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# PROPERTY

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## THE HOME OF THE FUTURE

Technology, wellness, and sustainability will take centre stage in the real estate sector





SUSTAINABLE SPACES

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## IN SYNC WITH NATURE

Regenerative architecture focuses on creating buildings that give back to the ecosystem, spaces that foster a wide range of flora and fauna, and systems that mimic the cycles of nature

Words by Yvonne Ingrosso Stone

**R**egenerative architecture is a unique and holistic approach to design that goes beyond traditional sustainability. Instead of merely minimizing environmental harm, it actively enhances ecosystems, communities, and cities. Regenerative architecture doesn't just focus on reducing negative impacts; it strives to create positive outcomes by restoring and enhancing natural systems to promote harmony between the built environment and the natural world.

As the world faces rapid environmental challenges, regenerative architecture offers a hopeful vision for the future. It promises to create spaces that support both human and ecological health. This innovative approach fosters optimism for a sustainable, resilient, and thriving built environment. By embracing regenerative principles, we can look forward to a future where our buildings actively contribute to the well-being of our planet and its inhabitants.

Regenerative architecture is grounded in several fundamental principles, including a focus on restoration and renewal. It emphasizes designing projects that actively restore natural habitats and ecosystems, aiming to create a built environment that contributes positively



to the planet's health. Additionally, it embraces holistic thinking, which recognizes the interconnectedness of human and natural systems. Community engagement is another aspect that encourages and promotes active participation and collaboration with local communities. Essentially, architectural structures are designed for resilience and adaptability, ensuring they can respond to environmental changes over time. The ultimate goal is to leave a net positive impact on both the environment and society.

#### ENHANCING ECOSYSTEMS

Regenerative architecture significantly enhances ecosystems by integrating natural processes into the built environment, promoting ecological harmony and sustainability. Unlike traditional architecture, which often depletes natural resources and disrupts ecosystems, regenerative design seeks to heal and rejuvenate the environment. This approach involves designing buildings and landscapes that mimic natural systems, creating symbiotic relationships between human activities and the natural world. Embedding natural processes within architectural designs contributes to the restoration of ecosystems, supports biodiversity, and enhances the essential services ecosystems provide to humanity. In a recent project, we have incorporated

**Left:** A restored range of a limestone frame against the backdrop of a picturesque landscape.  
**Right:** Organic design with open insights create a serene environment. Renewable sources of energy offset electricity costs.



a vertical green space to seamlessly blend nature with urban living. Every floor features trees and planters, creating a lush façade that enhances the building's aesthetic and promotes environmental benefits. The basement is designed with biophilic elements, incorporating landscape cut-outs that connect the interior spaces with nature, fostering a sense of tranquility and well-being.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is a cornerstone of regenerative architecture. A regenerative

project involves active participation and collaboration with local communities, ensuring that residents' needs, values, and knowledge are incorporated into the design process. It fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among local populations, leading to more sustainable and resilient outcomes. The community areas in one of our projects are thoughtfully crafted under the building's shade, ensuring comfort and usability. Spaces like landscaped zones, swimming pools, and clubhouses are strategically placed to maintain a cordial microclimate.

This design approach provides a relaxed, shaded environment and contributes to sustainable development, enhancing the quality of life for its residents.

#### RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY

Regenerative architecture emphasises resilience and adaptability, crafting structures that can withstand and respond to environmental changes over time. This involves using durable, flexible materials and construction methods capable of evolving with changing conditions. By prioritising resilience, regenerative architecture helps communities better prepare for and adapt to climate change, natural disasters, and other environmental challenges.

#### REVITALISING CITIES

Regenerative architecture can rejuvenate cities on a larger scale, creating more

resilience, sustainability, and livability. By incorporating green infrastructure and sustainable urban planning, cities can transform into ecological and social regeneration hubs. The potential for such comprehensive revitalisation fills the audience with optimism and excitement, envisioning a future where cities are functional, harmonious with nature, and supportive of vibrant, healthy communities.

#### Green infrastructure

Green infrastructure is a critical component of regenerative urban design. It includes parks, green corridors, urban forests, and community gardens, providing numerous ecological and social benefits. Green infrastructure improves air quality, reduces urban heat islands, and enhances stormwater management. It also offers recreational spaces, supports mental health, and fosters social



**Left:** Green architecture improves livability.  
**Right:** Living walls breathe life into urban spaces. **Shikha Sharma, Founder, Partner and Principal Architect, Confidant**

interaction, contributing to the overall well-being of urban residents. A unique design we have integrated into one of our projects is using natural green spaces and water elements on the 14th floor, creating a connection with nature. Organic design elements like the open natural skylights further enhance this integration, bringing in abundant natural light and fostering a serene, natural environment within the building.

#### Sustainable urban planning

Sustainable urban planning is integral to regenerative architecture. It involves designing compact, mixed-use developments that reduce the need for long commutes and promote walkability and public transportation. By prioritising accessibility and connectivity, sustainable urban planning lowers carbon footprints and enhances residents' quality of life. Additionally, incorporating renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, helps cities transition to low-carbon energy systems.

#### Social and economic regeneration

Regenerative architecture also addresses

social and economic regeneration. By creating inclusive and equitable spaces, regenerative projects can help bridge social divides and foster community resilience. This involves designing affordable housing, community centres, and public spaces that cater to the diverse needs of urban populations. Moreover, regenerative projects often prioritise local sourcing of materials and labour, supporting local economies and creating job opportunities.

As the world grows and faces the challenges of rapid climate change and urbanisation, regenerative architecture emerges as a promising solution. By embracing its principles, architects and planners can create environments that support and enhance human and natural systems. It offers a pathway to sustainable and thriving environments by promoting restoration, holistic systems thinking, community engagement, resilience, and positive impact. Its potential to enhance ecosystems, revitalise cities, and improve human well-being fills us with optimism and excitement for the future. **■**