



# One with nature

A lush green private space, The Walled Garden by Kaushik Mukherjee exemplifies outdoor living

**Thickets of trees, diverse plant life and a bright green lawn** is interspersed with sheltered pavilions, minimalist furniture and ambient lighting; architect and landscape designer Kaushik Mukherjee has aptly named this project The Walled Garden.

Nestled in a bustling area of Bangalore, this 16,000 sq ft plot of land was transformed in merely three months from an old colonial-style house to a modern outdoor living and leisure area. Abutted by the owner's house, a busy street and high-rise buildings, this space holds its own in an urban setting.

With such a large empty plot in hand, the owners were looking for a vast green area that not only allowed them to dwell in nature but also served as an intimate space for family and social gatherings.

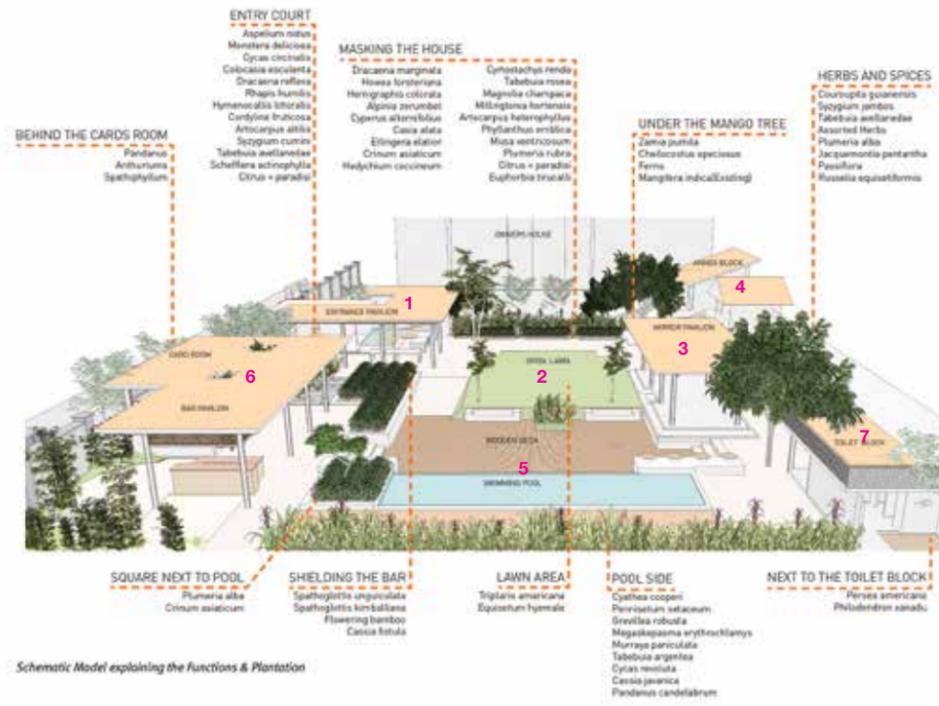
To maintain a level in flexibility in the functional spaces, Mukherjee incorporated an entrance pavilion, a mirrored pavilion, a guest bedroom and spa in an existing annex block, a swimming pool with a wooden deck, a bar pavilion and an air-conditioned card room in the final design.

"The design is a conglomerate of the various spaces, and reimagines the peaceful experience of walking through a garden. There is easy accessibility with experiential elements that keep the user's interest piqued," explains Mukherjee.

Inspired by the Vauxhall Gardens in London and Geoffrey Bawa's Lunuganga Estate in Sri Lanka, Mukherjee adopted a strategic planting philosophy in consultation with planting specialist Raghu Tenkayala. "We chose tropical, minimal and wild species, which don't lend a manicured look and need marginal maintenance. Seasonal flowering plants have been planted strategically, so at any given time of the year, portions of the garden are always in full bloom. We wanted it to be decadent and reflect the natural diversity of Bangalore," he says.

Breaking this floral overload are the open steel

**Left** The Walled Garden by Kaushik Mukherjee is a blanket of green intermingled with outdoor living spaces. The 16,000 sq ft plot in Bangalore encompasses multiple pavilions, each with its own specific purpose. The space adopts an understated look at night, and upholds a sense of earthy sophistication during the day.



Schematic Model explaining the Functions & Plantation



**Legend** 1 Entrance pavilion 2 open lawn  
3 mirror pavilion 4 annex block 5 swimming pool 6 card room and bar pavilion  
7 toilet block

