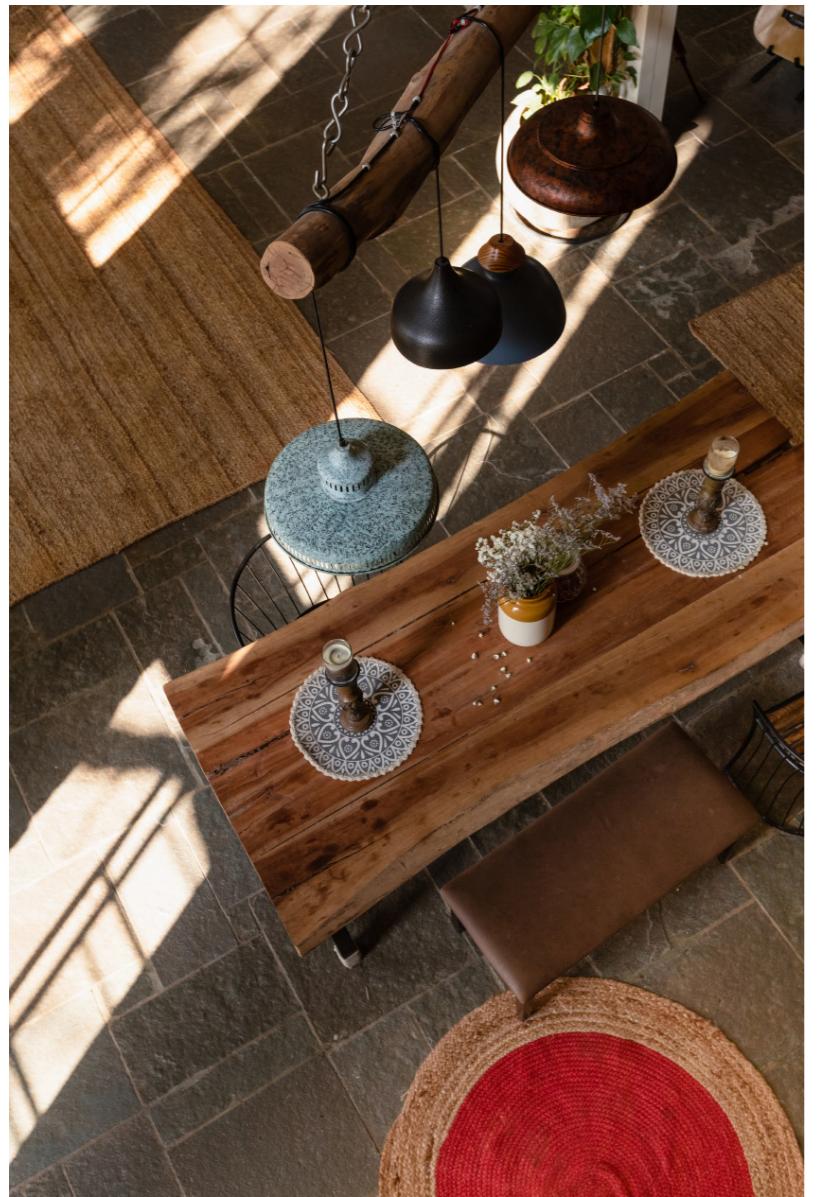


# M PAPERS

## IN RETROSPECT



PROJECTS | OUTREACH | AWARDS



The granite's heterogeneous lay also provides stimulus within an otherwise clean aesthetic. The dusky stone further complements the neutral palette chosen for the project.

The calm tones of white, beige, and brown used for the walls, windows, and woodwork act like a quiet canvas for splashes of vibrant crimson and blue, which bring playfulness and mischief into the space.

The reclaimed woodwork sourced from various secondhand yards for the project is a gesture to advocate sustainability and bring character to the interiors. These reclaimed pieces have made many memories along their journey- all visible with every incise and indentation- narrating their stories in new environments. Each piece exudes its unique identity- some old, some ornate, and some rustic. Each composition of wood against a variation of floor and wall finishes and patterns creates a distinctive symphony.



