

₹400.00 | ISSN 0975-0177

**58**  
2019

अट्टावन

DIGITAL  
VERSION  
ALSO AVAILABLE

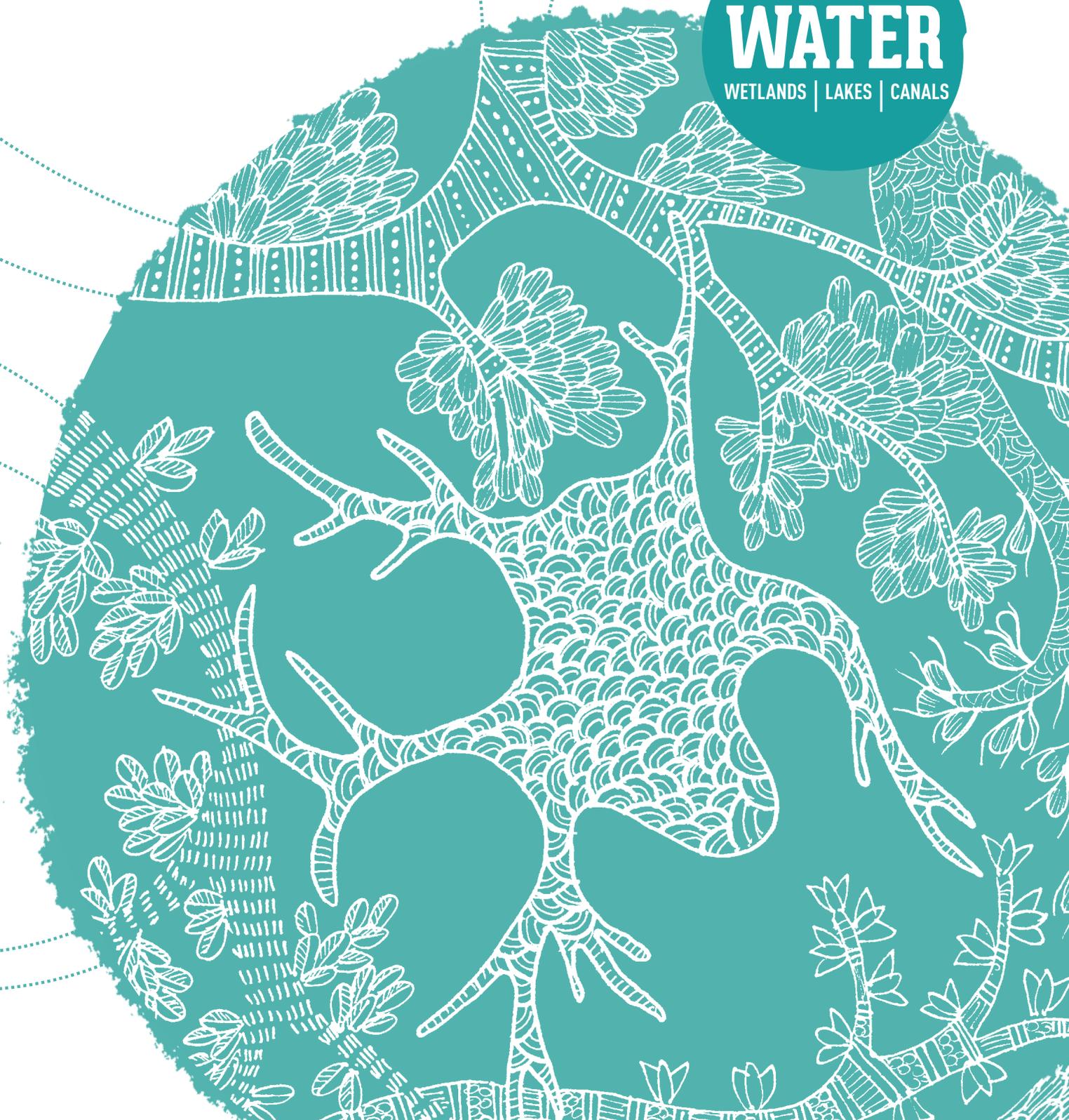
lejournal.in

# land scape

JOURNAL OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

**WATER**

WETLANDS | LAKES | CANALS



- report |
- 14 REIMAGINING LANDSCAPES  
IDENTITY | APPROACH | STEWARDSHIP**  
ISOLA 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, KOCHI, 2019  
*Rajesh George, Nupur Prothi Khanna and Nikhil Dhar*
- tribute |
- 18 REMEMBERING NIMISH**  
*Sohan Nilkanth*
- ecology & environment |
- 22 MAPPING A WASTE TREATMENT LANDSCAPE  
EAST KOLKATA WETLANDS**  
*Dhruba Das Gupta*
- 30 LAND & WATER  
UDAIPUR: THE CITY OF LAKES**  
*Rupal Rathore*
- 36 LAKES OF DELHI**  
*Intekhab Alam*
- competition |
- 43 AUROVILLE  
GARDEN OF THE UNEXPECTED**
- 51 EYES ON THE CANAL**  
BUCKINGHAM CANAL OPEN-IDEAS COMPETITION

- profile |
- 64 A SITE TO BEHOLD**  
*Sujata Kohli*
- conversation |
- 74 SUSTAINABLE DESIGNS, UNIQUE IDENTITIES  
IN CONVERSATION WITH SHYAM KHANDEKAR**
- 84 IMAGINING LANDSCAPES OF SOCIAL AND  
ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE**  
IN CONVERSATION WITH BRECK GASTINGER
- view from within |
- 92 THOSE OLD DAYS IN THESE NEW TIMES**  
*Geeta Wahi Dua*
- landscape design |
- 96 WEAVING CULTURE THROUGH THE LANDSCAPE**  
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES, MIHAN, NAGPUR  
*LSG Landscape Architecture and Green Space Alliance [GSA]*
- 100 VILLA 270°**  
HARNE, DAPOLI, MAHARASHTRA  
*Sparrow Landscape Initiative*
- seeing the unseen |
- 105 STORIES OF EVERYDAY, EVERYWHERE AND FOR EVERYONE**  
PULP

EDITORS Brijender S Dua Architect | New Delhi  
Geeta Wahi Dua Landscape Architect | New Delhi

