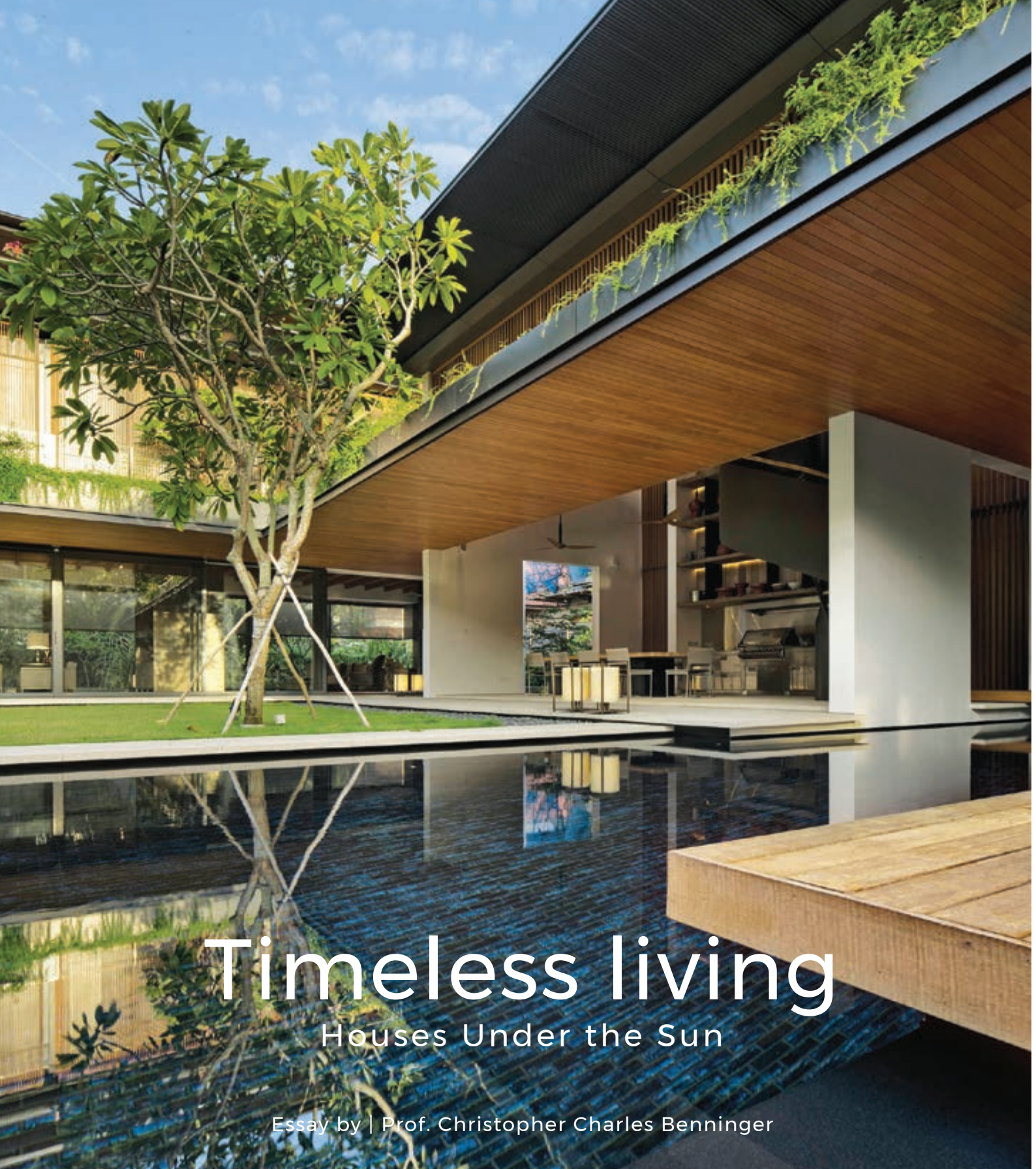




Timeless living

Houses Under the Sun

Essay by | Prof. Christopher Charles Benninger

A Conversation with Shefali Balwani/Robert Verrijt & Medha Sobti.

SHEFALI BALWANI/ ROBERT VERRIJT MUMBAI **ARCHITECTURE BRIO**



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MS: How was the experience of designing in the forest hills?

SB|RV: The nature is a “giving” source. It is always a pleasure working on the hills as the setting is itself highlighted with its presence. We have provided the architectural elements of the house as abstractly reminiscent of tree branches that droop, giving Nature opportunities to peek through with a constantly animated shadow play of hide and seek.

MS: Who is your inspiration?

SB|RV: Any work that seeks to explore the possibilities of creativity and delves into the depth of architecture inspires us. We do not restrict ourselves to certain works or ideologies; our design should flow with the requirements of the client and we should look forward to achieve more.

MS: How do you define your designing style?