2022-2023 ISSUE 9



## THE BRICK LOFT



Area : 5500sqft  
Location : Harlur, Bangalore  
Status : Completed

As the name suggests, the Brick Loft's mesmerizing spaces are encapsulated by its robust brick walls juxtaposed against large punctures of windows that allow abundant light into the space. The double-height space and clerestories dramatize this receipt of natural light, fostering a dance of light and shadow in the space. The colossal windows also extend views to the foliage outdoors.

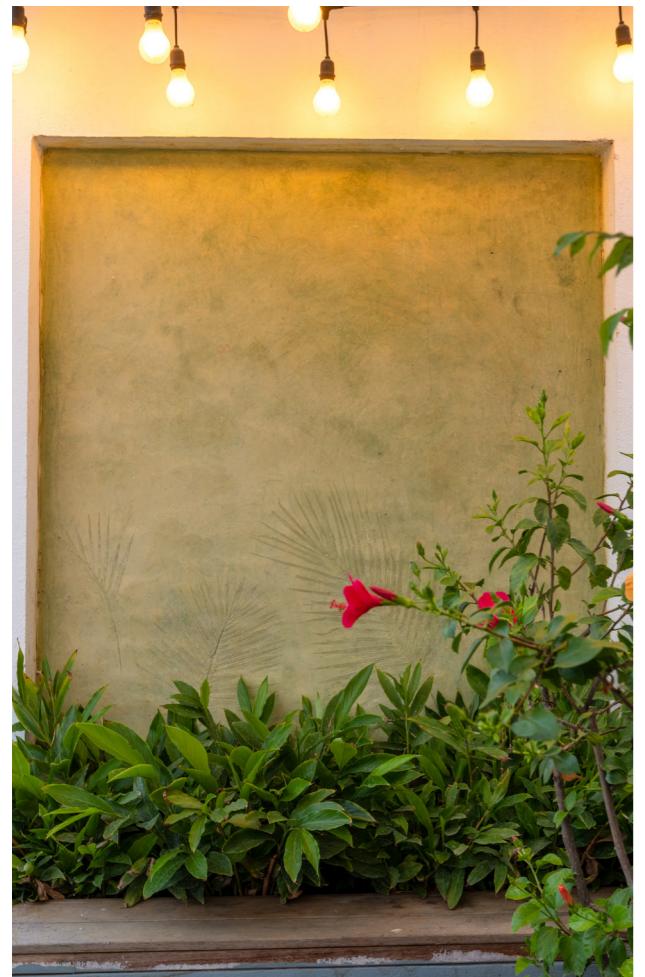
The project design needed to accommodate both our client and her furry, cuddly clientele. To create an inclusive space, a granite stone floor was chosen to showcase consideration for the paws of its four-legged companions.



With minimal civil works intervention, the furniture and interior styling chosen complimented the architectural spaces designed to enhance the project's functionality.

The back verandah was retrofitted with a bamboo pergola, which transforms the space with a mesmerizing play of light that seeps through the gaps. The materials' charm is leveraged as they reflect the rays into the room.

To add a personal touch, we used Tadelakt, a waterproof plaster surface used in Moroccan architecture, to accentuate the terrace's features. Hand-done by our team at Masons Ink, the wall represents the firm and the client's vision.



