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# A|C|E UPDATE

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Ar Rahul Kadri, Partner and Principal, Kadri Consultants Pvt Ltd

## Decongesting Nagpur with Ensaara Metropark

Kadri Consultants's upcoming work in the realm of infrastructure and township planning is the Ensaara Metropark. Spread over 312 acres of land, the project is located close to the inner and outer ring roads in the heart of Nagpur's upcoming growth centre. The design was conducted in collaboration with master planners HOK, landscape architects Cracknell, infrastructure consultants Feedback Infra, structural consultants J+W and MEP consultants Eskayem.

The Ensaara Metropark is planned with a vision to decongest Nagpur City and to provide a satellite township for second generations and growing families of those residing in Nagpur. Ensaara has also been planned with a strong emphasis on its social spaces. Nearly 50 per cent of the township (150 acres) is open space like parks, public gardens, plazas, orchards, vegetable plots, family kitchen gardens and a lake. Keeping pace with the country's changing energy needs, Ensaara is designed as a sustainable and integrated township – rainwater harvesting systems is employed across the Metropark, a fully integrated water recycling system which would provide water for flushing and irrigation is set up, roof mounted solar panels are proposed to conserve energy and effective sewage treatment practices are implemented. Energy efficient buildings are planned with thermal paint and double-glazing.

With new innovative technology such as creating 'edible buildings' – providing opportunities for urban roof top farming, growing fruits and vegetables in

private vegetable plots and orchards and buildings with terrace green at every apartment level to transforming an existing nallah on site into a pristine wetland garden – the project is visionary and brings a fresh approach to housing and infrastructure.

### About the project

In the first phase of the project, an area of 20 lakh sq. ft. is residential and 5 lakh sq. ft. non residential. Apart from 3,000 homes the development includes a school, a hospital, an indoor sports complex and clubhouse, a broad range of shops, cafes and restaurants, a temple complex, a hotel, a business complex, a fire and police station and a bus station and shuttle service to the city centre.

### IMK at Ensaara Metropark

As architect for the Ensaara Metropark, I.M. Kadri Architects has engaged with the project right from the master plan in collaboration with HOK to design detail during the construction phase.

A thorough study of the site and current business need was followed by development of individual housing typologies. The hierarchy of building heights was carefully negotiated to create visual variety and interest in the skyline. Interaction nodes and a variety of open and semi-open spaces were integrated into the overall landscape scheme in conjunction with the landscape consultants. The commercial component was planned such that each phase was equipped with basic amenities for the residents.



"A sensitive and aesthetic approach led us to design a school and town square that responded brilliantly to climate and context. Final cost estimates and construction details were formulated. Together with the clients, we further developed the marketing philosophy, conducted sales-staff training sessions and presentations to the masses," explains Kadri.

#### Strategic plan

In order to optimise construction technology and speed, Aluform was used for construction. "A non-conventional and relatively new construction technology for Nagpur, this proved to be a challenge," observes Architect Kadri. All services and design details were required to be integrated 100 per cent before construction. Local skill and expertise of the workforce had to be developed for building in Aluform. Timelines were planned well in advance to allow for the lead-time of the construction material. Overall, use of this new and light construction method proved to be an efficient strategy.

Kadri also mentioned that other challenge was designing for the harsh climate of Nagpur. All amenities were sited at a three-minute walking distance from home. The orientation of buildings and the use of pergolas create shaded areas throughout the development for meeting up, outdoor dining with trees lining the roads and gardens. All apartments were oriented to optimise the shade from trees and environment friendly techniques were used to significantly cool the houses in summer and warm them in winter.

#### Future project

Kadri's upcoming project is the Pondicherry Convention Centre. Commissioned by the central government, the convention centre at Pondicherry was planned to cater to the expanding needs of the Pondicherry University. The facilities include an auditorium with a seating capacity of 2,500. It is one of the largest auditoriums in the country, along with an entry foyer, separate VIP entrance and lounge, green rooms and canteen space.

Sited in Pondicherry, the design of the convention centre is deeply rooted in the culture and tradition of the land. The convention centre is inspired by the Pondicherry University logo, which depicts a lotus flower symbolising goddess Saraswati – the goddess of knowledge and a rising sun – the emergence of enlightenment and its universal spread.

According to Architect Kadri, "The idea of the convocation hall of the University of Pondicherry was born from the very inspiring energy of the then Vice Chancellor Prof. Tarin. Together, we dreamt of a place that will express the joy of graduating from university, students come together and celebrate their collective achievements marking the important milestone. The centre is an expression of these thoughts manifest in a variety of ways, distilling it into an iconic form." ■