



## Winners Announced For “Tree House 2024 Architecture Competition”

Archetype team - 31/10/2024

The Tree House 2024 Architecture competition challenged participants to go on a nostalgic trip down memory lane and picture a lighthearted home that prioritizes solitude and fosters inner tranquility.

Participants had to select the location for the proposal, such as coastal areas, riverbanks, mountains, forests, urban environments, or even in backyards. Participants from over 37 countries came up with their creative and sustainable design solutions to cater to this spatially challenging Architectural problem.

Volume Zero Competition thanks all the competitors for participating in this competition and for contributing to this competition's research.



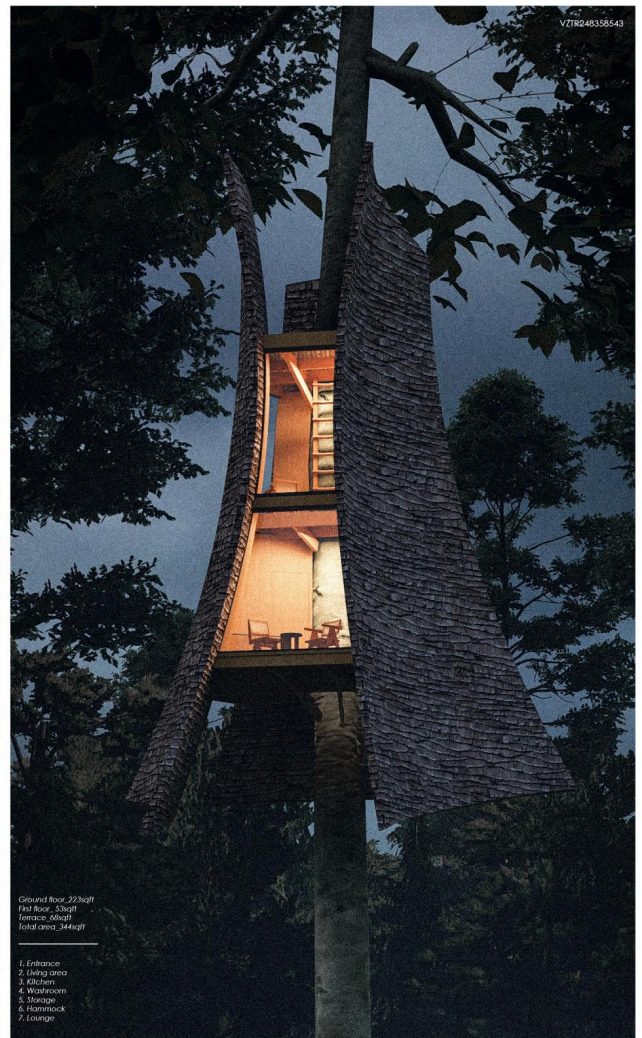
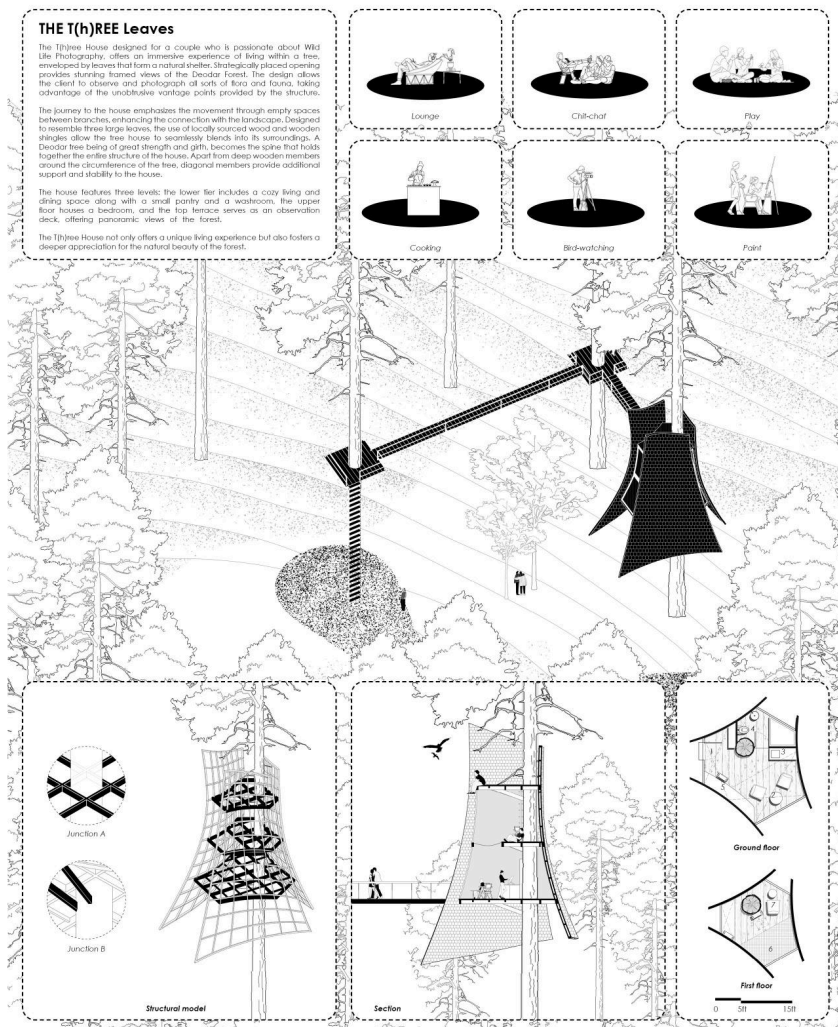
The esteemed jury for judging this competition consisted of **Sigurd Larsen** (Sigurd Larsen Design & Architecture), **Gonçalo Marrote** (Madeiguincho), **Olav Bruin** (Atelier Nomadic), **Ivan Esqueda Martínez** (em-estudio), **Sergio Araneda** (SAA Arquitectura + Territorio), **Harikrishnan Sasidharan** (NO Architects Designers and Social Artists), **Huynh Tran** (H2 Architects), **Chinmay Laiwala, Jigar Asarawala & Tarika Asarawala** (Neogenesis+Studi0261), **Yang Fei** (Field Object Lab).

The top three winners were awarded total prize money of \$4,000 while ten entries received Honorable Mentions. Here are the winning entries. The full result for the competition the **Tree House 2024 Architecture Competition** can be found [here](#).

## FIRST PLACE

### THE T(h)REE Leaves

Karan Bhambhani, Ishika Soni & Aaryan Soni  
India



The T(h)ree House designed for a couple who is passionate about Wild Life Photography, offers an immersive experience of living within a tree, enveloped by leaves that form a natural shelter. Strategically placed opening provides stunning framed views of the Deodar Forest. The design allows the client to observe and photograph all sorts of flora and fauna, taking advantage of the unobtrusive vantage points provided by the structure.

