



A tropical garden housed in a contemporary corporate office by SAMA Architects.

1. SAMA Landscape Architects

From the stark landscapes of Ladakh to the lush forests of Bandhavgarh and Corbett, from the dry yet abundant wildlife of Kenya to the impregnable greens of Sahyadris, [SAMA Landscape Architects](#) have travelled far and wide to inspire their craft of landscape design. Founded in 2005 by Sameer Duraphe and Manjiri Mahajan, this Pune based firm sees landscape design as an establishment of relations between the built form, surfacing and outdoor constructions, earth, rock forms, bodies of water, plants, open space, and the general form and character of the landscape.

"As landscape designers, we get to work with the elements of nature directly – the earth, water, plants, micro-organisms, the birds and everything in nature..." says Mahajan on what excites her as a landscape designer. *"We get to work with 'life' and we get to see it 'grow'. So it is like bringing up a child!"*



The reflecting pool that collects stormwater from the roof by SAMA Architects.

For SAMA architects the primary emphasis has always been on the relations between people and the landscape – Man and the Land. Their designs are integrated in such a way that it forms a part of the surrounding and topography as well as caters to the lifestyle of their clients. They attempt to bridge the gap between nature and man by introducing their clients to flowers, plants, and ecology in a way that an emotional connect with nature and space has been formed.

As the landscape designers for [Elantas Beck India Ltd](#) headquarters in Pimpri, they implemented their core beliefs both emotionally and aesthetically. The clients were keen on a landscape which could be environmentally 'one' with its green surroundings and built with minimum construction and maintenance work.

So, SAMA created a wedge-shaped space between the two wings of the buildings which were conceptualized as a valley between two rock outcrops. The wedge shape creates a 'ventury' effect and the breeze generated reduced the heat from inside the office blocks.

A lush 'hillock' was created to act as an effortless walk up or down and between the two wings, creating an experience which engages one with nature. Common activities placed in the central area were camouflaged with green curtains and plants. Landscaped steps lead to various levels and connected the public areas. The space, also opened on to a large water body, which reflects the existing lush trees.