

## Newsletter Issue 14- May 2023

### From our Desk

## BK&A On High-Rise Building Construction

It is quite unfortunate that we are committing the same mistakes that the West committed in the 1960s. Glass is not suitable for the hot climate, while in the West, more glass is desirable to let in more heat and light. Here we let in all the heat and then rely on artificial methods of controlling the indoor thermal comfort through air conditioning. India will not be able to afford the amount of energy that we are using, and to improve the standards of living of the people, energy is not the only thing we require.

One of the major problems that Indian cities are facing is the migration to the existing cities, as they act as magnets attracting people from the rural areas. The existing cities are growing and affecting their infrastructure. When the cities are developing, the slum population is also growing, as is the number of families without houses and those living in substandard houses.

If we had targeted the new development towards new cities or if our small towns and villages had become bigger, then we would have been able to address these issues in a better way.

The high-rise buildings built in Taipei, Delhi, São Paulo, or Addis Ababa look the same, and we should attempt to design a high-rise building that is suitable for the Indian conditions, which include its culture and traditions.

[Read More](#)

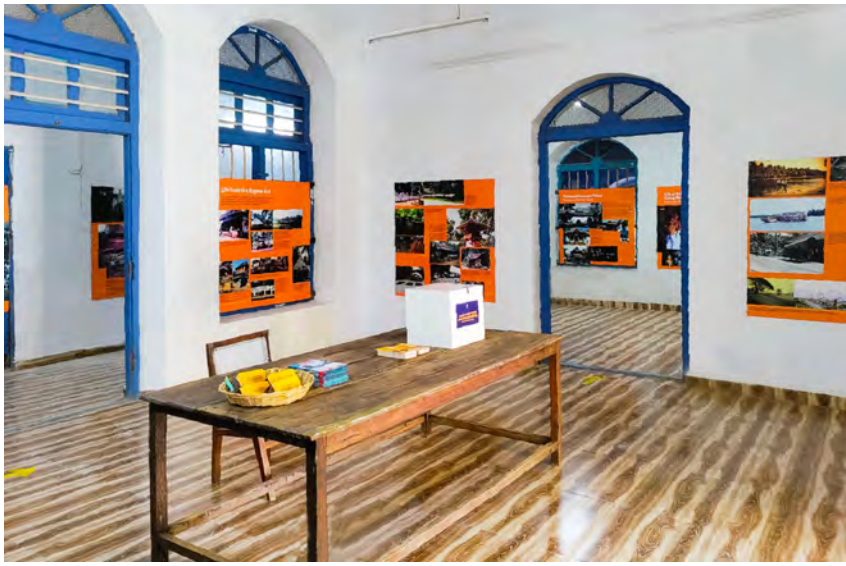
### Recent Highlights

## Older Buildings and Modern Lives : Photography Exhibition and Panel Discussion at Palakkad

On the occasion of World Heritage Day, an architectural photography exhibition featuring around 300 photographs taken by Dr. Benny Kuriakose was set up at the ChitturTattamangalam Municipal Office hall on Sunday at 10 a.m. as part of a three-day programme from April 16-18 organised by the Chittur-Tattamangalam Municipal Corporation and the national heritage organisation Intach Palakkad chapter.

On Tuesday, April 18 at 5 p.m., Dr. Benny Kuriakose presented his views based on his own experiences of renovating heritage in Kerala over the past thirty years. Other experts and locals were part of the open discussion, which was headed by expert panelist Ar. Vinod Kumar M. M., at the gathering held at the P. Leela Open Air Amphitheater.





## Dr. Benny Kuriakose Interaction with RV College Students

R. V. College students from Bangalore visited Dakshinachitra as a part of their heritage tour on April 12. During the heritage tour, the students had an interactive session with Dr. Benny Kuriakose. In the two hour session, the students posed a variety of questions, and Dr. Kuriakose shared his views based on his experiences on various topics the students discussed.