The journey to the house emphasizes the movement through empty spaces between branches, enhancing the connection with the landscape. Designed to resemble three large leaves, the use of locally sourced wood and wooden shingles allow the tree house to seamlessly blends into its surroundings. A Deodar tree being of great

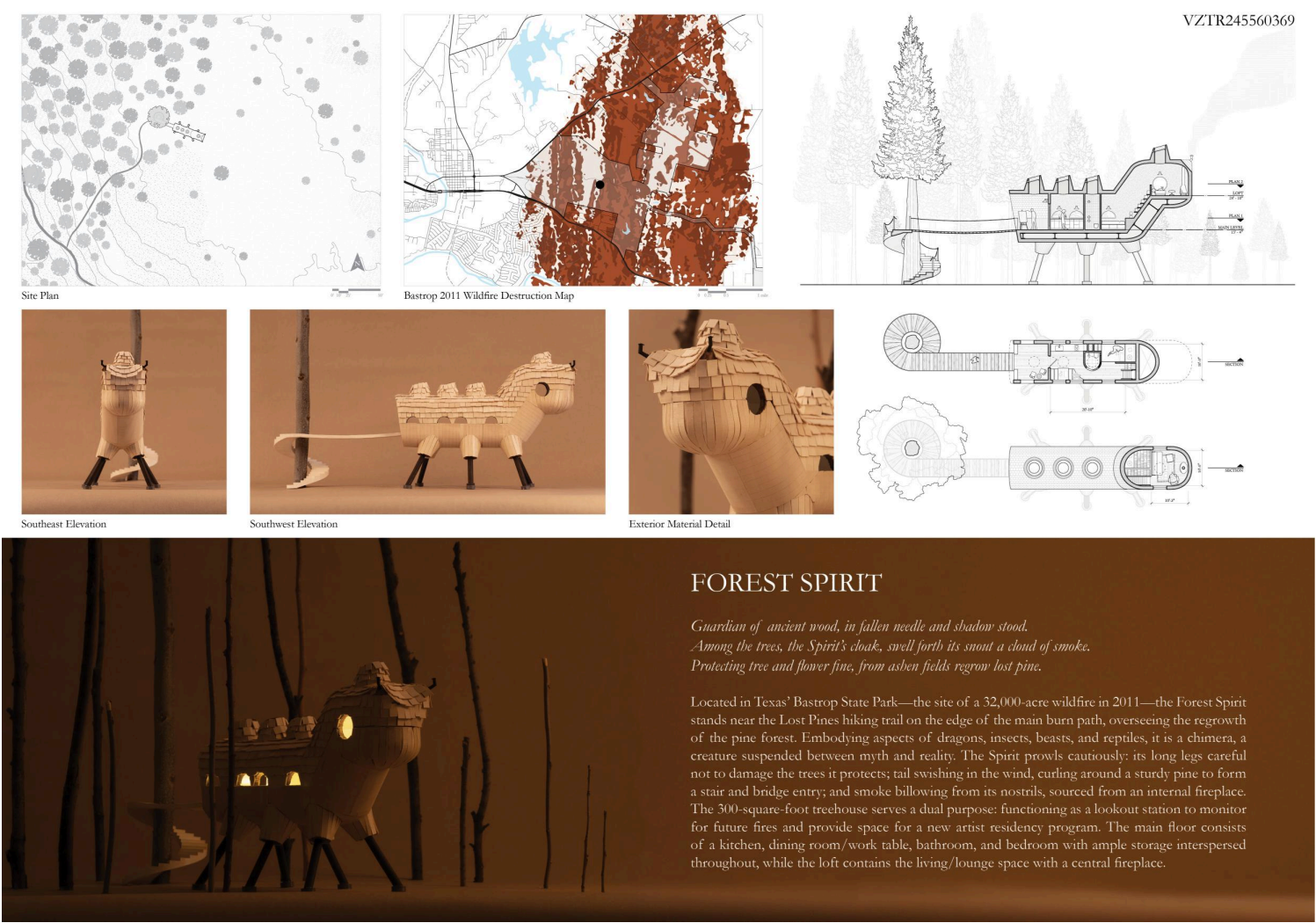


strength and girth, becomes the spines that hold together the entire structure of the house. Apart from deep wooden members around the circumference of the tree, diagonal members provide additional support and stability to the house.

SECOND PLACE

FOREST SPIRIT

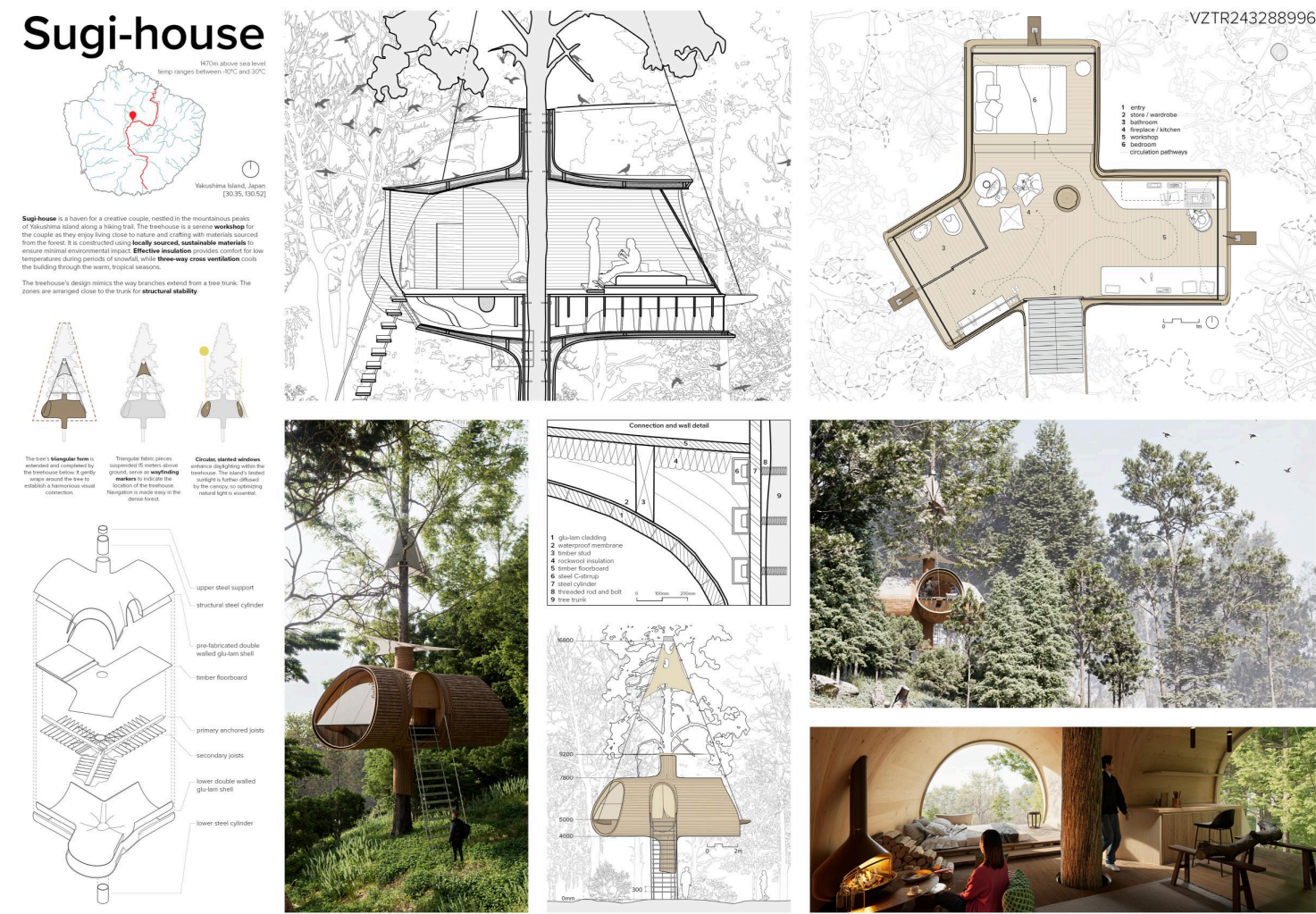
Christopher Loofs and Jordan Loofs  
United States