2022-2023 ISSUE 9



# ESMERALDA

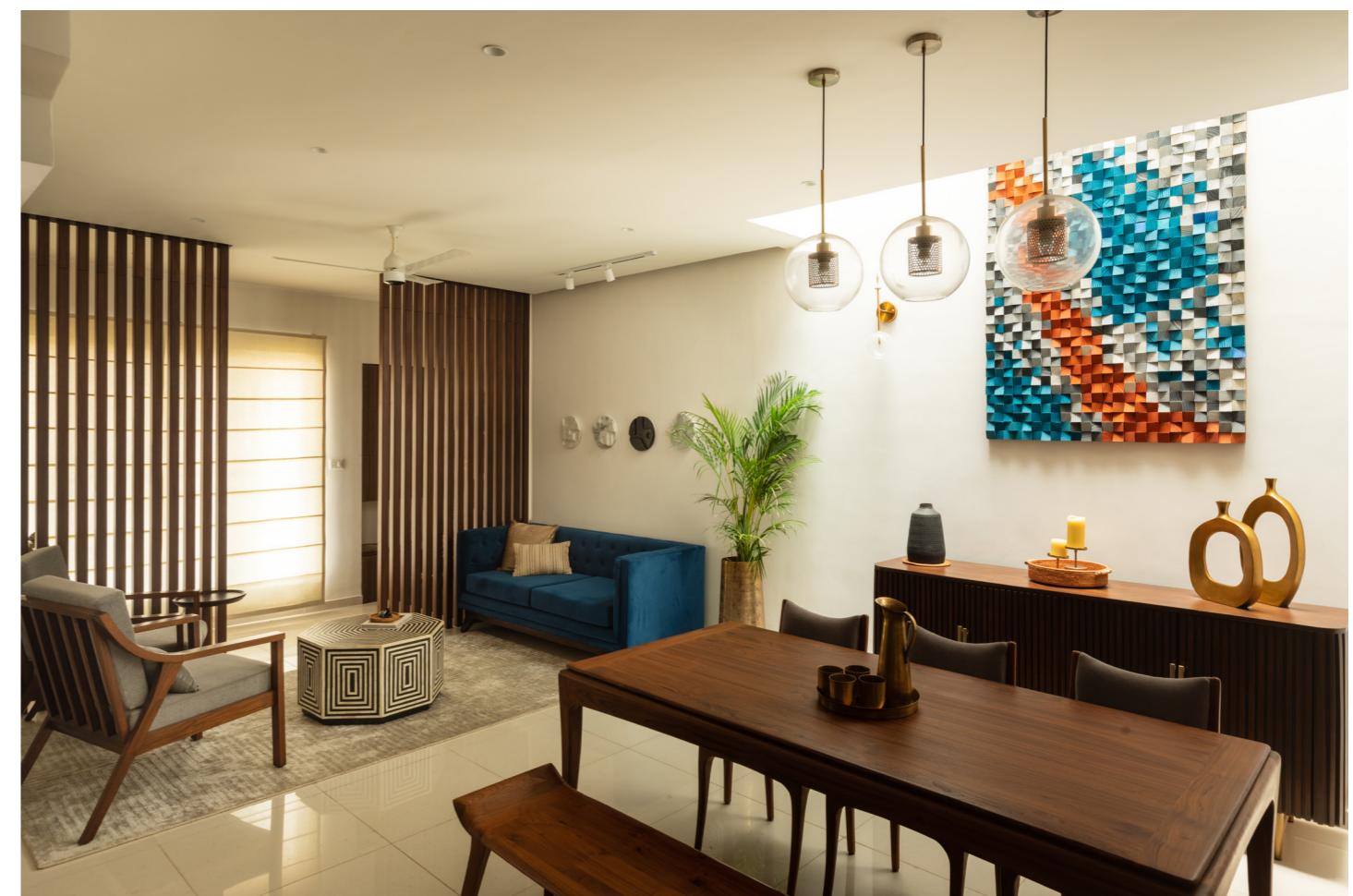
Area:

Location: Sarjapur

Status: Completed

For the client, who loves to travel, the first glance into this four-bedroom residence needed to be enough to understand the themes that Esmeralda weaves, where each room narrates the individual's story.

On one side, an overarching palette of bold orange, blue, and grey hues with subtle hints of earthy undertones ties the visuals of the whole project together. On the other hand, the duality of polished, sleek wooden finishes projects a clean look and the cosy atmosphere created by the interlaced cane and soft fabrics.



The work put in has now been translated into Cheerville. As we approach the site, our eyes are drawn towards the two domes connected by a bamboo wall. These domes are constructed using earthbags and then adopt the Rajasthani style of Thappi plastering to get a watertight finish.

