



(Left) Ancestral home interiors, (Right) Façade of a renovated cowshed

NINA JACOB

Architecture is an experience that encompasses all arts

What do we do?

We do architectural/interior as well as landscape projects.

What we believe in and why?

I believe in harmonising with nature. Creating spaces with simple lines, contrasting textures and using the interplay of light and shadow to create an environment that enhances the quality of life. I do this because I enjoy it.

Influences that have shaped our practice?

My designs have a lot of inputs from the extensive travelling that we do as a family. Geoffrey Bawa is an architect who has influenced me greatly.

Relationship of our work with other arts?

I believe that architecture is an experience that encompasses all arts.

What we wish our clients knew before they came to us?

A client who thinks of exactly what a home

means to him has a distinct advantage.

A challenging task a client insisted on?

I have handled many challenging homes, especially in reuse and renovation, but the one that comes to my mind right now is the one where I had to build a modern home keeping the central ancestral rooms intact. Working with the old and new structure was challenging.



The materials we like working with?

The choice of material depends on the concept and ambience. I am comfortable with all materials.

The material of the future?

The creativity and imagination of future designers are the materials of the future.

A building/structure I wish I had built

If wishes were horses!!!

Challenges that lie ahead for an architect and a homeowner in the future?

They should try to make space work more for them... Leaving a lighter footprint on mother earth... Perhaps a bigger role for reuse and recycling?



Nina Jacob is principal architect for Swarnarekha Design Consultants in Kottayam and enjoys the harmony her works share with nature