



From Our Desk

"Redefining Luxury: Embracing 'Shanti' and 'Ananda' in Modern Living Spaces"

In our view, luxurious living fundamentally revolves around the concepts of "Shanti" (peace) and "Ananda" (bliss or joy). When discussing luxury in these terms, we emphasize creating living spaces and lifestyles that prioritize tranquility and profound joy. This goes beyond material wealth, aesthetics, or opulence, focusing instead on spaces that nourish the soul, promote well-being, and foster a deep sense of inner peace and happiness.

Luxury can be defined by comfort, convenience, and a wealth of amenities tailored to individual preferences. Since each person has unique tastes in living and architecture, it's essential to design spaces that meet more than just physical needs. True luxury design goes beyond basic requirements, aiming to create environments that prioritize well-being through a seamless blend of advanced technology and nature. It's about living comfortably with desired amenities while being in harmony with nature and oneself. Such environments promote mental and emotional balance, offering solace and rejuvenation amidst daily life's hustle and bustle. Ultimately, luxurious living nurtures a holistic sense of well-being, encompassing both physical and mental wellness.

Recent Highlights

Tropical Home Design Handbook: Dr. Benny Kuriakose's Contributions to Routledge's New Handbook

Dr. Benny Kuriakose is one of the contributors to Routledge's recently published "Tropical House Design Handbook: Bioclimatic, Safe, Comfortable, Economical feasibility, and

Respectful of the Environment." This comprehensive book delves into the technical and practical aspects of designing homes in tropical climates. It begins by discussing essential concepts such as climate, heat, and thermal comfort, providing a foundational understanding of the unique challenges faced in these environments.

The book also explores the solutions offered by traditional housing, showcasing how time-tested methods can inform modern design. From bioclimatic principles to sustainable building practices, the handbook covers a wide range of topics aimed at creating homes that are not only comfortable and safe but also economically feasible and environmentally respectful. The book is a valuable resource for architects, designers, and anyone interested in sustainable and effective tropical house design.

[Know More](#)



TROPICAL HOUSE DESIGN HANDBOOK

BIOCLIMATIC, SAFE, COMFORTABLE,
ECONOMICAL AND RESPECTFUL
OF THE ENVIRONMENT



Forewords by Francis D. K. Ching and Vasudevan Suresh ETIK2A

ROUTLEDGE

Authors and contributors

Tropical House Design Handbook is a collective work, designed and produced by ETIK2A, a non-profit association, that provides different audiences with technical and scientific information to contribute to the understanding of the phenomena studied and the adoption of ethical behaviours. For this manual, ETIK2A benefited from the invaluable help of the following authors of the forewords and contributors (presented in alphabetical order):

Forewords' authors

Francis D. K. Ching is Professor Emeritus of Architecture at the University of Washington. Born in Honolulu, he obtained his BArch from the University of Notre Dame. After several years of practice and licensure, he joined Ohio University to teach drawing. Subsequently he taught at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Washington. He has been a visiting professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology and the Chinese University of Hong Kong and has conducted workshops in many countries. He received an Honorary Doctorate in Design from Nottingham Trent University; the S. Y. Chung Visiting Fellowship, New Asia College, Chinese University of Hong Kong; and a Citation for Excellence in International Publishing of Architectural Books. He received the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Awards Jury Special Commendation and an AIA Institute Award of honour for his collaborative achievements. He is a world-renowned author of reference books on architecture and graphic design, such as *Architectural Graphics, Architecture: Form, Space & Order, A Global History of Architecture, A Visual Dictionary of Architecture, Interior Design Illustrated and Building Construction Illustrated* (all published by Wiley). His work, translated into 11 languages, is very influential and he continues to produce and publish architectural books today.

