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MAKE LIGHT

MUMBAI-BASED MO-OF ARCHITECTS PLAN A WEEKEND HOME IN KASHID, ALIBAG, TO BE A SPACE THAT GLORIFIES its environs. With a cluster of mango trees and coconut groves, the residence sits inside the contours of the site, with a deft play of light and shadow sweeping the house during the day



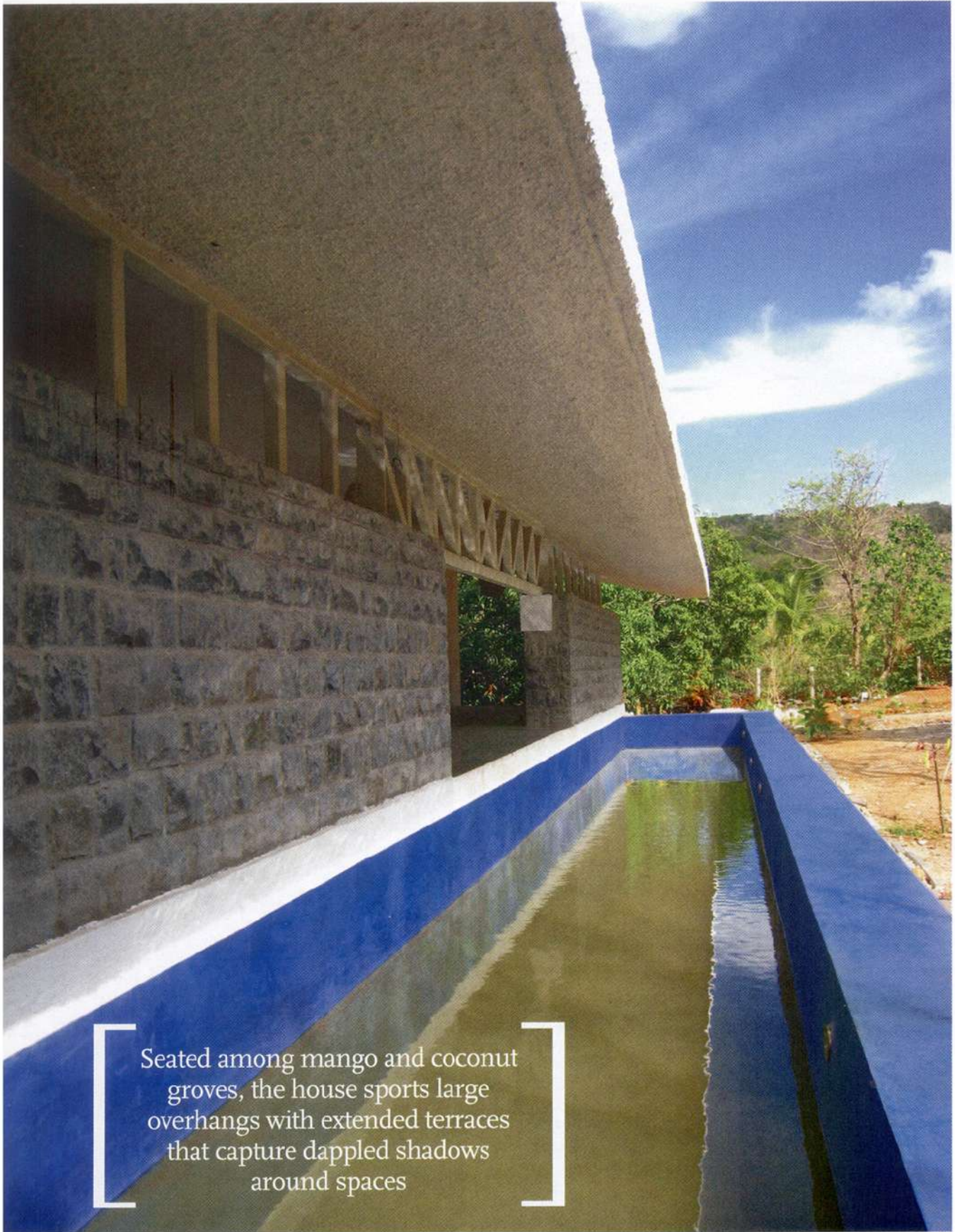
MO-OF Architects were commissioned to build this weekend home in Kashid, Alibag, that integrated the landscape in the design.

The design team chose to explore the spatial connect between the landform and the built envelope. The house was fragmented and positioned amongst four mango trees and a coconut grove that were present on the site and extended terraces were planned to

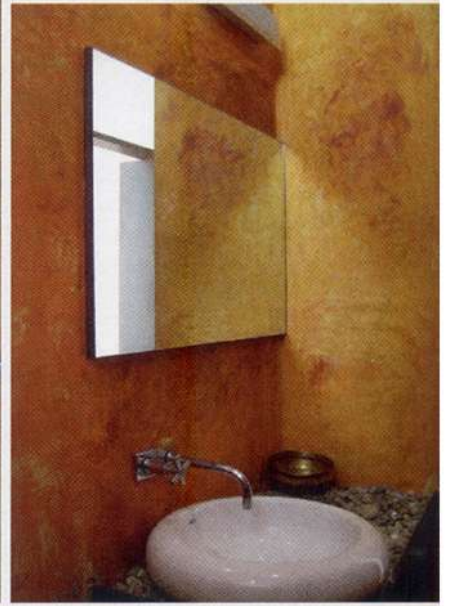
The stone wall in the verandah acts as a buffer to the costal rain that comes in with strong winds

capture the shadows that the trees formed round-the-clock.

