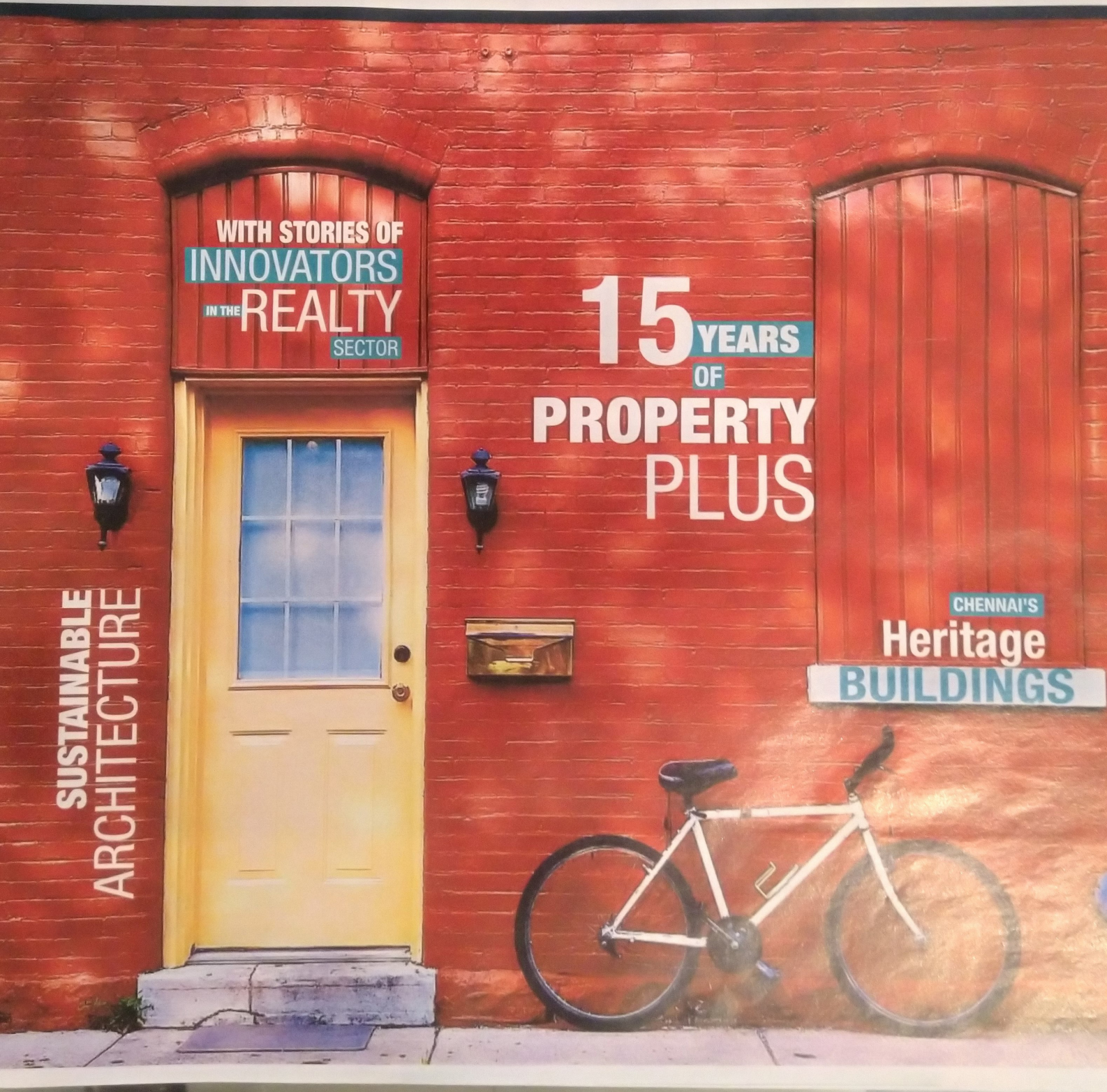
THE HINDU
ADVERTORIAL AND PROMOTIONAL INITIATIVE

PROPERTY ATLAS

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019



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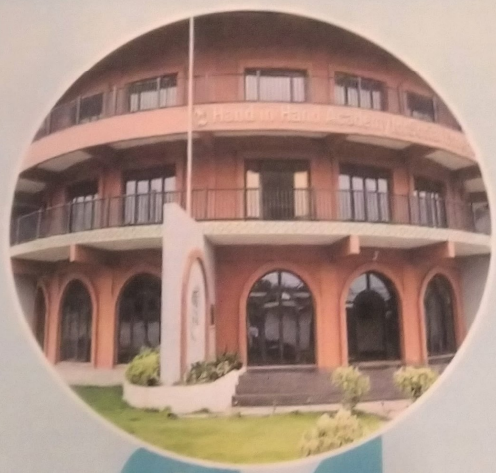

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MAKE CHENNAI GREEN

Anupama Mohanram, the Founder of Green Evolution, talks to us about sustainable architecture and elaborates about how it'll benefit the city

Over the last few years, we're giving a lot of importance for sustainable architecture. Smart cities across the world work on improving sustainability in every aspect – energy management, waste management, infrastructure and more. We notice that the trends for Green Buildings see-saw each year. How can Chennai become an archetype for other global cities? Anupama Mohanram, the Founder of Green Evolution, answers a few questions for us.

An architect, passionate about environmental sustainability – Anupama worked in Chicago for ten years. She came back to India and founded Green Evolution in 2008, to make a difference in the community. From the year of inception, when there was lack of awareness about sustainability, the awareness for green architecture has grown.

THE HIGHLIGHT PROJECTS

Green Evolution designs beautiful, earth friendly spaces that demonstrate the human ability to adapt and live in harmony with nature. They have designed a wide array of green projects from residences to schools, to commercial spaces. Talking about a few hit projects, Anupama reveals, "A couple of popular projects include:

Campus for The School KFI: A play of rustic, charming exposed masonry, dense vegetation and intensive art. We were able to preserve 76 existing trees on campus. Our interventions in the form of passive solar design, Solar PV renewable energy

systems, water-reduction, treatment and re- have ensured significant energy and water savi for the school. Academy of Social Entrepreneur for Hand in Hand India, Kaliayanoor: The Aca my was developed for Hand in Hand India, an working for rural development and upliftmer women. The design resulted in eco-friendly ting for offering courses to promote social e preneurship, a skill that is needed to ensure efficient future development of rural India."

ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE:

About the elements that contribute earth-friendly architecture, Anupa expounds a few pointers:

- The process of designing an environmer sustainable space should start right at the tim site selection, where a decision can be made ba on orientation, location and presence of vegeta It is important to study the climate patterns as prevailing wind direction, access to views surrounding buildings.
- Through the initial design process the fo should be on passive solar design – which refe the design of comfortable habitats without res ing to energy intensive space conditioning syste
- It is important to choose the right kinc materials based on insulating capacity, bodied energy (amount of energy used in cr ing the material) and aesthetic considerati

For instance, glass is a material that is not environmentally friendly if used in excess especially in a tropical place like Chennai. All the paints used within the spaces should contain no or very low VOC levels. VOCs are volatile organic compounds that continue to be emitted from paints long after its application, causing health issues.

- Renewable energy systems such as solar photovoltaics or wind-powered generators should be considered to produce as much clean energy as possible.
- The plumbing systems should be planned considering waste water treatment system and re-use of treated water for purposes such as flushing of toilets, watering plants, washing vehicles, etc. The grey water (water from showers and taps) should be separated from the black water (water from toilet flush) and treatment should be planned accordingly. Alternate waste water treatment systems are available these days without the need to use electricity.

THE COST FACTOR

Cost is a factor that is constantly brought up at the mention of green buildings. However, a green building, if well designed will lead to long term cost savings over time in the form of lower electricity bills and water bills.

COOL THE CITY DOWN

Plants and vegetation can help cool the urban environment leading to a reduction in 'urban heat island effect'. It is a proven fact that the ambient temperature surrounding cities is much higher t ambient temperature surrounding rural areas.

WHAT CAN THE PUBLIC DO?

Green spaces provide a breath of fresh air to cities and help dissipate dust and pollution from banization. We should all take effort to learn r about the need for green spaces within our c and demand more such spaces of the develo and the local corporations. We should also tak effort to maintain such green spaces once crea