamless transition to digital printing".

C G Ramakrishnan, Executive Director and CEO of TechNova said, "TechNova's mission has been to provide a Total Imaging Ecosystem with best-in-class products to enhance the competitiveness of Indian printers. We are delighted to associate with HP, as this alliance will allow us to offer the full range of cutting-edge solutions to our customers. It is truly a win-win-win partnership for TechNova, HP & Customers"

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www.hp.com/go/newsroom

A fortress reimagined

The Gadi House by PMA Madhushala is a modern-day fortress that presents an ingenious amalgamation of traditional designing and construction techniques brought to fruition by local craftsmanship. This crown like structure, with its undulating composite façade, is not only able to withstand extreme climatic conditions but also helps to maximise natural light and ventilation and resist seismic forces.

Text: Sailee Bhandarkar-Correa

Images: Hemant Patil

Drawings: PMA Madhushala



The Gadi House stands on an ancestral plot of land in Talegaon, Maharashtra.



A large fenestration stands out like a jewel in the crown-like structure.

Built as a regal abode for a family of Maratha sardars, the Gadi House in Talegaon, Maharashtra, is a new age *wada* that draws influences from contemporary lifestyles and traditional architecture. This composite structure comprises thick walls built using stone and brick, internal courts, balconies and common areas that create an interesting hierarchy of open, semi open and enclosed spaces. The home stands near the entrance of its 1.2-acre ancestral plot and envelops the peripheral courts

that binds them into the spatial experience of the residence as a whole.

While the external load-bearing wall offers structural stability, the internal frame has been built using reinforced concrete blocks to avoid offsets from slabs and walls thus creating a homogenous and clean interior. While the external load-bearing wall offers structural stability, the internal frame has been built using reinforced concrete blocks to avoid offsets from slabs and walls thus



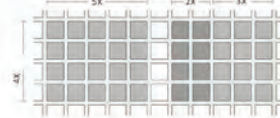
The undulating façade partially encloses 4 types of courtyards around the periphery of the house.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

THE GRID



MODULES / KHAND

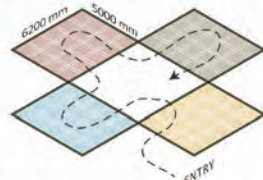


Similar to the traditional wada systems, the house has been planned on a grid 1000 x 1000, from which a module has been designed which is then customized according to different functions.

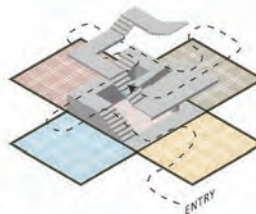
The module is repeated and multiplied to form habitable spaces like bedrooms, passages, kitchen and other similar functions. The structural grid size is derived from the size of single reinforced concrete block used for construction.

The vertical grid for the house is derived from Indian human anatomy and multiples of size of reinforced concrete block used for its construction.

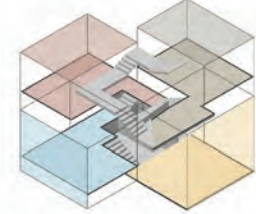
SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT



1. Modules are arranged in a cross geometry creating a central circulation.



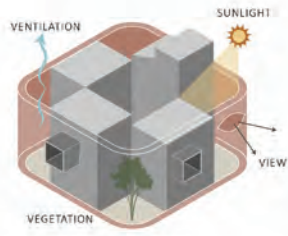
2. Central staircase binds the four modules and creates a vertical connection.



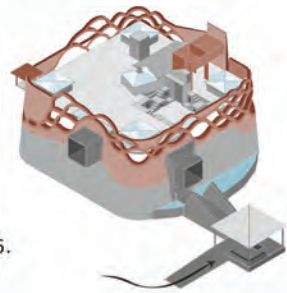
3. Intermediate landings of staircase treated as extension of the adjacent spaces.



4. Varying volumes as per the individual programmatic needs and spaces.



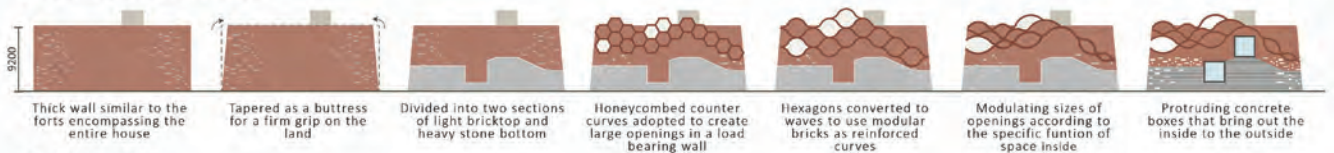
5. Thick articulated wall with large openings encircles the volumes to create courtyards, semi open areas while providing security from external side.



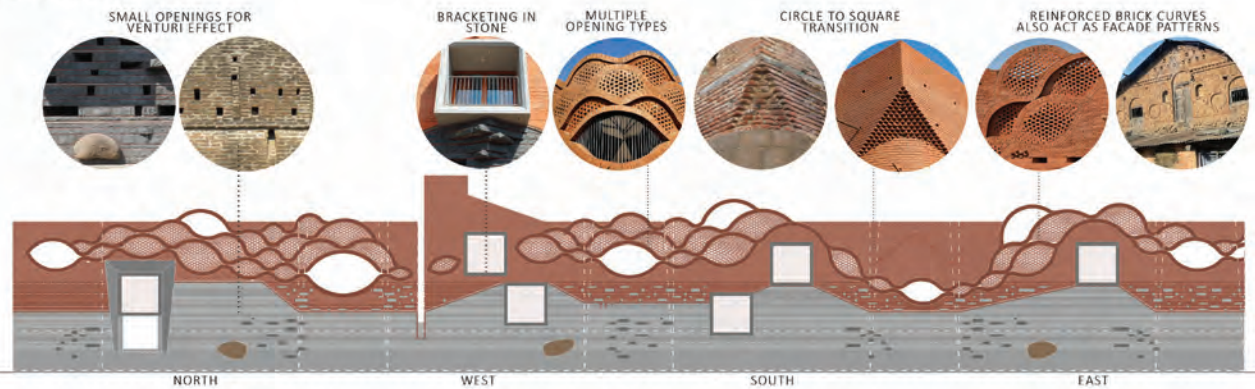
6.

The design development process.

