



BHANU PRAKASH CHANDRA

*Master builders: Jeeth and Natasha Iype believe in creating live buildings*

# To greener tomorrows

The Iype couple makes **homes for people** and not palaces for ants

By Ramu Patil

**T**he experience of a building is the feeling. It is not just about how it looks, but how you feel in it," says architect Jeeth Iype, who believes in creating homes for families and not four-walled structures for people.

Architect couple Jeeth and Natasha Iype practise the concept of buildings that are sensitive to nature, and green houses which are full of life. The duo, whom *Time* magazine featured last year as one of the four 'innovators building a greener world', is taking the green initiative a step further to create eco-sustainable communities.

Their ongoing project in Bangalore exemplifies what eco-friendly architecture is all about. Good Earth Orchard, which will be ready soon, is a community of 60 houses, divided into clusters of 13 to 18 houses. The eco-sustainable community will have rainwater harvesting, decentralised sewage treatment and waste water storage, which will be reused in gardens. Only natural and eco-sensitive materials are used in the construction. The woodwork is polished with a mixture of cashew resin and linseed oil to enhance the life of timber and give it a rustic look.

"We decided to build many houses together as it is very difficult and

expensive to implement all the eco-sensitive initiatives in a single house," says Natasha. They try to minimise cost and make full use of natural light and ventilation.

Says Natasha: "In our projects, people don't have to switch on lights during daytime. There is no need for fans, forget air-conditioners. In fact, we should not use AC, as it harms the body."

After graduating from Rachana Sansad's Academy of Architecture in Mumbai in 1991, Jeeth and Natasha worked with Laurie Baker, the eco-friendly architect, at the Centre for Development Studies in Thiruvananthapuram.