

₹ 900.00 | ISSN 0975-0177

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THE VOICE OF INDIA'S LANDSCAPES
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GURUDAS NULKAR

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LOOK AROUND, CHOOSE
YOUR OWN GROUND
EMERGING LANDSCAPE
PRACTICES
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and VYUSTI AGARWALLA

LA JOURNAL OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE INDIA

REGISTRATION NUMBER: 75500 | PRINT DURATION: Quarterly, 4 issues per year
EDITORIAL AND SUBSCRIPTION OFFICE: C-589, Vikas Puri, New Delhi 110 018 INDIA
[T]: +91-11-41584375, 9810600754, 9810252661 | [E]: lajournalindia@gmail.com
[W]: lajournal.in | ISSN 0975-0177 | R 2026.02.11 | D1x1 2026.03.18 | O 325 2026.03.23
OWNED, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY Brijender S. Dua, C-589, Vikas Puri, New Delhi 110 018 INDIA
PRINTED AT Paramount Printographics, Darya Ganj, New Delhi 110 002 INDIA
Modern Print-O-Pack, New Delhi 110 020 | BOUND AT Avantika Printers, New Delhi 110 020
PAPER | COVER Munken 300 | BOOK Natural Sunshine 120

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SUBSCRIPTION

1-YEAR [4 ISSUES: PRINTED COPIES] RS. 3,000.00

SUBSCRIPTION+PAYMENT DETAILS ON: www.lajournal.in



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Sankalpa Patel

Postgraduation in Landscape Architecture, CEPT University, Ahmedabad (2020)

Undergraduation in Architecture, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Technology, Vasad, Gujarat (2017)

Jaimish Dhameliya (Co-founder)

Undergraduation in Architecture, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Technology, Vasad, Gujarat (2017)

The practice (established in 2020) works across Gujarat and Mumbai, engaging in public, institutional, ecological, and private projects, supported by a five-member team.

A year of professional practice introduced Sankalpa Patel to the technical and on-ground realities of building landscapes, grounding her understanding of materials, execution, and site processes. This experience has shaped her way of seeing and thinking, forming the conceptual and ethical foundation that continues to guide the values and direction of her studio today.

The future of our cities and communities will depend on how we treat water, soil, biodiversity, and public spaces.

Design Philosophy

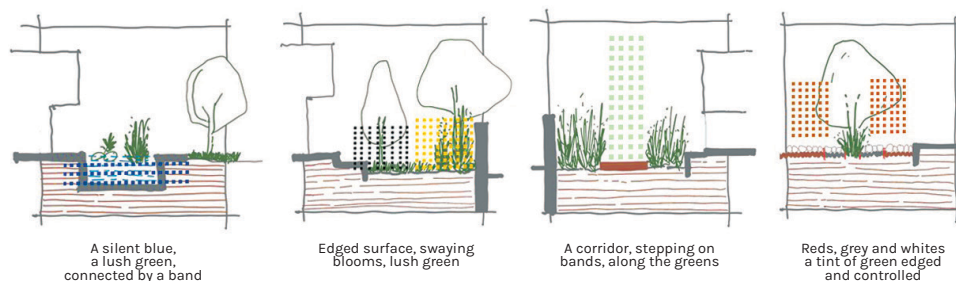
Our studio began quietly, with more questions than answers. In those early days, we didn't begin with fixed answers. We began with a simple belief that landscapes are not just outdoor settings, but living spaces that hold people, stories, and everyday life. We've always felt that a good landscape should look refined, yes—but more importantly, it should work quietly in the background. It should feel effortless, grounded, and in tune with its surroundings.

Our practice grew through varied scales and typologies: residential, housing, corporate campuses, public realms. Each one asked for a different response, but our approach remained consistent—to create places that feel calm, balanced, and purposeful. We seek a clarity that does not shout, an expression that remains understated yet present. Landscape design is not about more features, but better connections—between light and shade, water and soil, built and unbuilt, movement and rest.

A lot of our thinking comes from quiet observation. We are influenced by poetry, especially “haikus” and by the idea that small moments can carry deep meaning. Sometimes the strongest design decisions come from noticing small things: the way a tree frames a threshold, how a breeze travels through a corridor, how a bench becomes a social anchor, how a ground plane can invite reflection. Each project becomes a subtle narrative—built through simplicity, emotion, and an intuitive response to place.

Present Times

Practising in India today brings both constraint and possibility. Awareness of landscape is increasing, yet timeframes are compressed, budgets are often superficial, and maintenance is underestimated. Execution realities demand patience and strong collaboration on-site. At the same time, there is growing openness to ecological well-being—native planting, soil health, water sensitivity. The future of our cities and communities will depend on how we treat water, soil, biodiversity, and public spaces. We hope to contribute to that future through landscapes that are quietly strong—functional, emotionally resonant, and deeply rooted in their environment.



Inspirations

Sunder Nursery, Delhi

Shaheer Associates, New Delhi

Sunder Nursery is a model of ecological restoration where Prof. M. Shaheer's landscape masterplan transformed a derelict historic nursery into a living micro-habitat. This sensitive renewal—removing rubble, establishing wetlands, planting diverse flora, and conserving natural habitats—has not only revitalised biodiversity but also stitched history, ecology and urban public space into a cohesive, sustainable landscape.

