



ART & ARCHITECTURE BANGLADESH

HIMCHHORI RESIDENCE
A Hermitage in Horizon:
CONCRETE Monolith
Mas-i Bari Jama Mosque

Reviving Reminiscences

Colloquial

Quarterly DOT



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ISSUE 02: VOL. 04
MARCH 2019

PROJECT ABSTRACT:

Project: Himchori Residence

Location: Himchori, Cox's Bazar

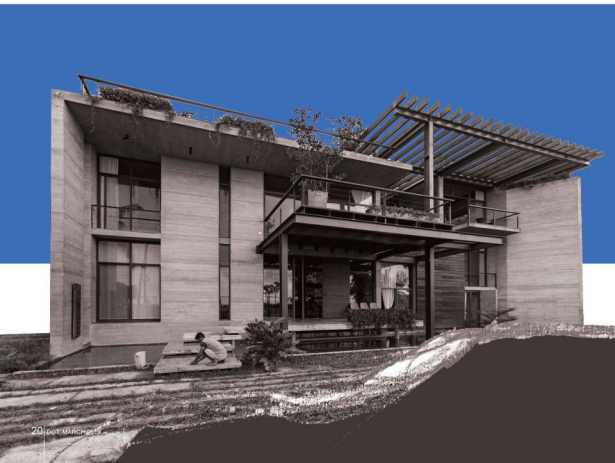
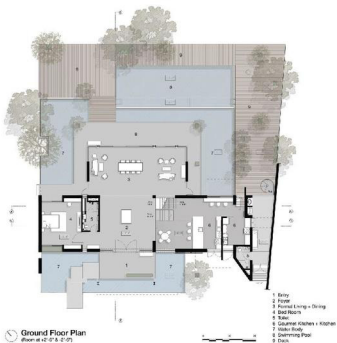
Client: Arshad Jamal & Shahria Sharmin

Site Area: 1414.10 Sq. M.

Built up Area: 840.72 Sq. M.

Commencement: December 2015

Completion: May 2018



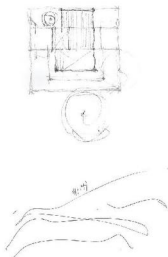


BACKGROUND

The two-and-half-storied 'Vacation Villa' in Himchori Marine Drive is a sublime hermitage amidst the blessed nature of Cox's Bazar. The owners' desire for a sentient space to soak in tranquility as well as a place of vacationing led the architect ensemble with the flavor of two exquisite natural components of the site: the sea and hills within the built premise. The simplicity of the plan and sartorial clarity of the form have emerged to create a space for a perfect getaway.



A Hermitage in Horizon



Project Write-up: **Fahmida Nurat**
 Photography: **Maruf Raihan**

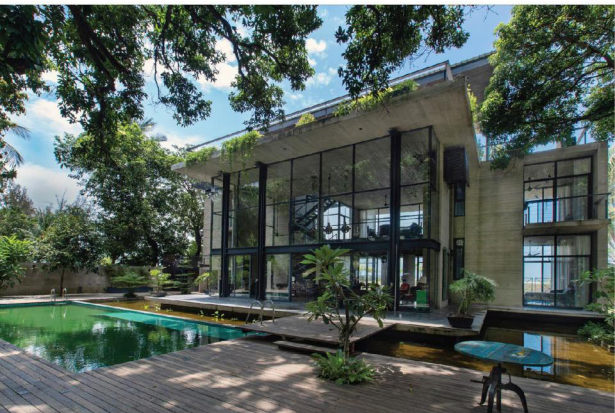
CONCEPT

The natural configuration of the adjacent hills and an equally vivid sea, with their opulent strength and beauty, were the inspirations to conceptualize the project. In attaining an infinite view from hill to sea, the villa is portrayed more as a frame to capture the view rather than to be an obstruction. Desired spaces and their formal expressions are flourished in accordance to celebrate the harmonious horizontality and elegant verticality of two environmental stimuli. While doing so, a dominant issue was to lessen site damages as well as maximize the retention of the existing natural ecosystem of the environment.

ARCHITECTURE

The residence is situated overlooking the sea with a perfect backdrop of magnanimous green hills. The off-centric entrance to the residence led the viewer to glance at the project with an inviting portico floating atop a shallow water body. The inner awe of the villa thus remains as a little surprise.