Located in Texas Bastrop State Park - the site of a 32,000-acre wildfire in 2011 - the Forest Spirit stands near the Lost Pines hiking trail on the edge of the main burn path, overseeing the regrowth of the pine forest. Embodying aspects of dragons, insects, beasts, and reptiles, it is a chimera, a creature suspended between myth and reality. The Spirit prowls cautiously: its long legs careful not to damage the trees it protects; tail swishing in the wind, curling around a sturdy pine to form a stair and bridge entry; and smoke billowing from its nostrils, sourced from an internal fireplace. The 300-square-foot treehouse serves a dual purpose: functioning as a lookout station to monitor for future fires and provide space for a new artist residency program. The main floor consists of a kitchen, dining room/ work table, bathroom, and bedroom with ample storage interspersed throughout, while the loft contains the living/lounge space with a central fireplace.

THIRD PLACE

Sugi - house



Sugi-house is a haven for a creative couple, nestled in the mountainous peaks of Yakushima island along a hiking trail. The treehouse is a serene workshop for the couple as they enjoy living close to nature and crafting with materials sourced from the forest. It is constructed using locally sourced, sustainable materials to ensure minimal environmental impact. Effective insulation provides comfort for low temperatures during periods of snowfall, while three-way cross-ventilation cools the building through the warm, tropical seasons.

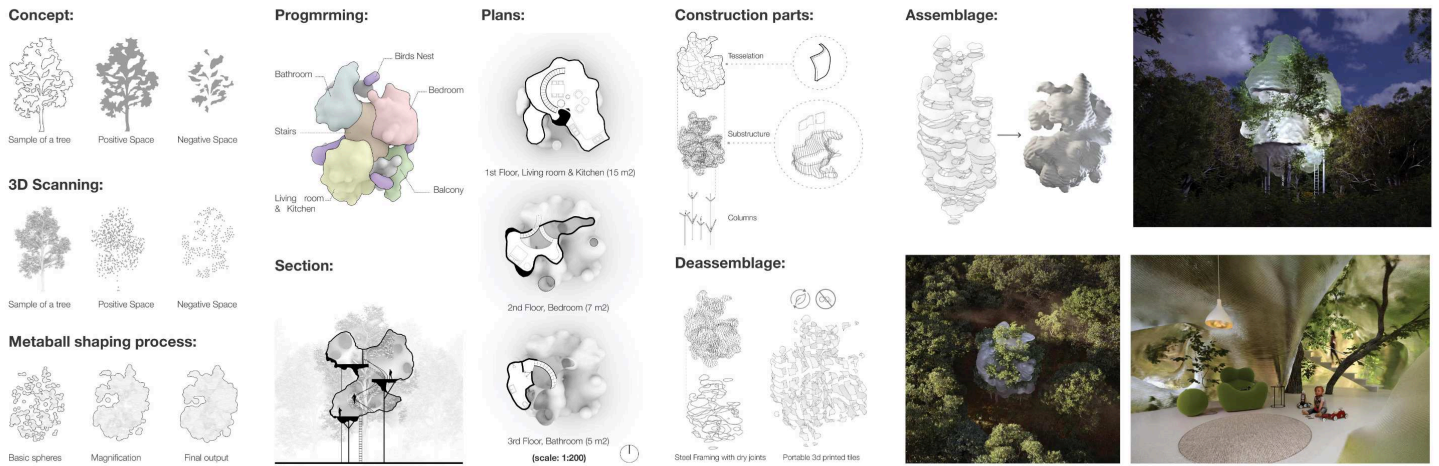
The treehouse’s design mimics the way branches extend from a tree trunk. The zones are arranged close to the trunk for structural stability.

