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Mountain shadows resorts: A model of ecosensitive and disaster-resilient architecture in Wayanad

Mountain Shadows Resort in Wayanad exemplifies eco-sensitive and disaster-resilient design, blending seamlessly with its lake island setting through stilted structures and ecological restoration. Prakriti Aawaas in Kochi revolutionizes eco-friendly living, merging architecture with nature on a 2-acre site, fostering community and ecological well-being through sustainable design and traditional inspiration.

Brand Connect Initiative

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Winner of The Economic Times Designscape Awards 2025 in Hotel Architecture CategoryArchitects: Idea Design, Kochi

Mountain Shadows

Resorts in Wayanad is an exemplary model of ecosensitive and disasterresilient design that redefines how architecture coexists with nature.

Located on an island within the breathtaking Banasura

Sagar Lake, the resort

blends seamlessly into its surroundings through thoughtful planning, sustainable materials, and a deep respect for the site's ecology.

The design began with an extensive ecological study—analyzing topography, slopes, drainage, soil, and micro-climate—to guide every decision on site planning. Buildings were designed as small, stilted structures to minimize land disturbance, maintain natural surface runoff, and reduce the risk of landslides common in Wayanad's hill terrain. The originally barren site underwent an ecological restoration using native species from the Nilgiri Biosphere, bringing back biodiversity and attracting birds and butterflies.

Each cottage and its private pool were positioned after detailed visual studies to capture uninterrupted views of the lake while ensuring privacy. Vehicular access is limited to the entry point, with electric buggies navigating the winding, minimally paved paths through restored greenery. The main block sits atop the ridge, offering panoramic 360-degree views of the lake and surrounding mountains, with restaurants and banquet halls strategically oriented toward the most striking vistas. The resort's signature infinity pool, perched along the ridge edge, captures the lake and sky in surreal reflections, making it a defining visual experience.

Architecturally, the resort draws inspiration from Wayanad's tribal vernacular—employing mud, bamboo, thatch, and wood to create an aesthetic that resonates with the landscape. Natural materials, earthy textures, and handcrafted interiors evoke warmth and authenticity while remaining environmentally responsible.

Mountain Shadows stands as a revolutionary model in eco-sensitive and disaster-resilient architecture. The design reimagines the relationship between built environments and nature, setting new benchmarks for sustainability and aesthetic 1 $_{\bowtie}$ $_{\square}^{+}$ $_{\square}$