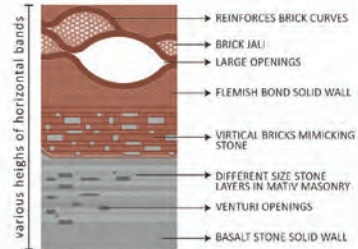
FORM DEVELOPMENT



ELEVATION



LAYERS



NUANCES OF WALL



The form development process.



The site plan.

OSARI COURT

This court is the outermost part of the house. It acts like a greeting area for outsiders and the main public zone of the residence. The entrance has stone steps leading to a macchan which overlooks to the main entry gate accompanied by a small sitting platform for fun, leisure activities. It also houses a small water body along a stone wall draped down as a seating.



TULSI COURT

Essentially designed, between kitchen, dining & puja room, having a tulsi plant, for typical household chores like drying of chips, pickles, etc. The kitchen opens to the court and connects to the dining creating a flow of activities. It also consists of an outdoor chulha for eating out in the sun in winters.



WIND COURT 1

The court provides light and ventilation for the bedroom toilets. It also acts as an open extension to the living room. The toilet windows are angular to obstruct internal view while providing privacy.

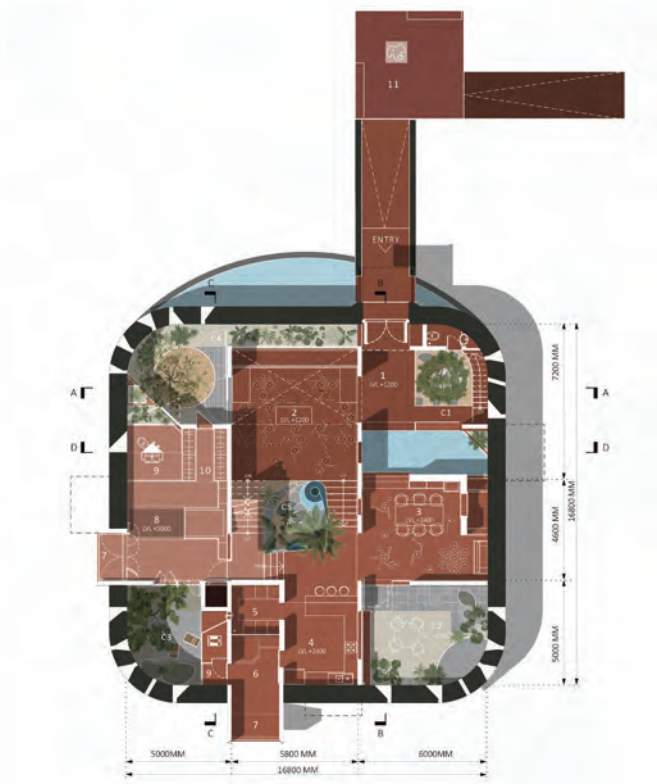


WIND COURT 2

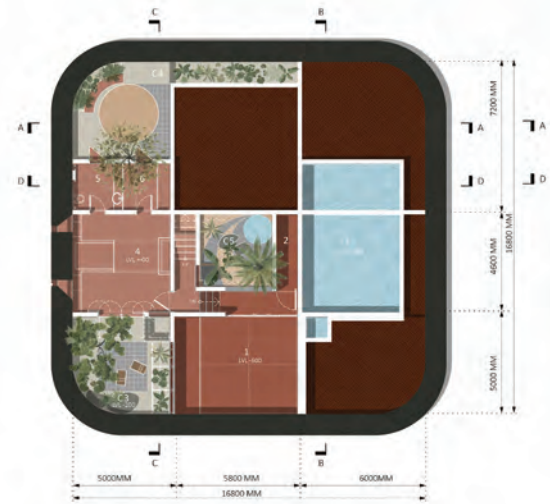
The Court is physically connected to Parent's bedroom as a spillover area for daily activities. The court is an enclosure and protects the bedroom's exterior from harsh weather and provides security. It is visually open through other bedrooms which develops chance interactions.



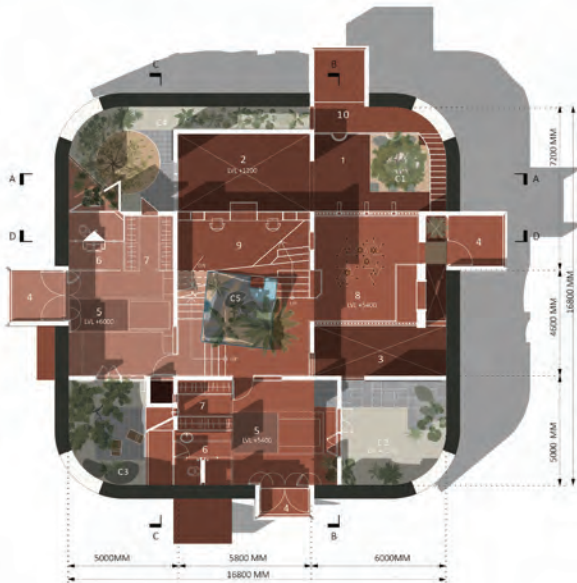
The 4 courts on 4 corners of the house.



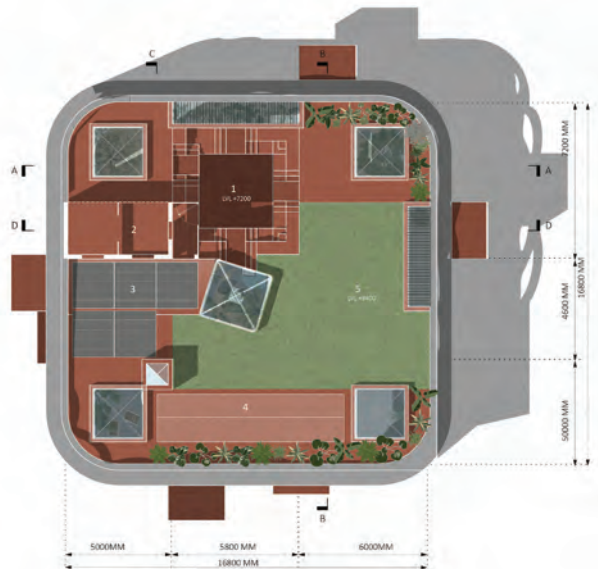
The ground floor plan.



The basement plan.



The first floor plan.



The terrace floor plan.



A section across the Osari and wind courts.



A section across the Osari and Tulsi court.



The Osari Court.



