
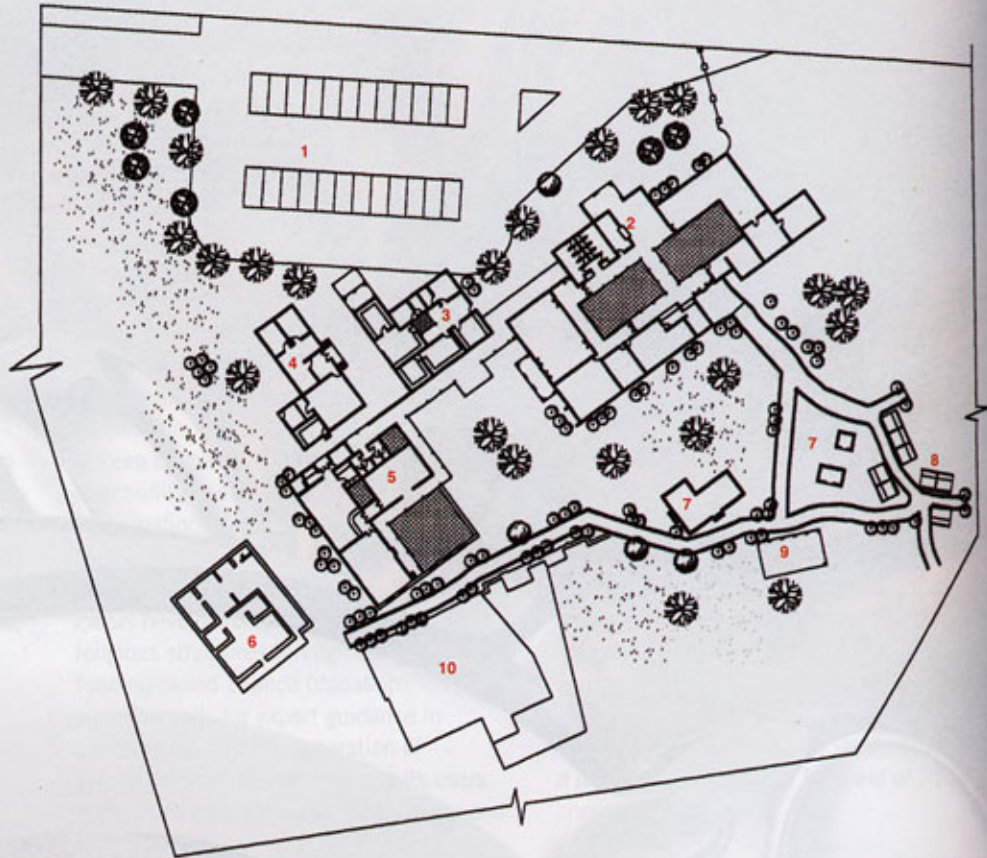


- SITE PLAN** 
1. Parking
 2. Entrance building
 3. Gallery and stores
 4. Library
 5. Restaurant
 6. Andhra house
 7. Mandapam
 8. Craft shop
 9. Tea shop
 10. Karnataka house



Internal verandah of the entrance building

Vernacular Vantage

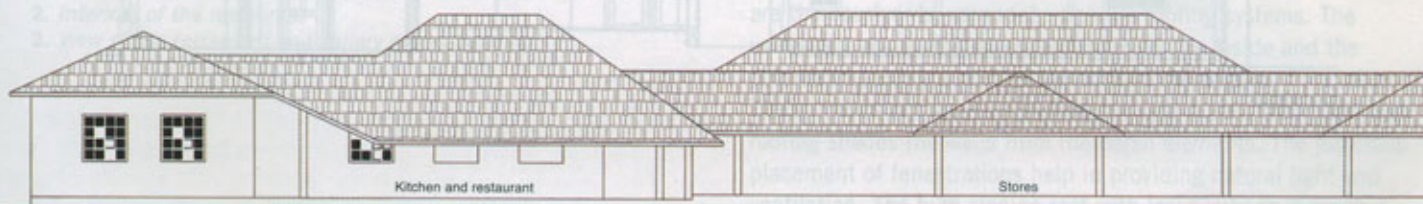
Dakshinachitra, Tamil Nadu

Architects **Vedika Chennai**
Text by **Najla Dawood**

A few selected Recreational projects that were submitted for the third cycle of A+D and Spectrum Foundation Awards 2003



