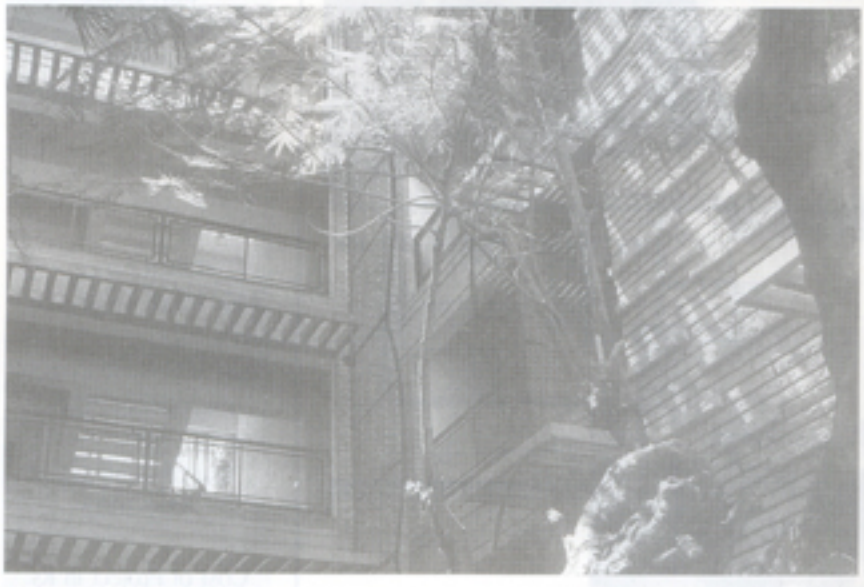
THE GOOD EARTH

COMMENDATION AWARD FOR GROUP HOUSING

Ar. Kamal SAGAR



View of the fore court

The Good Earth is a residential building with 24 apartments, a gym and a swimming pool situated in a quiet neighbourhood in Bangalore. The project is planned as two wings with three apartment on each floor. The connecting corridor is perpendicular to the poolforecourt axis. The internal spaces are large and free flowing, with an open living, dining and kitchen in a progression of public and private spaces, culminating in the terrace garden.

The project has many textures to it, springing from the use of exposed wirecut brick and dressed stone butchwork. The exposed, from finished concrete pergolas and beams, glass chajjas and terrace gardens add a smother contrast. The façade is further embellished with Rubberwood windows; chain mesh creeper and the Ipomea creepers seek to add to the tactility of the overall project. Internally, these textures are muted to provide serenity. All these give an insight to materials integrating to make elements that make spaces.

The mass of the two wings is scaled down by the offsets in the plan, the alternating terrace garden projections, creeper panels and the pergolas, acting as chajjas. The two blocks are intersected by the axis stemming from the entrance forecourt to the landscape pool area. This intersection is seen as a lobby corridor with a railing on one side.

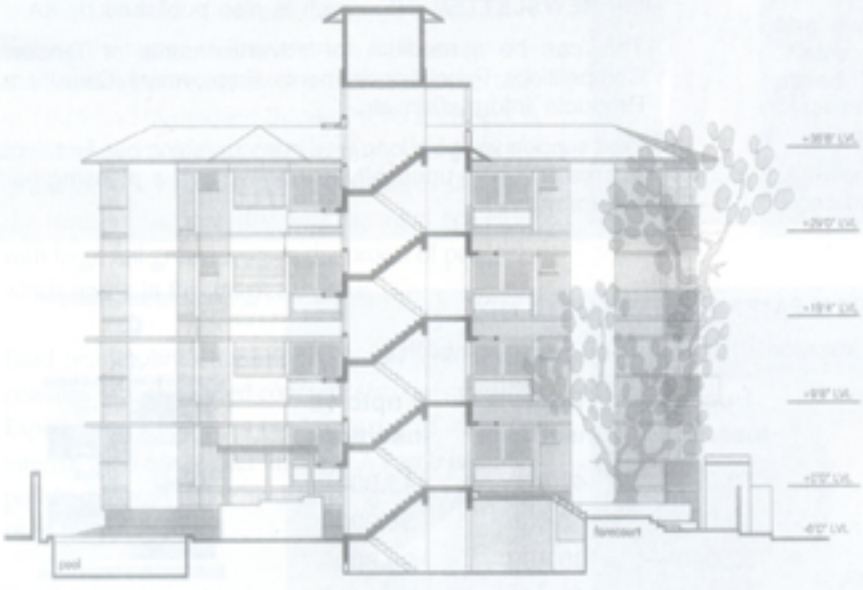
The building has a strong vertical and horizontal expression seen in the striations, grooves and projections in the exposed brick and stone courses. The offsets in the building plan and the pergolas reinforce the rectilinear theme. The strong linearity is softened by the curves of the creeper panels and the landscaping. Internally, the furniture and woodwork exhibit these traits as lines and slats.

The corners of the building are accentuated by the terrace gardens protruding in perpendicular directions, obscuring the actual line of the edge but emphasising the overall corner. This interlacing highlights the horizontal lines of various courses of masonry, making the building more rectilinear. Interlacing can be seen at a smaller scale in the area beneath the sill level of corner windows using alternating brick courses.

Landscaping is a common thread running from the entrance as a forecourt upon the living room of each apartment as a terrace garden. The paved forecourt is stepped with the wide spreading Gulmohar tree forming a focal point. The court forms a visual axis with the swimming pool which is surrounded by greenery. The terrace garden provides ingress of natural light and ventilation into the apartment, making the offwhite walls stand out in quiet dignity, as does the whole building.

Architect of the Year Awards 2002

View of the security cabin



Section A-A through the swimming pool and fore court

B.Arch, Indian Institute of Technology, IIT, Kharagpur. Graduated in 1992

Worked with Samuel Halley Architects, Lexington, Kentucky, USA. Founded Shibanee and Kamal Architects and Total Environment Building System, now jointly partnered by Shibanee Sagar

Designed and built over 12 projects, mainly in Bangalore, in the residential and corporate sector. Currently, undertaking several residential and corporate projects including a master planned development

4 A+D Spectrum awards won this year in 3 categories
The Habitat award for apartment planning
The Institute Architecture Award
The Young Enthused Architect Award

Environment friendly spaces with an emphasis on using materials in their native forms while providing large, naturally well lit and ventilated interiors.

Customisation of spaces to suit user needs

Careful choice of materials to ensure high quality finishing and durability

Total environment building systems to implement and develop well designed buildings in totally with interiors, landscape and maintenance

PROJECT INFORMATION

Architect
Kamal Sagar

Project
The Good Earth

Location
Artillery Road,
Bangalore

Client Name
Total Environment

Year of Commencement
February 2000

Year of Completion
September 2001

Cost of Project in Rs.
3.5 crores

Associated Architect[s]
Shibanee Sagar,
Mohit S.
Vishal Charles

Structural Engineer/
Civil Design Engineer
S.K. Sagar
Ashok H.D.
Malay K.M.

Contractor[s] /
Builder[s]
Total Enviroment

Landscape by
Master Plan