

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE

Framed by gleaming water bodies on all four sides, this Kozhikode bungalow by aslam.sham architects is one with the elements

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The living room dials down the colour but dials up the light



The facade is a contemporary take on vernacular architecture and is punctured with openings for ventilation

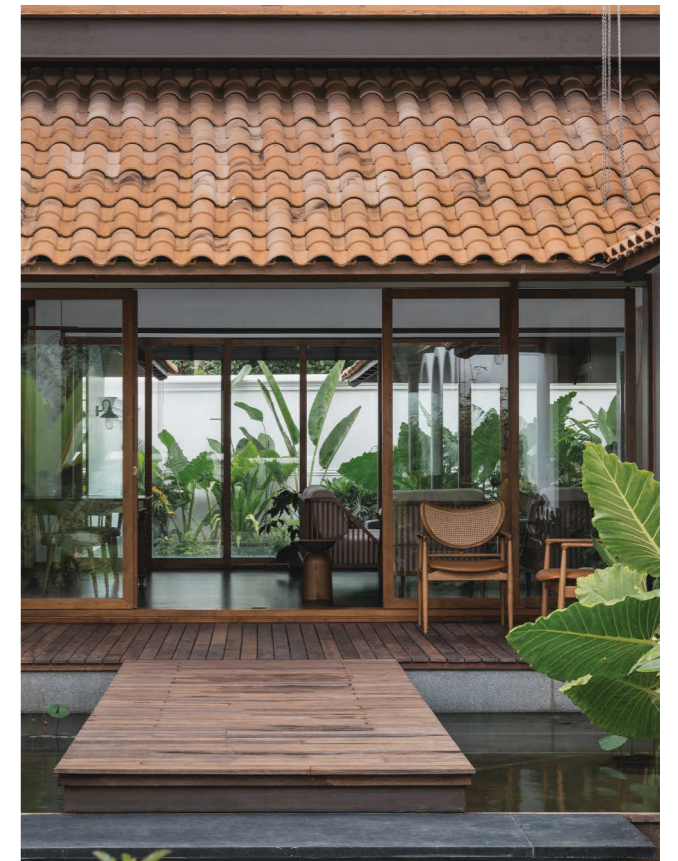
About fourteen kilometres east of Kozhikode, atop a knoll in the leafy town of Kunnamangalam, is a home that appears suspended between water and sky. And yet, its state of levitation, curious as it is, isn't merely physical. It's a metaphorical halfway point between people and place, nature and nest, that still, somehow, feels whole. "The owners already had two homes but wanted this one to be different, with an open layout and traditional elements, and water bodies and greenery on either side of the threshold," says Sham Salim, one half of Kozhikode-based multidisciplinary practice [aslam.sham architects](#). "So it made sense to take cues from the landscape," finishes the firm's other half, Aslam Karadan. And so they did.

Every detail was inspired by the natural surroundings: trees were mirrored in finely crafted teakwood furniture, wooden decks and bridges were brought in as overlays for the water bodies below, and water lilies were planted here, there and everywhere, to inspire the air of a wild garden. What wasn't inspired by the landscape was inspired by what sat atop it—the vernacular-inspired architecture a compelling case in point.

Perhaps because the windows are perennially open, or because there are so few walls, there's no saying where, or whether, the indoors end and the outdoors begin. For example, the black granite floor in many ways holds a mirror to the dark earth outside, while meticulously crafted wooden tiles and fluted panes emblazoned across surfaces, and intricately carved handrails along hand-plastered walls, evoke the rusticity of the woodland beyond. Then there's the atrium, situated at the heart of the home, which acts as a conduit, yes, but also so much more. It's a skylight by day, a sanctuary by starlight, and in the hours in between, a place where the breeze takes a breather on its way in or out.

Most months, the water bodies brim with colour: soft whites, gentle greens, warm browns and pale blues, each individually embodied in the petals of a lily in bloom. But the flowers, like the seasons, are short-lived, budding, blossoming, withering, before assuming life all over again. In these moments, the ones between life and no life, earth and architecture, light and shadow, it's evident that the landscape and its elements are entwined. Indeed, this is a home that gives to the people and the place in equal spirit, no matter how long or short the season. ♦

Instagram: [@aslamsham_architects](#)



The design scheme seamlessly blends the inside with the outside



The exterior mirrors the natural surroundings with wooden deck and bridges. Seen here is a sitout for musing and meditation with wooden chairs from Dtale Modern



The swimming pool serves as a cerulean antidote to the relentless Kozhikode sun

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The kitchen is a meditative hideaway with a custom granite island and teak chairs from Dtale Modern



In the primary bedroom, deep green flutes and wooden tiles echo the verdant landscape beyond



Arched windows in the primary bedroom channel a portal to an evergreen wonderland. The bed, a custom teak design with rattan inlay, is by Sketch Interiors

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Arched windows tame the angularity of the stairwell

“Indeed, this is a home that gives to the people and the place in equal spirit, no matter how long or short the season”



Luxuriant foliage and water bodies envelop the home, keeping nature at close quarters