

Sophisticated, personalised homes

Counting India's top hotels, jewellers, retailers and developers among their clients, Lalita Tharant and Mujib Ahmed of Collaborative Architecture operate through their offices in Kozhikode, Mumbai and Beijing, working on projects for clients across India and overseas. The duo has executed dozens of

luxury projects in Kerala, and were listed among the 100 Hot Architects of India this year.

"We have a long association with NRI clients and 20 per cent of our work at any given point of time overlaps this segment. Having an exposure to these clients, who are really well travelled, sophisticated in taste and open to experimentations and innovations, we understand what they look for.

"We have made a single family residence in South India for an NRI that depicts what in essence is the aspirations of most of NRIs. The house is out-of-the-box, innovative and sophisticated. But at the same time it responds

to the climate — the tropics of Kerala. The internal layout is reflective of the cultural spaces that the family is comfortable with, as clear segregation of public and private spaces defines the character of the house, while being very modern and open outdoors.

"Most NRIs prefer to personalise their homes so when they buy, they like to buy a ready home that leaves enough for them to add their own personal touch. Bathrooms must have sophisticated features, especially well-known international brands. Similarly kitchens should allow for international cuisines as NRIs dabble in a variety of foods."

