



KATTADA TIMES ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR  
**JUNE 2018 TO MAY 2019**

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# Introduction



Nivasa is an Architectural NGO. We enable humane and dignified housing conditions for the urban and rural poor, through **DESIGN**.

We use a **'Design-Based Thinking Approach'** to solve the housing problem for the BPL population.

## So, What is Design Based Thinking Approach?

**Design Based Thinking is a methodology:** A design mindset is not just focusing on problems; it is focusing on solutions and on actions oriented towards creating a preferred future. Design Based Thinking draws upon logic, imagination, intuition, and systemic reasoning to explore possibilities of what could be—and more importantly, to create desired outcomes that benefit the end user. It is an approach that uses the designer's methods to match people's needs with what is technologically feasible. Henceforth, coming forward with a powerful and highly meaningful solution. Design is mistaken to be a veneer; tokenism, facadism. But, in reality, What essentially design is, is about how the solution actually works.

The DBTA framework we use is a **four step** process to:

Research - Ideate - Design and then lastly to help - Implement.

## **REDEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGES**

*Supporting redevelopment of villages in a holistic manner where we contribute to design and help in execution of infrastructure and housing needs.*

# Kottamedu Village, Kancheepuram District, TN



**Completed houses**

## Udagirinallappanahalli, Chikkaballapur District

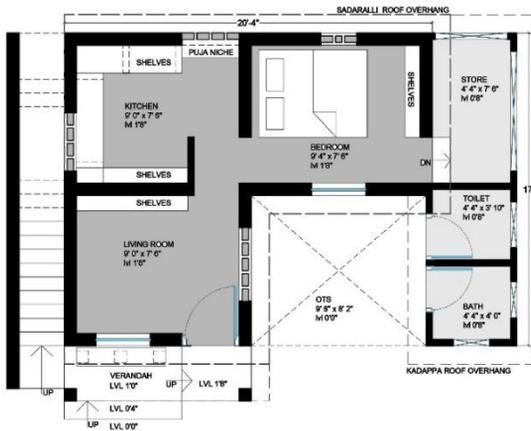
In this project, we are working towards People-led construction delivery. Funded by WeRise foundation, this is a unique, scalable model of development, where the government funding for housing is topped by the end user and the donor. Gramaanatara is our partner for community and government interface. We have trained the people in block making, where the soil has been sourced from nearby lakes with permission from the government. We are trying to get them to own the construction process- from quantification, scheduling and buying of materials to the construction process itself. What is very meaningful is that a group of ten families are able to build a 400 plus sq ft home, without borrowing a single rupee! Each family has contributed Rs 4000 per month to a cumulative Rs 35,000 per home; thus paying forward for the construction. A huge community building exercise, tough challenge indeed. We have completed four homes, and people have completed block making for six... We are training them to lead the construction process for the other five homes.

Volunteers from corporates and colleges have contributed time and again in painting, block making, creating a play ground, building kattes, tree planting etc

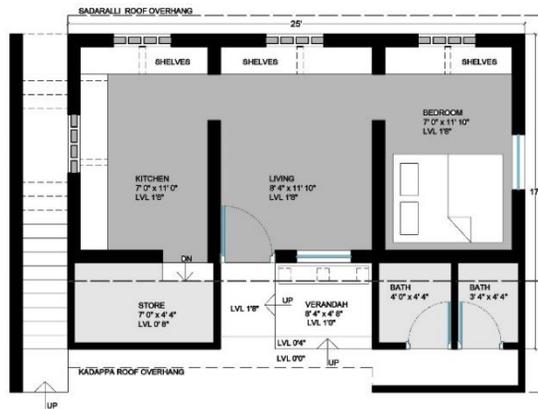
In terms of design, we offered them three choices within the same cost. The community is very happy!



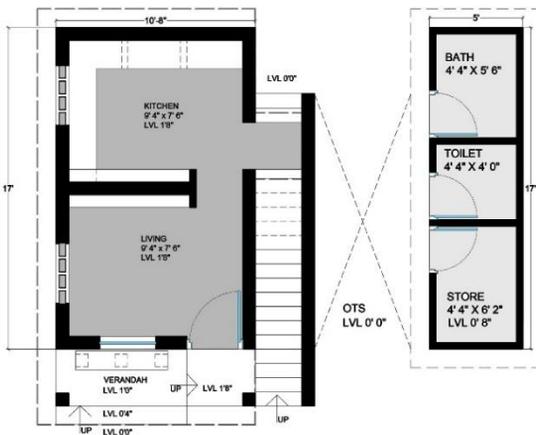
# Udagirinallappannahalli, Chikkaballapur District



**Plan – Option 01**



**Plan – Option 02**



**Plan – Option 03**



## Udagirinallappanahalli, Chikkaballapur District



# Udagirinallappanahalli, Chikkaballapur District

## Activities by and with volunteers:

Women employees from RMZ foundation visited the village to join hands with the community in block making and building the houses. Rotary Bangalore donated about 60 saplings to the community.



