



## From Our Desk

### BK&A On Post Disaster Rehabilitation

It has been widely acknowledged that in most post disaster reconstruction, the level of participation of the beneficiaries in the design and the actual construction processes determine the success of such projects. One can refer to Cockburn & Barakat (1991), “‘Settlement reconstruction’ is an ‘incremental learning process’ by local people who have to learn to ‘grow it’, and for themselves ‘to grow with it’. The product, the ‘new’ settlement, has to belong to those who live in it. This ‘sense of place’ and people’s ‘sense of belonging to it can only be fully realized over time but we believe it can be planted right at the beginning by putting the responsibility with the prospective inhabitants through their involvement.”

In the case of most mass housing projects, a prototype model is introduced which is based on the assumption of occupancy by a nuclear family. But, the requirement of each of the families may vary depending on their needs and aspirations. So, the involvement of extensive community participation in all stages of the construction, ranging from taking an informed choice on the location of their house to the planning, design, implementation and monitoring of the construction process is important.

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## Recent Highlights

### The House That Is A Home - Family Interiors

In their magazine's July-September issue, Family Interiors featured Anand Pushpa Residence designed by Dr. Benny Kuriakose. Anand Pushpa Residence in Ayanambakkam, Chennai, is a contemporary house design rooted in tradition, with elaborate stone pillars, decorative ceramic tiles, and a sloping roof with Mangalore tiles. Dr. Benny Kuriakose discusses the approach that was used to create the serene residence in this article. The article also gives a small glimpse of Dr. Benny Kuriakose's life story. Get a sneak peek into the beautiful photographs of the Anand Pushpa Residence which combines a holistic approach to architecture and design.

# The House That Is a Home



Ar. Benny Kuriakose

*The Anand Pushpa Residence is a creatively designed home that leaves you spellbound. Ar. Benny Kuriakose of Benny Kuriakose and Associates talks about the process of its creation.*



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The beautiful Anand Pushpa residence built in 2019 is a home that catches your eye. Benny Kuriakose and Associates, led by Ar. Benny Kuriakose constructed it. This contemporary house has its design rooted in tradition. Thus, it has elaborate stone pillars, decorative ceramic tiles, and a sloping roof with Mangalore tiles.

Ar. Benny reveals, "It has a proximity to the sea. Thus, the land level has been elevated, allowing for the construction of a garage in the basement. The route separates after the ramp at the site entry, with one path leading to the basement and the other to the house's front veranda. The bedrooms on the first floor are organised around a family area as the focal point for a view of the courtyards."

You will see large courtyards, verandas and sit-out with the warmth entering the large interiors. There is also a rear sit-out that overlooks a secluded lawn and lily pond. It is for the guests to enjoy. "The house's colourful ceramic tiles on the stair risers are a standout feature. Adequate lighting and timber furniture blend well with the light hue of the walls and flooring. This property is as serene as its surroundings thanks to its minimal ornamentation

and embellishment," mentions Ar. Benny.

The Anand Pushpa Residence is indeed a sight to behold and admire, thanks to the efforts of the firm Benny Kuriakose and Associates and Ar. Benny Kuriakose.

#### AR. BENNY KURIAKOSE

Born in 1962 in the small town of Koothattukulam and brought up in Thiruvananthapuram, Dr Benny Kuriakose started his career in 1984 and received lessons in architecture under renowned Laurie Baker. He received the Charles Wallace India Trust Award for a Master's Degree in Conservation Studies from the University of York, UK, and his PhD from the IIT in Madras, India.

Taking its roots in vernacular architecture, he has developed expertise in architectural conservation and the design of new buildings. He focuses on the design of structures built from natural materials. He runs an architect and consulting company in Chennai, India. He has worked on all sorts of projects. He has also worked as a consultant for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UNESCO, different state governments, and non-governmental organisations.



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## Meet Our Designs

### Quiet By The River Resort

The confluence of the Malayattoor forest, the Periyar river and the mountains in the backdrop bestows a picturesque location for the Quiet by the River resort. The objective was for guests to be able to enjoy the natural beauty of the Periyar river while staying in a comfortable setting. The riverside resort is skillfully designed to blend in with the surrounding environment, with sloping clay tile roofs, wood and stone walls of the cottages nestled among the greenery. The four twin cottages are situated in the landscape in an uncluttered manner. Blending in harmoniously with the hues and shades of its surroundings, the forest resort made of river stone and bricks promoted sustainable design, local expertise and provided employment opportunities in the area.

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## Blog Spot

### Latest Blogs to Explore



#### **Conservation and Adaptive Reuse of a Rundown Building to Museum**

Conservation is a huge division in architecture. History needs to be preserved in the form of buildings. This blog details on the conservation and adaptive reuse of dilapidated structures of port building into a museum.



#### **Importance of Landscape in School Design**

Landscape plays a major role in the learning experience of a child. A school campus not only comprises of the buildings in a school, rather it also involves the design and presence of landscape as well. This blog talks about the planning of landscape design in schools.

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## What's New?

### Temple Architecture Workshop at BKA

On 25 August 2023, the BKA team attended a workshop on temple architecture held in the office. Prof.K. Srikumar, a distinguished expert specializing in traditional architecture and a professor at IIT Madras, has hosted the informal discussion. This workshop provided an insight into the significance of temples, the philosophy behind temple architecture, the various sections of a temple, how the location is selected for a temple construction, what factors affect it, and topics like why temples are not constructed nowadays. The team got to understand on the connectivity between architecture and philosophy from Srikumar Sir, who was very enthusiastic about sharing his insights on all these. The workshop was in a question-and-answer section format where all the doubts were clarified in detail. It was indeed a great opportunity to expand our knowledge base.

## Chitra Rajan Residence Featured in Buildofy

Chitra Rajan Residence designed by Benny Kuriakose & Associates has been documented by Buildofy. In the video, the principal designer, Dr. Benny Kuriakose, gives an outline of the home and discusses how he and client collaborated on many elements to create this serene, contemplative space. This rustic house in Chennai, surrounded by a lush green landscape garden, is a relaxing haven in the middle of the bustling noises of the city. Time tends to slow down as one enters the home after experiencing the stillness of the lily pond and the rawness of the porch out front. With its wide-open spaces, sit-outs, and water feature, Chitra Rajan is a contemporary house that seamlessly integrates peace and comfort into the busy lives of the occupants. In the official website page of Buildofy, the full video and eBook pdf with detailed floor plan, images and information on materials are available. The film goes live on Buildofy YouTube channel on 5th September at 10 AM.



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“The level of participation of the beneficiaries in the design and the actual construction processes determine the success of rehabilitation projects”

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