Vasudevan Suresh is a civil engineer who graduated from Anna University (College of Engineering, Guindy, Chennai, India) with outstanding experience in the housing, infrastructure, rural and urban development as well as built environment sectors. He has been associated with the development of codes and standards, including the National Building Code. He was Chair of the Kerala Government Task Force on Housing, dealing with housing and housing policy, a member of the Rajasthan Government Committee on Urban Housing and Housing Policy and a member of the National Housing Policy Group of the Government of India. He was Chairman and Managing Director of HUDCO (Housing and urban development corporation), president of the Indian Buildings Congress and the National Real Estate Development Council, Chairman of the Indian Green Building Council and vice-president of the Construction Industry Development Council. He is a member of the Government Task Force on Rural Housing, chairman of the Indian Green Building Council Policy (advocacy and government relations), chairman of the National Building Code of India, and led the good Governance India Foundation. He has represented India and is a consultant for national and international organizations working on various facets of sustainable and safe human settlements for several global initiatives. He has received 15 awards for his work. He is a strong advocate for sustainable development and is passionate about sustainable, environmentally responsible, ecologically appropriate and energy efficient solutions in the built environment and green building movement.

Architects

Benny Kuriakose received the Charles Wallace India Trust Award for a Master's degree in Conservation Studies from the University of York, UK, and his PhD from the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras, India. With roots in vernacular architecture, he has developed expertise in architectural conservation and the design of new buildings. He focuses on the design of structures built from natural materials and now runs an architectural consultancy firm in Chennai, India.

Joyce Owens, FAIA[®] RIBA[®], graduated from the University of Notre Dame, left her London-based practice after 15 years and relocated to Florida in 2004. Her UK practice and now her Florida firm have garnered international attention for numerous award-winning buildings, which are environmentally and regionally sensitive, as well as culturally appropriate for their place. In Florida, Joyce is a huge advocate of the climate-sensitive architectural style, Tropical Modern, which naturally incorporates passive and active sustainable principles. Joyce was elected to the prestigious College of Fellows at the national level of the AIA[®] in 2018 – the highest membership honour – for exceptional work and contributions to architecture and society. In 2020, she received the AIA Florida Medal of honour for Design, the highest award for design that AIA Florida bestows.

Jolyon Robinson is a member of the Australian Institute of Architects and registered Australian architect who studied at the University of Melbourne, the University of Sydney and Queensland University of Technology. Jolyon heads up Robinson Architects, a design-focused practice based in subtropical South East Queensland. Jolyon's work has been inspired by regular travel, to and the study of tropical architecture throughout, South East Asia. The approach to architecture is to create pared-back simple, elegant buildings that coexist harmoniously with the environment they inhabit. The practice is multi-award-winning and internationally published. At the time of writing, Robinson Architects had numerous international commissions, including a project in tropical Sierra Leone, West Africa for a fully sustainable private seaside village.

Bruno Stagno, Hon FAIA[®], is an architect who graduated from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. After working in France, he moved to Costa Rica in 1973, where he was passionate about tropical architecture. He develops contemporary architecture based on tradition, enriched with adapted elements of modernity. In 1994, he founded the Institute of Tropical Architecture, which aims to disseminate the specificities of architecture and urban planning integrated into landscapes and respectful of natural ecosystems.

Scientists

Youssef Badir holds a PhD in Technology Management from the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL). He is currently an associate professor and director of the doctoral programmes (PhD and DBA) at the School of Management of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok, Thailand. His research focuses on green product and process innovation, low-carbon technology assessments and emerging market firms' digital transformation.

Yézouma Coulibaly, Associate Professor at the Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (ZIE) in Ouagadougou, holds a PhD from the Institut National Polytechnique (INP) of Grenoble and a state doctorate from Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD) in Dakar. In particular, he teaches energy and energy efficiency in the field of ZIE buildings.

Yves Jannot, a research engineer at the Laboratoire Énergies & Mécanique Théorique et Appliquée (LEMTA) of the University of Lorraine, a joint research unit of the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), holds a PhD from the Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine (INPL) and a Habilitation to Direct Research (HDR) of the University of Bordeaux. He has taught heat transfer and solar thermal energy in several engineering schools in France and Africa.

Noppol Korbmo is a researcher in ecology and evolutionary biology. He followed a university course up to doctorate level at the University of Montpellier. He also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Laboratory of Ecology, Systematics and Evolution (ESE), a joint research unit of the CNRS at the Université Paris-Sud. He is currently based in the laboratory of the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC), of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) of Thailand, where he works on evolutionary mechanisms at the origin of new species and their adaptation in tropical environments.