SB|RV: Each project is seen as a challenge and an opportunity to uncover the unique characteristics of these specific conditions, investigating which intervention has a potential for positive change and impact in the way we deal with our natural and built world. Simultaneously, we believe that architecture should remain a backdrop to life, rather than taking centre stage. In order for Architecture to have a long lasting sensory impact, it needs to evoke the urge to be discovered.

MS: How has your design “coexisted with nature”?

SB|RV: Elements and textures as parts of the structure are focused on coexistence. The monochrome colour scheme of the space along with an eclectic mix of partly restored and partly custom designed furniture pieces give the interior a bohemian vibe. The restraint in the colour palette highlights the surrounding greenery.

MS: The seamless harmony of built spaces and nature plays a vital role in design. What is your take on it?

SB|RV: The Tree Villa was conceived as a celebration of this landscape by creating a series of blurred transitional spaces with different levels of transparency and openness within this forested tropical setting.





FACT FILE

PROJECT TITLE
TREE VILLA AT FOREST HILLS

LOCATION OF PROJECT
TALA, MAHARASHTRA

BUILT UP AREA
225 SQ.M.

ARCHITECTURE FIRM
ARCHITECTURE BRIO

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT
SHEFALI BALWANI
ROBERT VERRIJT

DESIGN TEAM
ROBERT VERRIJT
SHEFALI BALWANI
KHUSHBOO ASRANI

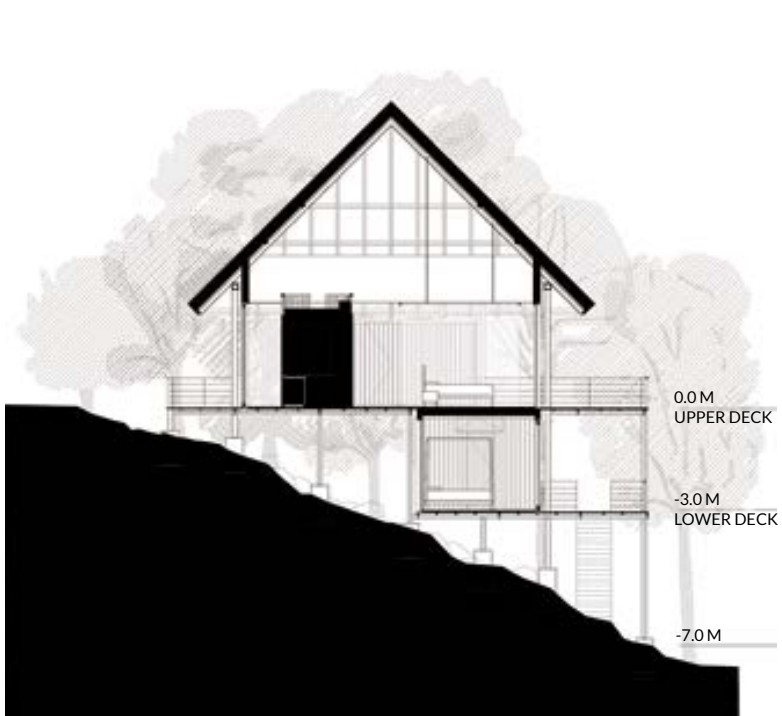
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS
NOT SPECIFIED

CIVIL CONTRACTOR
NOT SPECIFIED

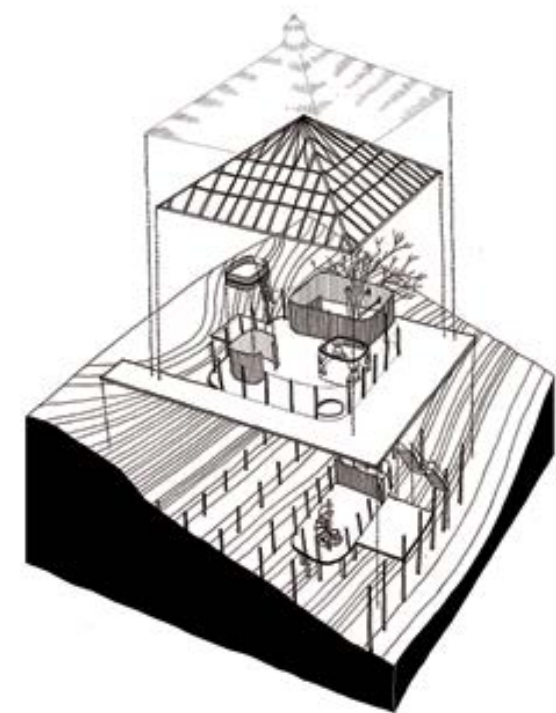
LANDSCAPE CONSULTANT
ARCHITECTURE BRIO

PHOTO CREDITS
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YEAR OF COMPLETION
2017



