



Newsletter Issue 09 December 2022

From Our Desk

BK&A On Disaster Relief Architecture

Disasters affect a large number of people all over the world and are most prevalent in Asia and the Pacific. Providing a temporary shelter or food is not the relief or compensation they deserve for the loss they had to face. People living in disaster-prone areas are the ones who are most affected, physically and emotionally. They have repeatedly suffered a lot of losses due to the unpredictability of these disasters. As a result, they are always prepared and will notice a pattern in these disasters. Thus, they need to know how they can make their situation better. For instance, in flood-prone areas, they would know that their home needs to be raised or requires a terrace or balcony. As part of our rehabilitation project for the tsunami-prone settlements of Tharangambadi and Chinnankudi, we documented the place and its people so as to come up with various prototype models. This will help people know what they are going to get so that they can give their input on the design, which leads to highly customised designs. Thus, involving such people will make the construction more resilient in its design.

[Explore More on Topic](#)

Recent Highlights

Dr. Benny Kuriakose's Cover Story in Windows and Facade Magazine

Window & Facade Magazine featured Benny Kuriakose as the cover story in its September–October special issue titled "Feature Facades: Design Materials and Technologies." The concept of vernacular traditions is explored in this issue through the perspective of Dr. Benny Kuriakose, the architectural designer and conservation consultant he has become.

[Read More](#)



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MAGAZINE

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FUTURE FAÇADES

Designs, Materials & Technologies

Defining Energy, Ecology & Efficiency

Face to Face

AR. ANOJ TEVATIA

Founding Partner,
Design Forum International
(DFI)

Importance of Planning
Façade Access in the
Design Stage &
the Significance of BMUs

AHAMED HUSSAIN

HoistCraft Systems Pvt. Ltd.,
Chennai

Industry Speaks

MAHESH LONDHE

Head - Technical,
NCL VEKA Ltd.

FUTURE FAÇADES – DESIGNS, MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES



Sattva Signature - A mixed-use project in Hyderabad by ZZ Architects

Cover Story

"We Should Look to Vernacular Traditions for Answers to Create the Right Façades"

Sankalp - The Learning Centre & Special Needs School, Chennai



DR. BENNY KURIAKOSE

Founder

Benny Kuriakose & Associates

Glass has taken over the façades of most commercial buildings in the last one or two decades. Glass lets in all the heat into our buildings and to make them thermally comfortable, we are forced to do air-conditioning, thereby not making this sustainable. The overhang of the roofs is missing in most of these buildings. Since the wall area is much higher than the roof area, the sun's rays fall on the walls (without overhangs) and transmit more heat

inside than the concrete roof. Since climate change and global warming are around the corner, it is very important for all building professionals to learn from our vernacular architecture in making the buildings more thermally comfortable. Technology and science cannot compensate for a poorly thought-out design. Technology has

failed to find a sustainable solution in this era of climate change for many issues we are facing. At least in the future, let us take the sensible paths that our forefathers have shown us. Let us blend the 21st Century know-how with the knowledge which has been passed on to us from generation to generation.



Cheraman Juma Masjid, Kodungallur, Kerala

Learning from Our Vernacular Architecture

A Rustic Contemporary Home

Chitra Rajan Residence, Chennai



DR. BENNY KURIAKOSE

Founder,
Benny Kuriakose & Associates

Chitra Rajan Residence is a rustic contemporary house in Chennai, surrounded by a lush green landscape garden, with the use of terracotta jaali walls, natural stone columns and timber detailing which adds to the traditional charm, enhanced by the reclaimed timber finish gate, raw furniture, hardwood shutters, and dark coloured textured tiles also complimented with experiences of the stillness of the lily pond and the rawness of the porch out front.



Meet Our Design

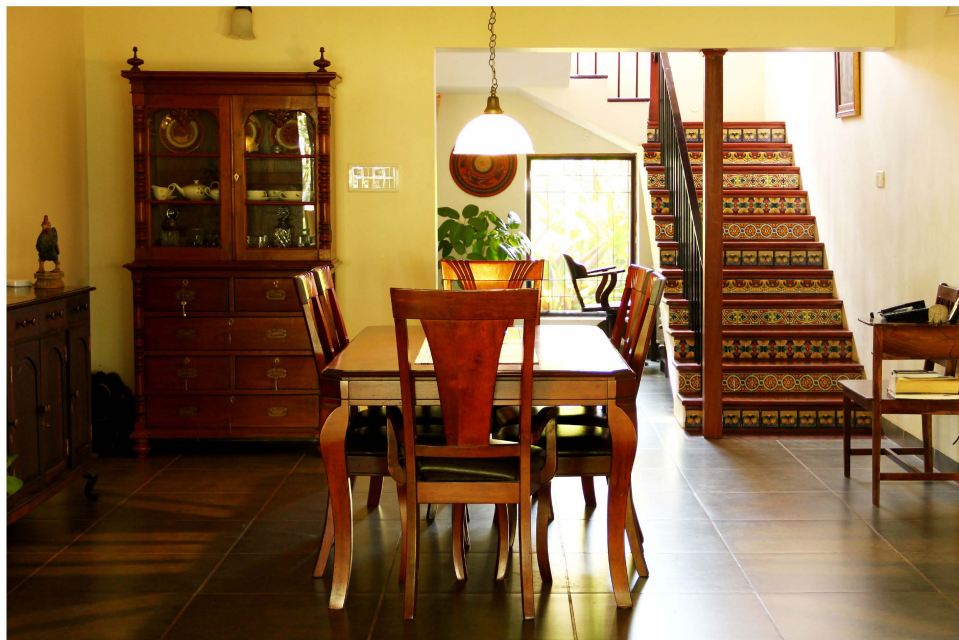
La Casa Roja



La Casa Roja is an eco-friendly home on the outskirts of Chennai with the purpose of merging traditional and contemporary elements to create a design that may be considered "timeless." The house's architecture, which begins with the entryway and public sections and ends with the vast rear verandah, tries to contrast the rigours of city life and create a quiet, guarded sense. The building's core was a setting that exemplified a sense of well-being and peace. The proposal was designed with the existing orchard in mind, which led through the process. The developed strategy reacts to Chennai's climatic circumstances, relieved by a sequence of double-layered Mangalore tile roofs. A concrete tank turned into a lily pond creates a calm environment within the room. A parapet wall built around the perimeter of the concrete slab supports the sloping tiled roof that also houses an attic. These passive design methods reduce the need for artificial ventilation, lowering the building's carbon footprint.

[Learn More](#)





Blog Slot

Latest Blogs to Explore



BJA Workshop on Site Managements An Eye-Opening Session

The blog is a peek into the office work culture of Benny Kuriakose and Associates. BKA conducted a workshop about site management that aims to empower the team with knowledge that will make them professionally capable.



The Cement Types Available in the Indian Market

The blog is about the various kinds of cement available in the Indian market and the aspects one needs to know when choosing the type of cement, such as its suitability for construction.

What's New?

A Trip to Thanjavur

As part of a site visit, Dr. Benny Kuriakose and two others from the team visited the Brihadeeswara Temple in Thanjavur on 30th November 2022, famously known as Peruvudaiyar Kovil. Although it was a short trip, it was an honour to experience and study the marvelous architecture of the heritage building.







"Tradition and heritage is not used as a style, but more as a concept."

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