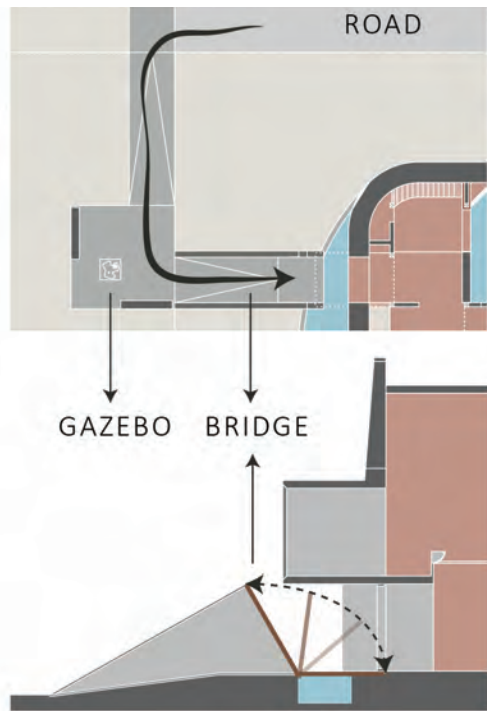
View from the Osari Court looking into the living room.



The living room.



The Family Room.



The entrance to the house is via a bridge above a moat.



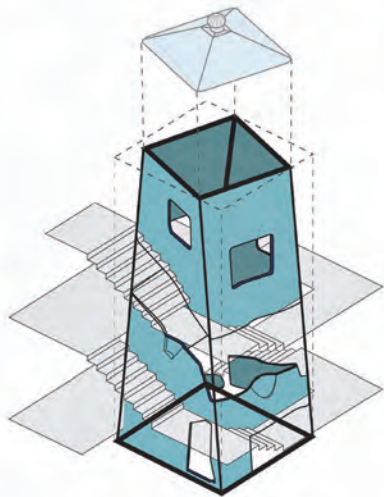
ENTRANCE

The entrance has been interpreted as one in the forts. After moving along the thick external wall of the house when one reaches the end, they are taken from a ramp to a gate which is separated by a water body to safeguard the house in the far lands. This gate folds from the vertical edge and drops down to create a passage bridge over the water body.

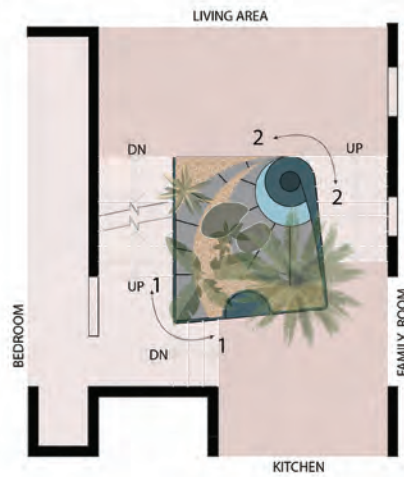


A suspended ramp acts as the main entrance to the house.

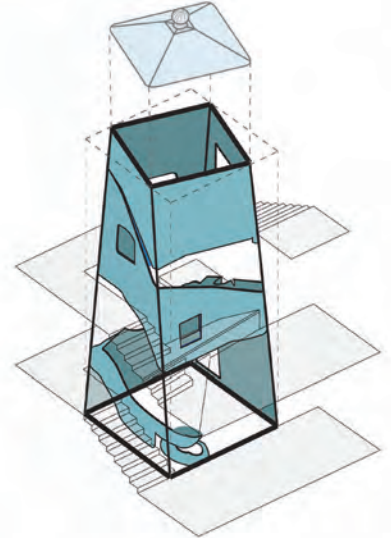




VIEW 1



PLAN



VIEW 2

BRAHMA COURT - A PIECE OF SKY

A piece of sky melts down to become a core of light and merges down in water, this core acts as the main spine of the house- the brahmasthan, that twists as it rises above to meet the sky while creating connections with adjacent spaces at various levels.

The Brahma Court.



The Brahma Court as seen from the living room (left) and the kitchen (right).



Stone carved seating at the Osari Court.



creating a homogenous and clean interior. Intermediate steps and staircases have been designed using the 'Ferrogami' method that helps to reduce the overall weight of these elements on the main structure. The internal partitions have been constructed using lightweight wood and stone and all internal walls have been finished with traditional lime stucco that generates visual seamlessness across spaces and amplifies these distinctive volumes. A wind

tower at the heart of the plan allows for natural ventilation and acts as a light well illuminating the core of the home.

The name and form of the house originates from the idea of a '*gadi*' (meaning throne or seat of an eminent person in Marathi) that typically comprises a thick wall made from stone and brick that securely encompasses all the spaces that together form the entire house. In the search of timelessness, the



The Kund on the terrace.

house is equipped with passive systems that maintain suitable living conditions inside the house while minimizing energy usage. The building runs on energy derived from sloping photovoltaic solar panels located in the parking shed and on the roof along with a rainwater harvesting system, a sewage treatment and an ample kitchen garden that caters to the daily victuals of the family. ■

FACT FILE

Typology	: Private Residence
Project name	: Gadi House
Project location	: Talegaon Dhabade, Maharashtra, India
Architect's Firm	: PMA Madhushala
Principal Architect	: Prasanna Morey
Project Team	: Naresh Shivakoti, Darshan, Divya Jyoti, Prasanna Morey
Structural Designer	: Subduction Zone Consultants
Total Site Area	: 48, 440 Sq. Ft.
Total Built-up Area	: 7,000 Sq. Ft.
Year of Completion	: 2020

The humble abode

This hyper-minimalist apartment in Mumbai is MuseLAB's response to a simple brief that was inspired by Philip Johnson's Glass House. This 'Naked' bachelor pad, that has been aptly christened in spirit of its feel, comprises furniture that manifests as architectural pieces for the home and has been finished in various materials that add to the tactile experience of this house. Ample natural light highlights textures across these contiguous spaces and subtly punctuates the blurry boundaries of the various areas of this home.

Text: Sallee Bhandarkar-Correa

Images: Sameer Tawde

Drawings: MuseLAB

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The sleeping area as seen from the kitchen.



The living room and cooking space as seen from the sleeping space.



Exposed conduits on the ceiling end in downlighters from LightTexture.

Naked by MuseLAB is a literally seamless fusion of two one-bedroom units at The Trees by Godrej in Vikhroli, Mumbai. The minimalist approach for this home resulted in the complete elimination of all internal walls to create one well-illuminated volume that offered all the necessary privacy one requires and presented a clutter-free and elegant lifestyle solution by means of its open-plan layout. All the spaces of this transcendental bachelor pad are oriented towards the large windows which frame expanse views of the cityscape against a hillock and bring in oodles of natural light in every space.

