

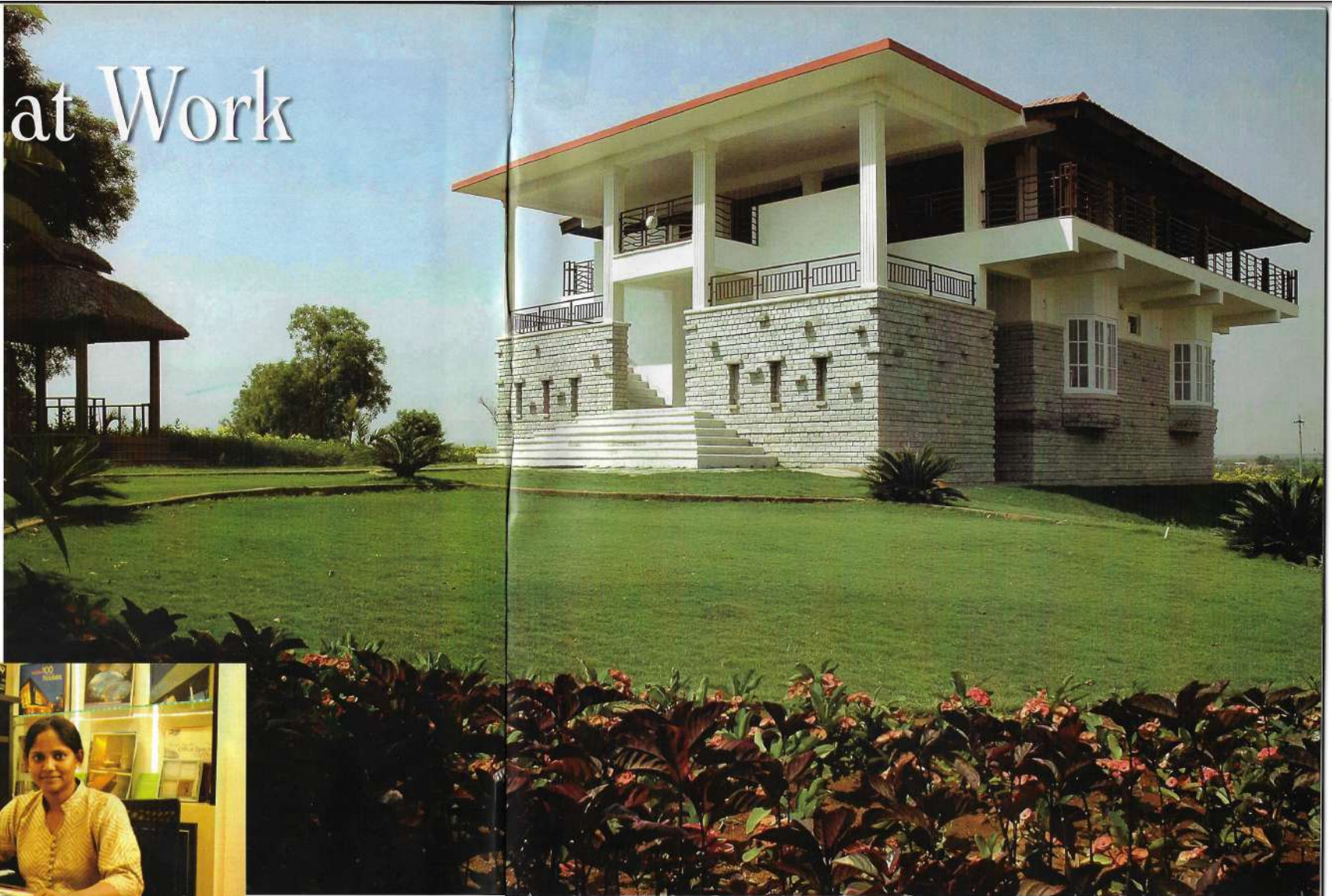
# Artist at Work

I often wonder if one can truly find the right words to express the beauty of nature. One actually becomes speechless when you see nature in different forms of colour, fragrance and texture that enliven your senses.

