

Tara House

At Post-Kashid, Murud-Janjira road
Kashid, India

Architects Studio Mumbai / Bijoy Jain
Mumbai, India

Clients Sugandha & Jai Hiremath
Kashid, India

Commission 2002

Design 2003 - 2004

Construction 2004 - 2006

Occupancy 2006

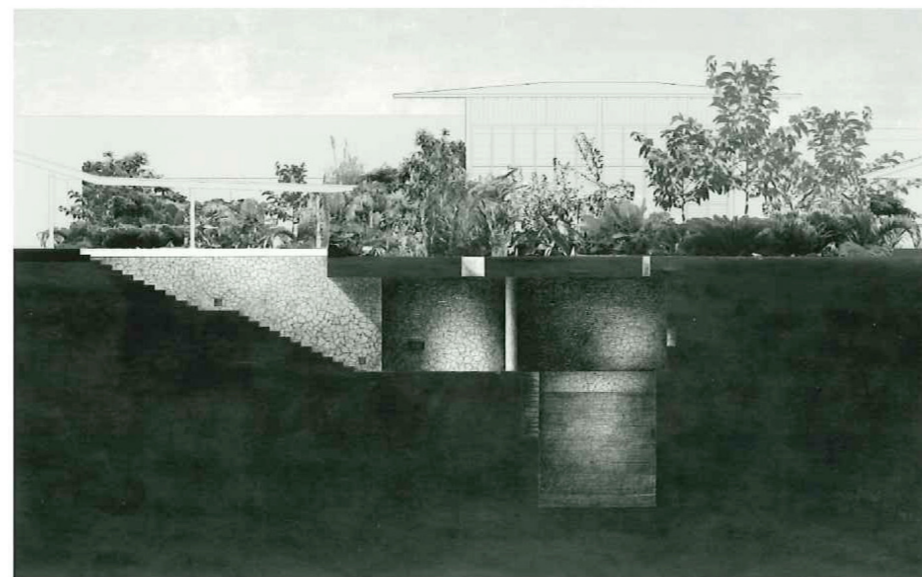
Site 16,190 m²

Ground floor 930 m²

Total floor 1,100 m²

Costs 750,000 USD

Programme This rural house on the coast is configured around a tropical garden. Rooms are loosely arranged in a concentric circle, exploring layers of privacy as a journey through the building is a sequence of gradual discovery. Rooms are connected by louvred hallways and verandahs while vertical timber slats complete the garden's enclosure, allowing breezes to filter through. Most private of all is a secret stone chamber under the courtyard filled with water from a subterranean aquifer. Circular air holes allow shafts of light and the sound of the ocean to penetrate and the water level fluctuates in response to tides and seasons providing a refuge from the Indian sun.

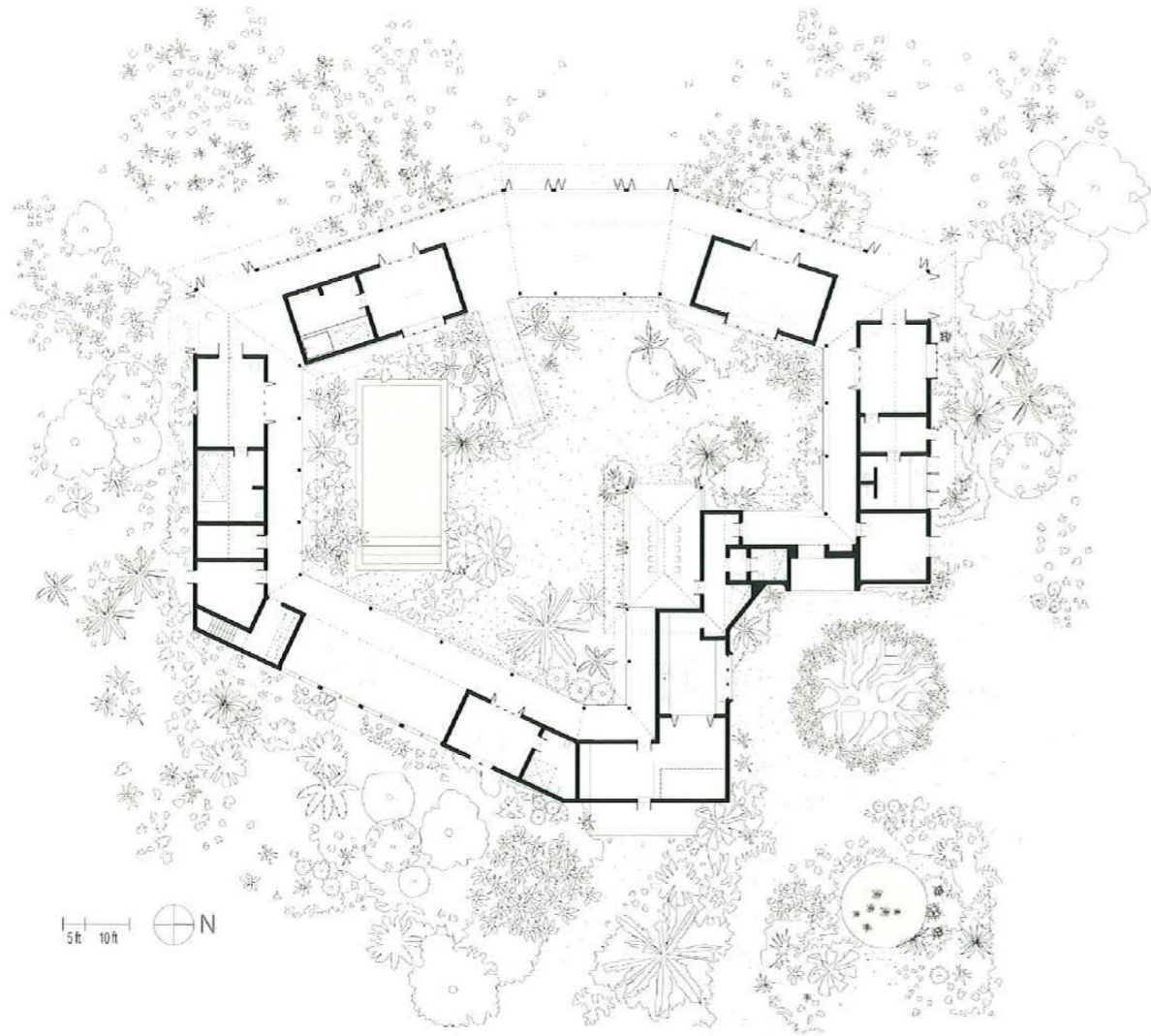


Beneath the courtyard of Tara House lies a secret room filled with water from a subterranean aquifer. The room is a refuge from the hot Indian sun, piercing the ground through circular air holes casting shafts of light across the stone walls into water.

A 72 year old master well builder along with a team of local artisans constructed the stone-lined cavity. Ocean sounds reverberate from above and water fluctuates freely, responsive to the seasons and tides. When it rains, water from the roof of the house percolates into the well, recharging the aquifer. The artesian well provides water for the house and gardens through the year.

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Tara House built for a multi-generation family is planned to explore layers of privacy. The hierarchy of the layout is concentric and circular, encouraging a sequence of gradual discovery. In its centre is an open courtyard garden that is meant to be traversed and occupied intermittently throughout the day.

The structure forms an enclosure to protect the garden within. The ocean breeze enters through a porous wood screen, and a courtyard pool is screened by greenery, passageways and hidden stairs which lead up to the roof or down to an underground well.