The site also utilizes other techniques, such as the enclosed power supply unit using Wattle & Daub construction and a cement-free water tank plastered with lime that can hold up to 16,000 litres.

A project dear to the client's heart and everyone here at Masons Ink, this collaboration progresses our mission statement of using architecture for environmental sustainability and its social counterpart.



2022-2023 ISSUE 9

# M PAPERS

# CHEERVILLE



Area: 1043 sq. m

Location: Bagalur, Karnataka

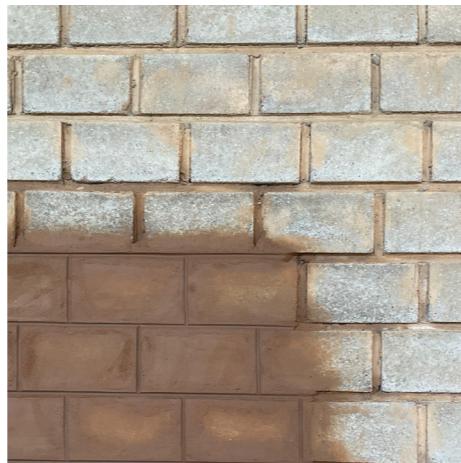
Status: on-going

The patriarchal system has resulted in decades of gender inequality and a significant increase in the pay gap, and the construction industry is no exception. While men receive training, respect, and fair pay for their skills, women are often relegated to unskilled, low-paying positions that are characterized by insecurity and subordination.

In response to this disparity, the client, in collaboration with Masons Ink, initiated an on-site program. This initiative involves regular training sessions conducted by professional instructors in mud construction and natural, sustainable techniques. It empowers a team of twelve women to challenge traditional gender stereotypes while developing their sense of identity.

The flooring varies from leather kota to mud to perforated brick finish. This range gives each space its unique experience as you walk through it.

The introduction of fluted glass, be it as inserts in the Mangalore-tile roof or along bar counters, imparts a feeling of visual play. The minimal use of metal blacks and concrete greys conveys the subtle contrasting element.



The walls of the house tie the whole design together; the CSEB bricks are hand-made with mud from the site. As one glides their hands over them, their raw form evokes how the natural element of the site is incorporated into the structure in every possible sense.

2022-2023 ISSUE 9



# GRASSROOTS

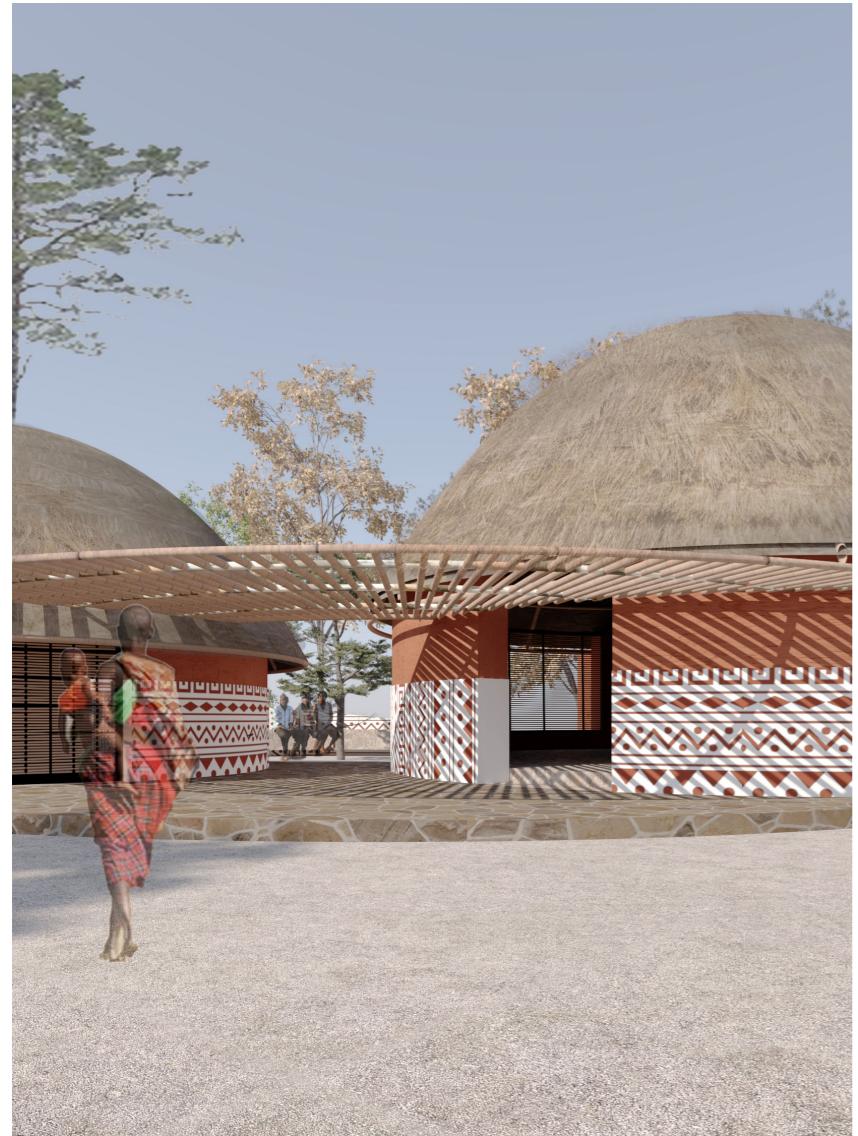
Site Area: 957 sq. m  
Built-up: 450 sq. m  
Location: Erudukotta, Tamil Nadu  
Status: On-going