## Udagirinallappanahalli, Chikkaballapur District

### Activities by and with volunteers:

Employees from a company called Citrix visited the village as a part of their employee engagement program to volunteer for block making.



## Mandikal Panchayat, Chikkaballapur District

Our intervention in Udagirinallappanahalli led us to Mandikal panchayat. We identified 3 beneficiaries from Parenahalli and Mandikal and had a series of community meetings to arrive at design options.

We were able to bring down the cost of the houses by replacing conventional RCC roof with equally strong but cost efficient roofing technology which is precast RCC panels. End users were trained in casting these panels and panels were also tested on site for their strength.

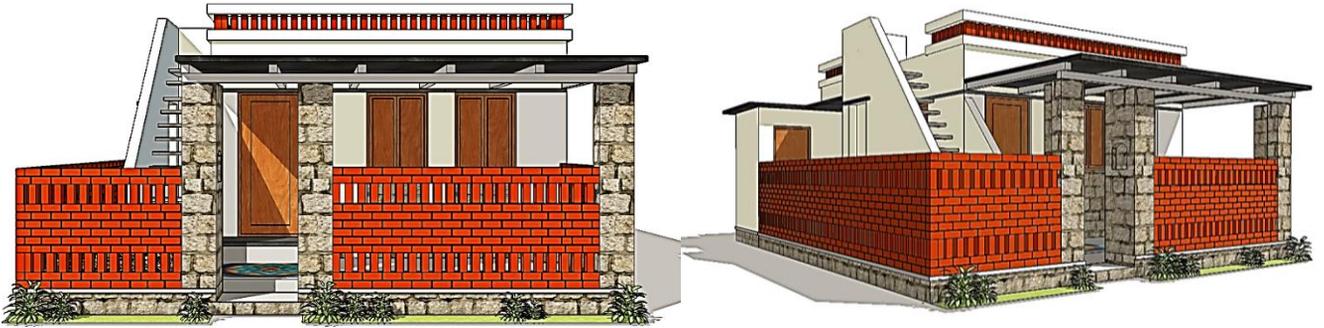
All three end users, especially women were trained in material and cost tracking for their own houses. Kavitha, who is one of the end users was able to save approximately INR 50,000/- by managing stage wise material procurement.