**Honourable Mentions:**

**Honourable Mention 1: Tree House**

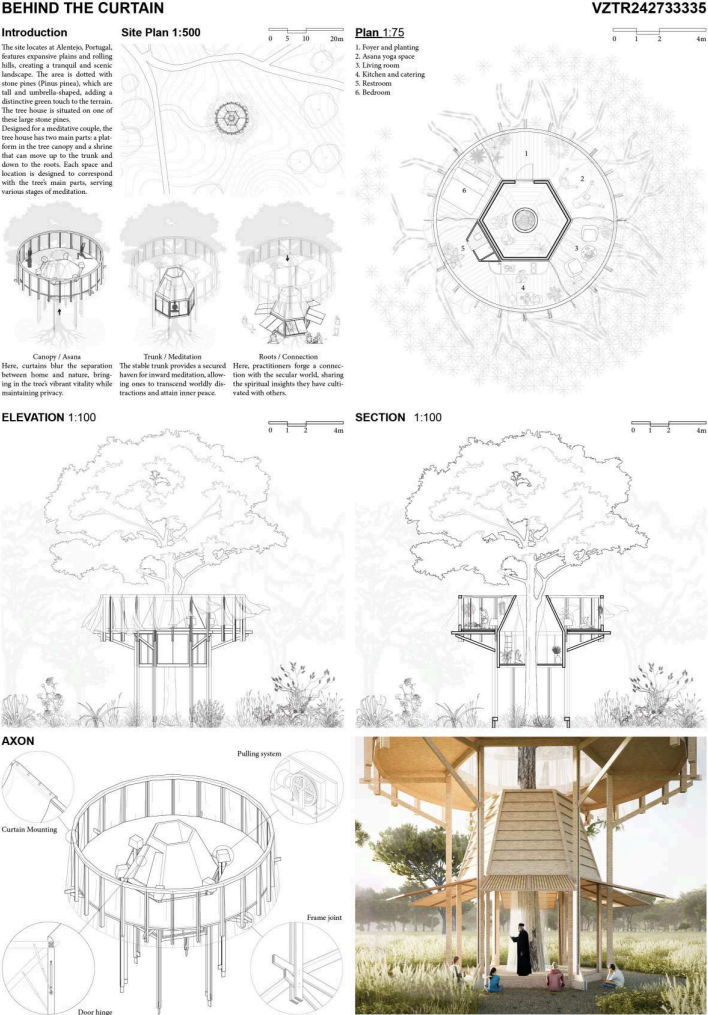
Dena Khaksar & Mohammad H Rajabi  
Netherland





## Honourable Mention 2 - BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Yuejun Han, Yifan Zhang & Xinghang Wang  
United States



**Honourable Mention 3 - EMBRACING MONSOON**  
Racin Chan, Sereynet Han & Saito Chan  
Cambodia



VOLUME ZERO  
TREEHOUSE 2024

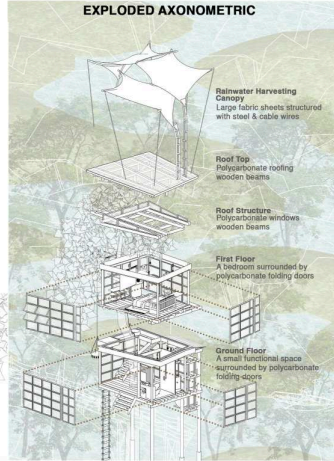
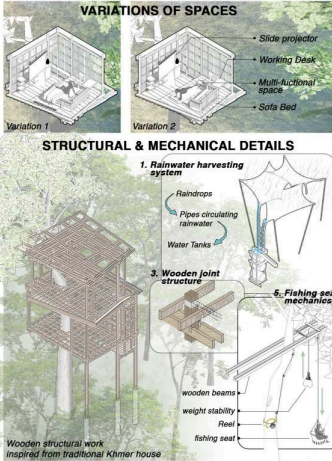
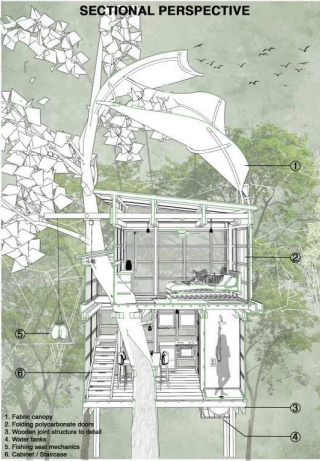
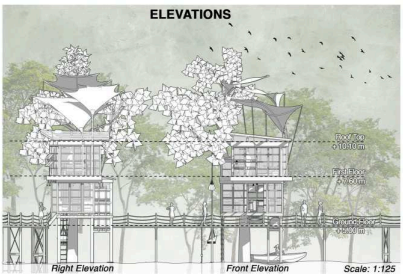
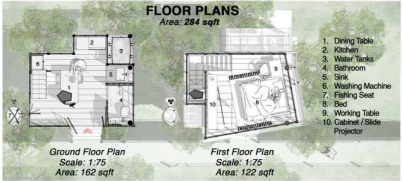
# EMBRACING MONSOON IN THE MANGROVE FOREST

**SITE & SCENARIO**

A couple fishermen take their life journey to a mangrove forest in Cambodia. Flooded during the rainy season, the forest transforms into a fisherman's paradise. Here, the couple can cast their nets amongst the tangled roots of ancient trees, hoping to catch a bounty of silver perch, plump mud crabs, and elusive catfish – a perfect harvest for their business. Their home, a small, two-story treehouse, built on stilts to rise above the seasonal floods, is designed specifically for their new life.

**'MONSOON' the concept**

The design of this treehouse is heavily influenced by the monsoon seasons along the Cambodian coasts. To adapt to the dramatic swings between the wet and dry seasons, the treehouse incorporates several ingenious features. During the relentless downpours of the wet season, a mechanical fishing seat that moves vertically, provides a unique and convenient way to catch fish. Folding polycarbonate doors and windows transform the treehouse, creating a protective barrier against the driving rain while still allowing for natural light and ventilation. For the dry season, when water becomes precious, a rainwater catchment system collects and stores rainwater, ensuring a sustainable water source for everything from drinking to cleaning.



## Honourable Mention 4 - FITOLAR

Methissa Marquetti Lazzaris De Oliveira, Thais de Oliveira Barboza & Vitor Borges Candido  
Brazil