A short trek from a nearby lake through the mango orchards leads us to the site. The highest point on the property was chosen to capture the perfect blend of rural and wild landscapes. With the backdrop set, the design followed suit.

As you step in, the sun peers through the roof while the gentle breeze travels across, resonating with the feeling of being under a tree. Further driving the theme of rustic architecture, the materials were chosen from an aesthetic point of view and the tactile feel of nature.



One is welcomed through a series of antique wooden columns with intricate carvings, the distressed large windows and doors holding onto its memories of the past. The timber used throughout the house is polished to maintain its texture.



### Legend

- 1 Classrooms
- 2 Kitchen and Dining
- 3 Entrance & Material Library
- 4 Classroom
- 5 Residential Unit
- 6 Communal Insaka
- 7 Amphitheatre

Modular and repetitive units aid in easy skilling and phased project construction. The incremental growth purposefully facilitates various stakeholders' participation and ensures the project's success.

The soulful entrance to the Community Centre is woven from bamboo by skilful hands. Its colourful patterns symbolize stories, folklore, and other intangibles made tangible for every passerby.

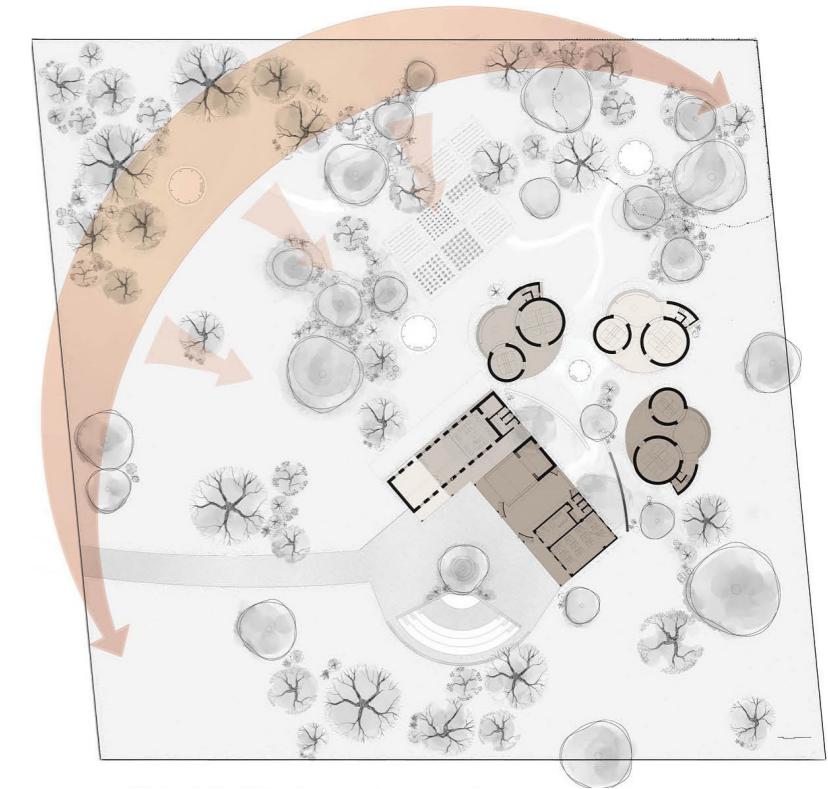
2022-2023 ISSUE 9



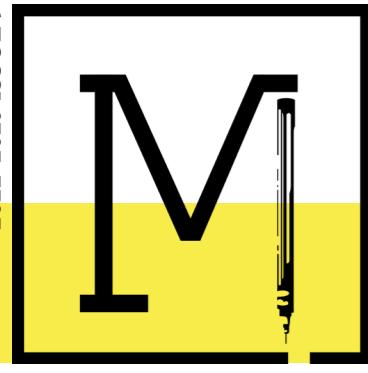
# REFUGEE CENTRE

Site Area: 3.5 acres  
Built-up: 450 sq. m  
Location: Mayukwayukwa, Zambia  
Status: Top 60 finalists

The competition, held by arch storming in collaboration with UNHCR and the Zambian Government, called for proposals to design a new Sustainable Development Center in Mayukwayukwa, the oldest refugee settlement in Africa. Our submission focused on local and sustainable materials with easy-to-build construction techniques that could be replicated by the refugees when building their own houses. The following design was shortlisted as a finalist under the top 60 entries.