"All forms are to be found in nature" and nature has been a part of me as my happiest days were spent in the Western Ghats of Karnataka in "Kudremukh", a hill station. I have always painted as a child and as an architect the projects offers me a vast canvas on which I could express ideas said the Landscape Architect Ms C. V. Vandana. For me I am confused as Artist seems to sound so much better whilst addressing this amazing Landscape Architect who seems to breathe life into her projects.

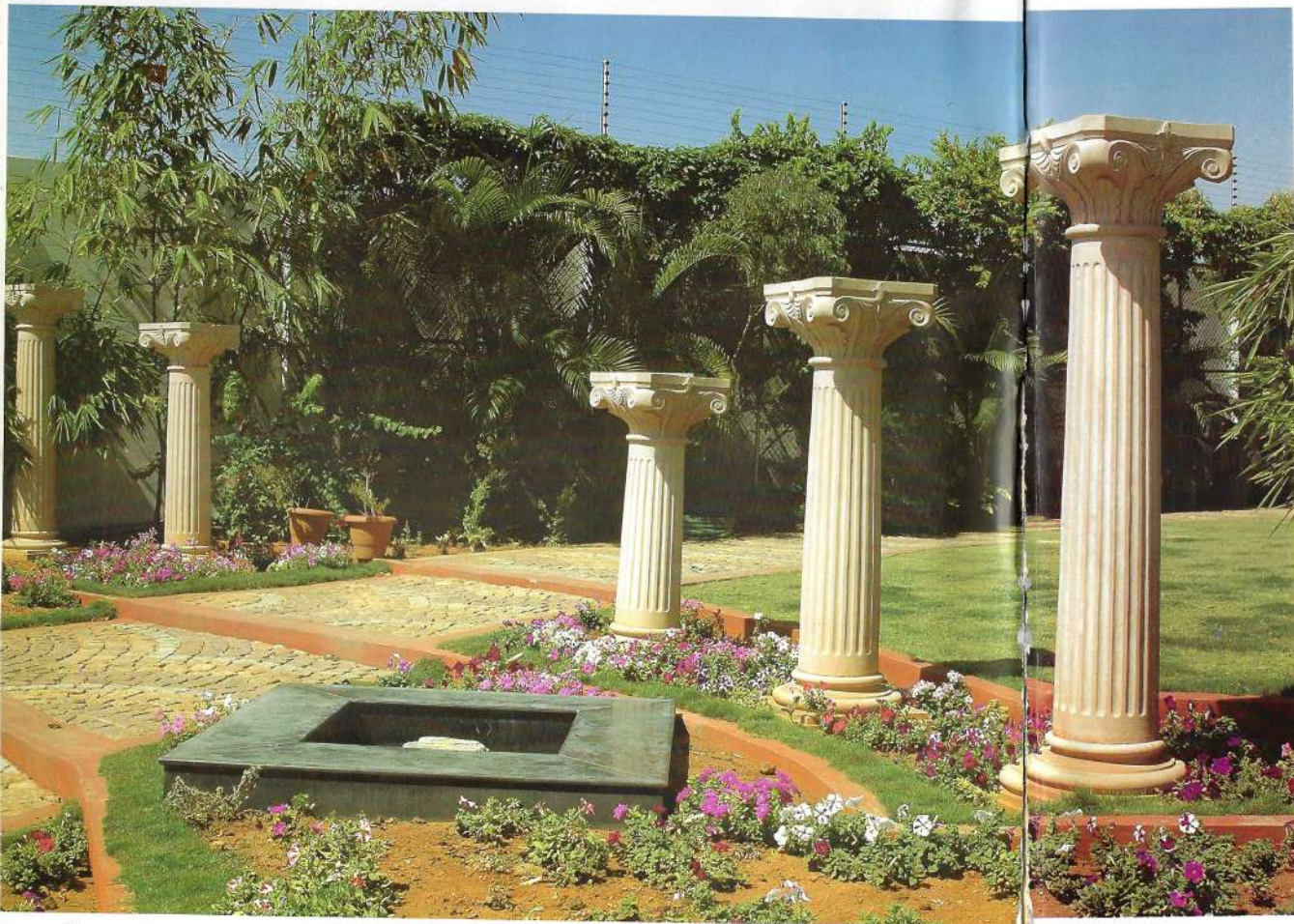


Ar. C.V. Vandana



*While seeing the landscape along with the house we clearly see the lush green grass matching so well with the stone clad walls of the house.*





*The ornate pillars of roman architect style add a touch and create a symphony with the green landscape.*



*Glass cladding in the lush green grass showcases the artistry of the architect.*