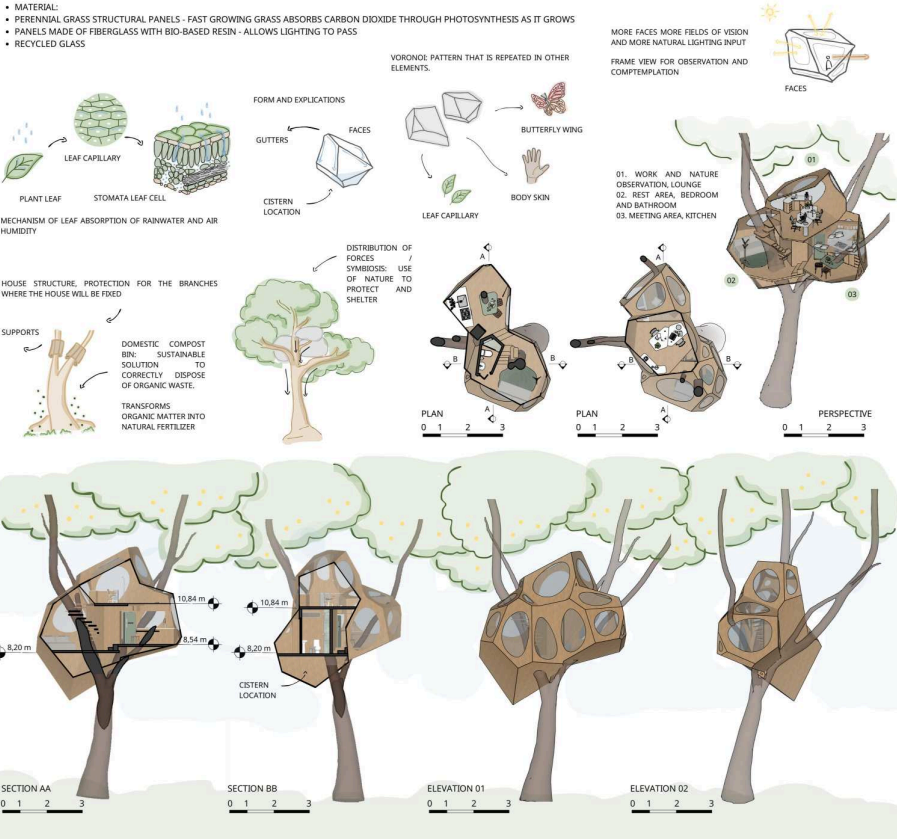


FITTO LAR

THIS PROJECT FEATURES A TREEHOUSE INSPIRED BY MATHEMATICAL **VORONOI** PATTERNS, OFTEN FOUND IN NATURE (INSECT WINGS, HUMAN SKIN, AND BOTANY). THE TREEHOUSE STRUCTURE, INSPIRED BY TREE **LEAVES**, ADOPTS A LARGE **VORONOI** PATTERN WHERE **GUTTERS** CHANNEL RAINWATER TO A **CISTERN**, MIMICKING **FOLIAR WATER ABSORPTION**. DESIGNED FOR A COUPLE OF BIOLOGISTS DEDICATED TO PRESERVING PLANTS AND ANIMALS, THE HOUSE HAS LARGE OPENINGS AREAS, ALLOWING DIRECT **OBSERVATION OF NATURE**.

**SUPPORTED BY THE BRANCHES**, IT ADAPTS TO THE TREE'S NATURAL SHAPE, **INTEGRATING** INTO THE ENVIRONMENT WITHOUT CAUSING HARM. THIS CREATES A **SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP** WHERE THE TREE SUPPORTS THE HOUSE, AND THE HOUSE EMBRACES THE TREE IN HARMONY. THIS PROJECT CONTRASTS WITH THE VITRUVIAN ANTHROPOCENTRIC VISION, WHICH ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTURE WITH THE PROPORTIONS OF THE HUMAN BODY. HERE, **HOME IS SEEN AS A LEAF**, APPROACHING THE HOUSE AS PART OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, HIGHLIGHTING A RELATIONSHIP OF INTERDEPENDENCE AND HARMONY, RATHER THAN A HUMAN IMPOSITION ON NATURE.

THE TREE CHOSEN TO SHELTER THE TREEHOUSE IS THE **SIBIPIRUNA**, **NATIVE TO BRAZIL**, WITH RAPID GROWTH AND ABUNDANT GERMINATION, IDEAL FOR REFORESTATION, GIVING IT AN **IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ROLE**. ITS YELLOW FLOWERS AND IMPOSING SIZE ARE PRAISED BY THE **COUNTRY'S RICH CULTURE**, THROUGH POEMS AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS, SYMBOLIZING **BRAZILIAN IDENTITY**.



**Honourable Mention 5: Werifesteria**  
Anusha Tamaskar - Soumili Ray Choudhury - Tushar Deoda  
India

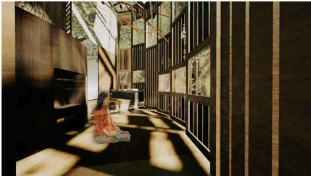


# Werifesteria

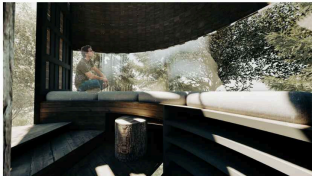
"Oh to wander longingly through the forest in search of 'mystery'"

Epiphyte is a plant that grows on another, deriving its nutrition and sustenance conveniently from another. The human relationship with nature is much of the same, a deeply dependant yet unacknowledged takeaway of resources without much return to nature itself. Decades of this "toxic" relationship has resulted in dire consequences for the environment, consequences which now push humankind to study nature and its resources that have been taken for granted, in an attempt to salvage all that is left.

Our treehouse design specifically caters to phytologists, botanists, wildlife enthusiasts and like-minded individuals who empathize with nature. Located at the heart of the forest, yet camouflaged to not disturb the surrounding wildlife it has been divided into two parts- one serving as the primary residence at a height whilst the other serves as the workspace closer to ground for easy access to samples or for exploration. The treehouse grows like a climber hugging the tree- a juxtaposition of the nurturer and the nurtured.



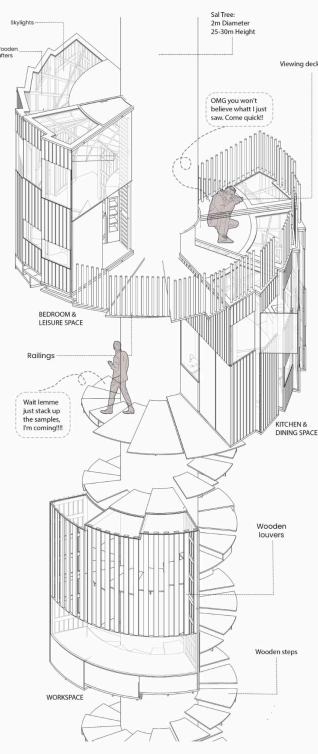
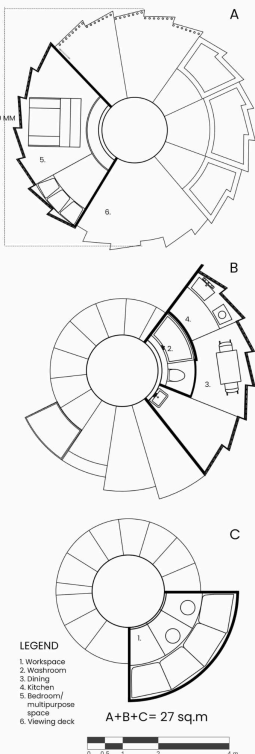
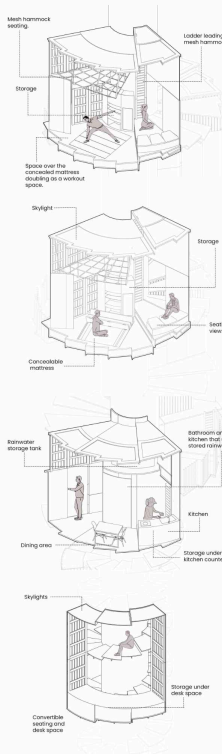
A multi functional bedroom area which is adorned by the beauty of nature.



