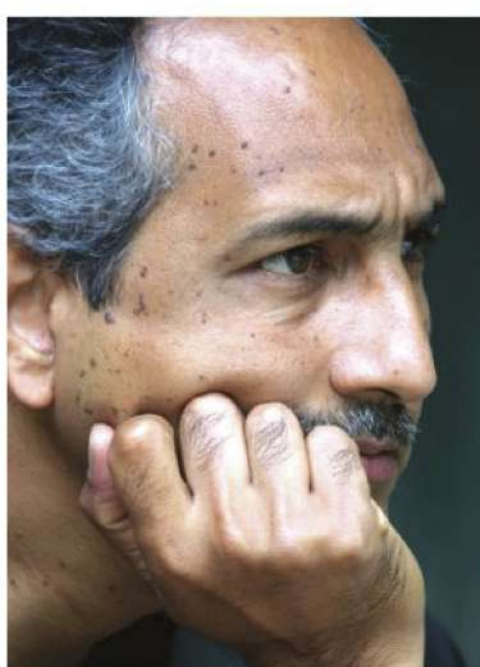


ARCHITECT | AR. RAHUL KADRI, I.M.KADRI ARCHITECTS

“A variety in the quality and scale of spaces created – semi outdoors and outdoors further stimulates social engagements between students and teachers”

AR. RAHUL KADRI
Principal Architect & Partner
I.M.Kadri Architects.



Mr. Rahul Kadri spent his formative years amidst lush landscapes exploring the forests of the Kumaon Himalayas while studying at Sherwood College, Nainital. This early relationship with nature infused within him with a deep passion to create buildings & spaces, which are in harmony with its natural context.

He completed his diploma in architecture from the Academy Of Architecture, Mumbai and went on pursue his master's degree in Urban Planning from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1988).

He assumed directorship of Kadri Consultants Pvt. Ltd in 1995 and since then has designed & executed several architecture & town planning projects under his leadership. He has designed townships for Tata's, Jindal's & Reliance, Hotels & Resorts for Taj & Club Mahindra, College Campuses for Symbiosis & The Supreme Court Of India and more. Over the years he has honed his skill & passion to create places where people and nature thrive.

Apart from his engagement with architecture Mr. Rahul Kadri has been actively involved in proposals for the effective development of open spaces in Mumbai.

Mr. Kadri is a Trustee of Save The Children India – an organization committed to the cause of the education of the least privileged children in India

Can you talk about two of your favorite projects that you have developed?

One of our defining works, the Symbiosis Knowledge village is a vibrant, eco-friendly student campus sited atop a hill in Lavale, Pune. Planned to seamlessly integrate with the contours and climate of the location, the project was a challenging and fulfilling one.

The campus is home to 1000 students and comprises of hostels, dining halls, academic departments, an auditorium, a library, a canteen, an amphitheatre, an indoor sports complex and teaching and non-teaching staff residences.

The academic block is consciously planned to encourage interactions and inspire friendships amongst students. This is achieved by concentrating movement through the campus along a “central spine” – a promenade formed by the organization of buildings. This activated zone of interaction forms the hub of student activity.

A variety in the quality and scale of spaces created – semi outdoors and outdoors further stimulates social

engagements between students and teachers.

The inner envelope of the building is composed of circulation elements – open corridors, shaded verandahs and light, steel staircases –the “semi-outdoors” that form major student spill-out zones and break-out spaces.

The multi-level courtyards and landscaped terraces carved out of the natural contours of the site – the “outdoors” – function as vast interconnected plazas for assemblies and gatherings.

An eco friendly design, the Campus makes maximum use of natural light and wind to create a comfortable learning environment.

Classrooms are north facing and allow ample glare-free light into the interiors. They are completely daylight, cross-ventilated and therefore electricity free. Rainwater harvested is utilized for landscape; solar energy is employed for street lighting while 400 indigenous trees are planted to protect the top soil.

The use of energy efficient materials during construction significantly reduced the carbon footprint of the



project. Sundried, compressed earth blocks utilized for the external walls were manufactured at site.

Another one of our projects, the Club Mahindra resort at Coorg proved to be a turning point for the firm. A design competition was held 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 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 are carefully designed after a lot of research on Coorg's culture and traditions. A unique rain water harvesting style indigenous to the local Kodava people (where four inner slopes allow rainwater to collect in a base pool), forms the



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central feature of the entrance lobby. The interiors are 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 flow 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.

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 one of Club Mahindra's most loved properties today.

Is there anything exciting that you are working on at the moment that you can tell us about? Any new projects?

One of our current projects is a student campus – Symbiosis World School in Lavassa.

Could we design a school where children are more attentive in class? Where bullying is minimized? Where multiple and diverse friendships flourish? Where conversations lead to the birth of new ideas and where nature is felt truly and closely? This has been our quest in designing the school for 200 children in the Lavassa hills.

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Part stilted, this campus building follows the land contours to create a network of internal streets punctuated by vibrant interaction nodes. The buildings are well-scaled to create lively and compact courts that offer safety and semi private zones within a sprawling campus.

All habitable spaces are protected from heat gain and maximise glare free light to improve student performance and reduce energy consumption.

The indoors is connected to the outdoors both visually and physically through pathways, vistas and stunning views of the hills. Beautiful basalt stone, simple plastered surfaces and shingled roofs further blend the buildings with the natural surroundings.

Another exciting ongoing project is a township for JSW steel near Bellary. It has the charm of an Italian town. The building elevations, streets and scale of open spaces are warm and delightful. and it is the greenest town conceived.

Sona Housing is yet another one of our ongoing projects. Spread over a plot of nine and a half acres, the Sona Housing Scheme was planned for the Sona Housing to provide housing to 600 families – catering to the young employees of the

IT center of Bangalore.

Due to the width of the access road, the height of the buildings was to be controlled within 15m – a challenge converted into an opportunity. With ground and four floors only the buildings are built well within the tree line offering the residents a connect with nature.

Several green pockets of varying scale

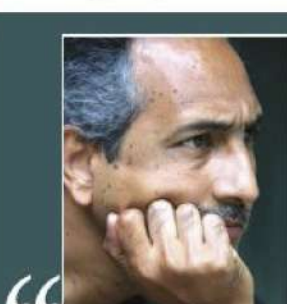
are designed for every age group – quiet and cozy courts for senior citizens; gaming courts for young adults and families; expansive lawns and outdoor games for children; and sand pits and small play areas for toddlers. These adjoining green courts promote a sense of community, belonging and identity amongst residents.

Sited at the center of the site is the Clubhouse. Enveloped by the surrounding landscape the Clubhouses merges seamlessly with the central lawns. Facilities include indoor games, swimming pool, cafe and indoor and outdoor locations for gatherings.

How do you see the current scenario of Indian architecture? Also, your thoughts on future of Indian Architects & Architecture; Overall your comments?

It is great that in today's day clients are getting increasingly aware about architecture. They realize the importance of good building design and the impact it has on its users. There is more awareness about environment sensitive buildings.

Architecture is becoming more of a priority; Clients are becoming more aware of the power of architecture.



“They realize the importance of good building design and the impact it has on its users. There is more awareness about environment sensitive buildings.”

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