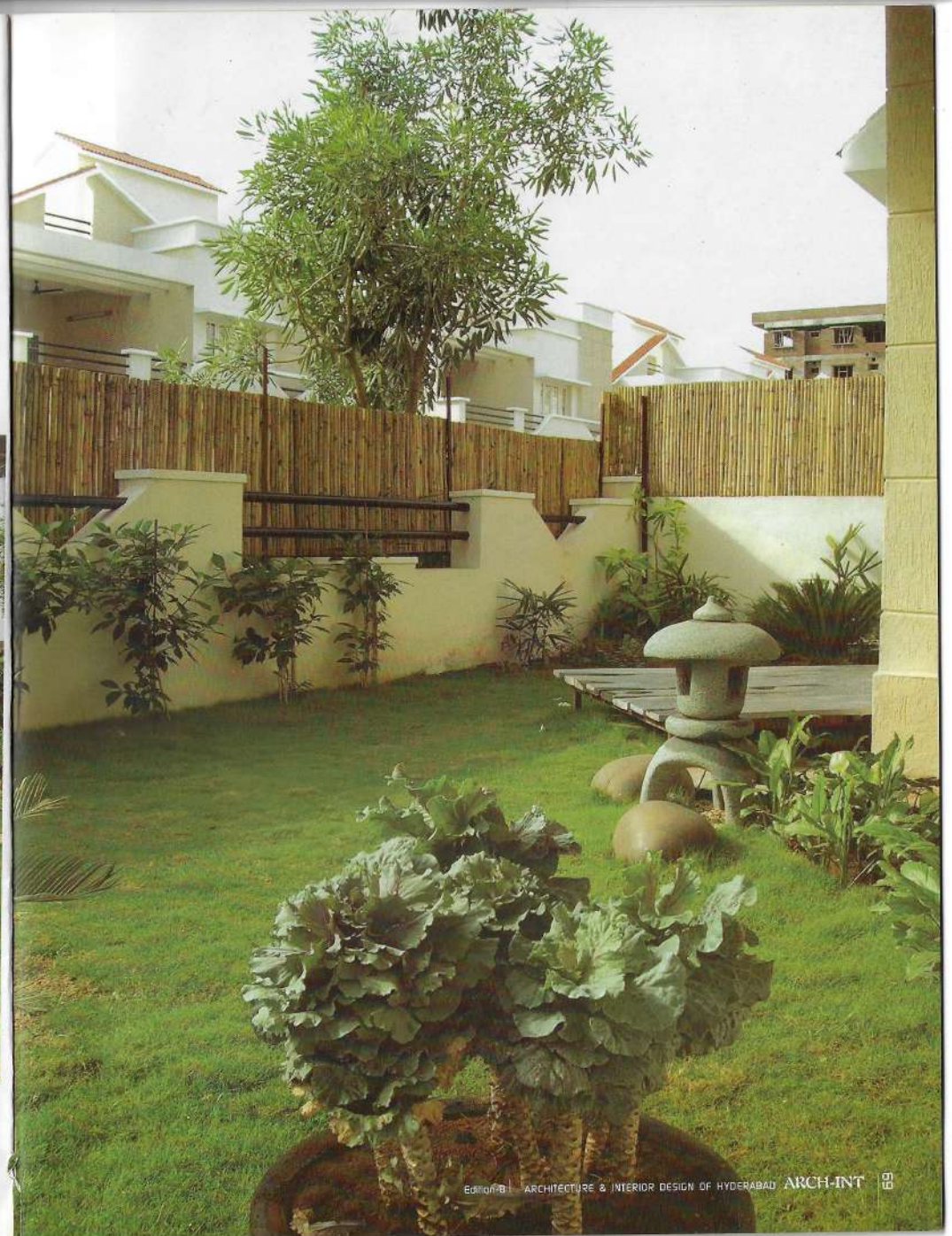
Planning a beautiful landscape can be a daunting task as the well-designed landscape apart from creating a beautiful arena needs to also be a lasting one with a year-round interest. Pheew must be a task to design a planting scheme to mix plants in a complementing manner to create style, mood and add colour and texture. Creating a visual relationship between the property and the site by using plants found growing naturally on the site, repeating architectural lines of the house and using building material that blends well in the natural environment. All is all the focus am sure is on the flow, scale and rhythm among all living and non-living items. A perfect symphony is only possible when you have passionate artist like Vandana at work. I did manage to see a lot of projects but due to space constraint problem we will showcase two of her projects in our issue this time.