The entrance to the apartment lies at the centre of the home. The main door swings open into the living area that offers sprawling views of the surroundings and creates an experiential buffer between the sleeping space on the left and the cooking and dining areas on the right. The living area acts as a welcoming gallery that frames views of the surrounding natural landscapes and adorns a tasteful mix of functional and sculptural furniture. Autumn, a pure wool hand-knotted carpet by Cocoon Fine Rugs lies at the heart of this room, under the architectural Bloom coffee table, and together they are surrounded by



The 'Naked' house is a combination of two 1-bedroom apartments.



An axonometric view of the apartment.



Natural light floods the entire apartment during daytime.

IKEA's Soderhamn sofa that blends into this neutral envelop, a pair of the Easy Armchairs by Phantom Hands and Bent, MuseLAB's very own sleek and black metal chaise. As the epicentre of the home, the living room is an amalgamation of various materials that, together, add a rich combination of textures to this largely monochrome house. "We demolished all walls to create one contiguous space sprinkled with the bare minimum furniture to create a galerie de sculptures with no patterns or colours" says Huzefa Rangwala, Director of MuseLAB Design Engine. Exposed electrical conduits form geometric patterns on the ceiling and end in cylindrical down lighters by LightTecture that aid in visually separating the walls from the ceiling.

The right end of the house comprises a monolithic steel counter for cooking and dining that was designed in collaboration with Küche7 and has been illuminated with a sleek pendant light from LightTecture. Mungaru dining chairs by Phantom Hands line the dining section of the counter and add a splash of warmth to this space with its materiality. This space is flanked by a powder room on one side and a wet kitchen and dry yard on the other. The dry yard comprises a working counter finished in East Indian walnut wood and grey cementitious walls by Concrete Works India.



The sleeping area as seen from the cooking area.



The Easy Armchairs by Phantom Hands define the blurry boundaries between the living space and the cooking area.



Nougat II – MuseLAB's standalone mirror in the sleeping area amplifies the volume of the sleeping space.

The left end of the apartment houses the sleeping area that comprises a wall mounted faux-tan upholstered headboard and a wooden bed that is flanked by bedside shelves. The Kangaroo Chair by Phantom Hands lies adjacent to the picture window of this space and is accompanied by a Mungaru side table. This area is further decorated by MuseLAB's Nougat II – a standalone mirror and art by FN Souza and Rabin Mondal. A walk-in closet is flanked

by cupboards finished in rustic light grey to coalesce into the surrounding walls. This colour scheme is an extension of the light grey vitrified tiles that cover the entire house and further extend into the bathroom that lies opposite the closet. Matt black sanitary fixtures by Vitara add a contrasting touch to this muted palette.



The Kangaroo Chair by Phantom Hands in the sleeping space.

Naked by MuseLAB offers a minimalist yet carefully crafted space wherein every piece has been meticulously designed and selected towards realising a certain *je ne sais quoi*, a seamless experience that appears so simple yet manifests the very best in design and performance. In a day and age where our minds and lives are digitally and physically cluttered, this house presents an oasis of calm and comfort that encourages us to reevaluate how much we really need.

"This particular project is extremely special for us as we are rarely presented with such daring programs. It allows us to focus on nothingness, on the essential elements. It made us think laterally; we had to de-clutter our minds to design for what one needs and not what one wants. And before we go on, the home says "I want you to see me 'naked', unapologetic, gritty but honest." ■

FACT FILE

Typology	: Residential interiors
Project name	: Naked
Project location	: The Trees by Godrej, Mumbai, India
Architect's Firm	: MuseLAB
Principal Architects	: Huzefa Rangwala & Jasem Pirani
Total Built-up Area	: 970 Sq. Ft.
Year of Completion	: 2021

www.jasubhaimedia.com

Blurry boundaries and stark white canvasses

After several renovations over the last few decades, this century-old residential bungalow in Belgaum eventually found its calling as an architect's design studio in the heart of the city. The revised layout takes visitors on a calming walk through a landscaped court before entering the rustic and free flowing office interiors.

Text: Sailee Bhandarkar-Correa

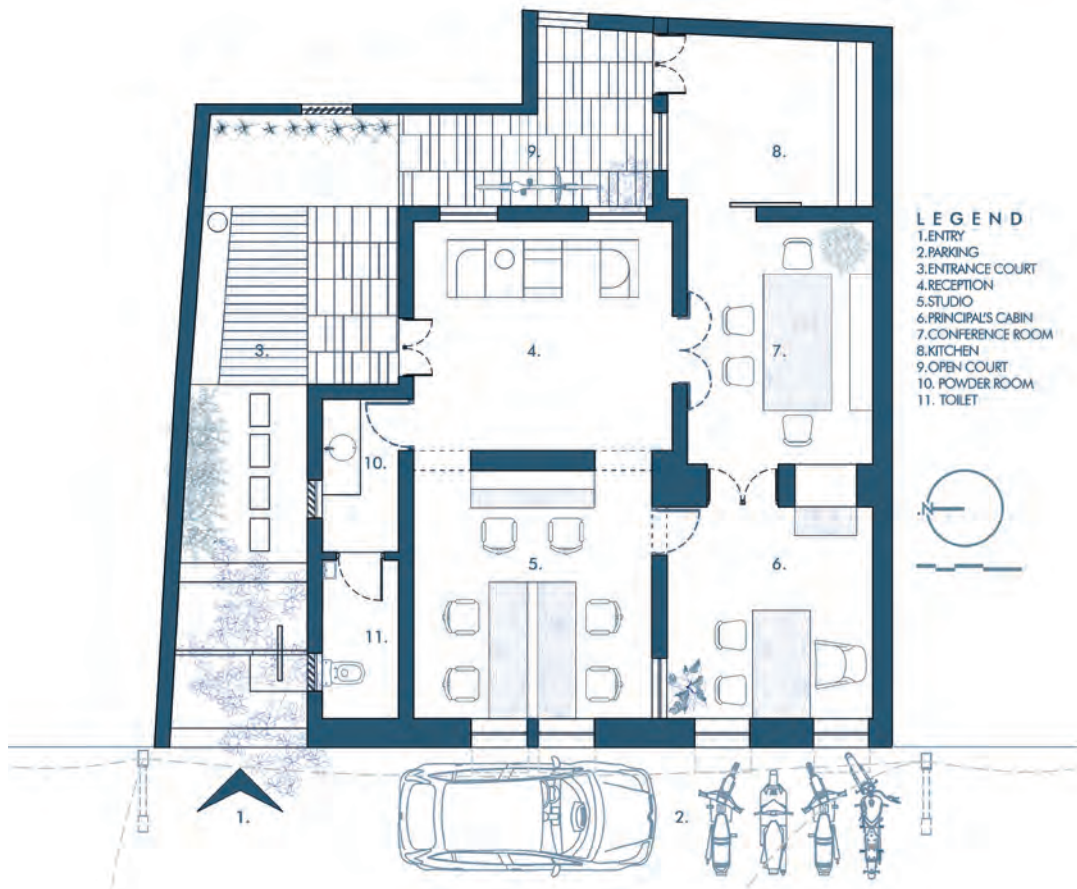
Images: Atik Bheda

Drawings: Shreyas Patil Architects

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Thin sheets of corten steel are suspended along the western façade using twisted metal cables. Not only do these enhance the street-side elevation but they also protect the teak windows from south-west monsoons.

