

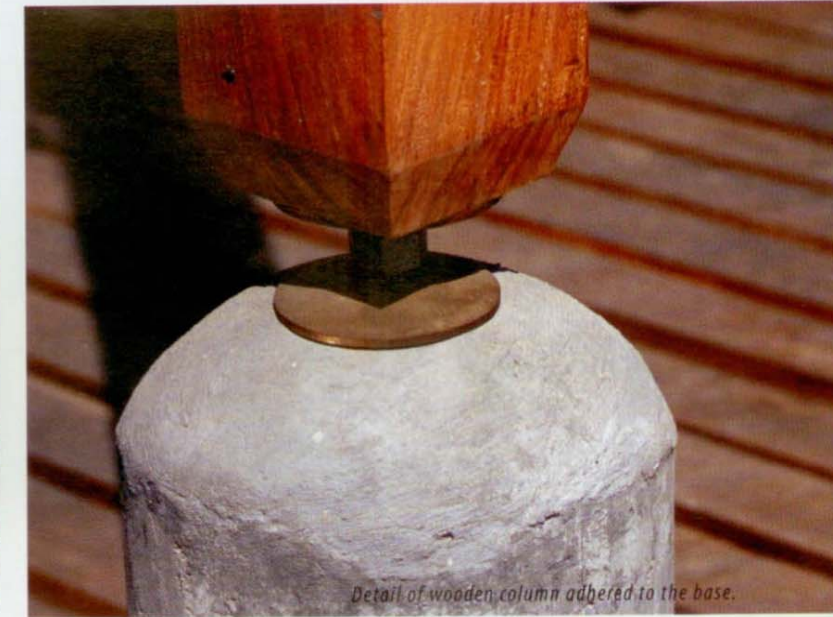
'Regionalised' approach

Set on place that is away from city crowds and traffic is a contemporary cottage, modest and simple in its expression yet luxurious and stylish in usage.

*Text: Ritu Sharma
Photographs: courtesy the architect*



The House reflects its image as rustic yet urban and oddly authentic, all at the same time.



Detail of wooden column adhered to the base.



Decorative and elaborate shisham wood columns characterise the entrance.

Surrounded by fields of seasonal crops and marigolds, where romanticising nature is most appropriate, manmade connections with nature itself have been established by giving utmost importance to the natural landscape and setting. In this instance, it is the view of the fields, as well as a desire to maximise the outdoor living possible in both winter and summer season, which permeates the design of a peaceful house to relax and to reconnect with the family and with nature. The two and a half acre of agricultural land, in Sadrana village, near Delhi, is a stone's throw away from Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary where many bird watchers spend their time.



SITE PLAN

With 'regionalised architecture' as a basic philosophy, the concept was further explored as to produce architecture that is a combination of old, which is traditional and new, which is modern. It is contextually relevant with respect to place and people that fosters the use of local material, art and crafts and works within the broader definitions of contemporary architecture.