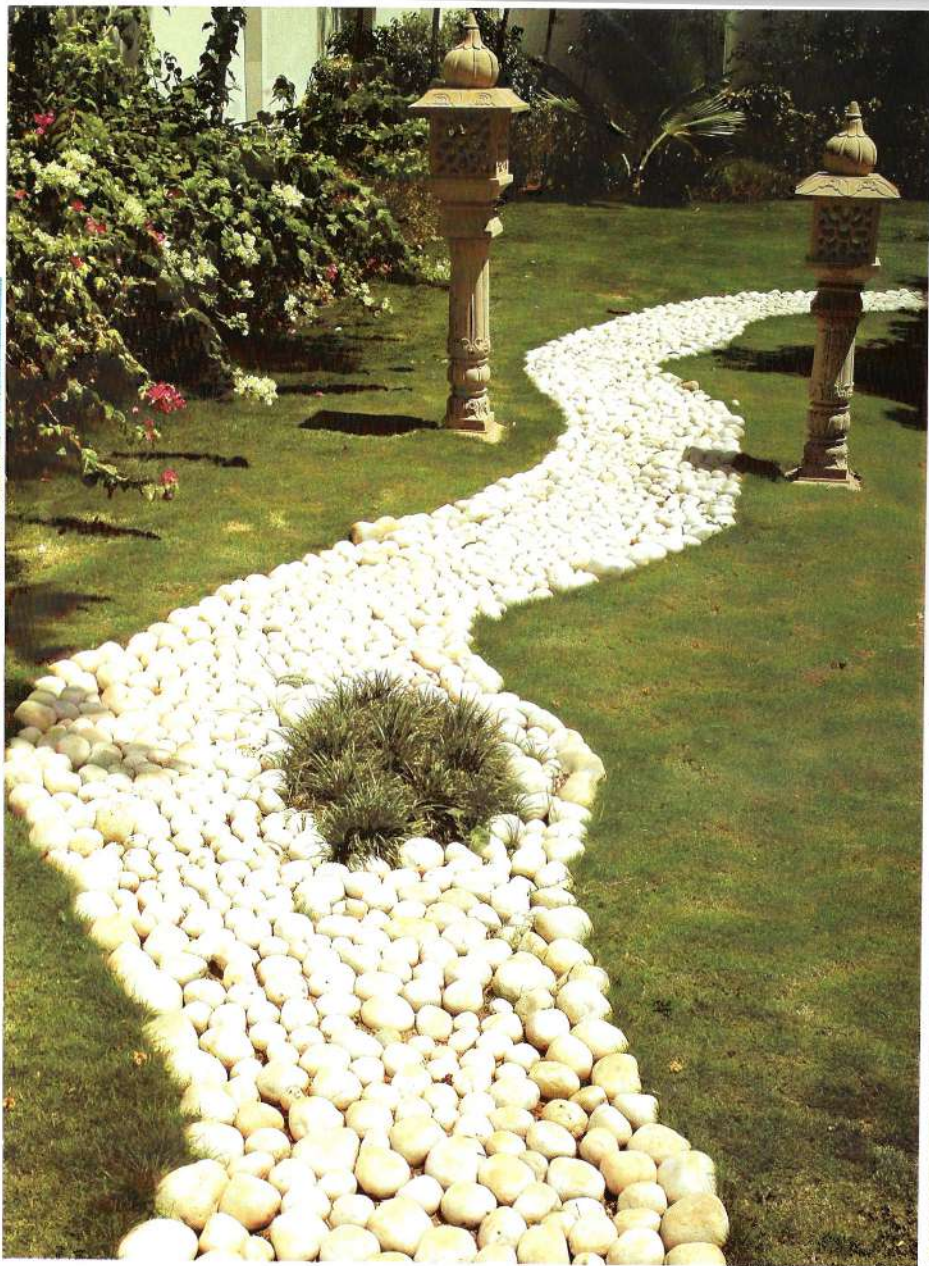
I believe vastu-shastra she said as this is one of the sublime heritages of our forefathers, a timeless science of Hindu architecture, once a very scientific treatise of engineering and aesthetics blended with social norms of Indian society. This belief was strengthened as I did my thesis on 'Vastu-Shastra and its relevance with modern architecture in middle class residential houses'. Speaking further she said an architect is responsible to the voice of its inhabitants and hence my designs are to explore and enhance their spirits. Gardens are about creating life and painting the entire surrounding as in a canvas with colours and compositions.