ADVISORY EDITOR Adit Pal Landscape Architect | USA

ADVISORY BOARD Savita Punde Landscape Architect | Delhi NCR  
Rohit Marol Landscape Architect | Bengaluru

DESIGN M Shah Alam+grafiniti

ADMINISTRATION Avdhesh Kumar

PRINTING ADVISOR Atul Naahar Paramount Printographics



- book review |
- 110 LOOK WHAT WE FOUND WHEN WE PLANTED SEEDS  
OF CURIOSITY!**  
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES OF INDIA SERIES  
*Review by Malvika Bajaj Saini*



Sparrow Landscape Initiative

# VILLA 270°

HARNE, DAPOLI, MAHARASHTRA



RECIPIENT OF  
**2018 ISOLA COMMENDATION AWARD  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN LANDSCAPE DESIGN**



The Konkan region of Maharashtra is an extremely popular tourist destination for people from Mumbai, Pune and recently from other regions. At the same time it is a part of the Western ghats and hence ecologically sensitive. Site admeasuring 1.5 acres is on a hill top with bird's eye view of the surrounding rich natural landscape, historic fort of Suvarnadurg and an equally old fishing settlement of Harne. Brief given by client was to design landscape suitable for a weekend house.

The site is on the windward side of the hill and due to strong sea winds, uncontrolled grazing and mischief fires, was bare. On leeward side of site is a forest, leading down to mangroves in an estuary. Being at an elevation, the site is seen from all the popular tourist places for 3 kms along the coast. Considering this, it was decided between clients, architect and landscape architect that the built should merge with the landscape rather than stand out. Being ecologically rich and sensitive, the landscape was thought of to become an extension of the nearby forest.