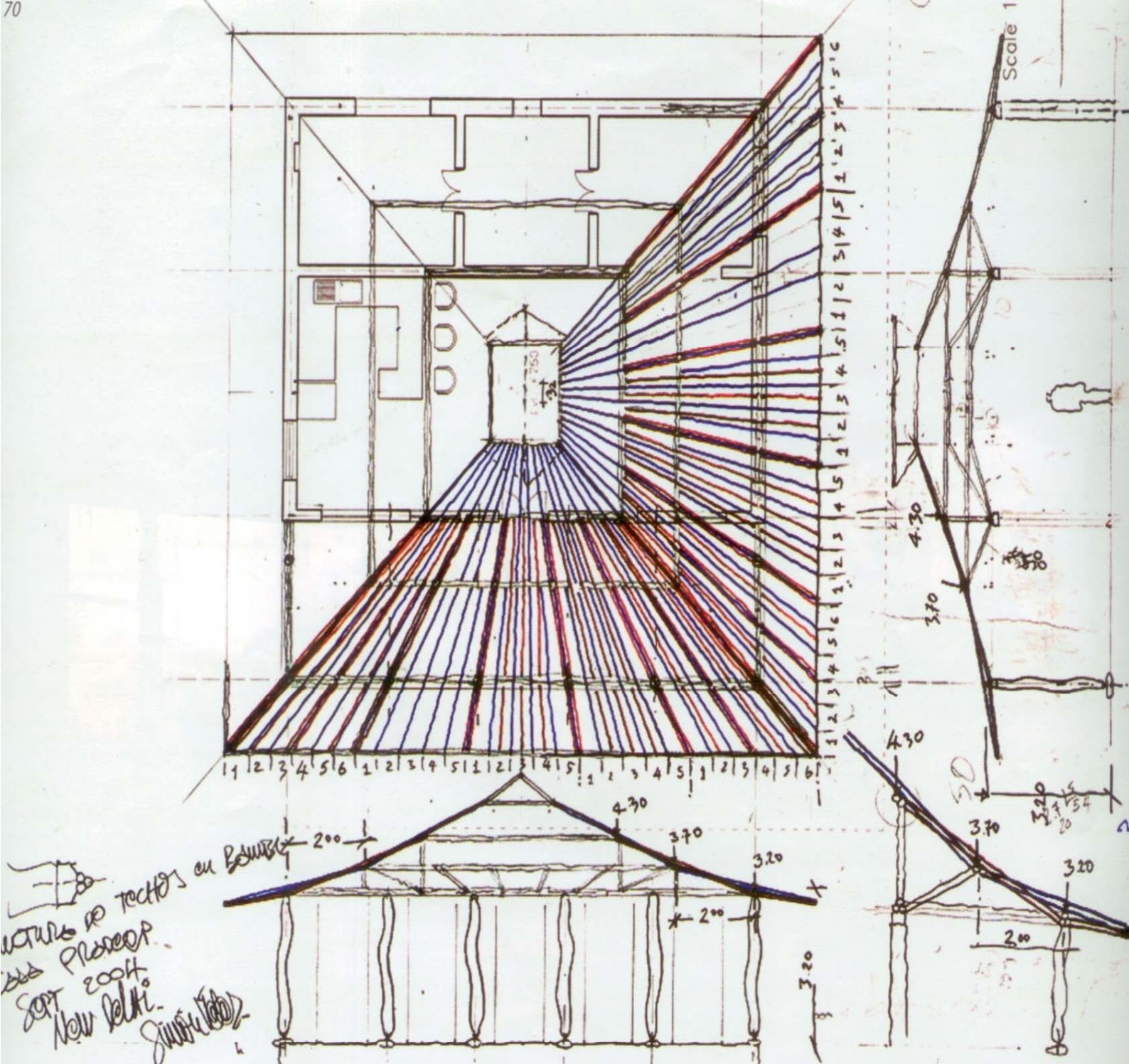
This farm house idea came up in response to the strong appeal of the site whereas, the design objective was to deal with diverse scales, functions, and views: from gathering in the expansive living cum dining extending out to a deep verandah overlooking the fields to spend some time reading alone in a cozy corner. Thus, the house is laid out in an open plan with unified interior space instead of segregated isolated rooms.

The floor plan comprises of the main lounge and dining area that are the prime features with appropriate rest room facility associated with it. There is a kitchen along with all allied services that caters to the living areas and also an outdoor dining provision on the deck looking over the fields. The house is divided into two sections linked by a bridge which accompanies the scaling of the house. One experiences an intimate court which leads to an interesting journey through a subtle connection between the living and kitchen.

A small bedroom belies the living spaces beyond which are generous wardrobe cum change room leading to a luxurious bathroom with an outdoor shower and court. An elaborately carved marble elephant wash basin from Jaipur was especially designed by Ayush Kasliwal as the focus of the bathroom.



Spacious verandahs overlook the landscape.



STRUCTURE ROOF TOP
 PRADEEP
 2004
 NEW DELHI
 SIMON VELEZ

ROOF DETAILS



An open plan with unified interior space: the main lounge and dining area



The bamboo roof with a sculptural gesture

The spaces create a system of framed views, which draws in the nature visually. Spacious verandahs overlook the landscape, whereas a series of perforations in the enclosure blurs the edge between indoor and outdoor, seamlessly integrating both.

Decorative and elaborate shisham wood columns characterise the entrance. The inside reveals as an element of surprise with simple geometry, whose language is based on local materials and resolves the roof with a sculptural gesture. This large covering made of bamboo roof (Bambusa balcooa, sourced from the Northeast of India), articulates the space, lending the house its particular identity.

This roof is designed by Simon Velez, the Colombian architect who is a proponent of bamboo architecture around the world.

With elegant lounge furniture reminiscent of the days of the Raj, each detail and custom furnishing is designed to make mundane rituals into thoughtful events. Environmental design plays an integral role in achieving a network of green and open spaces. The house is imagined as porous object whereby air movement and visual connectivity permeate into the built form. The bamboo framework has thatch on top of it for insulation while roof overhangs provides some shade from the hot afternoon sun.

The essential concept of the house reflects the way in which the designer, who also happens to be the owner, look forward to the architectural practice. Rustic yet urban and oddly authentic, all at the same time, the unique Farm House makes modern, the approach of rural home building.

FACT FILE:

Project	: House by the Bamboo Grove
Location	: Sadrana Village, Gurgaon
Client	: Pradeep Sachdeva
Architect	: Pradeep Sachdeva Design Associates
Design team	: Pradeep Sachdeva & Simon Velez
Project Area	: Site area -14,074sqm Built up Area -201sqm
Civil Contractors	: Direct employed workers
Carpentry Contractors	: The full Cycle Interior Workshop
Project Estimate	: ₹ 2 million
Completion of project	: 2009