

Architecture

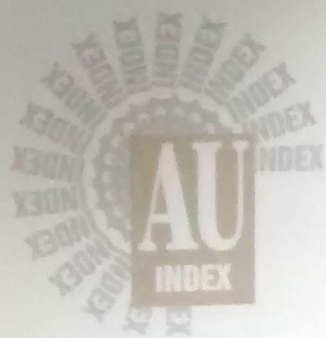
ARCHITECTURE | INTERIORS | LANDSCAPE

UPDATE AU



emerging
talent 13

Homework



Heritage Architecture India' Glory

A prominent nineteenth century club house that was once frequented by the British elite and a late nineteenth housing colony for Parsis in Mumbai have won the 2013 Unesco Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for distinction and merit. The Royal Bombay Yacht Club Residential Chambers and the Lal Chimney Compound from Mumbai have been selected among the other 10 entries that include structures in Afghanistan, China, Australia and Japan.

The conservation of buildings which form the Lal Chimney Compound has safeguarded a distinctive late 19th century typology that had been in a ruinous condition and slated for demolition. The decision to reuse and conserve original materials and ornamental details helped retain the compound's authenticity. By keeping the original function of the buildings, the historic continuity of the community has been ensured. This project sets a benchmark for the conservation of community housing, a historically and socially significant form of heritage that is all too often neglected, and acts as an exemplary model for future initiatives

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For space booking, contact:

Phone: 022 - 67121806, Mobile: Pooja N. 9320266517 (Mumbai) E-mail: pooja.nalawade@eril.co.in

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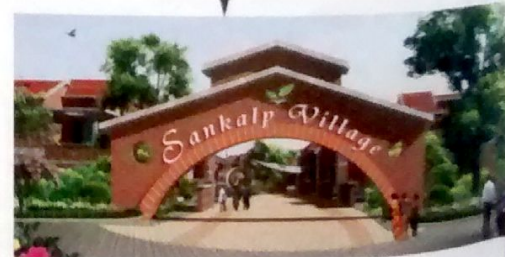
**PULSE
ARCHITECTS**

Mumbai Moment of
Glory at UNESCO
AWARDS



**PAGODA
COTTAGES AT
PYRAMID VALLEY
INTERNATIONAL**

Harohalli Hubli, Karnataka
India BharathiPrem
Associates



SANKALP VILLAGE

Virar, Mumbai, Maharashtra India Evolve
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Pagoda Cottages

at Pyramid Valley International

Kebbedoddi Village, Harohalli Hubli, Karnataka India

BharathiPrem Associates



BharathiPrem did her B.Arch from UVCE, Bengaluru, in the year 1995 and also a LEED AP from USGBC. BharathiPrem (BPA) Associates was started by BharathiPrem and Prem Kumar in the year 2000. BPA is a small controlled practice, designing, residential, commercial, institutional, hospitality projects, which is characterized by certain quality, material integrity, with a spiritual essence. It nurtures the wide variety and scales of its projects and is not defined by a particular genre, but being harmonious with the surroundings as well as the users.



the atmosphere at the 'Pagoda Styled Cottages for the Pyramid Valley International, Kebbedoddi Village, Harohalli Hobli, Karnataka, India', designed by BharathiPrem Associates at the beautiful, serene, tranquil campus invokes instinctive calmness and serenity with a large meditation pyramid. (Pyramid Valley International is a serene spiritual centre in 28-acres of land located amidst hillocks and tree 41.6-km away from Bangalore City Junction.) Visitors to the Pyramid Spiritual Trust from all over the world could be accommodated in various facilities being constructed.

The cottages are designed such that they dictate sheer simplicity. The architecture treads very lightly on the ground on which these cottages sit, bringing into focus the minimalism of the structures. Even though the architecture is simplistic, the cottages are comfortable and aesthetically pleasing. An attempt has been done to reinterpret the strong traditional Pagoda style structure in a contemporary style, which is reminiscent of ideologies in spirituality and Zen. Highlighting the pyramid was one of the basic guideline considered while designing.

The cottages are as simple and basic as can be. It provides the guests all the essential amenities that would be required. Each block has two cottages shared by a common wall. The two blocks are separated by a landscaped garden. The cottages are designed so as to be let out individually as eight rooms during peak seasons, maximising the facility's capacity to accommodate guests.

The spaces within the cottages are done up modestly with a soaking pond, against walls of exposed bricks. There is a large window facing and framing the pyramid, maintaining it as the focal point. Each cottage has a semi closed verandah, bedroom, a living area, a kitchenette and two toilets.

The verandah is an ingenious design that helps to keep the cottages comfortable even during summer season. It provides as an efficient

The Pagoda styled cottages for the Pyramid Spiritual Trust at Kebbedoddi Village, Harohalli Hobli, Karnataka designed by BharathiPrem Associates dictate sheer simplicity, focusing at the minimalism of the structures. An attempt has been made to reinterpret the strong traditional Pagoda style structure in a contemporary style, which is reminiscent of ideologies in spirituality and Zen.





masterplan.

buffer for the summer heat. The verandah also facilitates introspective time for the meditator, looking out into the scenic greenery and the pyramid in the distance. Split level ventilation and double height spaces that support conventional current, makes these cottages independent of artificial air-conditioning. The roof does not serve only as a visual treat to the eyes, but also adds to the character and ventilation of the cottages.

The material palette ranges from wire-cut bricks, shahbad stones for flooring and locally available granite. Ferro-cement slabs are used reinforcing the sense of simplicity, devoid of anything pretentious. The deliberate use of

raw and rustic materials for the interiors and exteriors is an attempt to express the materials in their truest forms.

The Cottages have load bearing walls with size stone masonry foundation. The roofing is with ferrocement slab supported over MS rectangular box sections 'C' channels bent to the required profile. Over this, a 1 x 1-in mesh has been welded. Then a concrete mixture of cement, 12-mm gravel and sand has been poured for 3-in thickness. Finally, it has been plastered on both the sides, covered with decorative clay tiles on the top.

The court in between the two cottages is designed as a dry and green space. This area is inspired from the Yin and Yang principle of spirituality in accordance to the basic design fabric revolving across the site. The yin and yang pattern is manicured in the landscaped area. The green grass and white pebbles help creating the effect of yin and yang. Stepping stones interspersed with grass is a refreshing change from the raw appeal of the exposed brick walls. Also, bamboo poles are used to define the court area from the cottage space.

The designers strongly believe in realizing more than a building - that is to create a space, a destination capturing the spiritual essence of the place. The simple harmonious building offers the users serene surroundings with a very humane approach. The design is like frozen music, in the form of structure, volume, scale, creating a blend with space and nature. It is through the process of stitching the building to its surroundings by articulating and ensuring that there is always a connection with the ground. There is a continuous dialogue between the nature and the built spaces. The sustainable design is never an option here but a basic pre-requisite and it create a blend between wood and mud, stone and steel, glass and granite.



the court between the two cottages - the green grass and white pebbles create the effect of yin and yang.



the verandah, an efficient buffer for the summer heat.

Materials Used

- Exposed bricks
- Ferro-cement slab
- Shahbad stone
- Sadarahalli stones
- Bamboo poles



fact file:

project	Pagoda Cottages
location	Pyramid Valley International, Kibbedoddi Village, Harohalli Hubli, Karnataka, India
client	The Pyramid Spiritual Trust
architect	BharathiPrem Associates
dt. of commencement	February 2010
dt. of completion	October 2011
cost	₹60 lacs