





to create a society which is environmentally sensitive,
economically sensible and socially secure

Inspired by the work and philosophy of Laurie Baker
the organisation was started in 1987
by a group of architects, engineers, artists and craftspersons



To bring about change through experiments which
consolidate modern thinking and technology with
traditional concepts of living and working.

to nurture the creativity of each individual, and encourage them to play the role that they are good at

to work in small decentralized groups



the strength of our organization lies in positive group dynamics



We believe...

- ... every context needs a distinct response
- ... must be approached with collective knowledge and experience
- ...Sincerity of intention rises above all other convictions.



r e s i d e n t i a l



r e s i d e n t i a l



educational





i n s t i t u t i o n a l

- The city- a monoculture of boxy towers in concrete and glass
- Real estate - a tradable commodity, housing remains a problem
- Poor quality of life in the city, despite “better life” being promoted.
- Shortage of resources like water and power
- The idea of “green” , conveniently packaged into consumable units





The Challenges of Sustainable development in a market economy

- Developing an idea that will have a “user “ market.
- Balancing the costs of building sustainably and the cost of land, with the market price.
 - Managing permissions, venture funds and revenue records.

GoodEarth Hamlet

- Our first Group housing project in Cochin
- 17 homes in three quarters of an acre
- Explored a new typology in group housing





Our Developments in Bangalore

- Located in Kengeri, on the Bangalore – Mysore Road
 - Optimal costs of land- make the homes affordable
- Area is well connected and essential services are available.



Our Developments in Bangalore

- Ground water is available
- Land is well drained through traditional water channels, which we have used.
 - Large land holdings, better quality of development





Sustainability as a concept is integrated into the design.



The Numbers

- FAR not used to arrive at the built up area
- 8 to 20 families per acre is an optimum number for community living.
- Based on the carrying capacity of natural resources





Low rise- high density

- Built at a scale which is human
- People can interact with the land
- 60% open space achieved





Response to the land

- The planning follows the natural lay of the land
- The existing natural features are enhanced by the design
- There is an attempt to increase awareness of the environment, the plant and insect habitat.



Hierarchy of spaces



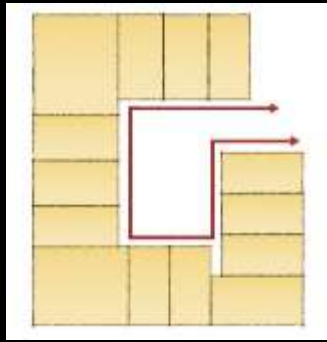
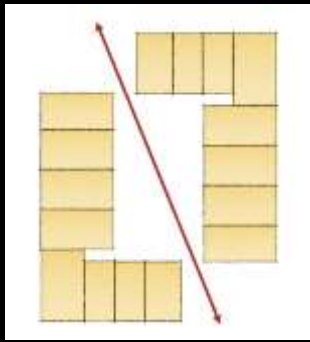
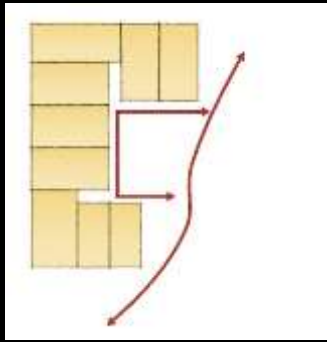


Community spaces are given a priority



Designed for the pedestrian





Cluster Planning





Streets and corners





The Plot Patterns

- Common walls
- Front and rear open space
- Designed for privacy
- Adequate light and ventilation