**SITE PLAN**

**LEGEND**

1. Main Gate/ Vehicular Entry
2. Parking Shed
3. Sculpture
4. Stone Steps/ Pathway
5. Kitchen Garden
6. Fruit Trees
7. Proposed Infinity Pool  
*[not constructed due to water scarcity]*
8. House
9. Dense Native Plantation
10. Kund/ Seasonal Water Storage
11. Areca Nut/ Coconut Plantation
12. Seasonal Stream
13. Pedestrian Entry
14. Sitout
15. Rocky patch with plantation  
wherever possible

**FACING PAGE**

- ↖ TOP: Steep slope camouflaged by meandering steps and plantation
- ← LEFT: Site located in an ecologically-rich and historical region of Konkan, part of Western ghats





The mangroves in the estuary are in a healthy state and one can easily spot apex species like jackals, civet cats and raptors like White-bellied sea eagle, Marsh harrier and Honey buzzard in healthy numbers from and nearby the site. Other birds like Indian roller, Green bee-eater, Kingfisher, swallows and plenty of butterflies are common. During winters flocks of migratory birds are seen.

The landscape plan evolved after considering the local manmade character and the ecology of the region — randomness in planning on hill slopes, groves of coconut and Areca nut plantations, the use of local red laterite stone to name a few. Site has a steep slope of 1:5 with thin layer of lateritic soil, plenty of rocky outcrops, boulders and few existing clusters of native vegetation which had survived grazing due to their inherent characteristics.

↑↑ THIS PAGE [TOP LEFT & RIGHT]  
*Site when construction was started, mechanical excavator was not allowed for any work. Existing clusters of native vegetation and boulders seen were left undisturbed; plinth water tanks were constructed to take advantage of the steep slope. After four years, the live fence and trees have taken hold and the site has started to resemble and merge with the neighboring forest*