A fully-equipped workspace for the users endowed with the serene views of the lush green outdoors.



A kitchen and dining space inclusive of sustainable practices.



**Honourable Mention 6: Bean Bloom**  
Jeslynn Tan Zi Yi, Chean Wen Bin & Woo Kai Wen  
Malaysia







# Vātāvana

"Vāta" means wind, and "Vāna" means protection. This name encapsulates both the protection from cyclones and the serene forest setting.



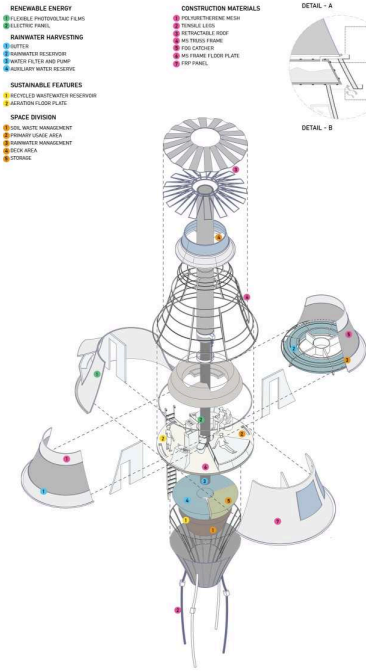
## Site Map | Simlipal, Odisha



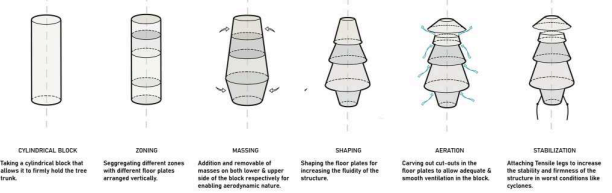
Nestled within the **Simlipal Forest**, an innovative tree house concept emerges, featuring an aerodynamic design that keeps the interior well-ventilated through a simple floor aeration technique. Engineered for resilience, this structure utilizes advanced stabilized legs to protect trees from uprooting, crucial in Odisha's cyclone-prone environment.

The tree houses are interconnected by suspended bridges, forming a colony that fosters a sense of **togetherness and community** within the forest's harmony, while preserving a large number of trees. Built with sustainable materials and eco-friendly technologies, this tree house offers a serene and immersive experience, allowing residents to connect deeply with the tranquility and beauty of the natural world.

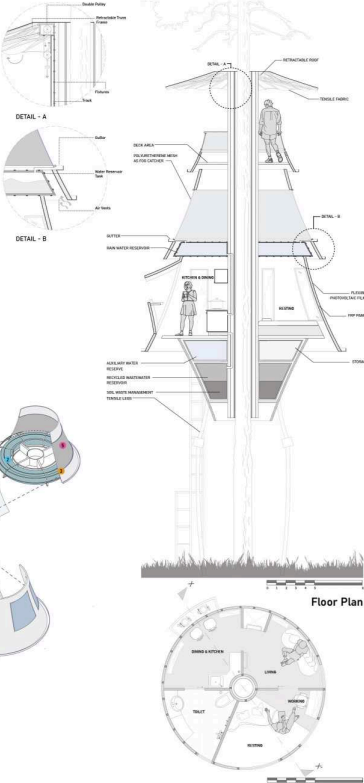
## Exploded Axonometric



## Design Development | Features



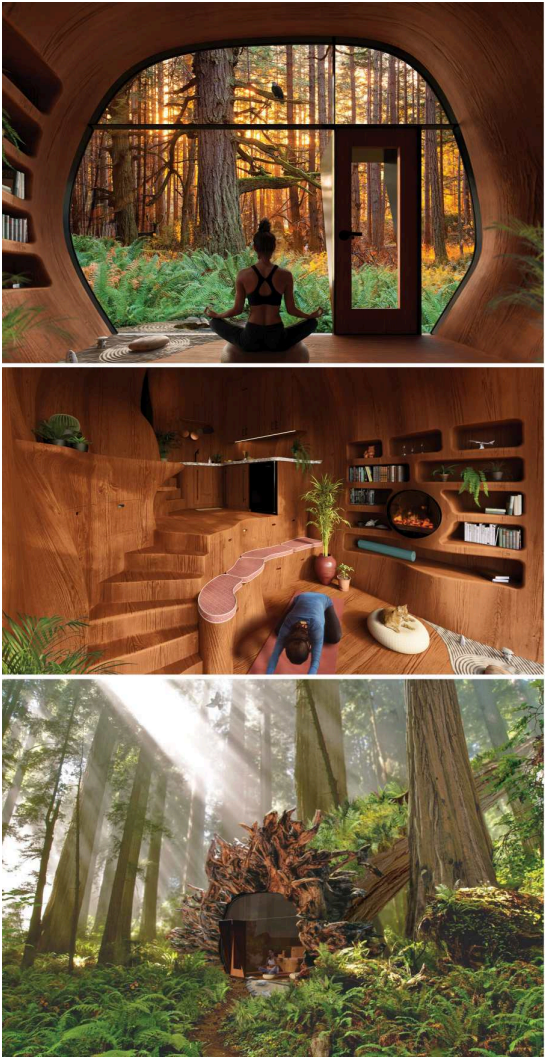
## Details



## Honourable Mention 8 - SYMBIOSIS

Liam Krusky  
Canada





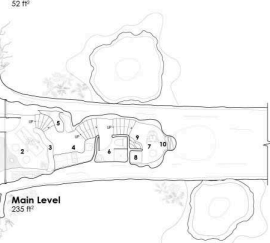
# SYMBIOSIS

Humanity places an overwhelming burden on our trees. In Western Canada we live imbalanced with this most precious resource, after destroying over half of our old-growth forests. My clients — two holistic wellness practitioners — seek a residence that promotes inner tranquility and harmonizes with the forest's natural rhythm rather than contributing to its exploitation.

This design innovatively departs from traditional practices of burdening a living tree with the weight of its own pressure-treated kin. Instead, living space is carved directly into the trunk of an ancient, naturally-fallen Western Red Cedar. The unique ascending layout enhances a range of mindfulness practices, and fosters deep connections with the forest floor, tree canopy, and oneself. Living essentials are thoughtfully incorporated, with off-grid systems harnessing on-site resources and designed for easy removal after a century. All these methods ensure minimal new material and waste, and allow the treehouse to be an active part of the tree's natural transition into a nurse log at end-of-life.