*The pathway made of stone embedding with grass grown in between shows many a geometric figures that complements the green garden.*







Speaking about her first favourite project Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajshankar Reddy's official residence at Somajiguda she said this present official residence of Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajshankar Reddy is along a classic British Style. The landscape design at the ground level are sought to maximize the sense of space, well suited to hold parties with dignitaries' and harmonize with the surrounding.

The design of terrace garden, articulates the relaxation for the residents of the village yet the major goal being the security concern. This design flanks a Zen style of garden. Vaastu played a major role as the slab was only 6" below the floor level and hence no levels could be considered above the threshold of the terrace door. Am sure she takes pleasure in all her hard work as one can watch nature come to life at the chief minister's residence.

Her second project is the Garden of Discovery where she has worked as a landscape consultant to Wilbur Smith associates for client Al Nakheel (Dubai Palm Developers). Garden Of Discovery was housed on 231 hectares with the value of the project being INR 1787,500000. Al Nakheel (Dubai palm developers) is developing prime housing project-gardens of discovery in Dubai. the project area lies in the west central Dubai with a coverage area of 240 hectares, 650m south of Sheikh Zayed road, between interchanges 5 and 6 about 2600m west of interchange 5.

A design trip along the road that veers from the ocean front and entices us into the desert by creating six garden styles with different themes namely Zen, Mediterranean, Contemporary, Moghal, Mesoamerican and Cacti. There are in total ninety five circular clusters in the five gardens with a total of two hundred and fifty six seven storey towers. In addition the project includes a retail area, a park café and a hotel club.

I happily took all the details and the pictures and I must say I truly enjoyed making a conversation with her as I could feel, breathe and hear nature. As far as Vandana is concerned "well my hope is to quit city and move back to "NATURE". It seems impossible as I know an Architect and an artist at work can never ever leave redesigning the real canvas of life.



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