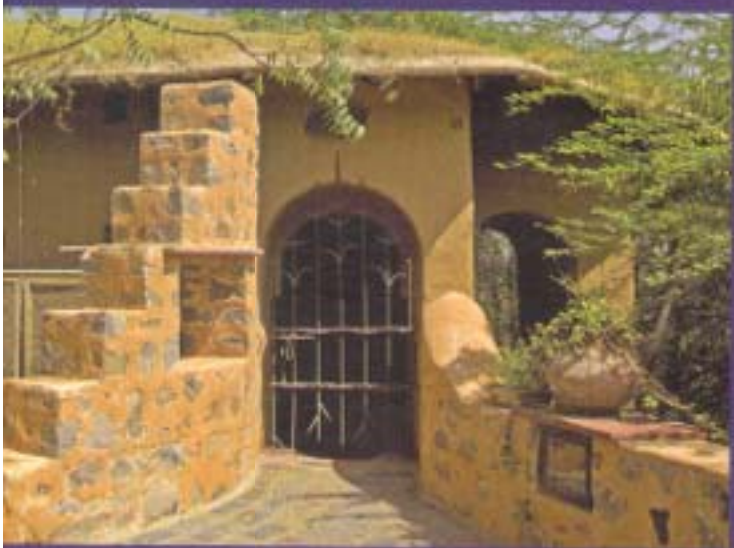


The Modern Architecture of **New Delhi**

1928–2007

Rahul Khanna • Manav Parhawk



New Delhi has been home to extraordinary modern architecture from its inception: the monumental, brick-lined St Martin's Garrison Church, the elegant mansions of Sujan Singh Park Complex, the understated, finely detailed IIC, the pathbreaking exhibition complex at Pragati Maidan, the astounding, sculptural Belgian Embassy. **The Modern Architecture of New Delhi** lists the most important buildings in the city which every Delhiite needs to know about. The first handbook of Delhi's modern architecture, it includes a description of each building, and of the architect and his vision for the work; key features to look out for and a glossary to explain all architectural terms. Beautifully designed, with stunning photography, this is an essential book for all lovers of Delhi, and of modern architecture.

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Cover Photographs
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Rs 495

Kamath Residence

Vasant and Revathi Kamath, 1996



Look out for:

- The naturally ventilated home and the lasting incorporation of mud bricks.
- The roof garden that merges with the surrounding forest like habitat.

