



## Newsletter Issue March 2023

### From our Desk

### BK&A On Sustainable Building Materials

It is now impossible to design a 100% sustainable building. We will have to use some materials, such as cement, but we can limit their use. We will have to make some compromises, which I think is the best thing to do. Or else one can increase the use of timber, which is the only thing that will reverse the trend by locking in carbon and reducing the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Asbestos was once considered a wonderful roofing material in many third-world countries. But now we have found that it is harmful for humans.

Thatch may be very sustainable, but we will have to replace it every one to four years. You have to do a life cycle assessment, and perhaps a tiled roof may be more sustainable. A local granite may be more sustainable for walls because of the lower cost involved in transportation and processing, while earth can be unsustainable if cement has to be added to it and it has to be transported over long distances. We have to do a case-by-case analysis and then arrive at a solution. In most cases, there will be a variety of solutions, not just one single answer pertaining to a particular location with its specific climate, local materials, culture of the people, etc.

[Read More](#)

### Recent Highlights

#### Talk at the Professional Students' Summit

The Professional Students' Summit (PSS) is a GoK initiative to bring together professional students from various disciplines in the state in a common arena to share ideas for building a better Kerala. The one-day conclave witnessed the participation of over 2,000 students from the second to sixth semesters of nearly 300 professional colleges of medicine, law, engineering, and management. The third edition of the Summit will be organised on February 11, 2023, in Kochi.

Dr. Benny Kuriakose spoke on the topic "Vernacular Architecture and Conservation: The Path to Sustainability."





## Meet our Design

### Sabari Hill Side

Everybody who lives in the lap of the Nilgiri mountains, blessed with natural beauty and greenery, would desire a stunning and magnificent residence where they can experience the beauty of nature all around. The Sabari Hill side intends to follow the contours of the ground at Coonoor Hill station. The multiple layers of roofs ensure that the outside views are visible from all parts of the home. The courtyards and the element of water are thoughtfully incorporated into the space.

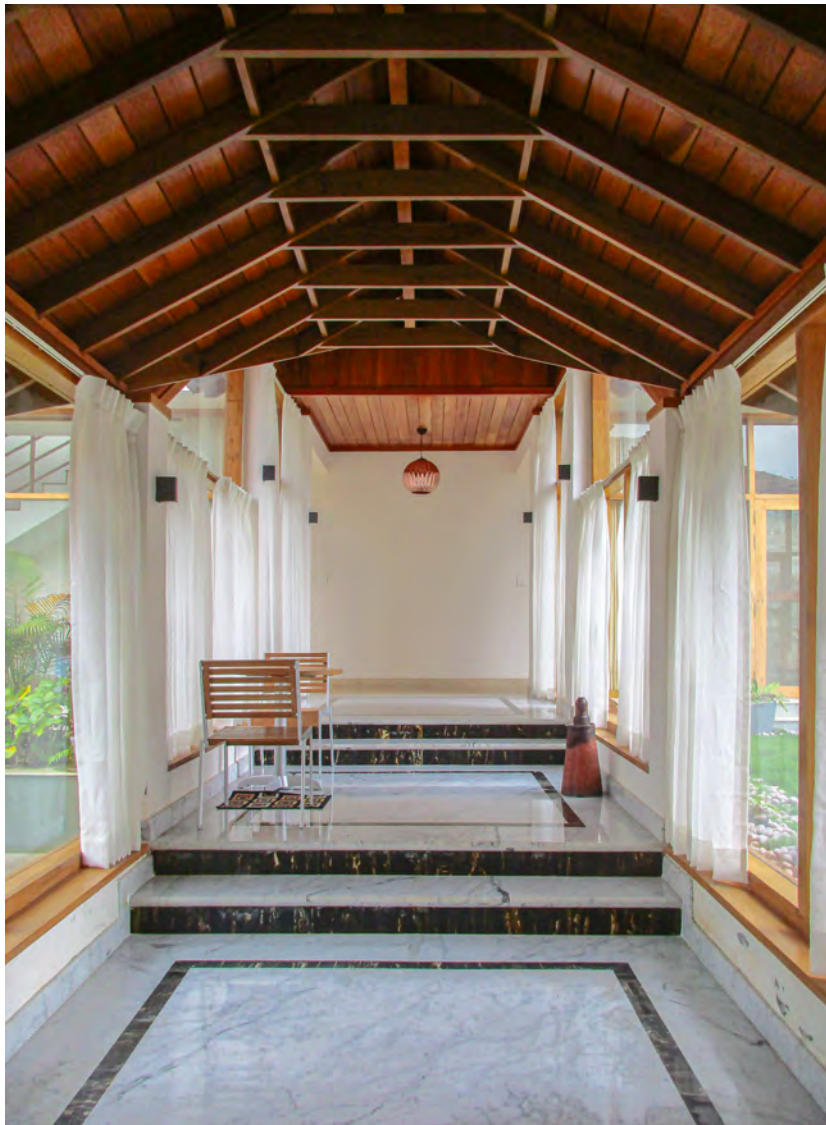
A wide corridor leading to the dining room has open courtyards on either side. Bedrooms also have private access to terraces and other open spaces. Glass used in the building makes the chills of Coonoor's hill station comfortable. Beautiful timber-framed glass windows contribute to the overall appeal of the home. Lastly, the intricate sloping roof system is the major attraction of this building.