The Little Garden

M/s Prabhakar B. Bhagwat, Ahmedabad

The Little Garden translates the family's artistic spirit into an intimate, experiential landscape where every green room and plant grouping feels like a curated moment of poetry—softly framing views, light, and daily movement. Its planting palette balances rhythmic native species with seasonal accents that deepen sensory experience and echo the project's subtle narrative of quiet, living gardens as extensions of home.

Dumas House

Hemali Landscape Studio

Dumas House's landscape flooring celebrates the raw beauty of local materials—using indigenous stone pavers, gravel beds, and earthy ground treatments that create a tactile, layered surface palette that feels rooted in its orchard context.



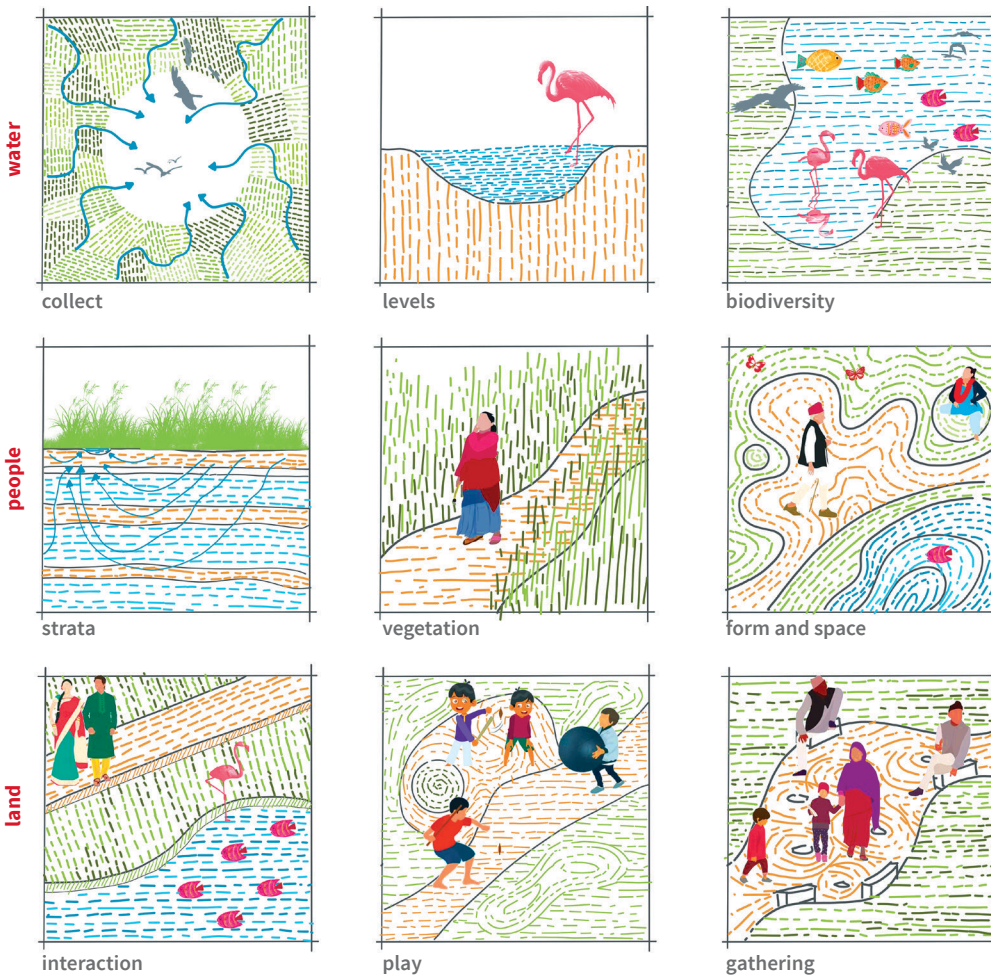
STUDIO PROJECTS

Whispers of Home, Ahmedabad

It draws from movement, memory, and materiality to shape spatial experiences. The design begins along a shaded path of grasses and progresses through water features, layered textures, and stone bands guiding movement through tropical corridors. Gentle shifts in color and terrain are experienced through touch and footfall. Pebble courts, boulders, and stepping paths under champa trees provide pauses, while material choices balance softness and structure, creating a space for human interaction with nature.

Jedva Lake Rejuvenation, Kalol, Gujarat

The project addresses ecological and social disruption caused by land filling, encroachment, and invasive species. Degraded areas were reshaped into planted catchments to absorb runoff, channel farm water into a constructed wetland for filtration, and restore native vegetation. Soil stability, water quality, and habitats were improved. Trails, shaded areas, and open views provide access for the community, enabling interaction with water, wildlife, and seasonal changes while reconnecting people with the lake.





VISUALIZATIONS

[CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT]

A walkway through meadows, Entrance Plaza, Seating niche along the lake edge, and Plaza with lawn pockets (Secondary Entry)

SELECTED PROJECTS

INSTITUTIONAL

- Madhav Corporate House, Ahmedabad

CULTURAL

- Siddhivinayak Temple, Mahemdavad, Gujarat

RESIDENTIAL/FARM HOUSES

- Adhya Arbham, Housing Apartment, Ahmedabad
- Shivaan Serenity Housing, Gandhinagar
- Ramjula: A Serene Homestead, Gandhinagar
- Boulevard House, Nalsarovar, Sanand, Gujarat

INDUSTRIAL

- Engineered Inside Out, Ahmedabad

● Ongoing

● Completed



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