



URBANISM

RETREAT OF HANGING GARDENS

Category: Residential, resort, adventure sports.

Location: Ratnagiri,

Year: 2015

Area: 100 acre.

This project is placed in Ratnagiri in Konkan region of Maharashtra, where it rains very heavily during monsoons. Konkan recently has been converted into world heritage for the natural resources, which has generated new opportunities to conserve the species of the same region. When the client approached us, there was a recent memory of tragedy happened in Mali where the whole village got buried under landslide because of unaware gentrification.

The whole grammar of this project begins with the larger understanding of the site, where a site is placed along one of the tributary of the Savitri River at its infant stage. Whole programmatic understanding of this project talks about making plot divisions available for the accommodations of hundreds of second home along this site. When this project came to us, it was a major task to get an awareness of the landscape of this region. When we visited this site, clients had intervened without understanding the soil qualities and the conditions of the site. While explaining about the disasters, on the same night there was a sudden cloudburst and people on the site experienced the catastrophe. Later it was very easy to convince the client.

When we started on board, it was crucial to understand the system of water, soil and vegetation and their networking. The proposal is made such that all the overlap of this system will govern the sharing of boundaries, vocabulary of architecture. For the gestures of architecture, history always plays an important role to understand the principles of making settlements. In the Inca civilization, Macchu Picchu a capital sited in such a similar condition where an irrigation system was evolved to serve the settlement. It has given a terraced vocabulary to the place, which was the first reference taken for the evolution of design.

Second gesture is of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, where all the gardens were flourished along the terraces. This gave us clues for the technological evolution to retain the soil on site by means of terracing along the vegetation that could help to retain and conquer the landslide. This larger image of site set the regulatory principle of making architecture on site where architecture becomes participant in the whole landscape of this place. Whole appearance of this site gives visuals of hanging garden; hence the name Retreat of Hanging Gardens is given to it.

Planning of this place is done such, water streams along the street creates boundaries of the plot during monsoons while during the other seasons they themselves become shortcuts to reach to the other places. These are one of indigenous qualities of the ancient town.

Talking about architecture of this place the participatory attempt is made instead of showing an exclusivity of architectural project for all indigenous material and technologies being used for the construction of spaces. This gives an appearance of architecture nestled within nature.

















