

DESIGN MATRIX

PEOPLE • LIFESTYLE • DESIGN • INTERIORS

January-February 2014
VOL. 4 • ISSUE 2 • ₹100



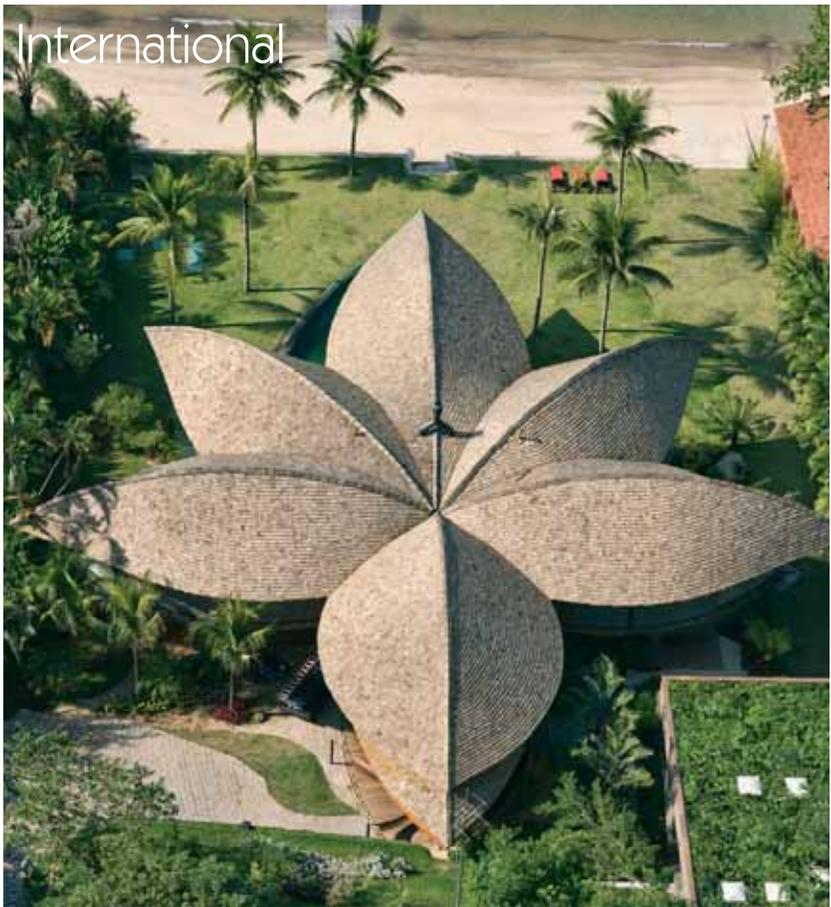
The
ADDRESS
for
HOME FASHION.

www.porticoindia.com

Zarir Mullan & Seema Puri

Good Design is one in
which, both the interiors and
exteriors blend together





Tropical Leaf House

Imagine a house, surrounded by a beach with crystal clear blue water. Such an imagination will definitely evoke a sense of tranquillity, romance and ecstasy in our busy mind sets; Design Matrix takes you to a gorgeous Brazilian leaf house, a sustainable home.

Words: Marilyn Madathil; Photo Courtesy: Leonardo Finotti

Mareines+Patalano, an architecture and urbanism practice headed by Ivo Mareines and Rafael Patalano are known for creating an organic new response to every design. These brainy designers and their witty

team, moulded an extravagant piece of design – Leaf House with sustainable ideas at Angra dos Reis, one hour drive south of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This project was inspired by Brazil’s Indian architecture, perfectly suited for the hot and humid

climate. The designers with zeal crafted a big banana leaf shaped roof to protect all the enclosed spaces of this beautiful abode, the in-between open spaces, truly the most important ones from the scorching sunshine. The in-between open spaces





represent the essence of the design. The designers, specially created social areas in this tropical beach house as an ideal place for the owner of the house and the guests to spend most of their time, be it a social gathering or a chilling party.