[Read More](#)



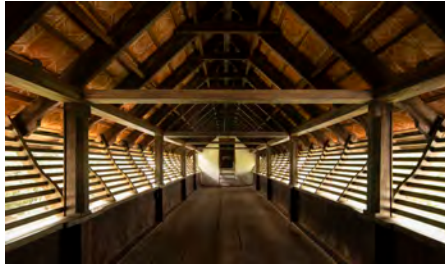






## Blog Spot

### Latest Blogs to Explore



#### **Story Of Paravur Synagogue : Tomb Of Time**

The blog is a walkthrough of the Paravur Synagogue in North Paravur, depicting the history, the conservation process, the issues faced, and how those issues were tackled.



#### **Points to Remember for Excavation of the Foundation**

Excavation is the process of creating an open face, trench, or cavity to remove soil or rock. It involves layers of procedures done at various stages of the building process.



#### **Teaching Spaces And Other Elements Of A School.**

Teaching spaces should facilitate the growth of students beyond the acquisition of theoretical knowledge. These spaces aren't just rooms that are ticked off a requirement list while designing

[Explore More](#)

## What's New?

### **Dr. Benny Kuriakose spreads his knowledge at CEPT Ahmedabad**

Dr. Benny Kuriakose visits the campus of CEPT University's Master's in Conservation and Regeneration programme to assist them in their learning process. He visits their site as part of a field trip and shares his ideas with the students on how it can be conserved and the causes of degeneration







## Talk at College of Engineering, Chengannur

Dr. Benny Kuriakose shared his ideas at a one-day workshop organised at IHRD College, Chengannur in Alappuzha district, for the conceptualization of the Mannar-Chengannur-Aranmula Cultural Heritage Village Project. Kerala's Minister for Culture and Fisheries, Mr. Saji Cheriyan, inaugurated the meeting







### **Session by Dr. Benny Kuriakose at Anant National University**

Anant Fellowship hosted an interactive talk with Dr. Benny Kuriakose on the topic of "Indigeneity in the Built Environment." Dr. Benny discussed the importance of understanding the resources within a space before design or conceptual development. He urged people to dig deeper into a problem and find answers in the environment, ask more questions, and develop solutions that are contextual and empathetic.



### **Dr. Benny Kuriakose Visits Portugal**

Dr. Benny Kuriakose had a family reunion in Portugal and took it as an opportunity to explore the country for two weeks. He visited three cities, mainly Lisbon, Porto, and Coimbra. He covered beautiful Romanesque churches, walked down the stone-paved streets, and admired the statues and monuments that are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

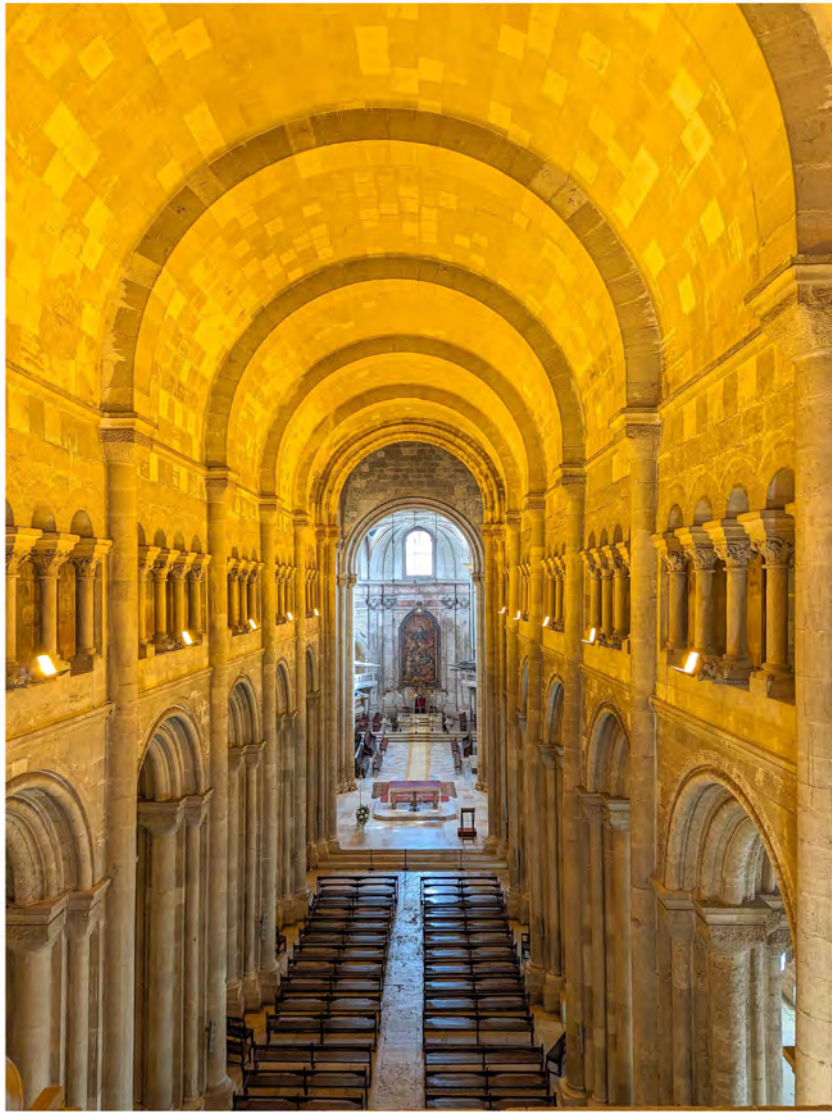












Subscribe



**BK&A**

Architectural Designers & Conservation  
Consultants

Flat F, Third Floor, Springwood  
Apartments, No.6, Ranjith Road  
Kotturpuram, Chennai 600085,  
Tel: 044-24474794, 24471172

[info@bennykuriakose.com](mailto:info@bennykuriakose.com)

© Benny Kuriakose & Associates 2021