

### **MANU LIBRARY**

Kariapatti near Madurai Tamilnadu

DESIGNED FOR Mr Barathan

August 2010

#### SEKOS

Architects and interior designers 1673, 16th Main, 31st Cross, BSK 2nd Stg, Bangalore 560 070. India Phone: + 91 (080) 26713373 • Email: info@sekosarchitects.com

MANU LIBRARY is a space for interaction. We envisage the library as a catalyst in the community and becomes a major interaction area for the whole village – not only for the people that come to read and enrich their knowledge; but also to the passers-by.

THE BUILDING FORM evolved around this idea of openness and sharing. The building encompass spaces for kids to come and play; for the elders to come and discuss; for the adults to come and reflect and interact with other like minded adults.

THE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE of the library is conceived to be unique so that it generates a sense of curiosity and so attract inquisitive minds. The building didnt want to be just a box, but a collection of dynamic forms, shapes and volumes that will enrich the experience of the users.

SUSTAINABLE ASPECTS were given important in the design of the library. The library gets natural light from North & South and avoids harsh East and West direct sun. Since all the rooms have natural light and ventilation, artificial lights need not be used during the day time at all. Porous verandahs and corridors create cross ventilation, which is much needed in this warm/arid climate. The landscape has been designed with indigenous trees and with plants that need very less water. Rain water will be harvested and used as a seasonal aesthetic feature. The library will be built by local masons with local materials with as much participation from the villagers as possible.

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SITE BOUNDARY

WINDOW OPENINGS are mostly

minimize direct solar radiation. This helps the comfort level inside the

provided on North / South side to

library and so reduces energy use.

inviting. This grand double height

INTERACTION SPACE for elders

shade, carved out within the library.

performances, brings in people who

may not otherwise visit the library. This increases interaction within the community and creates a sense of

This space, which can be used for

chit-chats or discourses or small

**ENTRANCE** is prominent and

entry acts as a frontage to the

is provided under the pergola

library.

belonging.

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### SCHEMATIC **DESIGN**

ACTIVITY POCKETS are created along the exterior by the building. These spaces create interest as compared to a monotonous box structure and create seating spaces for adults and play area for the kids.

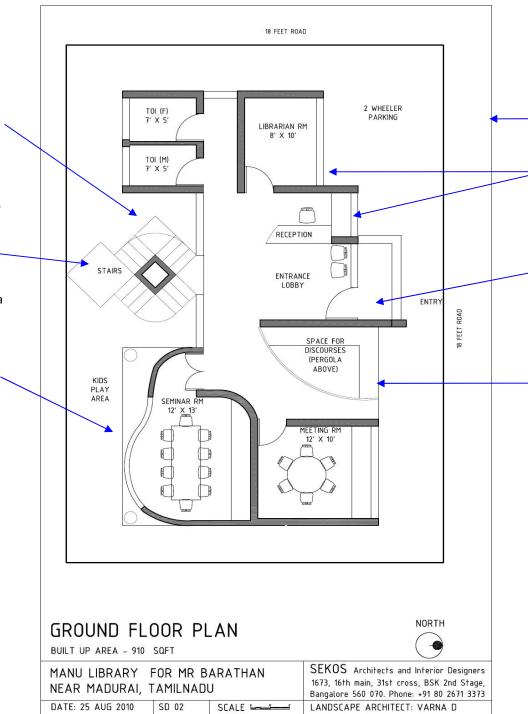
THE STAIR is designed as a scuptural object. Kids can observe the surroundings from different vantage points. The stair becomes a play object itself.

KIDS PLAY AREA is defined by the curved wall of the seminar room. The structural column and the small platform create more possibilities for play.

#### **DESCRIPTION**

This floor has an entrance lobby cum reception area; seminar room, meeting room, a librarian room along with the visitors' toilet. These areas are located in this floor because of their semi-public nature and that the activities that happen here will not disturb the calm library area and computer room upstairs.

