



# Kodagu Valley Resort at Coorg

↑ Indigenous building techniques and styles are successfully adapted for an authentic yet contemporary feel. The water body at the reception strewn with rose petals offers a traditional welcome to the guests.

"Taking cues from the indigenous Kodava culture the Kodagu Valley resort allows nature to penetrate through the building."



Ar. Rahul Kadri

Ar. Rahul Kadri, Principal Architect, I.M. Kadri Architects, spent his formative years amidst lush landscapes exploring the forests of the Kumaon Himalayas while studying at Sherwood College, Nainital. This early relationship with nature infused within him with a deep passion to create buildings & spaces, which are in harmony with its natural context.





**T**he Kodagu Valley Resort at Coorg is the result of a design competition between six architectural firms. I.M Kadri Architects won the contest and decided to look locally for inspiration.

The resort has been planned along the edge of the Cardamom Valley, strategically positioned so as to save every single tree on the site.

Amidst the mystical rainforest, the lush tropical valley below and the terraced paddy fields beyond, the building rose from the site naturally, as though it had always existed.

**"Ample shade provided by trees, large openings, and courtyards that allow free cross ventilation create a cool comfortable environment without any air -conditioning"**



← The resort is built on the traditional Kodavas (the name for the local ethnic community) home architectural style called – ayn mane. The sloping red tiled roofs open to the sky, pond at the entrance, the inclusion of deep hued wood and traditional artefacts like the woven deck chair with long arms, the traditional chest - are modern interpretations of the Ayn Mane style.

"Living in a forest" was the key inspiration for the design of the resort. To avoid unnecessary felling of trees the structures were planned around them. So in many instances we see the trees penetrating right through the building !

Inspired by the local "Aynamane" homes the resort buildings are carefully designed after a lot of research on Coorg's culture and traditions. A unique rain water harvesting style indigenous to the local Kodava people, where four inner slopes allow rainwater to collect in a base pool, forms the central feature of the entrance lobby. The interiors have been adorned with design elements such as traditional carving on columns, woodwork, railings and artwork created with local fabrics.

The resident units have lovely sit-out areas. Well-designed rooms allow natural light and a regular breeze to flood in.

**"Nestled within a lush valley, the multiple levels of the resort meld with the natural slope of the land to create a sense of "living in a forest"**



"The connection of the resort to nature and tradition is completely unique. Set in a real coffee plantation, a plethora of colours and vibrant sounds of local fauna, the resort blends into its surroundings"





The resort has three restaurants with breathtaking hill views. The simple palette of earthen tiles, wood and grey stone lets one know that this resort could only belong to this untouched locale.

The entrance to the spa is through an old traditional doorway and past soft water fountains that invite you to a wood-crafted floating pavilion. This reception pavilion has been built of natural materials with delicate detailing in wood and stone by Kerala artisans.



#### Fact File :

Name of the Project	: Kodagu Valley Resort
Location	: Kodagu district, Coorg, Karnataka
Client	: Club Mahindra
Area	: 2,15,000 Sqft
Number of Rooms	: 184
Cost	: Rs. 45 crore
Status	: Completed
Year of Completion	: 2010

The swimming pool is organic in its form so as to preserve the foliage and maintain the flow between the existing trees. The result is that the pool mimics the feeling of being in a natural forest pond.

Photographs : Courtesy I.M. Kadri Architects  
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