

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY wishes from RaA !

We are glad to reconnect with you on
this special day through the summer edition
of “*NarRaAtives*”!!

We’ve had an eventful season with many creative
concepts growing into beautiful designs, in many
diverse projects with truly enjoyable
collaborations.

We are excited to share with you our
experiences and endeavours!

Regards,
Team RaA



DYING WISDOM



A satellite image picks up a profusion of tanks in Ramanathapuram. The blue spots show hundreds of eris in various sizes and spread out in an elaborate network.

Image Source : National Remote Sensing Agency | Image Courtesy : Dying Wisdom : Rise, fall and Potential of India's Traditional Water Harvesting Systems, CSE, 1997

“One third of the irrigated area of Tamil Nadu is watered by eris, ancient tanks. Eris have played several important role in maintaining ecological harmony - as flood control system, preventing soil erosion and wastage of runoff during periods of heavy rainfall, and in recharging the groundwater in surrounding areas. The presence of eris provided an appropriate micro climate for the local areas.”

“The enormous expropriation of village resources by the state led to the disintegration of the traditional society, economy and polity. Allocations for the maintenance of eris (during the British rule) could no longer be supported by the village communities and these extraordinary water harvesting systems began to decline.”

- T M Mukundan

(Excerpt taken from Dying Wisdom : Rise, fall and Potential of India's Traditional Water Harvesting Systems, Chapter : Eastern Coastal Plains-Tamil Nadu: Tank Traditions, Edited by Anil Agarwal and Sunita Narain, Centre for Science and Environment, 1997)

A sense of gratitude to this picture as this has triggered and always encouraged us towards pursuing sustainable water management practices in all our projects!

Reviving the Dying Wisdom

We at RaA understand the significance and value of this wisdom and have been striving to address this issue in all our site contexts...and ECO POND is the solution we found!

Eco Ponds - An Integral part of Landscape Master Plan

These ponds are man-made and designed as a part of the projects' master plan addressing the entire water management requirement of the site .

Eco ponds add value in every project of ours' in the following aspects...

- ***Resource of water***
- ***Replenishing the ground water table***
- ***Mitigate Flood***
- ***Enhance Biodiversity***
- ***Improve the Microclimate***
- ***Aesthetic Site Feature***

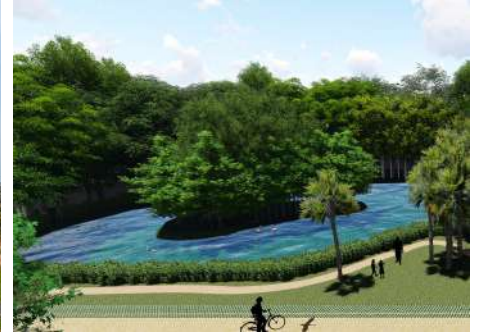
Eco ponds in diverse site contexts in our projects...



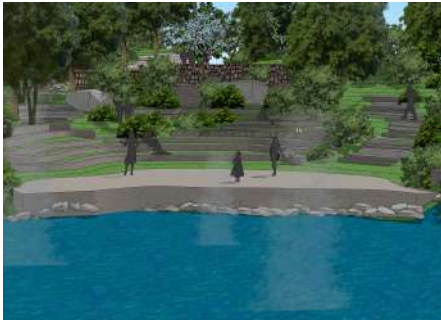
Sripuram Golden Temple, Vellore



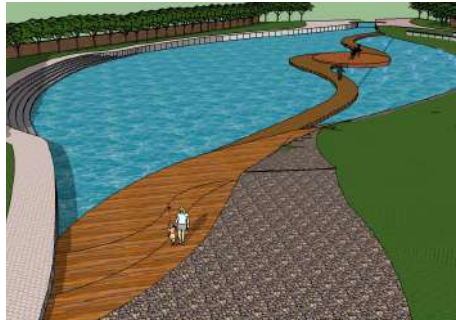
DICV Industrial Plant, Chennai



Vellore International School, Chennai



Tex Valley Mall, Erode



ETA Globevill Township, Chennai



Sholinghur Temple



Aviram Residence, Tirupur



Thendral Residence, Chennai



Eden Park Township, Chennai

Where Man and Nature Connect!

At **Tex Valley Mall** in Erode, the Eco pond is a part of the OSR. Located at the lowest point of the site, it receives all the site rain water by gravity and serves as a great water resource. Its also a zone of social interaction in this textile park making it an interesting landscape design feature.

The Eco pond at the Neythal zone of **Vellore International School** in Kayar is designed at the lowest point of the nature zone. It creates a distinct biodiversity and becomes an interaction zone for the students to connect with nature.