Drawing strongly from the vernacular; the design is inspired by traditional homesteads, rice granaries, and communal Insakas. It celebrates the existing skills of the community, empowering them with technique and innovation. The built takes on both linear and organic forms, showcasing both pitched and flat roofs. While the pitched double roof helps in reducing heat gain, flat slabs of precast ferro-cement channels demonstrate vertical incrementation options. These building technologies supported by efficient energy and water management systems allow people to design their future homes as per their budget and need.



PAPERS

MAY

**Wade Asia Awards**

India Young Emerging Architects  
Educational Building  
Public Building  
Most Sustainable design

AUG

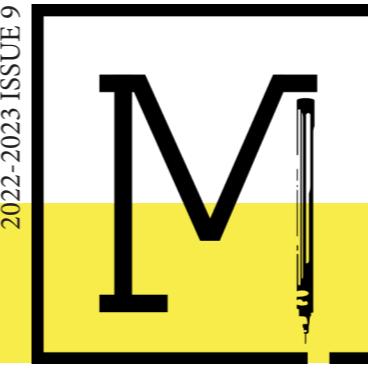
**Green Building Summit**

The conference aimed to understand the green practices adopted in India, convey the policies that catalyze the green building movement and provide insights into the actionable measures to foster the growth of the architecture & construction industry.

JUL

**Terre, Femme et Savoir-faire**

The “Words of Builders” conference aimed to illuminate women artisans’ journeys in earth construction professions across different countries, cultures, and contexts.



PAPERS

FEB

**ID Honours**

India Designer  
Sustainable design 2023

APR

**Dr. House**  
*A Mason's Ink Initiative*

This initiative aims to help heritage owners revive their properties by dispelling the misinformation and confusion surrounding the city’s historic marvels.

MAR

**Rasa Samvada**  
*By Studio Detailine*

Rasa Samvada was a candid discussion about the various professional roles women in architecture have taken on apart from designing.

NOV

**Curating for Cultures***By Bangalore Design Week*

The conversation revolved around the processes of placemaking that could address issues of cultural safety and belongingness.

