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# LATITUDES INTERNATIONAL DESIGN CHALLENGE 2015-16



Reconnect  
Sand Tunes - An  
Artist residence @  
Marakkanam



Chennai 13° 5' 0" N  
Design Challenge  
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Submitted by:  
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Green Design

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# Re-connect Sand Tunes - An Artist residence @ Marakkanam

## Introduction

Urban growth has dis-connected man from the environment and its natural processes. As a result, the city, right from the level of site, street, neighbourhood to all hierarchical levels has a negative impact on the environment. This impact has been linear in nature, thereby disrupting all natural cyclic processes. It has polluted the environment, exploded the cities to uncontrollable dimensions and exhausted valuable resources. All these have directly or indirectly contributed to climate change. Newer ways to "Re-CONNECT" need to be explored so that effects of climate change can be minimised. All man-made cycles of material, energy and activity now need to link with the local and regional cycles of nature to become the determinants for design thus, design becomes a live process "in tune" with the natural environment.

## Context

Chennai, in Tamil Nadu is part of the largest coastal belt in India. This scenic view adjoining the Bay of Bengal Sea along the beach side has seen scattered development. Some parts have been used by private developers for housing communities. The development along the coastal region in the recent years has seen combinations of mostly active design strategies. Various typologies have cropped up in this belt ranging from private sea-view bungalows/villas, to public institutions.

One such coastal area is Marakkanam @12.2°N 79.95°E. It is a coastal town in the state of Tamil Nadu. It is well connected to the state capital of Chennai and the nearby union territory of Puducherry,(formerly known as Pondicherry), by the East Coast Road. To the west, Marakkanam is connected to the town of Tindivanam by the SH-134- Marakkanam is also known for salt-pans industry. Puducherry boasts of architectural work done using passive climatic strategies - eg the Golconde Ashram and the developments in Auroville, by a small community that believes in green architectural practices. Along the beach side, one can find housing communities, people living in solitude and public institutions enjoying the beach view. The ECR (east coast road) also boasts of an artist village - Cholamandal artist village- and has inspired many artists to come away from the bustling environment of the city to find solitude and live closer to nature.

## Challenge

When building along a coastal region, one needs to be very sensitive towards the environment with minimal impact on the ecology. Art is a very crucial part of a city's culture, and artists need an environment which inspires them. With nature by the side, what more does one need for inspiration? The site



**Figure 1:** Sand Tunes Site Area in Marakkanam

is located right next to the beach overlooking the sea and is a perfect abode for an artist to explore his creativity.

There is a requirement to design an artist's residence with a small workspace and a gallery. The design should berespond to the site and should be able to adhere to the site's quality and the existing sand dunes. The design should consist of a small galleria for the artist to display work, alongside a small work space, and the living accommodation for a family of three. The artist can be defined in any genre - ranging from being a sculptor to painter or a metal worker and not limiting itself. The challenge is to evolve a design language which respects the natural cycles and processes of the given setting, keeping in mind the artist's lifestyle.

### Design guidelines

1. The proposal may be sensitive to the existing climate and natural environment.
2. It may be sensitive to the occupant's work and philosophy
3. In the available context, the design should be addressed with local materials
4. The proposal should find a balance between contemporary design solutions and using traditional principles.

### Resources

1. Additional site information will be made available directly to the teams responding to this challenge.

Marakkanam,weatherspark.com

2. [www.intachpondycherry.org](http://www.intachpondycherry.org). 3. <http://archive.auroville.org/thecity/architecture.htm>

4. <http://www.thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens/chennais-vanishing-agraharams/article2518383.ece>

5. [www.thealternative.in/tag/greenprint-your-home/](http://www.thealternative.in/tag/greenprint-your-home/)

6. [www.cholamandalartistvillage.com/](http://www.cholamandalartistvillage.com/)

### Tips for submission

1. Concept
2. Site Proposal Layout 1:100
3. Basic drawings 1:50
4. Details in appropriate scale

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