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POOLSIDE PAVILION

IORA Studio, Ahmedabad

The Poolside Pavilion in Ahmedabad, intended as an extension of the pool for unconventional gatherings, a simple and elusive structure objectified as an integrative approach towards architecture and landscape is designed by Ahmedabad-based IORA Studio.

Text: Shreya Shah | Drawings: courtesy IORA Studio | Images: courtesy Piyush Rana

IORA Studio is a design firm specialised in architecture, landscape architecture and planning. The Studio was set up in November 2006. The Studio takes a holistic approach to every project, creatively addressing the micro-level and macro-level agendas into a built environment that is appropriate to the region, both in a geographical as well as cultural context. Each project is approached with the understanding of the programme and context at various levels. This process eventually derives the language of architecture which is unique to the project. The attempt is always to create built environments through a seamless coming together of the natural and the designed along with an objective of creating built environments which addresses universal and the contextual dimensions. In this regard, interpretation of regional dimensions and cultural associations is the guiding principle behind IORA Studio's endeavours.

Founded in the year 2006 in Ahmedabad, IORA Studio is a young firm intending to provide architecture, landscape architecture and planning services. Ranging from small scale projects like residences, the firm courageously works on large scale projects like townships and community parks, where they proportionate their idea of landscape and architecture. The fresh team at the Studio also conducts research on various aspects related to design.



↑ *The Pavilion structure sits in the serene landscape of the plot.*



The columnar framework induces a transparency in the structure.



- Legend:
- 1. Main Entrance
 - 2. Existing Cottage
 - 3. Pavilion
 - 4. Swimming Pool
 - 5. Shower Rooms
 - 6. Barbeque Platform
 - 7. Event Stage
 - 8. Lawn

↑ SITE PLAN



↑ DETAILED PLAN



↑ A neat composition formed by use of conventional materials.

Resilient in its bodily existence, a space provokes an intangible desire to the living entities; sometimes to bring more functions to it, the other times just to be left untouched. The Poolside Pavilion symbolised this idea by the IORA Studio based in Ahmedabad, where the challenge was to design a palpable structure and yet let the space be open for abstract experiences. To generate something beyond the clients' brief that asked for a pool and a space to be used for rare assemblies, the architects decided to build a structure in accordance with the existing cottage.

Residing on the eastern half of the site, the Pavilion with the cottage and service block occupies about one tenth of the plot of 96,815sqft as built mass, while the rest of the site is developed as open woods, a conscious decision that complements the fabricated functional spaces, thoughtfully designed to keep most of the site as an unobstructed sprawl of landscape. Dispersing into the landscape, it is more of a translucent object constructed of conventional materials in human scale designed for occasional gatherings.

Considering the hot climate of Ahmedabad, the planning of the Pavilion allows in filtered air through the woods. This supplements the idea of creating a semi-open space in accordance with the functional requirements. The building is majorly a transparent structure through which the landscape spreads in composed proportions of hardscape and softscape. Crisp edges forming a clean geometry wherein the new physical form continues to reflect the modest language of the existing cottage. The structure of the roof is a striking element, catering to the basic function of a shelter. It is supported on MS steel columns with the sides opening to the landscape on all four sides providing the users with a view of the complete site while using the space under the roof. The lawn expanse also comprises of a small informal stage for rare and casual performances.

The storeroom is the only solid mass inside the pavilion spread that divides the linear semi-open boxed form. One part accommodating the pool bar is designed as a groove in the pavilion base, while the other part houses the main gathering space. The other edge of the pool is a well-ordered border that opens into the lawn area.



↑ The swimming pool as it grooves in the Pavilion base.

The Poolside Pavilion as it sits in the wide spread plot invigorates the users to physically experience the presence of the lawn and spaces through the woods.

The planning of the pool and the pavilion beside is thoughtfully done such that the roof organisation casts a shadow over the pool. Signifying a space for gatherings, the Pavilion expands into a barbecue platform along a corner of the pool adding connotation to its use. An independent platform for serving is a sensible addition to the storeroom that opens towards the main gathering space under the roof. Keeping the built mass meagre, the shower rooms take up an edge of the site, secluded in volumetric assembly yet connected through the hardscape.



↑ The main gathering place containing the service table.

Multifaceted, the Pavilion has potential to accommodate untold meanings owing to the serenity delivered by the campus. Tailored to the client's aspirations, the Pavilion serves its purpose for a congregational space; nonetheless the careful design creates pockets of meditative experiences for the owners. The Poolside Pavilion as it sits on the widespread plot invigorates the users to physically experience the presence of the lawn and spaces through the woods. Serene in its being, the space attempts to explore intangible notions of solid and void, physicality and non-building as it gently houses the assembled form. ■

FACT FILE:

Project	:	Poolside Pavilion
Location	:	S G Highway, Ahmedabad
Architect	:	IORA Studio
Design Team	:	Milind Patel, Tapan Modi, Shreya Bhavsar
Client	:	Anandbhai and Pranjaliben
Civil and Carpentry Contractors	:	Vraj
Project Estimate	:	₹90lacs
Initiation of Project	:	2011
Completion of Project	:	2012



↑ *The crafty service table adds to the simplistic design approach.*



The shadow of the roof provides implied shelter to the pool.