

CONSTRUCTION & ARCHITECTURE UPDATE

Vol. 6 Issue 5

www.constructionarchitectureupdate.com

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Next issue: Eminent Builders

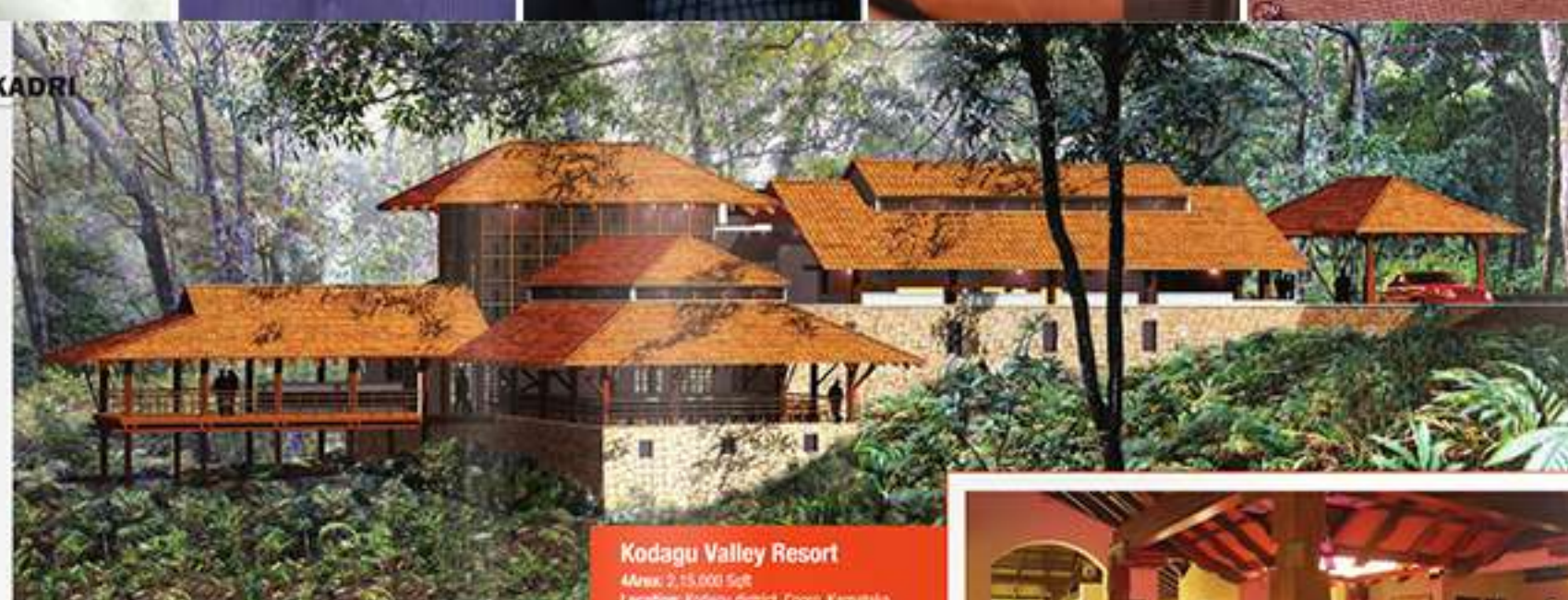
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AR. RAHUL KADRI

“To design socially responsive environments where people and activities thrive. To infuse spaces with vibrance & warmth by fostering a connect between the users, the outdoors, light & nature.”

AR. RAHUL KADRI
 Kadri Consultants

Kodagu Valley Resort
 Area: 2,15,000 Sqft
 Location: Ridge District, Coorg, Karnataka
 Status: Completed, Green City Mahindra
 Conf. No. 40 Cross, Number Of Rooms: 154

“Nestled within a lush valley, the multiple levels of the resort meld with the natural slope of the land to create a sense of ‘living in a forest’”

tree on site. Amidst the mystical rainforest, the lush tropical valley below and the terraced paddy fields beyond the building rose from the site naturally, as though it had always existed.