Given the contours of the site, level differences were optimised. Rather than building a multi-storeyed structure,

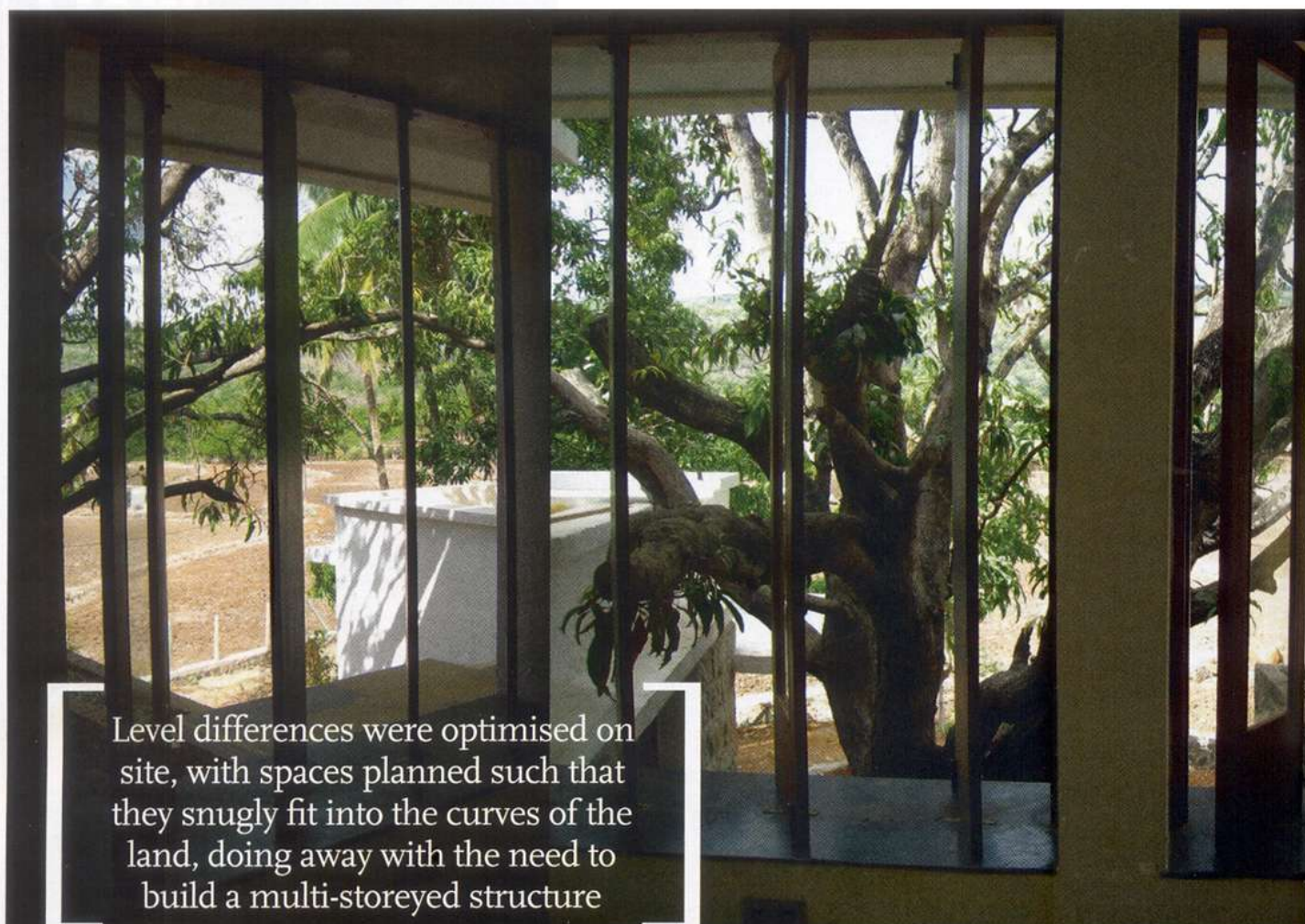


Seated among mango and coconut groves, the house sports large overhangs with extended terraces that capture dappled shadows around spaces



Sloping roofs appear to float on delicate steel girders enabling cross-ventilation in the living areas, with every part of the house connecting with the outside





Level differences were optimised on site, with spaces planned such that they snugly fit into the curves of the land, doing away with the need to build a multi-storeyed structure





the idea was to carve spaces into the land.

The built form responds to the hot and humid climate of the coastal region. Large overhangs of sloping roofs are made to 'float' on delicate steel girders to enable cross-ventilation in the living spaces. The bedrooms are embedded into the ground terrain to keep them cool, thereby reducing the exposure to solar radiation.

Load-bearing walls dressed in stone masonry are juxtaposed with large floating sloping roofs which extend over the paddy fields. The random rubble retaining walls hold the tree roots and form landscaped stairs to the lower levels.

Basalt stone was sourced from a local quarry within a 10km radius from the site, reducing the cost of building a concrete structure. The stone wall in the verandah acts as a buffer against the coastal rains and strong winds. Its strong and impervious character, gives the stone a natural texture and allows it to weather gracefully, giving the surfaces a timeless status. The heavy stone wall also stands in stark contrast to the white floating roof. The design allows spaces in the house to reconfigure themselves from daylight to dusk.



FACT SHEET

Client—Chhatwal

Location—Kashid, Alibag

Built up area—3500 sq ft

Type of construction— Load bearing

Structural consultant—Parag Nerlekar

Design team—Shantanu Poredi, Manisha Agarwal

Tara Paulose and Manasi Dighe