## Meet Our Designs

### Mythilyas

Mythilyas is a royal bungalow in the heart of Chennai, which was designed by Benny Kuriakose and Associates. The grandiosity of the stone-clad, five bedroom residence is nestled within the lush trees surrounding the house. It projects a private and homely space that welcomes one inside to wind down from the stimulating life of the city. The massive front door is the house's focal point, taking up more than three-fourths of the wall and creating a sense of warmth and welcome. The dim and ambient interior is a contrast to the bright and lush landscape on the exterior.

The interiors are adorned with timber doors, furniture, and other elements, which add a traditional touch to the contemporary design of the house. With its marble inlay, timber joinery, and timber carvings, craftsmen from far and wide have come together to contribute to the creation of this wonderfully detailed mansion house.

[Learn More](#)





## Blog Spot

### Latest Blogs to Explore



#### **A Guide to Interior Photography of Historic Buildings - Part III**

Interior views add valuable information to the documentation of a historic building. It is quite different from photographing the building's exterior. The blog looks into photographing different kinds of architectural elements, such as railings etc., and how they can be recorded properly.



#### **Paliam Nalukettu: A Glimpse into a Matrilineal Society**

In the small town of Chendamangalam in Paravur, Kerala, is the Paliam Nalukettu. Benny Kuriakose and Associates conserved the residence as part of the Muziris Heritage Project. The blog looks into the history of this majestic nalukettu and how it was conserved to its present day.



#### **Activity Spaces and Play Areas in a School**

Activity spaces in schools can encourage students to learn from the outdoor environment. Sports activities such as athletics, volleyball, football, and other outdoor activities help improve the children's gross motor skills (hand-eye coordination) along with their learning. The blog looks at how activity spaces and play areas can be designed.

## What's New?

### DC Museum Talks - " Whose heritage is it? "

Dr. Benny Kuriakose was part of the conversation launched by Dakshinachitra's DC Museum Talks in honour of World Heritage Day on the topic, "Whose heritage is it? Creating a sense of ownership in public heritage," along with architect Durganand Balsavar and architecture theorist Kaiwan Mehta. The discussion took place on the Zoom platform on April 19, 2023, at 7 p.m.

**Whose heritage is it?**

Creating a sense of ownership in public heritage.

a conversation between Durganand Balsavar, Dr Benny Kuriakose and Kaiwan Mehta



**Durganand Balsavar**  
Architect & Academic



**Dr Benny Kuriakose**  
Conservation Architect



**Kaiwan Mehta**  
Architecture Theorist & Critic

[Watch Video](#)

**Webinar on "Architecture : A Foundation for Creative Success "**

A webinar is conducted by VIT Vellore and The Hindu with Dr. Benny Kuriakose on the topic, "Architecture: A Foundation for Creative Success " along with Ar. Ravikumar Narayan, and Ar. Chandar Seetharaman. The webinar aims to educate young architecture hopefuls on the different facets of architecture as a profession, as well as the multiple possibilities that the discipline of architecture offers for various successful creative professions. This discussion took place on the Zoom platform on April 26, 2023, from 5 to 6 p.m.



**VIT**  
Vellore Institute of Technology  
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)



Speakers



**Dr. Benny Kuriakose**  
(Conservation Architect)  
Benny Kuriakose & Associates



**Ar. Chandar Seetharaman**  
(Architect & Interior Designer)  
Director at CS Designs pvt ltd



**Ar. Ravikumar Narayan** (Architect & Landscape Architect)  
Ravikumar and Associates (RaA)

Moderator : Ms. Soma Basu, Senior Deputy Editor, The Hindu

School of Architecture, VIT Vellore & The Hindu present a **webinar** for architecture aspirants  
**ARCHITECTURE**  
A FOUNDATION FOR CREATIVE SUCCESS

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
Time: 5pm onwards

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"We need to develop new approaches and solutions which involves selecting appropriate technologies, using the best method of construction, seeking out local sources of energy and materials, employing local building skills and know-how."

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