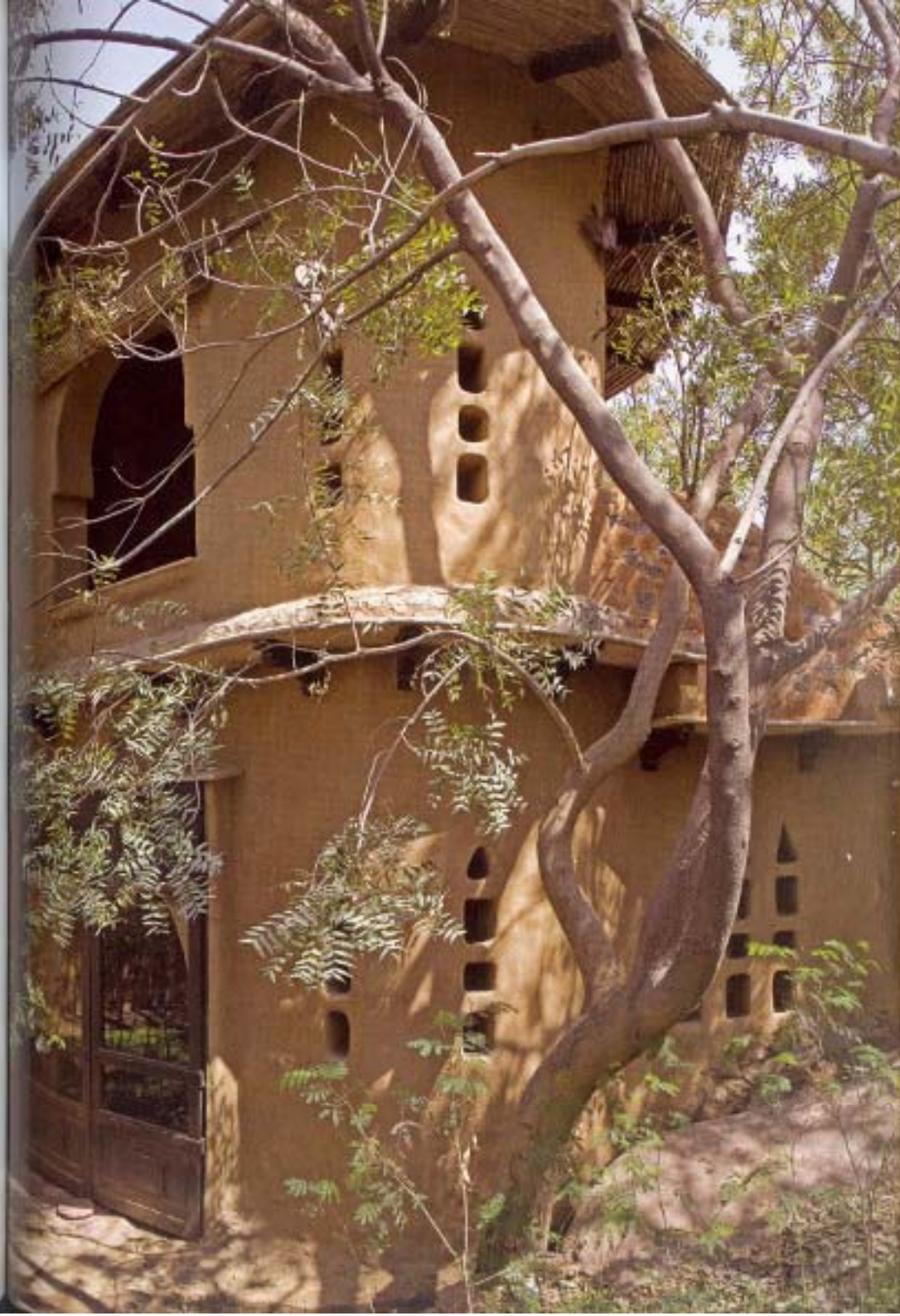
Revathi and Vasant Kamath's Vasant Vihar is the best manifesto for their philosophy. It is placed on the outskirts of Delhi's quiet Anangpur Village area, the couple choosing a rocky, barren site where they would build not just their home, but a sensitive, interdependent ecosystem as well.

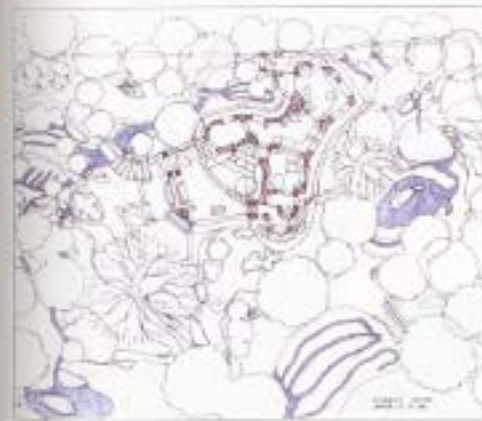
The Kamaths see architecture as part of an ecological web and their house reflects these views. Mud bricks from the nearby pond are used for the façade. Originally meant to be a studio space, the plan is laid out like an arc, built on two storeys on a site where the original contours have been preserved.

The interior is designed for constant cross ventilation and is largely free of any divisions. Natural light is also allowed in through mud moulded arches along the façade as well as playfully designed chinks that beam light through the day (see photograph on pp 164). The house entrance is on the first floor which has no partition walls. The floor below accommodates the dining and kitchen areas. Due to the use of mud brick the home is naturally cooled even in the summer months.

The Kamaths also designed the surrounding land. Special features include a custom designed water channel that uses rainwater.

Right: details of small light openings cut into the façade





Site plan

Roof garden

and nourishes the plants and soil. Another feature is the roof garden that integrates the house and the garden compound and is also used to grow herbs. A wrought iron fence lines the property, taking the shapes of Shiva's trident and Vishnu's crescent as symbols of protection.

Left: inside view of small light openings in the house.