The crafts bazaar



SOUTH ELEVATION

Dakshinachitra, as the name suggests, is an interactive museum embodying the spirit of the South Indian vernacular. Traditional houses from the four southern states have been carefully chosen and recreated within the premises adding to an environment ideal for nurturing the regional arts and crafts. This open-air museum-cum-heritage village is located 25 km away from Chennai, spread over 10 acres of land on the seaward side of the East Coast Road.

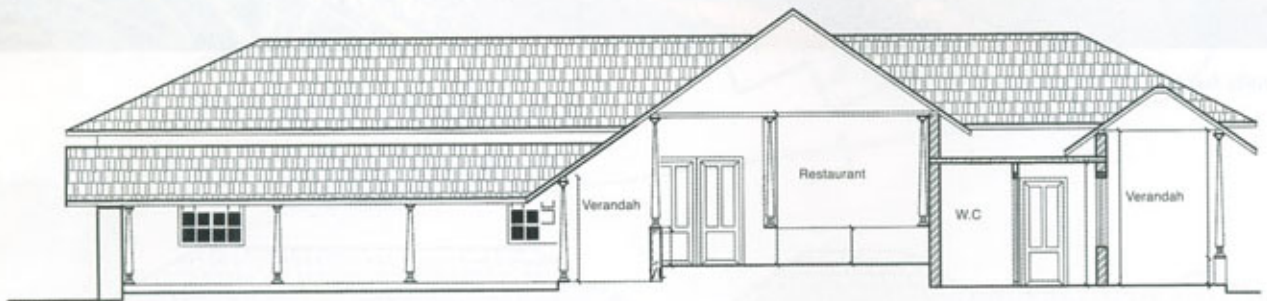
The aim was to create a built environment that not only

aesthetically blends with the traditional houses and reflects the vernacular ideal, but also one that is climatologically sound, simply functional and cost-effective in terms of construction and maintenance. The design incorporates principles of sustainable architecture and consists of courtyards allowing light and fresh air into the built form. The open areas have functional value as they act like spill over spaces for a variety of activities during large events and festive occasions.

The three dominant features branding this group of buildings



1



SECTION





2

1. Guesthouse and craftsmen's quarters
2. Interiors of the restaurant
3. View of the restaurant and gallery stores building



3

are the courtyards, verandahs and the roofing systems. The verandahs are transition spaces between the inside and the outside imparting a gradual variance in the degree of enclosure. These movement spines surround the entire built form, and their roofing shades the walls from the harsh elements. The judicious placement of fenestrations help in providing natural light and ventilation. The high sloping roof with low overhang is another rural system to induce thermal comfort within the building.

Cost-effectiveness has been achieved by the use of locally available materials, thus eliminating manufacturing and transportation costs. The arched openings reduce the need for concrete lintels and the unplastered, unpainted walls serve in bringing down the expenses. The columns, doors and windows have been revived from old buildings to lower cost and reduce expenditure of new materials like wood, stone and metal. The use of features such as the elaborately sloping multi-level roof, timber joinery sans nails and natural materials such as thatch, bamboo and country wood are a conscious attempt by the designer to evoke a rural feel to the place. ✚

Client Madras Crafts Foundation
 Principal architect Benny Kuriakose
 Contractor Ravindran
 Built-up area 1,190 sq m
 Construction time 6 years
 Year of completion 2002
 Cost of Project Rs 70 lakhs