# Mandikal Panchayat, Chikkaballapur District



## Mandikal Panchayat, Chikkaballapur District



Parenahalli – Kavitha and Chandra’s house



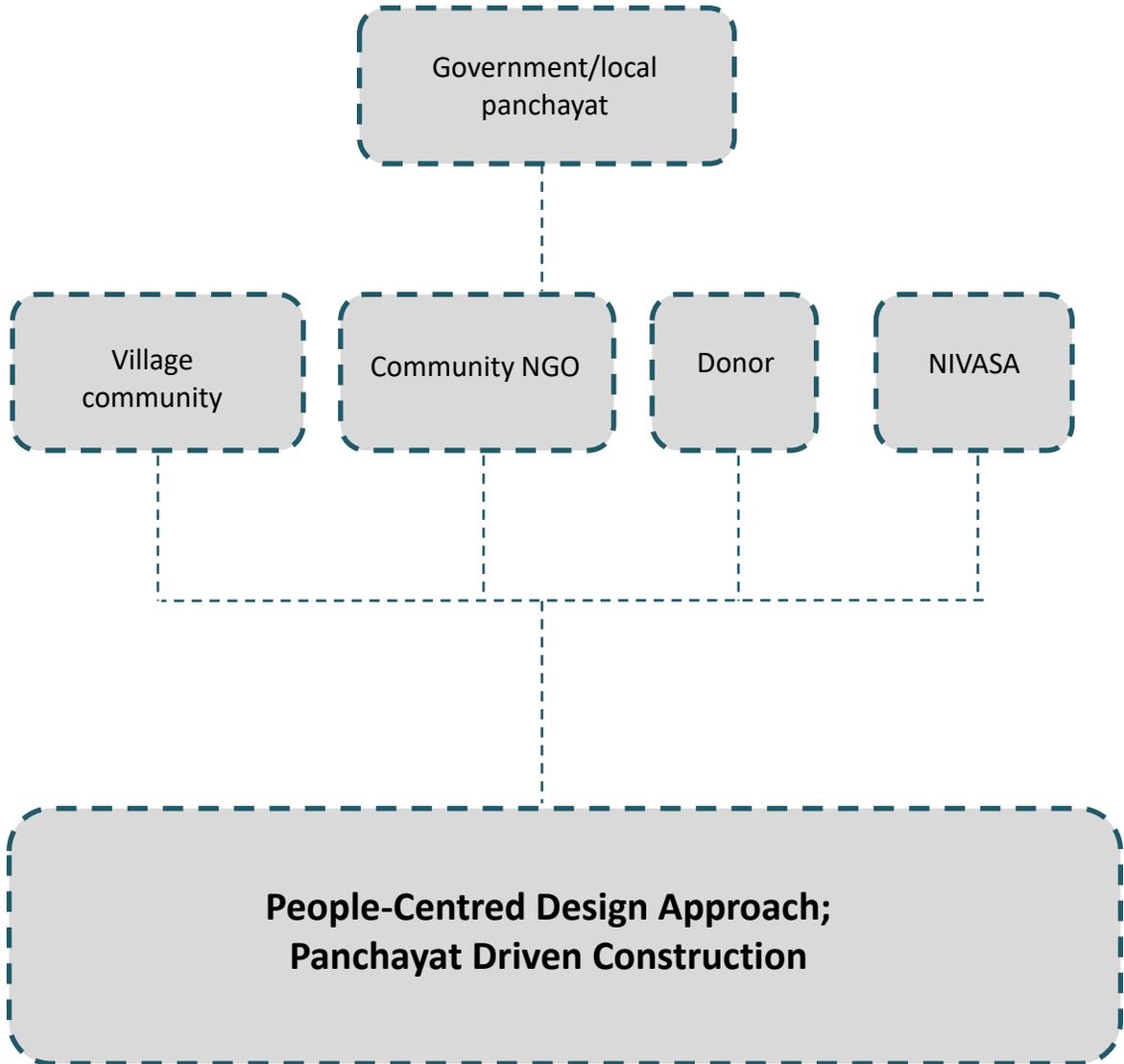
Mandikal – Manjunath’s house



Mandikal – Narsimurthy’s house

## Namgondlu Panchayat, Gauribidanur District

### The Design Approach



## Namgondlu Panchayat, Gauribidanur District



**Prototype of RCC panel and rafter roof technology at Namagondlu**

## PROJECT GRIHA

*Developing customized design solutions that consider local material, environment, socio-cultural sensitivities & economic activities, and dissemination of template to contractors, skilled workers and the larger community.*

## Halaady, Udipi District

This was led by the Koraga youth leader, Mr. Kumardas who has also helped in mobilising the community for creating a model Kodagu farm , with support from the District Administration, Udupi



Five houses at Halaady near Agumbe are complete!

## CSEB Machine, Chikkaballapur District

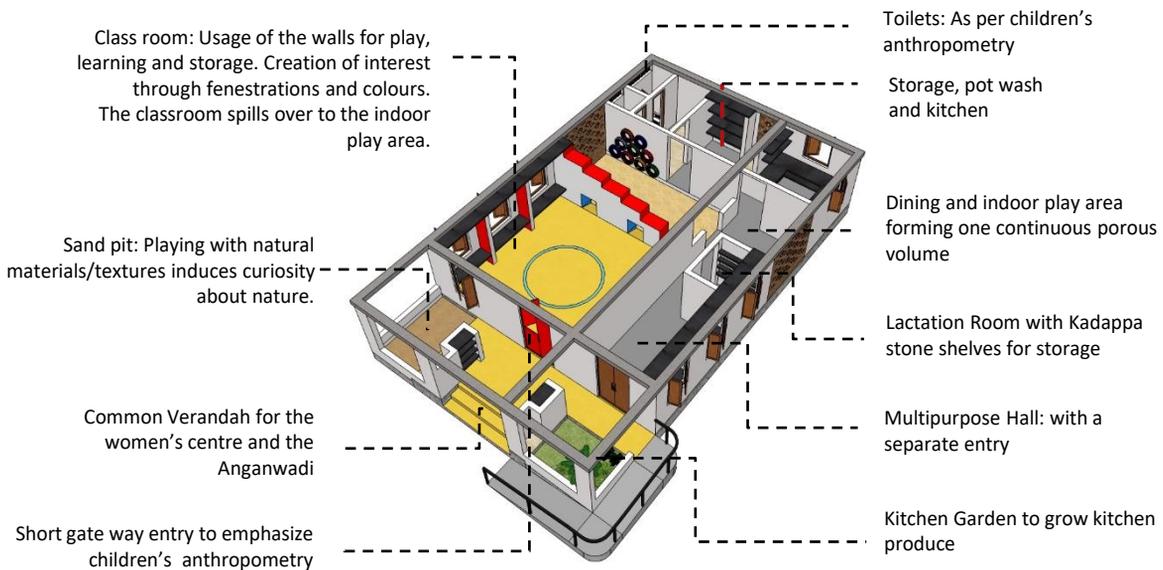
**Block making machine** fabricated by Zigma Engineering funded by the CEO, Zilla Panchayat office of Chikkaballapur District has reached Gollahalli Panchayat. The machine will be used in various projects in the District.