DEC

**SPACIUX Design Awards**

*Commercial Architecture  
Platinum Award 2022*

Project: COurtyard, a Co-working space located in Kochi featuring alternative, low-carbon & sustainable construction techniques in mud.

2022

AUG

**AVEI Open House**

The “Words of Builders” conference aimed to illuminate female artisans’ journeys and experiences in earth construction professions anchored in different countries, cultures, and contexts.

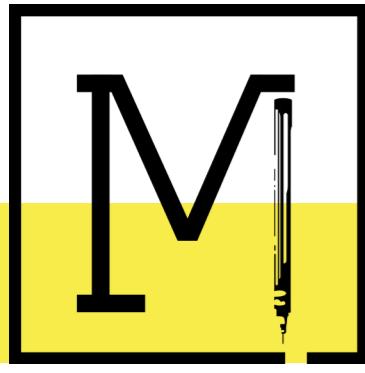
SEP

**Building Sense Now |**

2023

**Activism Through  
Architecture**  
*By Building Sense Now*

Building Sense Now is a platform for exchange for like-minded people who deem sustainability a new thinking course.



MASONS  
INK PAPERS



**Event:** Ancestral Wisdom Driving Low Carbon, Climate Resilient Futures: Asia-Pacific and Global Lessons. **Speakers:** Dr. Ar. Nguyen Quoc Tuan, Vietnam; Arch Rosie Paul, Architect, India Prof Warathida Chaiyapa, Thailand; Dr. Johannes Widodo, Singapore;

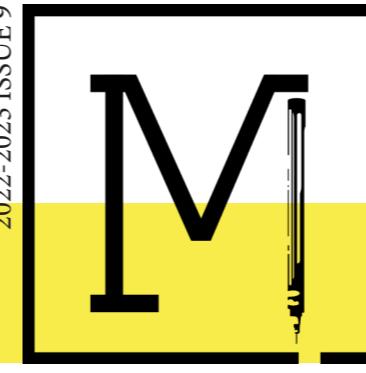
#### COP 28:

Joining efforts in the CHN's Call For Action' to incorporate culture in climate change policies, Ar. Rosie Paul, alongside notable dignitaries, presented as a key speaker, discussing issues such as local building methods and the role of gender in climate-change responses. She was also a presenter at a High-Level UNFCCC event, where she spoke of the potential of traditional building techniques in offering low-carbon alternatives.

Further, the firm had the opportunity to co-host a UN Booth showcased at the venue with informative media dissemination on traditional building techniques in India. The booth also saw an interactive live demo session on traditional plastering techniques.



**UN Booth:** Traditional Building Materials of India



MASONS  
INK PAPERS

UNITED NATIONS-COP

The United Nations climate change conferences COP27 and COP28, held in Egypt and Dubai, respectively, were the biggest of the kind, as they grow every following year. With over 85,000 participants attending, Masons Ink was honoured to have its co-founders, Ar. Rosie Paul and Ar. Sridevi Changali, as one of the South Asian representatives for the Climate Heritage Network (CHN).



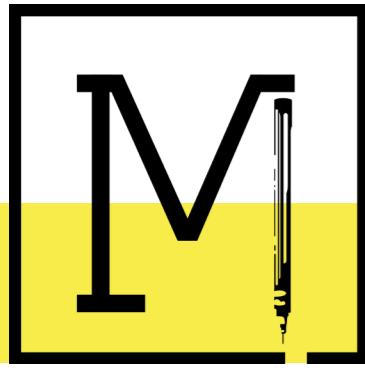
Climate Heritage Network (CHN) Members Group Photograph, COP28, UAE, Dubai



**Event:** Intangible & tangible intersections between culture, climate & gender, **Speaker:** Sridevi Chagali, COP 27, Egypt

#### COP 27:

The theme of the year, 'Race To Resilience,' addressed vulnerable subjects that go unnoticed, such as the impact of climate change on frontline communities. This was the main focus of the panel, curated by the CHN Issue Lead for Women and Gender, Ar. Rosie Paul. Amplifying voices across the world, the conversation moderated by Ar. Sridevi Changali saw the panellists Jude Kelly, Priya Thuvassery, and Lydia Wanjiku speak on how culture can be a helpful tool that can provide opportunities to women in climate resilience.