SECTION A-A



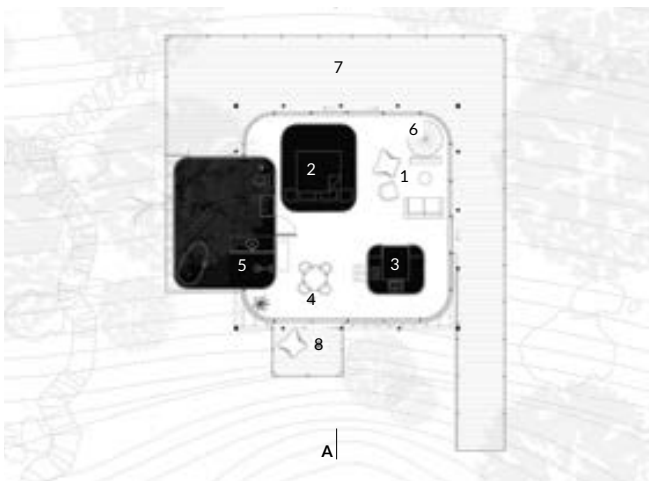
EXPLODED DIAGRAM



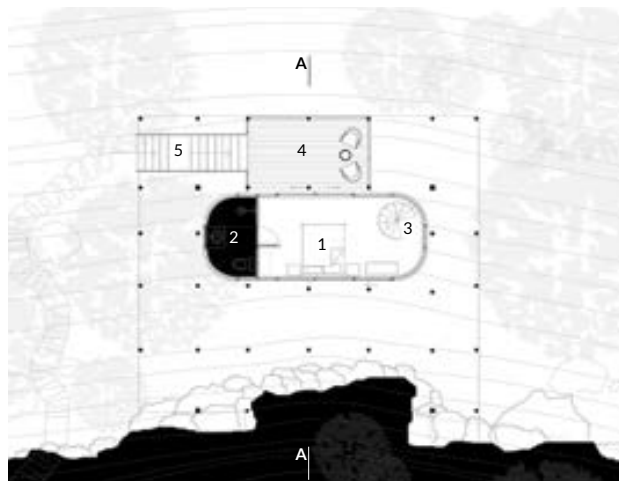


RIGHT | THE TREE VILLA IS CONCEIVED AS A CELEBRATION OF THIS LANDSCAPE BY CREATING A SERIES OF BLURRED TRANSITIONAL SPACES WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF TRANSPARENCY AND OPENNESS WITHIN THIS FORESTED TROPICAL SETTING.

OPPOSITE LEFT | SECTION DETAILS & EXPLODED DIAGRAM



UPPER LEVEL PLAN



LOWER LEVEL PLAN

LEGEND

LOWER LEVEL PLAN

1. BEDROOM
2. GLASS BATHROOM
3. SPIRAL STAIRCASE
4. DECK
5. OUTDOOR STAIRCASE

UPPER LEVEL PLAN

1. LIVING AREA
2. BEDROOM
3. PANTRY
4. DINING AREA
5. OUTDOOR BATHROOM
6. SPIRAL STAIRCASE
7. DECK
8. GALLERY

LEFT ABOVE| LEVEL PLANS

LEFT BELOW| MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS

OPPOSITE RIGHT ABOVE | THE VILLA PERCHES ON THE CLIFF OF A 160 ACRE HILLTOP 'TREESORT' PROPERTY SURROUNDED BY A MEANDERING RIVER LANDSCAPE.

OPPOSITE RIGHT BELOW | THE DESIGN TAKES INTO THE EXISTING TREES, FORMED IN A SUCH A MANNER THAT THE TREES PIERCE OUT OF THE STRUCTURE.





RIGHT | A SPIRAL STAIRCASE CONNECTS TO A SECRET LOWER LEVEL THAT IS SUSPENDED BELOW THE TREE VILLA.

OPPOSITE LEFT ABOVE | A CURTAINED BED ENCLOSURE ACT AS ANCHORS AND DEFINE INTERSTITIAL ZONES SUCH AS THE BREAKFAST ROOM AND THE LOUNGE.

OPPOSITE LEFT BELOW | THE DINING AREA AND BATHROOM FORMING A CONNECTION WITH THE OUTDOORS.





LEFT ABOVE | THE ENCLOSURE OF THE SEMI-OUTDOOR BATHROOM ENCLOSES AN OUTDOOR COURTYARD BUT ALSO PROTRUDES INTO THE GLAZED INTERIOR SPACE.



LEFT BELOW | A FREE STANDING BATH TUB AND THE INDOOR-OUTDOOR FEEL OF THE SPACE WITH THE BRANCHES COMING IN, MAKE IT AN IDEAL RELAXED SETTING.

OPPOSITE RIGHT ABOVE | VIEW SHOWING THE LIVING AREA AND THE STAIRCASE, WITH THE MEANDERING VIEW OF THE NATURE.

OPPOSITE RIGHT BELOW | THE BEDROOM SPACE OVERLOOKING THE UPPER DECK, FORMING A SEAMLESS CONNECTION THE GREENS.