PROJECT TEAM:

Architects:

Kazi Fida Islam

Md Abdul Awwal

Abid Khan

Consultant:

Architecture: River & Rain

Structure: Md. Shah Alam

Md. Ruhul Alam,

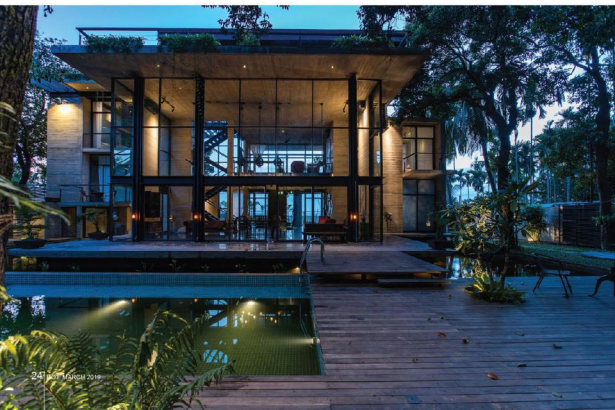
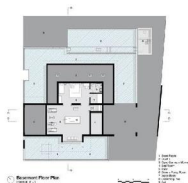
Mechanical: Md. Mofizur Rahman Khan

Electrical: Md. Asaduzzaman



The private zone of bedrooms are hived within the RCC structure in both ends, having two of them located in split level and two of them on standard floor level. However, each of four bedrooms, unlike other spaces of the house, is a delightful setup to have the explicit views of the nature. While the sunken gourmet kitchen and its adjacent dining are hubs for cozy food-fun festivities, the roof level bar with stretched terrace is perfect for soiree.

The handpicked and assorted décor are certainly an added visual muse that found their best fits in various places both within and outside the villa. The muted embellishments of these bespoke décor have evoked retro mood into the contemporary salient features of this house.

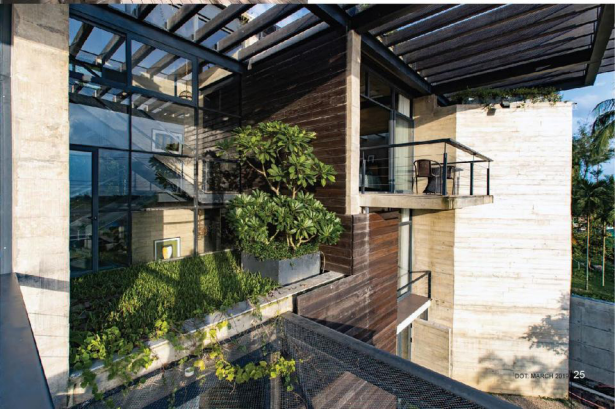


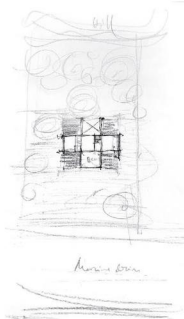


STRUCTURE & MATERIALS

Composite structure was adopted to transform the concept at its best formal expression. The central part is of steel structure amidst the RCC construction. I-joists of steel segments are double-coated with epoxy paint to prevent rusting. The bar space at the top level has a corrugated sheet roofing as it allows to penetrate the acoustic play of rain.

Concrete floors of this residence are of flat-plate structure where floor finishes have a variation of marble, wood and tile. Black polished marble is used inside the ground floor to create the reflection of surrounding trees while antique-polished marbles are placed outside to make the floor non-slippery. Central deck floor is of wood and steel whereas all bedrooms and service blocks have the tiled floor finish. The string rail of steel cables is featured in wood and steel staircase along with balcony and terraces.







The 6" wide 'garjan' wood shuttering has intentionally maintained the saw cut as a texture to display in the fare-faced concrete wall of the villa. Later on these are recycled in the project.

DETAILS OF SUPPORTING STRUCTURES

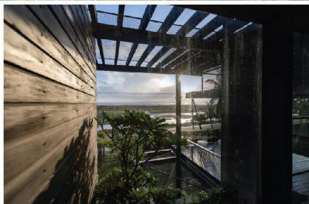
A separate downsized building mass is harmoniously placed at the entrance point. This unit is designed with complete facilities for a permanent stay for the caretaker as well as accommodating a car patio.

DETAILS OF LANDSCAPING

The project landscape has two distinct divisions. The front of the villa has a minutely assembled landscape of a lawn. Age old recycled ship planks and concrete slabs, laid and soaked up with grass and earth, have formed a subtle entrance path to the house. The utmost simplicity is maintained by carefully chosen bushes, bamboos and palm trees to give the maximum visibility of the sea.

The rear part of the landscape is mostly kept au naturel with retaining wall along the edges of hills to protect landslides. The wooden deck surrounded pool is the minimalist landscape intervention that seamlessly merged with the built form. Rain water





coming down from hills as well as surface water is collected within the storm sewers of the building and underneath the marine drive it has been evacuated to the sea.

The villa has been nested within the hillocks greenery. The gradual formation of newly planted foliage will soften the edge of building and will make it more befitting onto the nature. The constant play of light, shade and shadow, giggles of breeze and distant waves have embraced this place as their own. The natural spirit transmitted into the house creates a sense of constant connectedness with the user. This harmonized relation with the surroundings has made the villa appear as an emerged one rather than an imposed statement. ●

