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towards a silent language

architect sagara jayasinghe

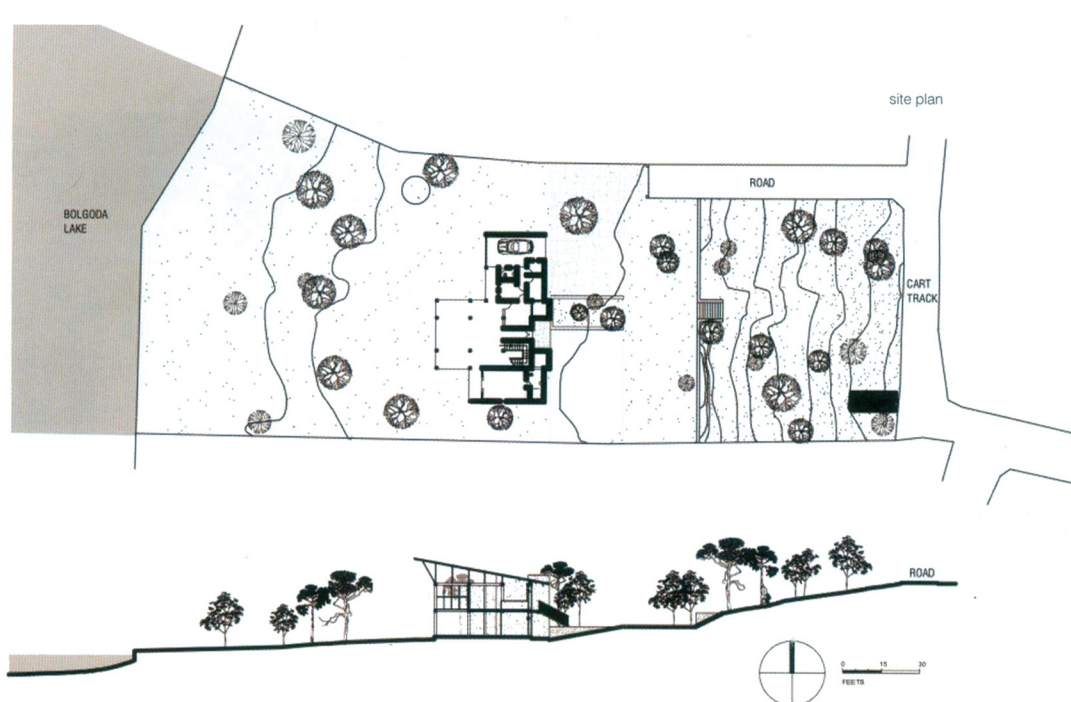
This outstanding dwelling is a privately owned holiday residence, which performs the role of a "retreat" for an exclusive user category in quest of a let-up to replenish their souls away from a hectic city life.

The spectacular site, abundant with foliage and sloping towards a placid stretch of Lake Bolgoda, became the nuclei of the design. The concept was to create a modest building which enables the visitor to dwell as one with the vibrant moods and rhythms of the lake and surroundings, changing from dawn to dusk.



Perspective Lake side





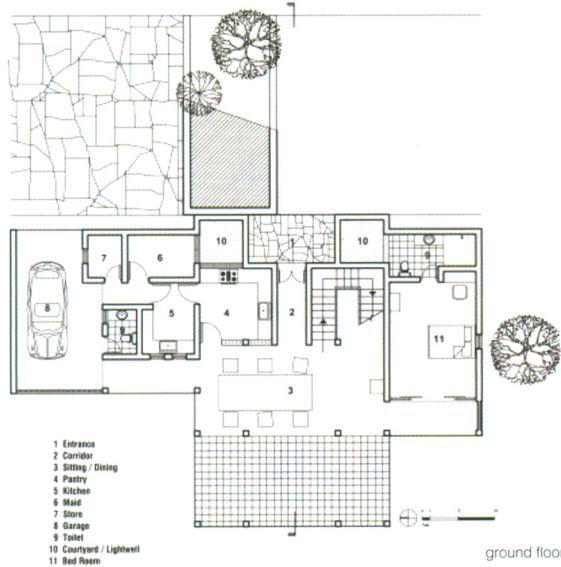
Simply, the design is a synthesis of three generators; the minimalist cost, response to the context, and the function of recreation expected by the clients. Consequently it falls within the sphere of a minimal, modest and silent Architecture, enabling the user to be synchronised with the contemplative milieu, moving into a profound realm of spirituality.

