Kovalam, one of India's most spectacular beaches, is just north of Kanyakumari along the Arabian Sea. With this project the client intended to initiate Kovalam's development as a major resort without disturbing the beauty of the surroundings. The site is adjacent to the old Kovalam Palace. The project design commenced in 1969 and the first phase of construction completed in 1974. This phase involved establishing a number of facilities acting as a catalyst for future growth.

The current resort provides 300 beds as well as specialised facilities such as centres for yoga and ayurvedic massage, and water sports. The master plan scatters the facilities over the site, rather than concentrating them in one area, thus creating a number of potential growth points and allowing for a flexible response to future demands. In order to preserve the site's natural beauty the buildings follow the hill slope; this also means that each room gets its own private terrace for sunbathing and relaxing. There are also a number of detached units and independent units on boulders.

Although the design is contemporary and is not directly derived from local forms, except for the Beach Centre pavilions which are lightweight bamboo shows, the buildings refer to the vernacular with the plastered white walls, red tiled roofs and sun decks. The interiors utilise light furnishings, masonry on the floors and simple Indian crafted finishes.
View from a sundeck.

Right: View from the beach.

Section: Main building.

Main building.

Sundecks in the main building.
Bamboo *chatri* in the Beach Centre.

Section: Detached unit.

A typical *kudil*. 
Sundeck in a kudil.

Interior of a typical living-cum-bedroom in a kudil.