



## Living The Vaastu Way In India's Vaastu Capital



### ARCHITECT'S VOICE

This month, the Vaastuyogam team met leading Hyderabad-based civil engineer Mr Ravikanth Gundu at his office in New MLA Colony, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. Born and brought up in Hyderabad, Mr Ravikanth is the youngest of three brothers and the only engineer in the family. He began his career in engineering sixteen years ago and currently operates under his firm Symbiosis Architects and Engineers.

Excerpts from the interview:-



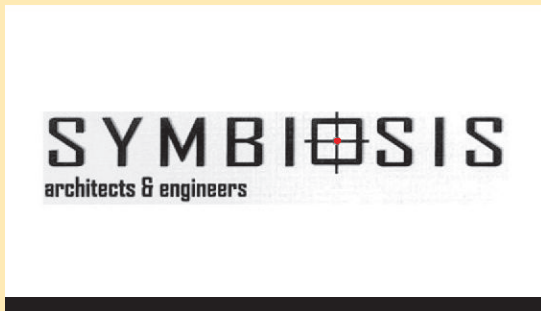
On Going Projects Of Mr Ravikanth Gundu



Mr Ravikanth Gundu

#### About Symbiosis Architects and Engineers

At Symbiosis Architects and Engineers, we see ourselves as an umbrella body that aims to provide single window solutions to someone who wants to build a house, factory or commercial complex. Usually, we take up projects right from design to supervision, to landscaping to interiors. We have our team of architects, structural engineers, site engineers, mechanical, electrical and plumbing (M.E.P) consultants and also landscape consultants. Depending on the clients' requirements, we



either supply drawings and technical support or handle the whole project including supervision and handing over. For some clients we also provide turnkey solutions.

#### On Vaastu in Hyderabad

Way back sixteen years ago, when I had just begun my career, people were aware of Vaastu but were not following it as minutely as they do today. There was basic Vaastu and by that I mean South-East kitchen, North-East Entrance and South-West master bedroom. This was the Vaastu we knew of and followed at that time.

Today, in Hyderabad, things are different. Everyone wants not only to follow Vaastu but follow it as minutely as is possible. Over here, less than 1% of the people will

say, "I want my house in this way only and I don't mind if that will make the house design anti-Vaastu."

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consultant and only after that will he call his doctor. Here, in Hyderabad, absolutely everyone insists on 100% perfect Vaastu home. They will sacrifice anything related to convenience and aesthetics to get a Vaastu perfect home and are willing to go to any extent of cost to achieve this goal. Clients,



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nowadays, insist on detail Vaastu factors like

- 1) the number of doors and windows
- 2) the number of steps that a staircase should have and
- 3) more specially the direction in which the staircases are to be placed.

The clients also pay attention to the colour scheme of the rooms - insisting on separate and Vaastu-ordained colours for bedrooms and kitchens and study rooms. We have also had clients that pay close attention to the trees that are to be planted, and even to the extent of the colour of flowers that should be grown in the north-east and the colours of the flowers that should be in grown in the other directions. These strong and persistent trends have made Hyderabad the Vaastu capital of India. However, I must add that I have still to come across someone in Hyderabad who has told me that he has failed in life because he had a good Vaastu house.

### About Vaastu in his Practice

My job is to fulfil the requirements of my clients and their first requirement is Vaastu compliance. So, I always have to ensure that my work is as per Vaastu. In fact, whether a client asks for it or not, I always keep Vaastu in mind from day one itself. For those clients who insist on full Vaastu compliance we do let go of the aesthetics if necessary because for the client Vaastu comes first, aesthetics come second. Though I – like all engineers,

architects and builders of Hyderabad – know Vaastu, the client will always bring in his own personal Vaastu consultant. If the client does not have one of his own, he will insist that we bring in one.

### Experience with Dr Ravi Rao

I am doing a big industrial building project with Dr Rao. It is a one lakh fifty thousand square feet building. My knowledge of Vaastu is gained through work experience only and I am in no way an expert. So I cannot comment on someone of Dr Rao's stature and knowledge. Yet, I must say that my experience with Dr Rao has been very pleasant. He is a rare Vaastu consultant who is very practical and knowledgeable. In this project, he has first understood the industrial process thoroughly and devised his solution around it keeping in mind modern day requirements of a production facility of this huge size.

Most Vaastu consultants are interested only in boasting about their hold on their clients and how they have got so many crores worth property broken down and re-built. They only want to say newer things that we have not heard about the subject of Vaastu and thereby confuse us into silence. Dr Rao, on the other hand, has allowed us a free hand in the drawing and the Vaastu solutions he has devised are both creative and cost-effective and yet do not disrupt the logic and temperament of the design; only in the rarest of cases did we have to make changes in the

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drawings to satisfy him.

### Vaastu in Personal Life

Having moved to a house with good Vaastu

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Swamyreddy Elevation

impacted me positively. Probably I have succeeded in my life's objectives because of my hard work and maybe I was going to get there anyway but I do feel that other things apart, Vaastu too played its role. What Vaastu gave me was a psychological advantage.

Therefore, I suggest that if one can arrive at a happy blend of aesthetics and Vaastu, it would be a great boon because a house/office built as per Vaastu will definitely give you a psychological advantage which is essential for a happy and prosperous life. ■