# Anganwadi at Haliyal and Dandeli, UK District

Construction of a model Anganwadi has started in Haliyal and Dandeli Taluks of Uttara Kannada district. This project is funded by Coca-Cola foundation and is carried out in partnership with Plan India and NGO APSA, Bangalore. The Anganwadi design has been conceptualized to cater to the physical, social, cognitive and emotional development of a child. We are looking forward to sharing the progress with you in the coming months!

We analysed the local climate, vernacular, material availability in the region. Using this, designs were developed for Anganwadis that will cater to children’s psychological, physical, social, emotional, cognitive developmental needs. The design will also comply with the design requirements put forth by Ministry of Women and Child development (MWCD).



Dandeli site

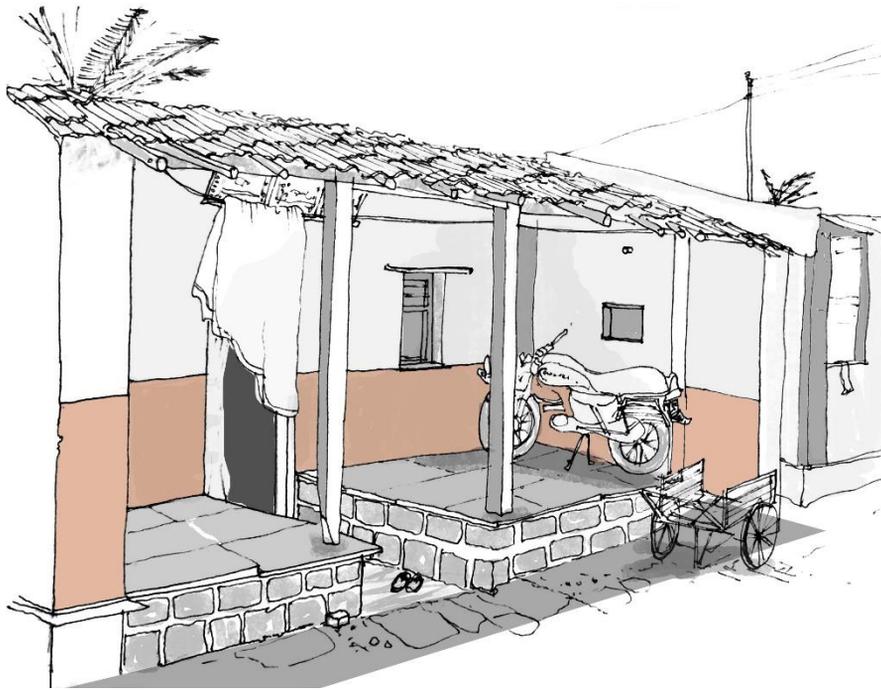


Haliyal site



## Griha Dharwad

Our study of Dharwad as part of our Project Griha is coming to a satisfactory end! This project is an ambitious research based understanding of the vernacular and its influence of the rural house forms. The study branches into primary documentation, surveys, interviews with varied resource people and in depth supporting secondary research. Chaitanya Micro finance has been an integral part in supporting our research for Project Griha Dharwad.



## PROJECT SUITCASE

*Developing a toolkit of housing components for the urban homeless as a step towards permanent housing solutions.*

## Manchenahalli GP, Gauribidanur Taluk

Chikkaballapur District Tribal welfare department approached us to build Suitcase units for 20 tribal families living in abysmal conditions in Manchenahalli for more than 15 years. They were recently identified and sanctioned land by the government. Land allocation process is under progress which will take minimum one year.



The Tribal Welfare department has given the land approval letter and cleared land for us to start construction. They have started rehabilitation of the tribal men through skill development by Nirmithi Kendra.

Nivasa is working out the design. The materials will be reused in their permanent homes, later. Material selection, costing and estimation is under progress.



End users are sourcing random rubble to contribute towards their own home. They will be closely involved in construction. They will be trained to do excavation, foundation and plinth as a first step.