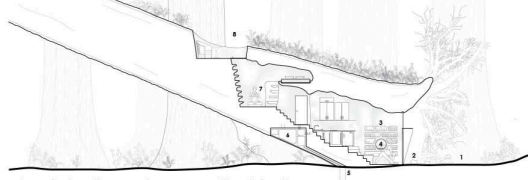
The home achieves a harmonious union between the holistic well-being of my clients and preservation of old-growth forests. It embodies a sustainable, symbiotic relationship with nature, and embraces the health benefits and child-like wonder of living within a tree.

1. Indoor/Outdoor Zen Garden
2. Wellness & Social Area
3. Bench/Storage
4. Kitchen
5. Dining/Workspace
6. Bathroom
7. Secluded Meditation Area
8. Laundry
9. Ladder to Loft
10. Outdoor Activity Patio
11. Loft Bed
12. Outdoor Activity Patio
13. Nurse Log Garden

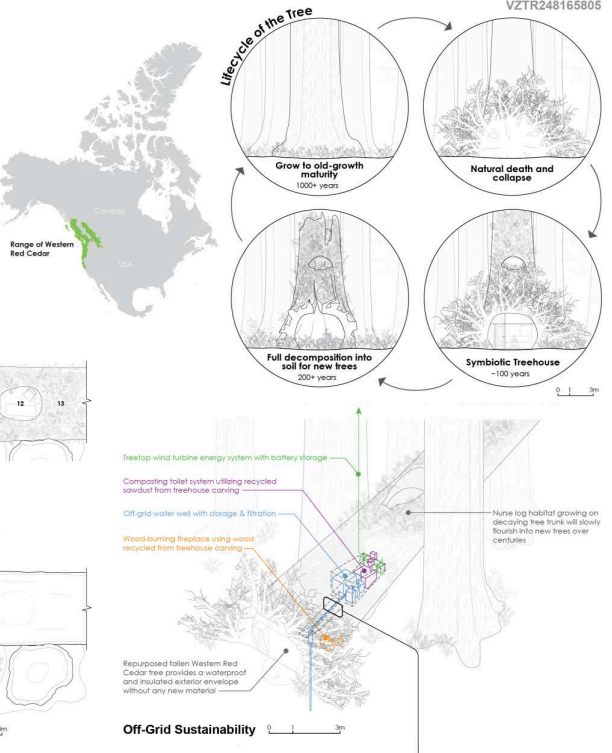


## Thoughtfully Carved Spaces | Floor Plans

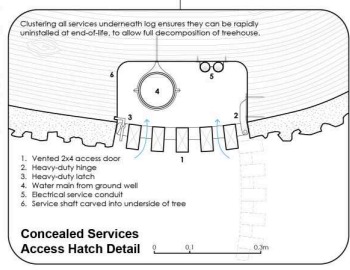
1. Intimate connection to forest floor
2. Indoor/Outdoor Zen Garden
3. Built-in Library
4. Wood Fireplace
5. Water Pump
6. Central Off-Grid Systems Area
7. Private Introspective Space
8. Close connection to tree canopy



## Integrated Wellness & Green Amenities | Section



## Off-Grid Sustainability



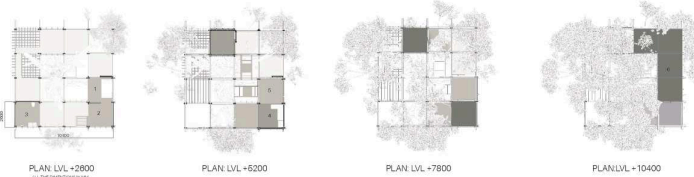
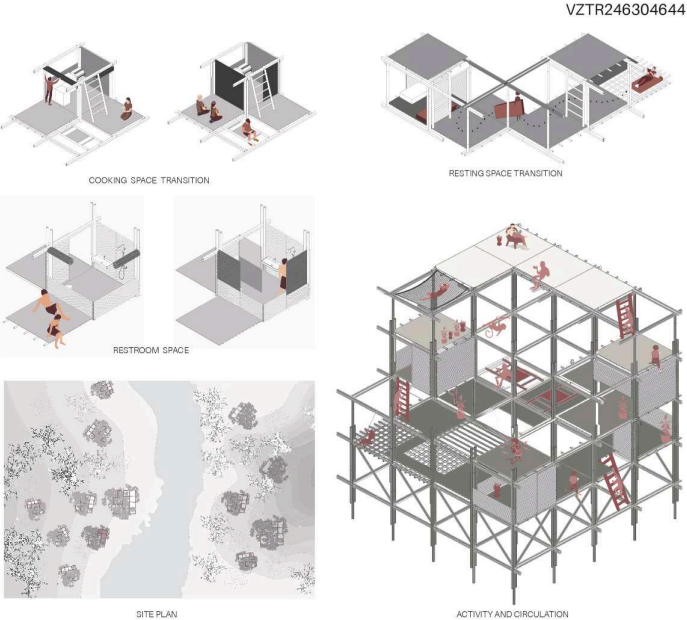
## Honourable Mention 9 - KATHAROS

Saee Vinayakrao Kadu, Angeline Lalpekhlu & Waghmode Payal Nitin  
India



# KATHAROS

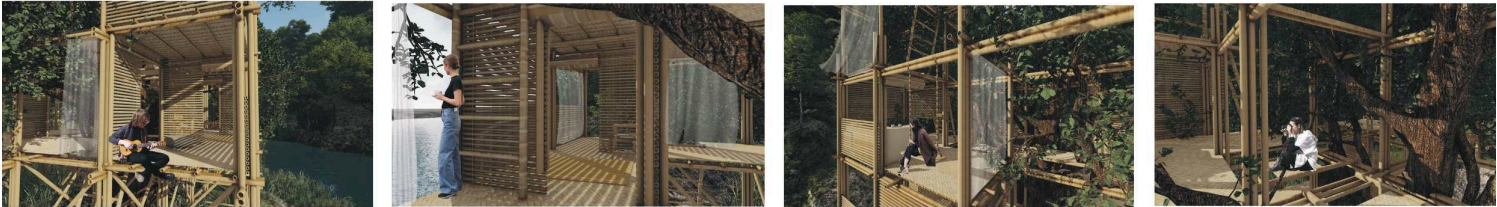
Project Katharos is seated on the misty banks of the Tlawng River in Aizawl, Mizoram. The bamboo treehouse aims to redefine the idea of a treehouse as a space that responds to the **emotional requirements** of the two individuals that inhabit it, contrasting the modern apartments which have fixed spaces for fixed functions. It appeals to the intrinsic human ideas of building intuitively in nature. The project has the potential to function as **disaster shelter** due to its ease of construction and **flexibility in volume**, applicable for different trees in the vicinity. Locally available bamboo has been utilised which makes it economically and environmentally viable.