Inspired by the local ‘Aynamane’ homes the resort buildings were carefully designed after a lot of research on Coorg’s culture and traditions. A unique rainwater harvesting style indigenous to the local Kodava people (where four inner slopes allow rainwater to collect in a base pool), formed the central feature of the entrance lobby. The interiors were adorned with design elements such as traditional carving on columns, woodwork, railings and

artwork created with local fabrics. The resident units have lovely sit-out areas. Well-designed rooms allow natural light and a regular breeze to flood in.

The entrance to the spa is through an old traditional doorway and past soft water fountains that invite you to a wood-crafted floating pavilion. This reception pavilion is built of natural materials with delicate detailing in wood and stone by Kerala artisans.

The swimming pool is organic in its form so as to preserve the foliage and maintain the flow between the existing trees.

The result is that the pool mimics the feeling of being in a natural forest pond.

“Inspired by the local ‘Aynamane’ homes the resort buildings were carefully designed after a lot of research on Coorg’s culture and traditions.”

What is your design philosophy? Can you outline the steps for us?

The Kadri Philosophy

At Kadri Consultants we have a four pronged approach to architecture that spans the entire realm of expression from sound engineering and environmental consciousness to community building and finally, timelessness.

Level 1: At the fundamental level, it is our aim to plan a feasible project that is structurally viable, follows building codes and regulations and is economical & robust.

Level 2: To consciously design a building that is contextual, sustainable and environmentally holistic - through careful articulation of form, materials, textures and proportions.

Level 3: To design socially responsive environments where people and activities thrive. To infuse spaces with vibrance & warmth by fostering a connect between the users, the outdoors, light & nature.

Level 4: To craft buildings that are contemporary, yet timeless. To use cutting edge technology and innovation to build environments that evoke awe and inspire.

What have been watershed moments for your practice?

The Club Mahindra design competition for a resort at Coorg proved to be a turning point for the firm. The contest was between six architecture firms - Kadri Consultants won the contest and decided to look locally for inspiration. The competition gave us the opportunity to build a resort embedded within a forest.

Planned along the edge of the cardamom valley, the resort building was positioned strategically so as to save every single

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Top Architect

AR. RAHUL KADRI

WMA
windoovy magic
 German Technology
 uPVC Door and Window Systems


AR. RAHUL KADRI

The resort has three restaurants with breathtaking hill views. The simple palette of earthen tiles, wood and grey stone lets one know that this resort could only belong to this untouched locale.

The project is not only one of Club Mahindra’s most loved properties but also one of the defining works of our practice.

Considering size and type of building, what is your experience with comparable projects?

Our design understanding evolves with time and projects. We are constantly doing new types of buildings and questioning our beliefs in the face of what works and what does not to create more meaningful places. This cycle of growth fuels better designs that are in sync with the needs of the time.

You have a very interesting design philosophy; tell us more about it and who or what have been your greatest influences?

At Kadri consultants, building communities and planning realms that create “maximum joy” is the focus of our work. We keenly analyze - what is it that the occupants of our buildings really value? – that forms the center of our focus.

It is critical to stay focused and not get swayed by the varied opinions of different stakeholders in a project. Rather, the challenge lies in defining a seemingly impossible goal to benefit all stakeholders in a project. We believe

Ensara Townsquare

Name of the Project: Ensara Townsquare
 Location of the Project: Nagpur
 Size of the Project: 2,35,000 Sq.ft.

“The towncentre at Ensara is one of our most innovative projects. It responds brilliantly to climate. It is very frugal. And it has a great variety and scale of urban spaces for residents to unwind and interact.”

that it is the Architects primary responsibility, to clearly articulate and ensure the true vision of the project is realized.

The work of Architectural Maestros like Christopher Alexander, Charles Moore, Laurie Baker and Frank Lloyd Wright have been a source of inspiration.

What do you see as the important issues or considerations in any project?

Effective space utilization, response to context and people centric design are some of the important considerations for a successful project.

To innovate in any project would be to find a creative solution to people issues. To build buildings with a soul – one that is in harmony with nature, people and the regions climate.