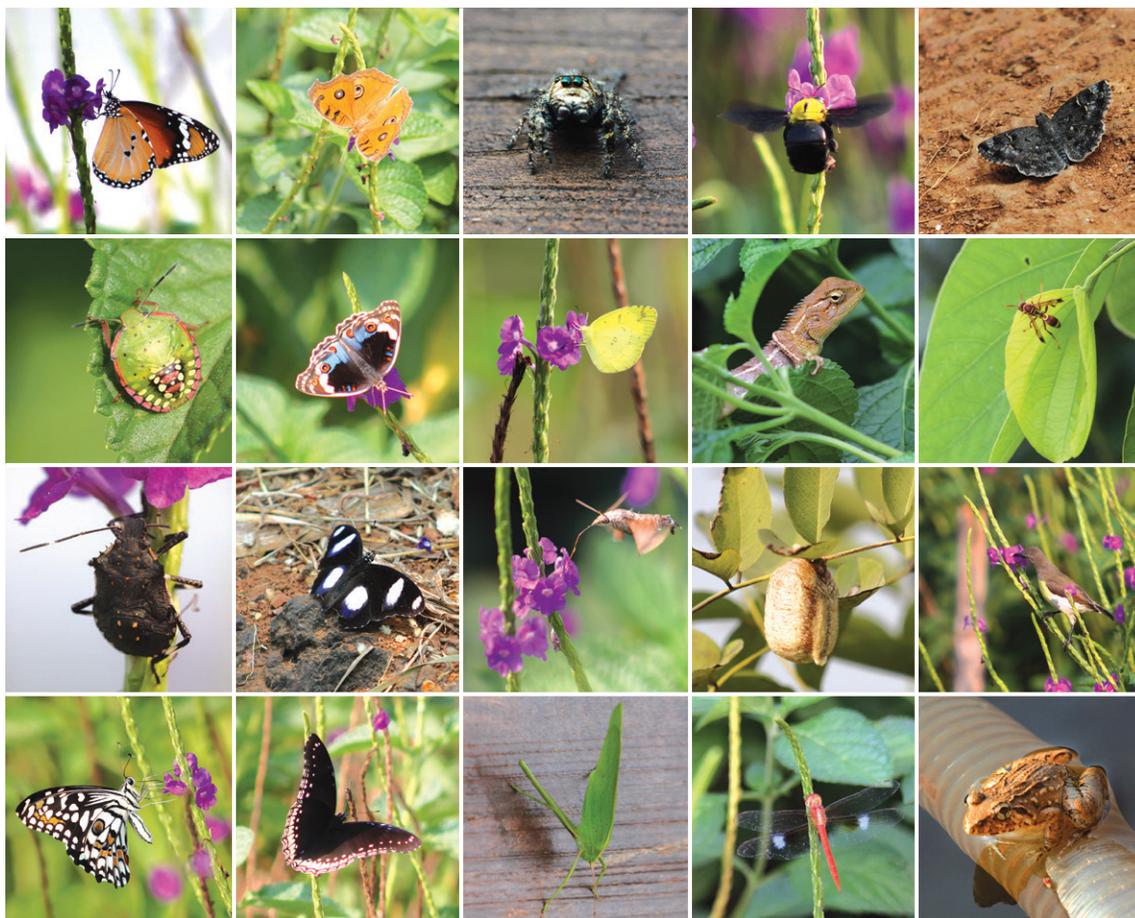
## FACING PAGE

↖ BELOW LEFT: *Native plants which succeeded on their own after the live fencing was done were protected and now they have formed islands of mixed vegetation. These clusters are seed banks of new native plants.*

↖ BELOW RIGHT: *The design tries to capture views of the majestic Arabian Sea at different locations, creating a variety of moods*

↑ THIS PAGE  
*Kitchen garden accessible from the villa verandah*

The northern slope of the site, on the estuary side, faces *Anjarle* village, which has plenty of coconut plantation, and is also fairly protected from the winds. Hence coconut and Areca nut plantation were planned here, such as to establish a visual connection with the coconut groves in the distance. All the boulders were left undisturbed; slope of 1:5 has been preserved. The pathways in local laterite stone were planned randomly, considering the existing gradient. Cement was used only for the riser joints, the landing joints are done in mud. All construction work was done manually with no mechanical excavator allowed on site. In spite of high rainfall the region is water scarce hence plinth tanks were constructed taking advantage of the existing slope. All waste water is treated using modified septic tank. The site had to visually continue being a part of the landscape rather than stand out, so a live fence



was planned in place of a compound wall. The existing vegetation clusters along with the grasses, flourished after the live fencing was done. This has helped in stopping soil erosion and improving the soil texture. The vegetation clusters have become islands of mixed vegetation attracting many birds and insects. Bamboo was planted in front of new native tree saplings along windward side to give protection from wind; few easily available, grown up nursery plants, which are non invasive, were planted to expedite the process of establishing an ecosystem.

The landscape was designed with the aim to restore the site which is a hill slope, initially to a wilderness and eventually to a forest and hence is more experiential than articulate. Ecology has been given preference while designing as it is a fragile region. The project has made a contribution to the local biodiversity, thus becoming a part of the bigger natural landscape.

↑ *Post-project completion, there has been a substantial increase in the variety and numbers of faunal species on the site*

PROJECT	<b>Villa 270°</b>
LOCATION	<b>Harne, Dapoli</b>
SITE AREA	<b>1.5 Acres</b>
CLIENT	<b>Varma Family</b>
PROJECT ARCHITECTS	<b>Bharat Baheti, Gabha Architects</b> [Principal Architect] <b>Ketan Kurwalkar, Groundesigns</b>
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT	<b>Sonali Dahotre,</b> <b>Sparrow Landscape Initiative</b>
LANDSCAPE CIVIL WORK	<b>Kadam Contractors</b>
LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURE	<b>Arvind Ghojage, Ghojage Enterprises</b>
PROJECT DURATION	<b>2013-2017</b>

Text, drawing and images courtesy Sonali Dahotre