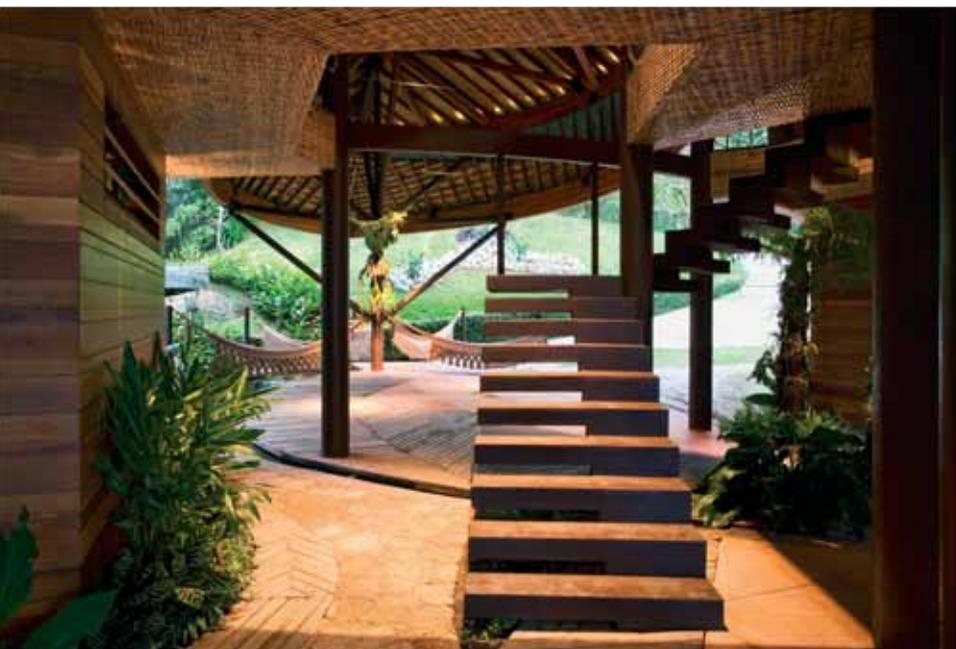
Spectacular design philosophy

The very generous heights of these spaces, which vary from 3 to 9 meters, allow the SE trade winds from the sea to pass perfectly longitudinally through the building,

providing natural ventilation and passive cooling both to the enclosed and open spaces. The designers explain this concept of the architectural design as low-tech Eco efficiency. Adhering to the client brief, the designers worked out an idea of a tropical beach house as a mean to enhance the interaction between man and nature, trying whenever possible not to separate them completely. With no corridors, with inside and outside almost fused, many sliding doors, most glazed, open up the

enclosed spaces and let the sea breeze in.

The landscape is everywhere on the ground floor, and the curvy swimming pool snakes into the house. When it passes below the formal dining room, it turns into a pond with aquatic plants and fishes, reaching the rear veranda. This veranda is a resting space with five Brazil's Indian style hammocks. The designers address this eclectic space as the "Brazilian Lounge". The roof structure of this lounge is made of laminated reforestation wood (euca-



Project Name:

Leaf House

Location:

Angra dos Reis, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Site area:

800,00 m2

Built area:

800,00 m2

Project:

Mareines + Patalano Arquitetura

Architects:

Ivo Mareines, Rafael Patalano, Paula Costa, Flávia Lima, Rafael Pretti

Interior Design:

Mareines + Patalano Arquitetura

Landscape design:

Marita Adania

lyptus), capable of crossing big spans (20 meters is the biggest here) with delicacy and warm aesthetics. The roof is covered in small reforestation wood tiles (pinus taeda), that easily adapt to the complex surfaces of it. It also collects rain water via the central steel column to be reused in gardening and flushing toilets.

Natural elements

For creating a true natural design, the designers used all natural surface fin-

ishes throughout the project, except for glass and pre-oxidized copper: Grey tiles of stone from the site, bamboo meshes, and local wood from re-management forests, earthy flooring and wood reused from old electricity posts. The use of all these natural materials, the transparency of the glass, the neutrality of the oxidized copper relating to the prevailing green of the designed and natural landscape along with the organic composition of the house and rich diversity of textures

and rhythms created a very desirable reality: The sensation of belonging to the site, in harmony with the exuberant Brazilian nature.

Mareines+Patalano always with great efforts work with varied themes in a constant search for new questions and answers and the Leaf House is a perfect example that stands with the time's technologies and poetry. 

www.mareines-patalano.com.br