#### **GROUND FLOOR PLAN**



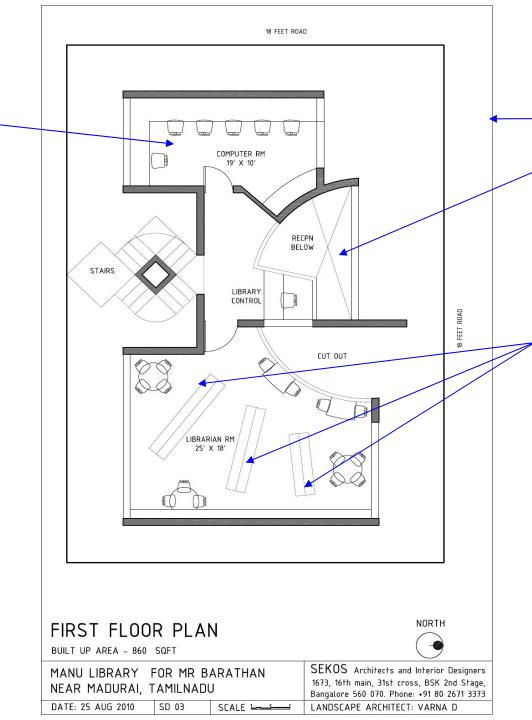
### SCHEMATIC

### **DESIGN**

COMPUTER ROOM can become an informal meeting room, if need arises. This space also can be doubled up as a reading hall.

#### **DESCRIPTION**

This floor has a stack room with seating for reading and a computer room that can triple up as a meeting space / reading hall as and when necessary. The entry into this space is regulated by the control person.



SITE BOUNDARY

DOUBLE HEIGHT lobby creates architectural interest, creates visual connections and a grand scale.

STACKS that hold more than 12000 books are oriented towards the library control person, so that a single person can oversee the spaces inbetween the stacks / shelves.

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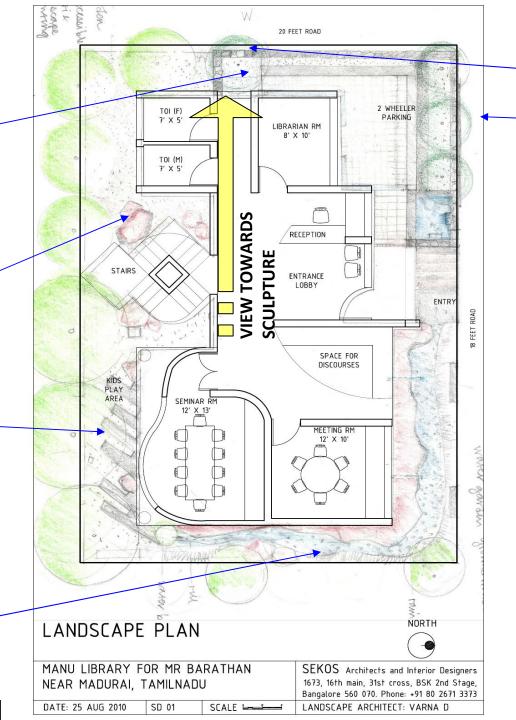
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

REFLECTING POND is located above the rain water harvesting sump. This seasonal pond reflects and accentuates the "compound wall sculpture", which acts as a focal point and a way finding feature from the entrance lobby.

XERISCAPE features abound with rocks and indigenous plants

PLAY AREA is shaded by indigenous trees. The area is paved with granite stones that create an interesting pattern.

RAIN WATER HARVESTING is done to store the water and to create seasonal water bodies / stream. The stream is lined with pebbles that act as interesting landscape feature during the non rainy season.



#### Compound wall sculpture

COMPOUND WALL morphs into seating benches along the road to invite passers-by to sit and relax. These people that relax, would be intrigued to come inside the library.

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SCULPTURAL CURVILINEAR FORM creates interest and

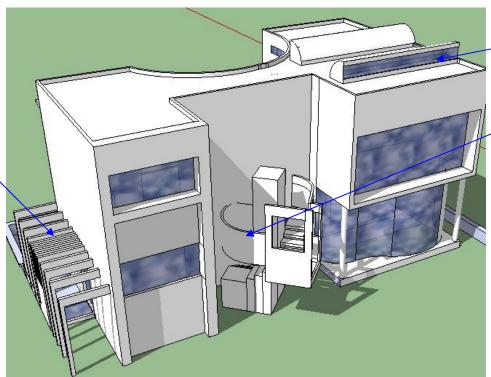


PERGOLAS obstruct the harsh western Sun and provide shade and create dynamic shadow patterns to accentuate the 'compound wall scuplture'.

DOUBLE HEIGHT lobby creates architectural interest, creates visual connections and a grand scale.

SKYLIGHTS facing north and south bring in diffused light into the reading area / stacks.

SCULPTURAL STAIRS create interesting space and acts also as a play object.



SCULPTURE as focal point.

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**SCHEMATIC VIEWS**