The minimalist language of architecture is intensified via the unification of its built form, structural system, usage of materials, colours and textures. The enchanting spirit of the place has been concretised into a simple linear two storied open viewing pavilion provided with minimal comfortable amenities for lodging.

The structural system utilises a simple 12 ft by 12 ft exposed modular concrete column beam grid, with a brick infill. A simple lean to roof, comprising timber and steel members, is supported by steel props. The method of construction and technology has enabled the architect to accomplish the project totally via rural craftsmanship found within the locality. The beauty of materials in their original form is being highly celebrated throughout the building. Interiors with exposed brick walls, cement rendered floors, un-plastered slab soffit and the exposed concrete grid structure fine tunes the minimalist ambience of space.

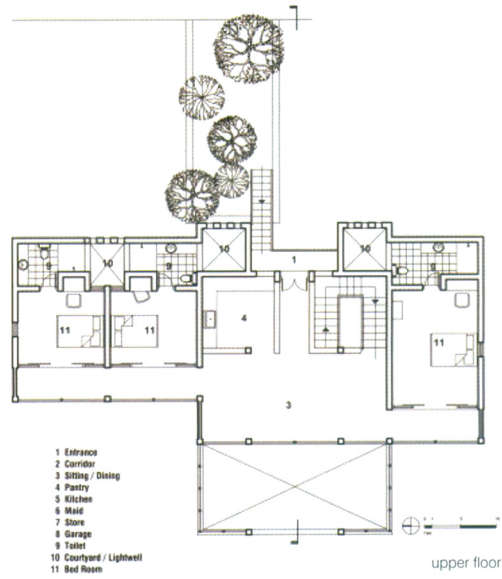
It is more or less a colourless, neutral building representing the fusion of two extreme polarities; Black, White and Gray in between. Symbolically the rhythmic play of these three colours represents a contented, balanced existence of mundane state in between two poles; Good and evil, Active and Passive, positive and negative.....





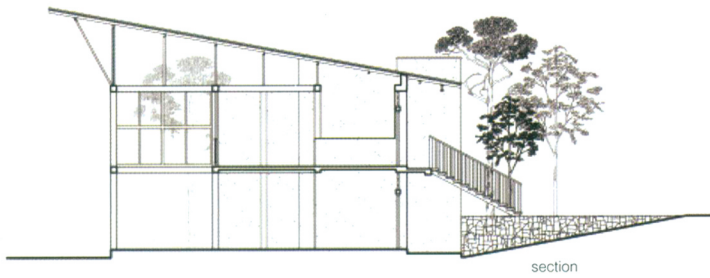
- 1 Entrance
- 2 Corridor
- 3 Sitting / Dining
- 4 Pantry
- 5 Kitchen
- 6 Maid
- 7 Store
- 8 Garage
- 9 Toilet
- 10 Courtyard / Lightwell
- 11 Bed Room