SHREYAS
PATIL
ARCHITECTS6 HAVELOCK
ROAD
CAMP
BELGAUM

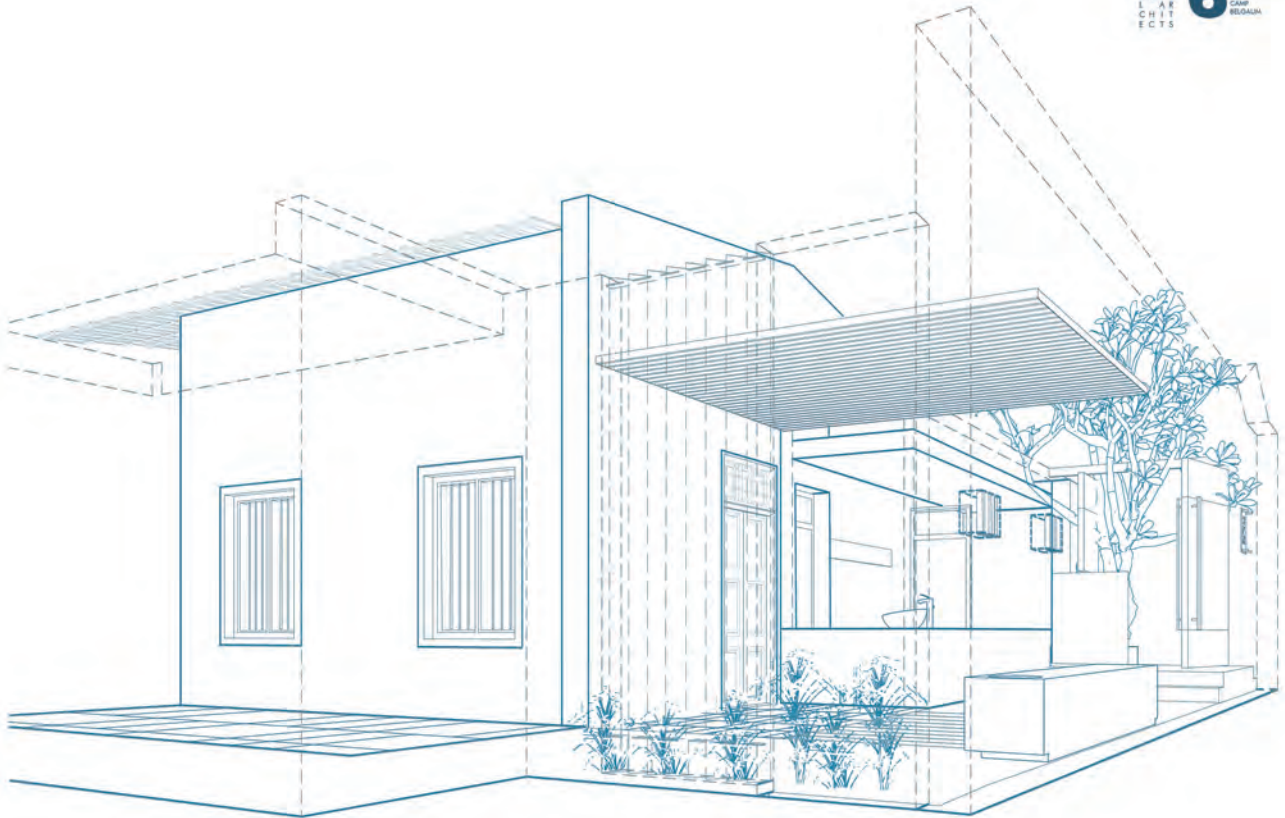
The only entrance to the studio space lies along the northern façade.

Located on a quiet street with neighbours on three sides, architect Shreyas Patil's studio in Camp, Belgaum gave new purpose to an abandoned residential bungalow at 6, Havelock Road. The ground level structure lies tucked between colonial bungalows and houses on two sides and had undergone a series of renovations with every new tenant that walked through its doors over the past few decades. Having identified it as a suitable address for the studio, the floor plan was revised to generate a fluid space with minimal internal walls while the fenestrations were appropriately repositioned to complement the new layout.

While the entrance to the site has been retained along the street front western façade, the entry into the built space was moved from this side to a recessed access along the northern elevation. This revised circulation route aided the rebranding of the backyard as a landscaped entrance court that not only made for an enchanting approach to the studio but also doubled up as an informal waiting area for visitors. The gateway to the premises is marked by a large, blue metal door with a pivoting window at its core along with a temple tree plant to visually soften the hard exterior of the studio's metal and plain elevation.



When opened, the pivot window blurs the visual boundaries between the street and the courtyard.



entrance_courtyard.

/n./ an unroofed area that is completely or partially enclosed by walls or buildings, and situated at the entrance of the a building.