PAPERS

FEB

Gabion Walls- *Cheerville*

This technique includes assembling and lacing a cage. Drywall masonry is layered in this cage- the bottom with large stones, the middle with smaller stones and the topmost with brick.

MAR



Tadelakt

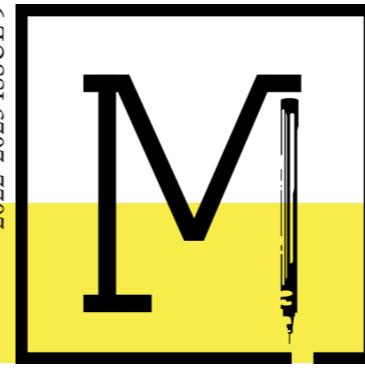
A waterproof plaster surface used in Moroccan architecture to make baths, sinks, interior and exterior walls, ceilings, roofs, and floors- made from ramming and polishing lime plaster.

MAY



Wattle and Daub

A composite building method used in buildings in which a woven lattice of wooden strips called wattle is daubed with a sticky material made of a combination of wet soil, sand, & straw.



PAPERS

OCT

Tadelakt Plastering- *YAF*

'Nirmana'—the Young Architects Festival IIA workshop in Calicut dealt with alternative materials through mediums ranging from tadelakt panels to tensile installation.

Poured Earth- *YAF*

20  
22

JUN

Poured Earth- *NASA*

The workshop introduced the concepts of earth construction and bridging the gap between theory and reality when using mud as a building material on site.

AUG



Earth Flooring

Earth flooring is a natural material consisting primarily of mud stabilised using lime. It is laid on top of a prepared termite and insect-proof subsurface.

20  
23

JAN

Earthbag Structure- *Cheerville*

These workshops were in the spirit of upskilling the women labourers. The aim was to enable women in construction and address issues they face at the root level.

MAR

Thappi- *Cheerville*Araish- *Cheerville*

Thappi is a base layer plaster made from Surkhi followed by a lime plaster finish. It gets its name from the wooden tool, 'Thappi', used in the application process. Araish, on the other hand, translates to 'mirror'. It is a shiny, watertight finish layer done over the Thappi plaster, which has become one of the costliest techniques.

WORKSHOPS



The exhibit's theme was 'site', showing the diversity and flexibility of construction materials. We showcased three art installations that combined art and architectural technique: a tensile mud installation, Tadelakt lime plaster spheres, and an artistic arrangement of tadelakt tiles.

A set of ropes strung in tension constituted the skeleton for the exhibit of the material. This skeleton was then covered with cloth and plastered over with mud—reminiscent of the process of wattle and daub. This installation was interactive, encouraging the attendees to participate in plastering the mud onto the fabric of its structure as well.

The other set of exhibits aimed to showcase Tadelakt- a traditional lime-based plaster that embodies both decorative elegance and remarkable waterproofing properties. During the showcase, attendees were invited to experience firsthand the tactile allure and vibrant aesthetic appeal of this technique and the material through its exquisite execution on a set of spheres and tiles.



2022-2023 ISSUE 9



## IAADB INSTALLATION



Mason's Mason's Ink was honoured to be among the architects chosen to display their work at the IAADB- the first "India Art and Architecture Biennale" held from December 2023 to March 2024. Held in the Red Fort, Delhi, and inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the event brought the city a vibrant splash of culture and creativity. A sub-section of the event—namely "Samatva"—highlighted and recognised the works of eighty female artists, architects and designers.



[www.masonsinkstudio.com](http://www.masonsinkstudio.com) . [masonsinkstudio@gmail.com](mailto:masonsinkstudio@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/MasonsInk2013](https://www.facebook.com/MasonsInk2013) . [instagram.com/masonsinkarchitecture](https://instagram.com/masonsinkarchitecture)