A Variety of House-types



Multiple Verandahs





The Homes



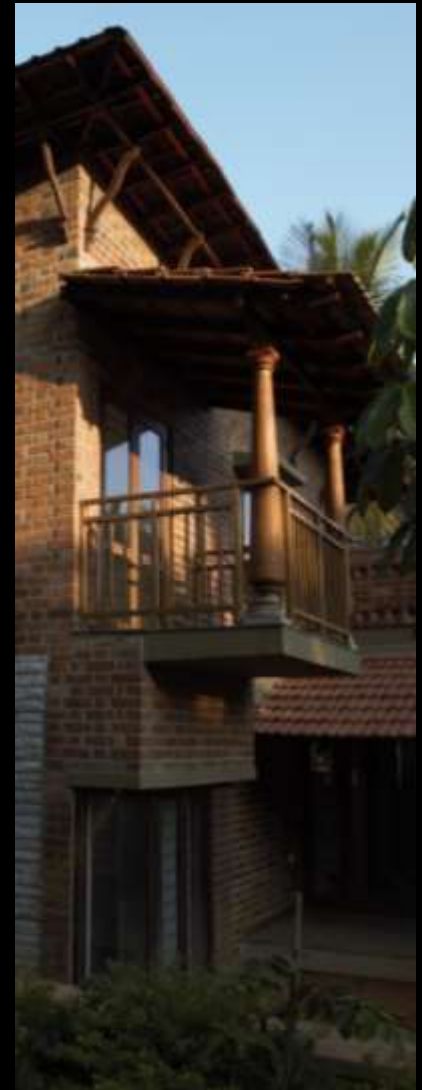


The spaces within





Vertical
connections

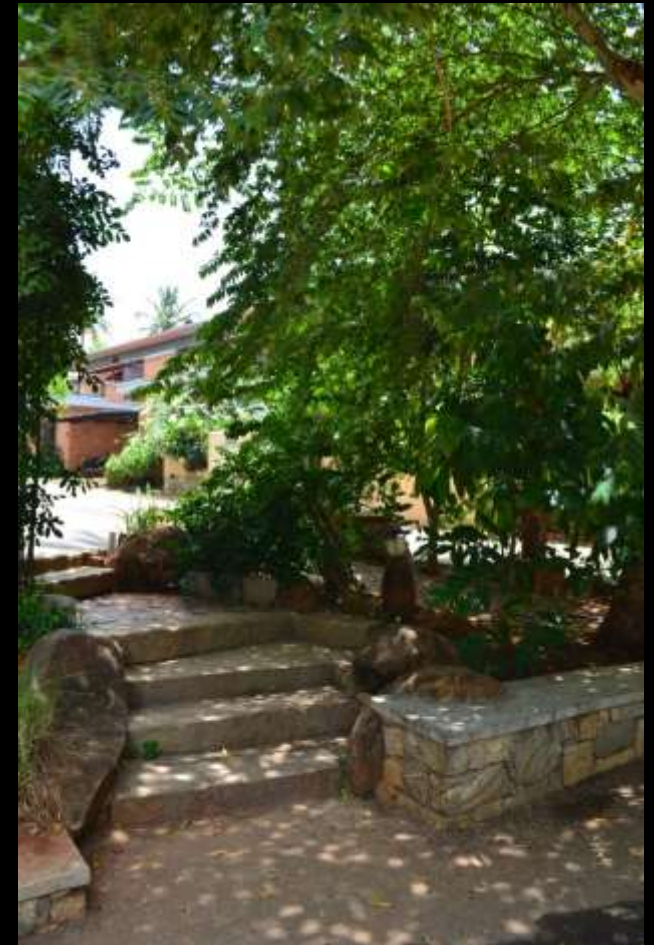


The Landscape





The Landscape





The Landscape



Water and Waste Management

- Rainwater is collected from the rooftops and stored in the sump
- The size of the tank is optimized and reduces the dependency on sources like bore-wells and municipal water.
- Water efficient and low flow fixtures are used.
- Sewage is treated through a DEWATS system, which is not dependent on electricity or chemicals.
- The treated water is recycled through dual plumbing, to the flushes in the homes and excess used for irrigation



Design for Passive Solar



Materials and Techniques

- Selected based on economic, environmental, practical and structural considerations.
- Materials low in embodied energy used
- Focus on human resource over material.
- Decision to use a collaborative process
- Use of Steel and cement reduced and replaced by Mud, stone and Timber.





Materials and Techniques



Aesthetics and Craft





Aesthetics and Craft





The Challenges...

- Availability of land with clear documentation
- Funding for small ventures
- Planning Authority not open to new concepts
- Availability of skilled labour



www.goodearth.org.in