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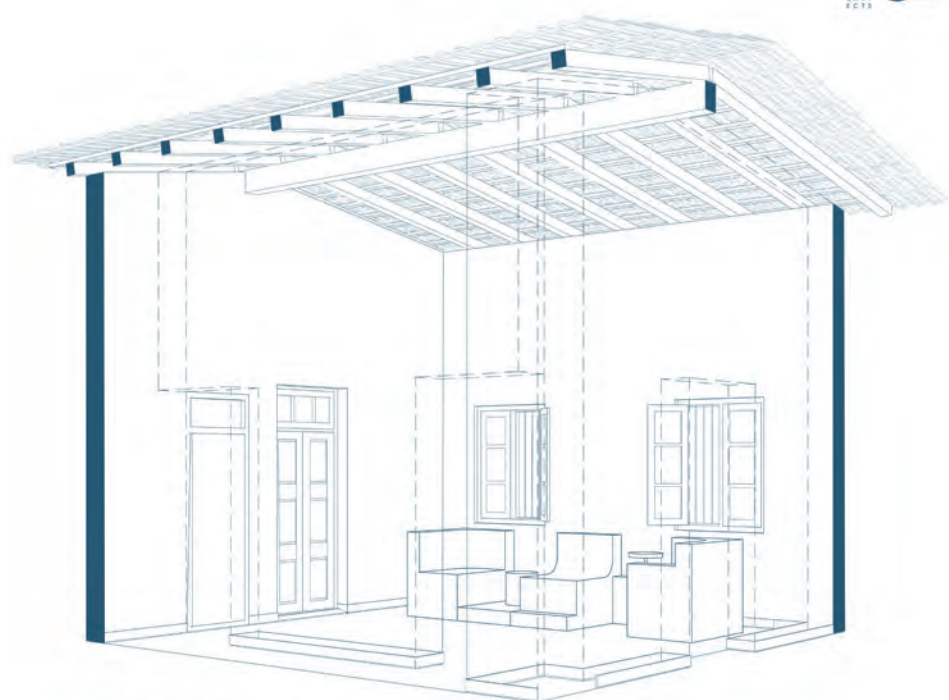
A perspective view of the entrance courtyard elucidates the elements of the space.

The courtyard softscape comprises lush green lawns sprinkled with bamboos, raphis palms, lilies, bougainvilleas and monsteras. The hardscape is a blend of wooden and kadappa flooring and is accessorised by

a cast-in-situ concrete bench, a wooden bench and is partially shaded by a white duco paint finished metal pergola that runs from north to south.



The blue door and kadappa paving create a seamless transition between the green grass and the blue sky while the white stucco compound walls accentuate these views with dramatic shadows of the courtyard's various elements.

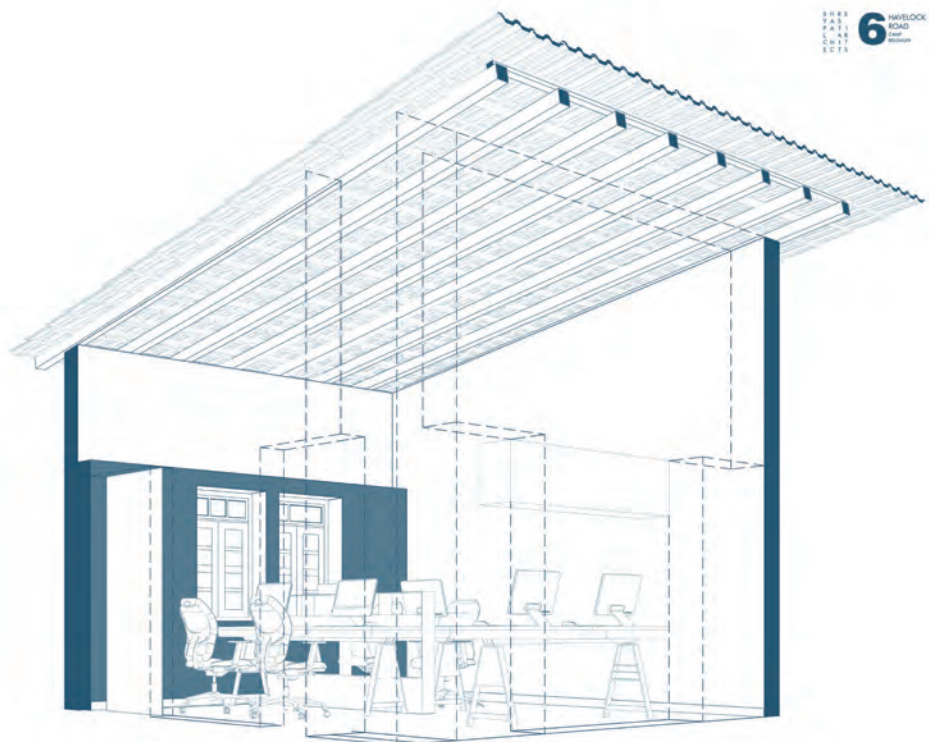


reception. /n./ the waiting area in an office or hospital near the counter where people's appointments and questions are dealt with.

A perspective view of the reception area.



The entire flooring of the studio is hand polished with



workstation. /n./ an area where work of a particular nature is carried out, such as a specific location on an assembly line.

A perspective view of the workstations in the studio area.



Given the fluid form of the space, the studio area can



h pigmented oxides.



