FAQ's

1. List the factors influencing Goan architecture

• Protecting oneself from the fierce monsoons was the basis of architectural form.

• Portuguese rule allowed Goans to travel abroad; when they returned they brought with them ideas and influences from other countries. The Goan master builders executed these ideas using local building materials, making the Goan house a mixture and adaptation of design elements and influences from all over the world.

• The European lifestyle was encouraged in an attempt to separate newly converted Goan Christians from their cultural roots. They adopted a European outlook but did not cut themselves off from their Indian roots completely. The resulting cultural fusion affected house design.

2. Discuss the design features of Goan houses.

• The traditional pre-Portuguese homes were inward-looking with small windows; this reflected the secluded role of women. The houses opened into courtyards, and rarely opened onto streets.

• The Catholic houses built or refurbished between the middle of the 18th and the 20th centuries were more outward-looking and ornamental, with balcões (covered porches) and verandas facing the street.

• The large balcões had built-in seating, open to the street, where men and women could sit together and 'see and be seen', chat with their neighbors, or just enjoy the evening breeze.

• These balcões are bordered by ornamental columns that sometimes continued along the steps and added to the stature of the house. This, together with the plinth, which usually indicated the status of the owners. The houses of rich landlords had high plinths with grand staircases leading to the front door or balcão.

3. Write a few lines about the interior layout of Goan houses

• Most houses are symmetrical with the entrance door occupying the place of honor. Typically this front door leads to a foyer which then either leads to the sala (the main hall for entertaining a large number of guests) or the sala de visita (a smaller hall for entertaining a small number of guests) and in some cases the chapel in the house.

• From here one can also directly enter the rest of the house, which usually revolved around a courtyard. Typically the master bedroom opens into the sala or is close to it. The dining room is usually perpendicular to these rooms; the bedrooms flank the courtyard, and the kitchens and

service areas are at the rear of the house. In the case of two-story houses, a staircase, either from the foyer or the dining room, leads to more bedrooms.

• Consisting of humble burnt earth plastered over with cow dung and hay, or with elaborate patterns made with tiles imported from Europe, the floors in Goan houses have been both workplaces and statements.

•Almost all Goan houses have a false ceiling of wood

4. Write a few notes on evolution of Bungalows

• The term originated in India, meaning "Bengali" and used elliptically for a "house in the Bengal style".

• This Asian architectural form and design originated in the countryside of Bengal region in South Asia. Such houses were traditionally small, only one storey and detached, and had a wide verandah.

•The term was first found in English from 1696, where it was used to describe "bungales or hovells" in India for English sailors of the East India Company

• Later it became used for the spacious homes or official lodgings of officials of the British Raj, and was so known in Britain and later America, where it initially had high status and exotic connotations, and began to be used in the late 19th century for large country or suburban houses built in an Arts and Crafts or other Western vernacular style—essentially as large cottages

5. List and discuss features of the Bungalows

• Usually 1 to 1.5 stories , with upper mostly being with a sloped roof
• Open floor plan
• Entry typically opens directly into living room
• Deep eaves with exposed rafters
• Large front porch which acts as an outdoor room
• Easy to access outdoor spaces
• Open floor plan maximized for efficiency and flow from room to room with minimal space wasted on hallways