**AREA PROGRAM**  
 1. BEDROOM  
 2. WORKSPACE  
 3. WASHROOM  
 4. KITCHEN  
 5. DINING SPACE  
 6. TERRACE

AREA OF EACH UNIT IS 6.78 sq m  
 BUILT-UP: 27.04 sq m

The combination of slender bamboo and flowing fabrics convey **lightness and harmony** with the environment. The bamboo framework allows **adjustable bamboo panels** (2.6X2.6M) to be attached as floor or wall using interlocking mechanisms. Roll-up bamboo blinds allow the user to customise the spaces according to their wish. One experiences the banyan tree in its entirety, allowed by the varying levels of scaffolding. The spaces are closely interlinked with the rainforest via circulation through branches and ample ventilation in every space. Katharos represents **adventure and serenity** from the hustle of human life.

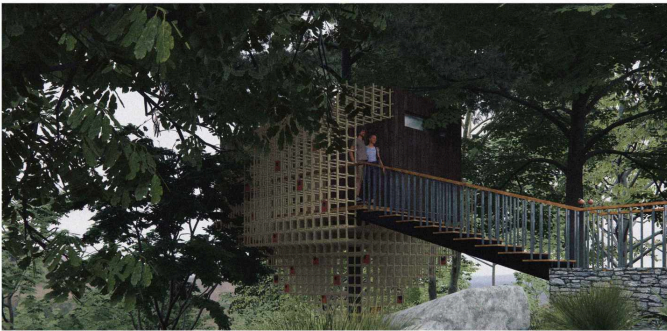
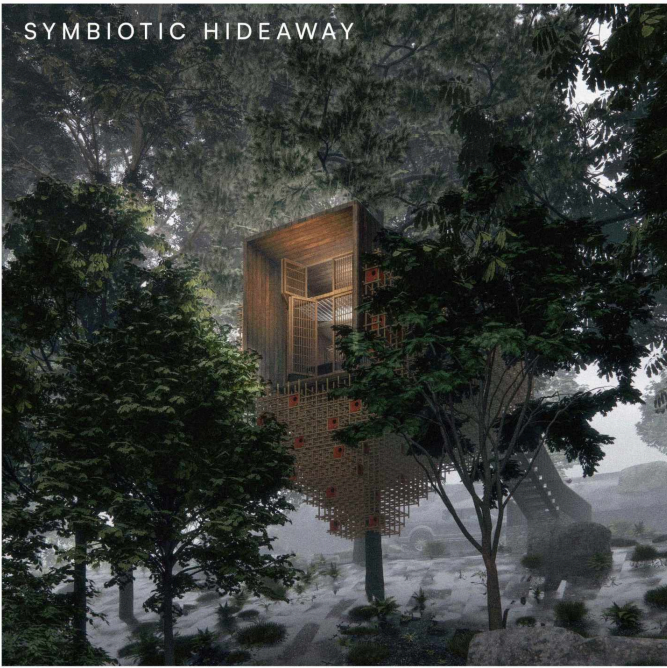


## Honourable Mention 10 - SYMBIOTIC HIDEAWAY

K Shashavindu  
 India



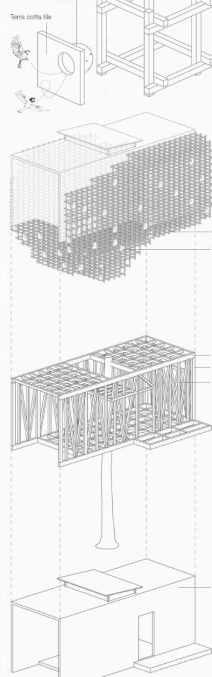
# SYMBIOTIC HIDEAWAY



Location: Dandeli is in the western ghats of India, 80 km away from Hubli. Known for its biodiversity, wood production, and dense rain forest, Dandeli is a great place to stay and get away from a busy city like Hubli. The design is focused on blending and coexisting with the thick rain forest while focusing on spatial efficiency and comfort. The structure faces north toward the beautiful landscapes of Dandeli, blocking harsh sunlight and strong western rainy winds. Safe entry ways make accessibility easier. The design has enough space for any future needs. A cubic lattice supporting the structure prevents the entire load from falling on a single area, thus preventing damage to the tree and increasing the lifespan. And the cubic lattice allows to integrate modular bird nest systems, which can also be modular for future adaptability, which can help specific endangered species like the Nilgiri flycatcher and black-orange flycatcher. These are an important part of the ecosystem of western ghats who only live in small cavities. The cubic lattice is made up of waste pieces from the production of teak wood in nearby plantations, making it economical, sustainable, and easy to repair.

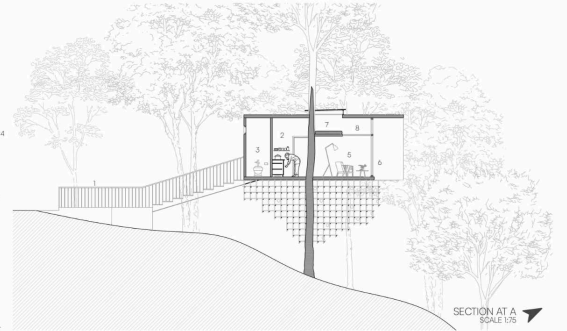
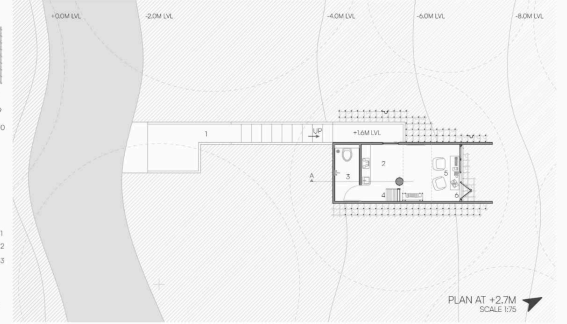
## Modular bird nest

Ceramic shell with drain and ventilation zone



## Annotations

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1-Entry               | 2-Kitchen                   |
| 3-Bathroom            | 4-Bunk bed ladder           |
| 5-Living area         | 6-Sliding folding window    |
| 7-Bunkbed             | 8-Tee net                   |
| 9-30mm thick Teak     | 10-Term coffee bird nest    |
| 11-200x100mm oak wood | 12-80x100x20mm oak wood     |
| 13-100x50mm oak wood  | 14-Recycled ply with veneer |



SECTION AT A  
SCALE 1/5