
Fact File:

Project:*The Walls and Vaults House*

Location: *Podimattom, Kanjirapilly, Kerala, India*

Client:*Mr. Biju and Family*

Site: *1506 Sqm. (37.21 cents)*

Built up area:*total – 3190 Sqft*

Completion:*September 2015*

Architect:*L.I.J.O. RENY.architects, Thrissur, Kerala (www.lijorenyarchitects.com)*

Interiors:*L.I.J.O. RENY.architects*

Landscape:*L.I.J.O. RENY.architects*

Design team:*Ar. RenyLijo and Ar. Lijo Jos*

Contractors: *Saji and Binu, Kanjirapilly*

Project Description:

'Some people feel the rain; others just get wet.' - Roger Miller

The walls and Vaults House belong to a family that decided to embrace the monsoon by inviting it 'into' their house than shut themselves out from all its beauty and mysteries.

The family had wanted an unimposing house that reflects the simple life they lead. The modest brief called for a restrained single storey residence for a family of six that included the client's parents as well as their kids. The project sits in a location that experiences contrasting climatic situations with long heavy monsoons and scorching sun during the remaining months. The core design principles for this project were modeled.

The built form of the house was effortlessly tucked into the gentle slope of the site to reduce the scale of the house being visible from the road that abuts the three sides of the site. Furthermore, carefully chosen and strategically used materials and colours that include the stone wall, exposed concrete, natural stone flooring and teakwood along with lush tropical vegetation subdue the physical presence of the house and blend it well with the surroundings.

The layout consists of two primary linear bays arranged parallel to each other, with long open to sky courts on either side and a long sky lit court between the two bays. The roof line is a combination of barrel vault for main functional rooms and a flat slab at 2.1m for the ancillary areas. This brings about an interesting transition of spaces as one walks through the house. The two external courts are enclosed by landscaped walls in rubble, providing necessary privacy to the desired spaces resulting in a well protected house with comfortable interior spaces both in the punishing rain and the burning sun. These solid walls are meant to be taken over by ivy over a period of time. This along with the white washed barrel vaults which would weather over time would take a colour that which would help blend this house into its serene surroundings.

The finishes in general were kept natural throughout. The flooring was done in polished Kota and lapato finished granite. The chips of the same were used for the ground cover of the courtyards. The rubble work of the wall was pulled to the floor as well. The exposed concrete finish of the slabs and beams helps the general rustic feel of the house. The wardrobes were done in polished teak wood. The art work on the wall is very

unique to this project. Stippled Portraits and candid shots of the family members were done on granite tiles. In the corridor of this house there is an interesting work showing five generations of the family. The candid shots of family members catch ones curiosity in the bedrooms.

The house with its subtle presence becomes a sublime backdrop for life to unfold in all its brilliance.