Tex Valley Mall, Erode



Vellore International School, Chennai

Re-Conditioning the Regional Landscape

Apart from conserving water, the primary intent at our temple projects - the **Sholinghur Temple** and **Sripuram Golden Temple, Vellore**, was to enhance the micro climate of the region that has harsh climatic conditions. Our approach was to work with the natural terrain creating a cyclic flow of water that helps with the irrigation as well as takes care of the water requirements for the area creating self-sustaining habitats.



Sholinghur Temple



Sripuram Golden Temple, Vellore



A Visual Delight !

Apart from their ecological and functional aspects, Eco ponds could be designed as beautiful aesthetic features. In townships **Eden Park** and **ETA Globevill** , they become interactive social spaces that gives back to the community a zone of natural tranquillity and wellness.



Eden Park Township, Chennai



ETA Globevill Township, Chennai

Transitioning to Tranquility...

Nothing to beat the Eco ponds in terms of adding tranquility to the landscape spaces!

In the residential projects - **Thendral** and **Aviram**, they create a calming ambience that becomes a habitat for other lives too!



Thendral Residence, Chennai



Aviram Residence, Tirupur



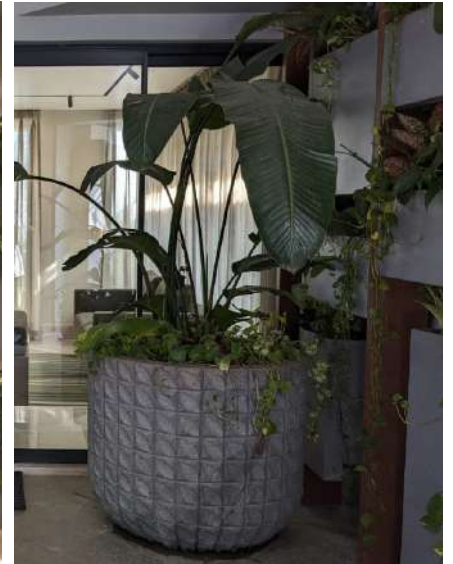
Valliammai Illam

T Nagar, Chennai

NarrDatives

Parking to Paradise !

Located in the heart of the Chennai city, Valliammai Illam exudes warmth and vibrance. The parking at the stilt level transforms into a tropical paradise garden with vertical green all around.



Valliammai Illam

T Nagar, Chennai

Size doesn't Matter !

Though its a tiny space, diverse landscape elements - lawn, multi-tier planting, water feature and ample seating have not only created a lovely landscaped space but a fun place for the kids too !



Royal Care Hospital

Coimbatore

An upcoming healthcare project in Coimbatore. Both the indoor atrium and the outdoor gardens have been defined as stress-free, calming spaces with wellness and accessibility as the prime parameters.



RaA is thrilled to receive the HUDCO DESIGN AWARD 2023-24 once again! This is a National level prestigious award that we have received for our project, Vellore International School (VIS), Kayar Village near Chennai, Tamil Nadu in the Landscape Design Category for its Sustainable Landscape Design Practices.

Built in the vision of “International Pedagogy, Indian Culture” the landscape of VIS is a sequential hierarchy of interesting outdoor spaces for learning, leisure, congregations and play... Each with a distinct identity based on AINTHINAI OF LANDSCAPES, weaved and well integrated into the Architecture.



SYMPOSIUM - IGBC Synchronizing Sustainability Session on Harmonising : Energy , Earth and Expanse (E³)

Our Principal Ar. Ravikumar Narayan participated as one of the speakers in the event “**IGBC Synchronizing Sustainability**” on 26th April 2024. He discussed the importance of **Earth** deriving from ‘Ainthinai’, the ancient wisdom of our land to protecting and caring for it through our project case studies. He emphasized the need for various creative sustainable processes of Site planning & Landscape design.



RaA welcomes new members - Landscape Architect Haritha, Architect Rupavathy and young talents - Chakkarabani Dharman, Kargi Selvarajan and Sharon Cynthia, Landscape Interns (M. Arch, SPA Bhopal & Vijayawada) to the team!

Wishing them All the Best!



We at RaA have always been enthusiastically engaged in Team collaborations. We believe that such collaborations lead to many mutually benefitting associations. Be it an engaging session with our client, Mr. S.C. Murali Kumar of Chandramari International School, Coimbatore for a discussion of our projects and possible future collaborations with Ar. B. Ramesh of MTA and his Team, we thoroughly encourage and enjoy a thought-provoking session!



Team RaA's Landscape Architect G.P Jebalin & Architect Divya Darshini participated in a Tree planting event at Mahindra World City, Chennai along with Ar. Pavitra Venkatesh of Mahindra Lifespace & Ar. Gokulamurali KN of Edifice Consultants.

HAPPY WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY !



Hope you enjoyed reading this as much as we loved sharing our thoughts and works with you!
We welcome you to share your ideas and views with us as always!

With warm regards,
Team RaA