(1) Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. (2) Royal Institute of British Architects. (3) American Institute of Architecture.

Meet Our Designs

Backwater Ripples Kumarakom

Kumarakom village, set against Lake Vembanad's backdrop, is a year-round marvel in Kerala's backwaters. The Backwater Ripples Resort is situated on a compact plot along the lake's banks, featuring twenty-one cottages and twelve rooms. Each cottage is positioned in a staggered row to ensure a lake view, with bedrooms raised to mezzanine levels for enhanced views and privacy. The resort offers a variety of amenities for different types of vacations, all thoughtfully integrated into the site.

The cottages, showcasing various design styles, adhere to traditional Kerala architecture with

extensive use of timber, bricks, stone, and Mangalore tiles, blending naturally with the surroundings. Contemporary elements include the front office, conference rooms, a dining area with a bar, a lawn for gatherings, and a swimming pool that complements the lake. The clock tower, visible to all, serves as a landmark for boaters on the lake. This blend of traditional and contemporary design makes the resort both functional and visually harmonious with its environment.

[Learn More](#)







What's New?

BKA Design Unveils 'The Bird at Your Window': Coimbatore Villas Sell Out in 3 Days!

Our recently designed project, "The Bird at Your Window," a community villa development in Coimbatore, marks a significant milestone for us at Benny Kuriakose & Associates. This in collaboration with Merestone Properties and Vanaalya introduces a new standard of innovative design and sustainable living to the region. We are delighted to announce that all villas were sold out within just three days of the launch, underscoring the strong demand and appreciation for our vision. This achievement reaffirms our commitment to delivering exceptional living spaces that blend modern luxury with environmental responsibility.

[Know More](#)



VANAALAYA

where nature breathes

A sustainable and luxurious community, where you can enjoy ample open space and a tranquil environment

a Benny Kuriakose design



14 Individual Bungalows

Land Area 18-23 cents

1st of it's kind in Coimbatore

2 mins from Neelam Hospital, Neelam



IN 3 DAYS



VANAALAYA
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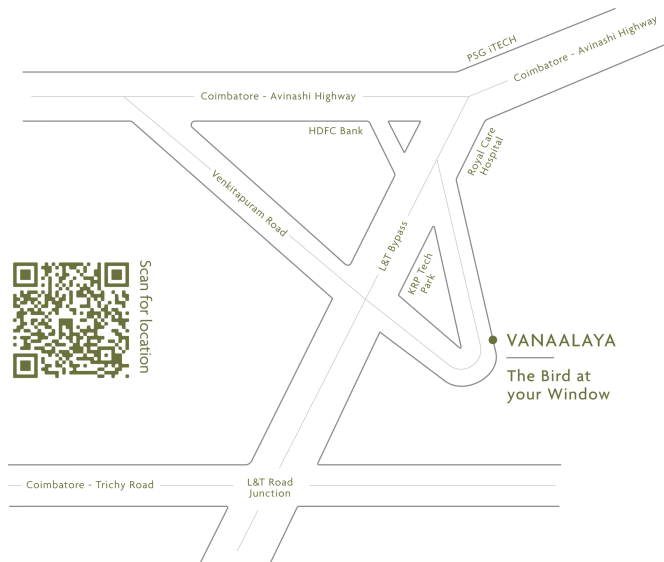
₹5.25 Crore

Launching this week!
21 - 23 June 2024 (7 am - 8 pm)

The Bird at Your Window by Vanaalaya
Meet us and experience a VR walkthrough at our site

₹5.05 Crore - launch offer
Booking Advance ₹ 5 LAKH only/-

- Land area : 18 to 23 cents
- Built up area : 6150 Sqft onwards
- 4 Bed room + 2 Living room onwards (customisable)
- Each villa is solar powered
- Gymnasium
- Children's play area
- Multi-purpose hall
- Swimming Pool
- Multi-purpose court



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Kulathur, Neelambur, Coimbatore (2 mins from Royal Care Hospital)
www.vanaalaya.in




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"Luxurious living fundamentally revolves around the concepts of "Shanti" (peace) and
"Ananda" (bliss or joy)"

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