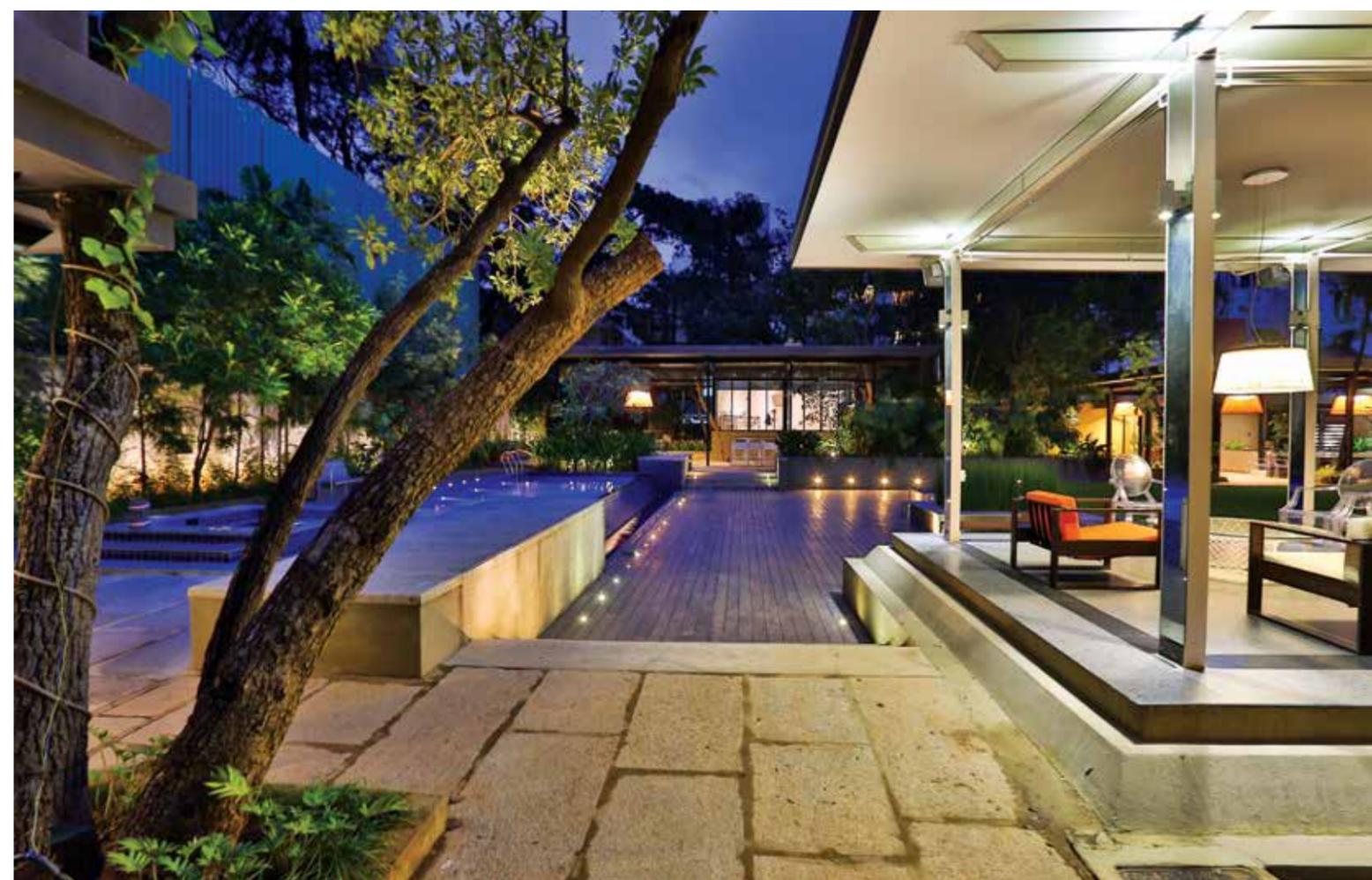
**Facing page** To avoid monotony, Mukherjee has played with the design language of the pavilions. The mirror pavilion, held up by ornate plinth, is a glittering piece in the centre and is inspired by Hoysala Architecture. A green lawn spills out on one side whereas the other leads to a staircase running up to a sky terrace.

pavilions, each designed to suit a specific need. The central piece is the mirror pavilion or *sheesh mahal* that shelters the living and dining areas. The steel pillars are covered with slabs of mirror that reflect the shrubbery and create the illusion of a shimmering space that seems to alternatively appear and disappear.

For Mukherjee, exploring the concept of outdoor living was viable in the moderate temperatures of Bangalore. Although the pavilions are entirely open with the exception of the ceilings, the surrounding foliage fiercely guards the privacy of its residents and naturally regulates the temperature.

“Weather resistant, UV protected furniture from Sri Lanka has been crafted in metal and wood to combat climate fluctuations. To suit the clients needs, we opted for contemporary furniture in bright colours. The idea was to keep the look clean and fluid,” states Mukherjee.

Visualisation was the biggest challenge in planning The Walled Garden. To picture an empty plot with a fully matured garden and to account for drip irrigation, blooming cycles and planting strategies was no mean feat. In the end, what seems to have worked is Mukherjee’s straightforward approach to bringing the indoor-outdoor choreography to life. ■





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Photography by Kaushik Mukherjee

**This page** The quaint entrance pavilion provides a glimpse of the garden over a lotus pond with koi fish. The drop off point leads to a small lobby space leading into a sitting room.

**Facing page** The existing annex block houses the guest bedroom ensuite on the ground floor and the spa room on the first floor. The original architecture of the structure was maintained and the interiors were designed to reflect the tranquil outdoors.