ground floor



- 1 Entrance
- 2 Corridor
- 3 Sitting / Dining
- 4 Pantry
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- 6 Maid
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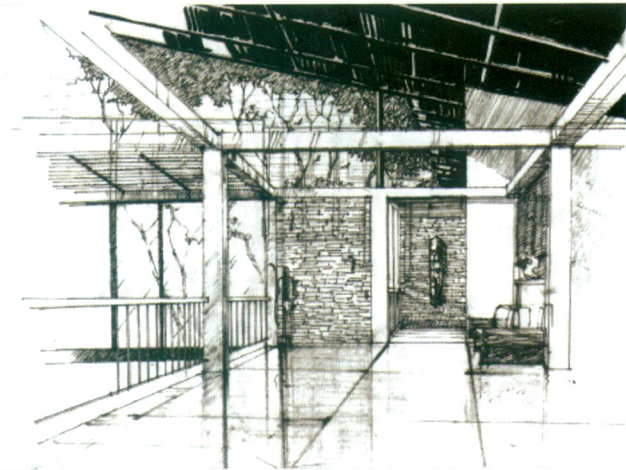
upper floor



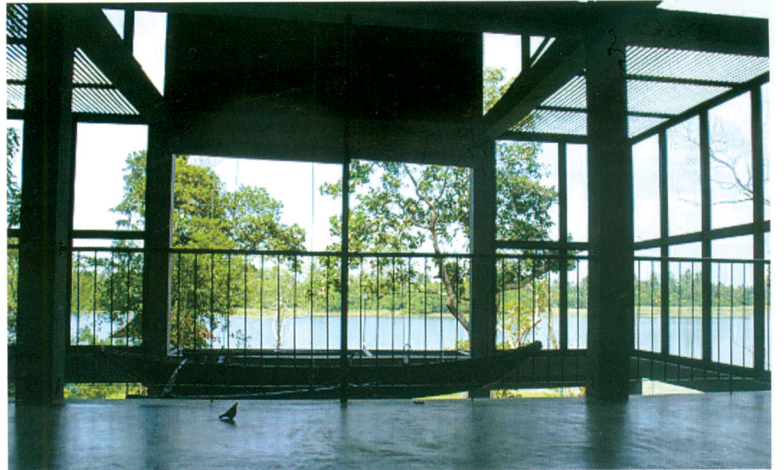
section

Significantly the project has redefined the concept of 'holiday residence'. Unlike other buildings of similar kind, the building does not entertain, stimulate or appealingly hold one's mind, but becomes a more extravert device embracing the site, to absorb the charming splendour of the environs to strengthen and facilitate the interconnectedness between man and nature. The vibration of cool blues of the lake and the sky tunes up one's mind to a more elevated frequency of contemplation. The green patch beyond the lake heals the





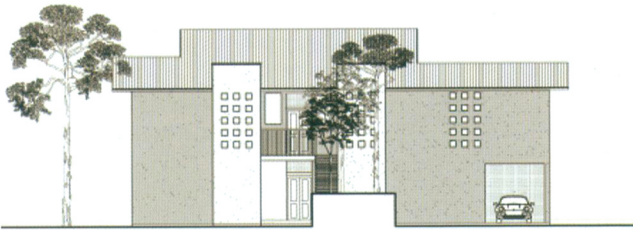
perspective upper lobby



mind and body. The whole drama changes with the highly stimulating vibrant hues of the sunset falling on to the placid water body of the lake. The rains, blowing wind, the mist and the seasons alter the perception in many means. Thus, this simple viewing structure lets one to reveal the dynamic impermanent nature of existence, inviting one to discover the enigma of spirit

Conversely, the private domain of the building provides the personal retreat needed, where the dweller can create his world, and still have the connection with panorama just beyond the glazed facade of the bedroom. This unrivaled holiday home doesn't speak much, allowing all the voices to be heard and realized. **PA**

text by anishka hettiarachchi



front elevation



Lake side elevation

principal architect
sagara jayasinghe
client
kamal & nayani punchihewa
no 14a, de Fonseka road, colombo 5
location
gangabada, galthude, panadura
land area
115 perches (0.292 ha)
floor area
3700 sq ft. (343.75 Sqm)
structural engineer
rohana de silva
architectural assistants
nuwan premarathne
tharinda sooriyaarachchi
text
anishka hettiarachchi

