

# ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

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# HOT 100

CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE  
TRENDSETTERS

15<sup>TH</sup>

ANNIVERSARY

# BENNY KURIAKOSE

VEDIKA



From conservation projects to being a consultant to government organisations, Benny Kuriakose's contribution to architecture has been noteworthy. He started practising independently in 1993, and was commissioned major projects like rebuilding of Banegaon village (destroyed by the Latur earthquake) and public buildings in Dakshinachitra on the East Coast Road to Mahabalipuram, a challenging project that involved transplantation of old buildings to sites while juxtaposing new ones. Armed with these experiences, his architectural training from Laurie Baker and a Master's in Conservation Studies from the UK, Kuriakose set up his practice in Chennai.

The principal architect of Vedika acts as a consultant for the non-profit organisation, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). Among his many conservation projects are St. George School in Chennai; Gables Bungalow in Conoor; and the Senate House in Madras University. His adaptation of vernacular architecture with an emphasis on natural materials and traditional techniques can be seen in projects like Mayor Ramanathan Chettiar Centre; Backwater Ripples Resort, Kumarakom; and the Club Mahindra Resort, Ooty. Kuriakose has also worked on the tsunami-affected villages of Chinnangudi and Tarangambadi in Nagapattinam district, and the village of Chapredi for the Kutch Earthquake Rehabilitation Project.