# **CONSTRUCTION LABOUR COMMUNITIES**

*Encouraging humane and dignified living conditions for  
construction labourers.*

# World Habitat Awards!

We are privileged to have received the World Habitat Awards commendation for our Construction Labour Communities (CLC) project. Among the 200 projects that had been submitted from across the world with a need to further the right to housing, we take much pride in saying that our Project CLC has taken a position among the top 40 with joint efforts from JMC and RMZ foundation. We are looking forward to working with more stakeholders from the construction fraternity!



Akhila Ramesh  
CEO  
Nivasa

4 June 2018

Dear Akhila,

**World Habitat Awards 2018**

**Co-creating Construction Labour Communities**

**Position Achieved: Commendation**

The World Habitat Awards seek to identify and promote outstanding work internationally in furthering the right to housing.

Almost 200 projects from across the world submitted to the **World Habitat Awards 2018 competition**. Your work achieved a position among only 40 projects shortlisted for further consideration.

We commend your outstanding progress on improving the lives of construction site workers and their families by providing them with an improved working and living environment, helping to provide them with the human right to dignity we should all expect. We particularly value your commitment to change attitudes and behaviours across the industry through the K.A.I.P.A principles and your approach to partnership working. We hope that your work will continue to positively influence attitudes and practices across the construction industry.

We wish you every success in continuing this work.

Yours sincerely,

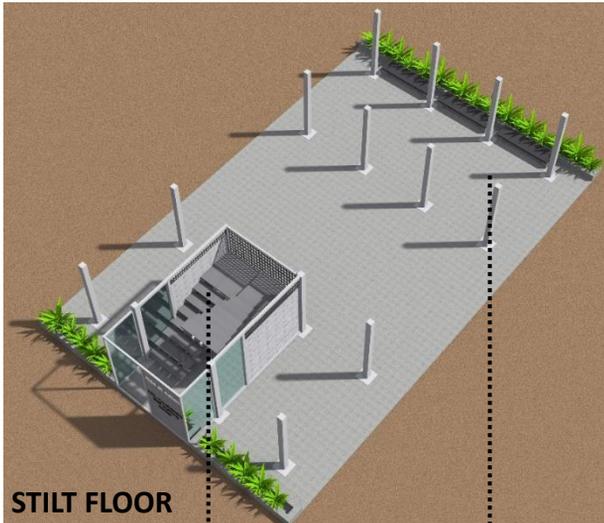
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Ireland".

**David Ireland**  
Director, World Habitat



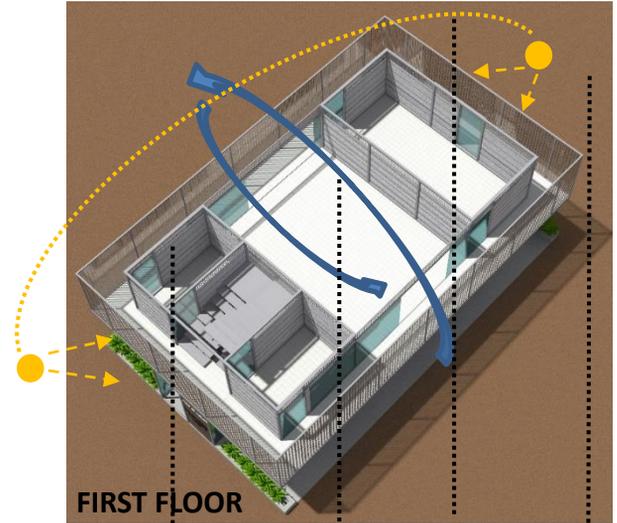
# Build. Use. Shift

We are excited to announce that in partnership with Aide et action and funded by HCL foundation, we are building Build.Use.Shift (BUS), which will be used as a training center and classrooms for a slum community in Sholinganallur, Chennai City



**STILT FLOOR**

Staircase core  
Structure raised on stilts to avoid floods. The space can be utilized as gathering space/play area for kids etc.



**FIRST FLOOR**

Covered spaces like staircase/service areas/computer labs on west and east side to cut down heat into the core area.

Computer lab

Training center

Continuous corridor all around further cuts down heat into the core areas. It is covered with perforated panels Hence the air circulation is not interrupted



## Talks and presentations

- Nivasa spoke on the National science forum on the topic – “ Rethinking architecture and sustainability”
- Nivasa made a presentation to HCL foundation, Chennai on the topic – “ Rethinking architecture and sustainability – Focus: Indian cities”



# Rethinking Architecture, Design & Sustainability

## THE NIVASA WAY

### Focus: Indian cities

THANK YOU!