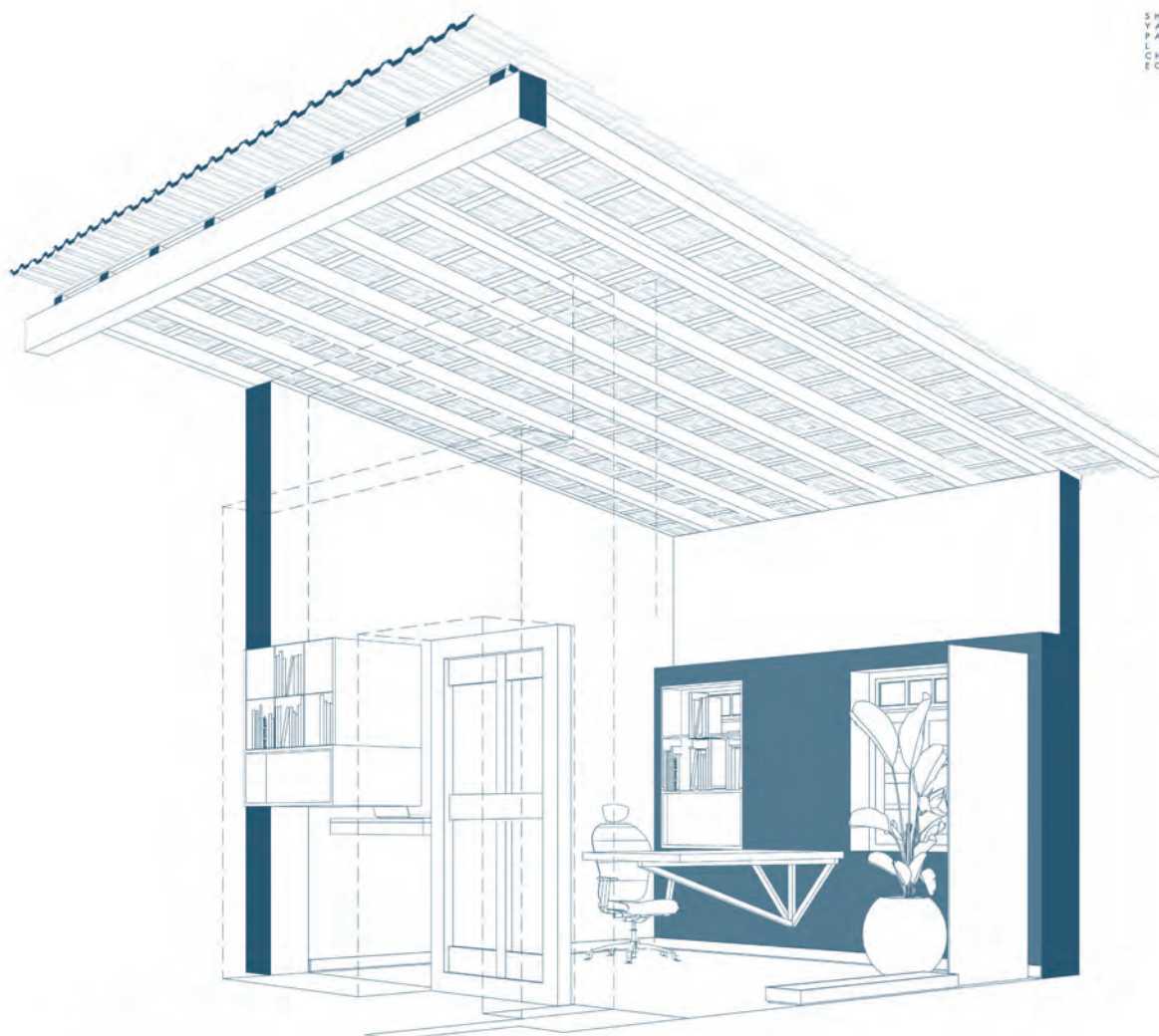
n be accessed through two doors from the reception.

The monolithic furniture of the reception area can be arranged in various permutations and combinations. These cement-polished modular pieces have been constructed using plywood to make sure they are light and movable.

All windows and doors allow for ample cross ventilation across the reception and studio area. This space has been planned to comfortably include the desired number of work stations without compromising on sufficient natural light and ventilation. The desks have been carpentered in teak veneer and plywood and are supported by fabricated mild steel legs.

The gabled blue wall along the inside of the street front façade runs as a single element across the principal architect's cabin and the employees' studio area with a fixed glass partition to demarcate the separation between these spaces. Teak wood windows punctuate this wall and bring in light and ventilation from the west end. The principal's desk is a cantilevering plywood and teak veneer finished table top that stands supported by a mild steel truss.

The pièce de résistance of the meeting room is the conference table that spans across most of the space. This statement piece has been designed using a white duco table top that rests atop a stacked space-frame structure which has been engineered using 6mm thick solid mild steel circular rods.



studio. /n./ a workplace for designers and artisans engaged in conceiving, designing and developing new products or objects.

A perspective view of the principal architect's cabin.



A window niche at the corner has been modified to carve out shelves for a small library.

DECEMBER 2021



All the furniture in this office has been designed as an architectural expressional of the studio's ethos and stands out against a homogenous material palette curated specifically for each room. All flooring has been hand polished using pigmented oxides and comprises shades of greys, greens and blacks that are tied together by a warm teak wood skirting that runs across the entire studio. The key to the success of this space is the stark white walls and ceiling that offer a clear canvas to dramatically frame the carefully sculpted furniture in each room, just as dramatically as they frame the blues, greens and shadows in the landscaped courtyard outside. ■

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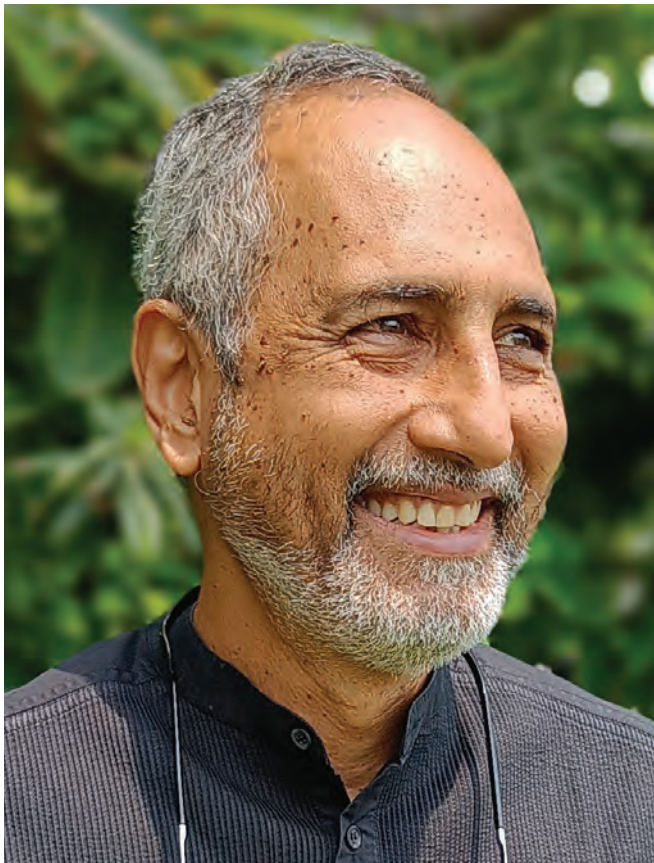
FACT FILE

Architect's Firm	: Shreyas Patil Architects
Principal Architect	: Shreyas Patil
Project location	: Belgaum, Karnataka, India
Total Built-up Area	: 915 Sq. Ft.
Year of Completion	: 2020

The conference room can be accessed from the reception area as well as the principal's cabin.

The evolution of a legacy

Rahul Kadri is a Partner & Principal Architect at IMK Architects, an architecture and urban design practice founded in 1957 with offices in Mumbai and Bengaluru. Rahul Kadri took over the reins of the practice from his father I. M. Kadri in the 1990s after completing a graduate diploma in architecture from the Academy of Architecture, Mumbai, and a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Michigan, USA. With Kadri at the helm, IMK Architects has evolved to focus its practice on social consciousness and urban ecological sensitivity.



The 1990s were marked by significant shifts in India's socio-cultural landscape in a newly liberalised economy. Models of patronage and typologies of projects evolved while modern technology made inroads into the architecture and construction industry. Concerns of climate change emerged in mainstream discourse as well. At such times, IMK was the first architectural practice in the world to adopt SCRUM, a unique, collaborative design process, which involves intense workshops with all project stakeholders. It helps to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of holistic design solutions from buildings to city master-plans - vibrant, dynamic, healthy and robust spaces where people



Sona College of Technology, Salem.

thrive. In light of this, Kadri's work has been widely acclaimed with multiple felicitations from the Indian Institute of Architects, the Times Network and the Construction World and Builder Awards 2020. Most recently, IMK Architects was honoured as the 'Supreme Winner' as well as the winner in the 'Public Building Exterior' category at the **2021 Surface Design Awards, London.**

"Since my father is an architect, I was exposed to architecture at a very young age. However, while growing up, I never wanted to be an architect—I was fond of horses and wanted a stud farm. Later, in boarding school at the Sherwood College, Nainital, I spent most of my time walking around in the

forest and that's where my love affair with nature started. This early relationship with nature infused within me a deep passion to create buildings and spaces in harmony with their natural context. At around the age of fifteen, I remember my father taking me and my siblings for a drive around the city of Mumbai. He wanted to show us some of his buildings. He took us on three drives, and it was really those drives that made me realise what a difference it makes when you start looking at buildings in a different way and my love for buildings began from there.

I went on to study architecture at the Academy of Architecture, Mumbai, and then moved to the University of Michigan,



The Club Mahindra Madikeri Resort, Coorg | Credits- Rajesh Vora.

USA, for a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning, where I was influenced by the work and writings of British-American architect and design theorist Christopher Alexander and American architect Charles Moore. Their ideas of holistic architecture and social architecture particularly influenced me. Reading 'The Pattern Language' and 'The Timeless Way of Building' were the biggest watershed moments in my life. The books spoke about human behaviour and geometry, how design affects what we do, and how patterns link to patterns of behaviour. That way of thinking really grew on me and I have been growing that way of thinking ever since.

I was so fascinated by Christopher Alexander's writing that after graduating from the University of Michigan, I landed up at his door and expressed a desire to work with him. He told me that I was lucky as he needed someone to join him the next day. I worked with him for around 6 months during which time I learnt so much from him.

In 1989, I returned to India and began working with my father, slowly imbibing my own approach into the work of the firm. My first semi-independent project was an engineering college in Salem. The project helped me learn to trust my instincts and



Symbiosis International University, Pune. | Credits- Rajesh Vora.

to understand that I needed to develop my own style that was different from my father's.

However, my first independent project - a notable milestone in my career - was the Club Mahindra Madikeri resort at Coorg. We won a design competition against six architectural firms to secure the project. The Madikeri Resort in Coorg, Karnataka is a hospitality project that was designed for Club Mahindra Holidays and Resorts. The design takes cues from the indigenous Kodava culture and upholds biophilia as a central element to create a site-sensitive habitat that is in harmony with nature. With

maximum exposure to nature, the soul of the design lies in the interaction between people and the outdoors. Through the revival of the age-old vernacular techniques, the resort creates a green abode amidst the hills.

The Symbiosis International University, Pune, is another important project in the journey of our practice - yet another project we won through a competition. The campus is home to 1000 students and houses educational and administration functions for four faculties - the Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, the Symbiosis Institute of Mass Communication,



Rahul conducting a workshop with members of a Housing Society in Mumbai for a self-redevelopment project.



Rahul conducting a workshop with members of the Treeshade Cooperative Housing Society in Mumbai.



Symbiosis International University, Pune. | Credits- Rajesh Vora.

the Symbiosis Institute of Telecom Management and the Symbiosis Institute of Photography – in addition to an auditorium and convention centre, a library, and housing, dining, and recreational facilities for students and staff. We designed the buildings and systems to respond to local climate and ecology so they would integrate seamlessly with the landscape, fostering a harmonious relationship between people and nature, while a hierarchical network of open spaces cultivates social interaction and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Another milestone project is the master planning and campus design for the Sona College of Technology in Salem. The campus master plan and all the buildings within have been designed by IMK Architects over a span of over 3 decades in close association with the client.

Discovering the SCRUM process in my search for the effective and efficient delivery of holistic design solutions across varied scales of projects - from buildings to city master-plans - was another breakthrough in our journey. SCRUM, simply put, is a framework for project management that



The Club Mahindra Madikeri Resort, Coorg. | Credits- Rajesh Vora.

emphasizes teamwork, accountability and iterative progress toward a well-defined goal. This process focuses on bringing clarity to our client's vision. Intense workshops with the clients and all stakeholders help to identify and establish the desired brief; following which requirements are analyzed and prioritized. Together with the clients, tasks of high priority are identified and addressed first, so as to enable us to deliver high quality in a tight time frame.

I enjoy projects which are challenging and have scope for innovation – those that have the potential to fulfil modern society's

growing demands and can be made future-proof. We constantly seek to make places where people thrive. We don't create places or use geometries only for visual effect. It is the relationship between human aspiration, activities, and the geometry of space that interests us. In recent years, we have also been experimenting with design processes that strive to utilize the full creative potential of each member of the team.

I believe that it is imperative for all public projects to truly be representative of the needs and aspirations of the cities and the people that they serve. Participation of



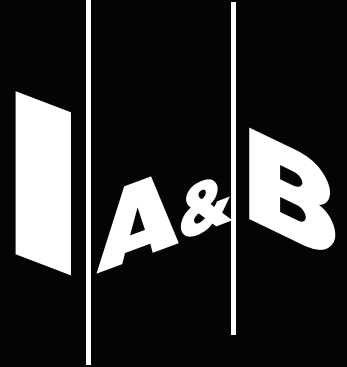
Sona College of Technology, Salem.

citizens is key to creating a shared future. As we shape cities of the future, we need to encourage diversity in thought and value local knowledge. As we shape cities of the future, we need to encourage diversity in thought and value local knowledge."

I.M. Kadri was born in Ahmedabad in 1929, finished his schooling in New Delhi at Jamia Millia Islamia and completed his civil engineering degree at the Engineering College of the University of Pune in 1953. Driven by the belief that architecture shapes society and human life over time, he set up his architectural practice I.M. Kadri

Architects (now IMK Architects) in 1957 at Churchgate, Mumbai, and later expanded it in 1971 to Bengaluru and Muscat. Practicing in a newly-independent India that witnessed mammoth transformations and ideological shifts in a brief span, Mr. Kadri's work navigated questions of tradition and modernity and business and politics. ■

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