

A Divine Sojourn

Set amidst the idyllic hills of the Chittoor District in Andhra Pradesh, Marasa Sarovar Premiere is a hotel that offers a serene respite from the tedium of daily life. **Bindu Gopal Rao** goes on a propitious odyssey and discovers an other-worldly experience at this tranquil resort.



(Top) The *Dashavatara* theme in the reception;
(Above) Water bodies play an important role in the hotel's decor

The view of the hills is perfect — all merging into a fantastic shade of brown and green. And the best part is, this is the view from my room. Wondering where? Well, this is at Marasa Sarovar Premiere — India's first theme hotel inspired by the 10 incarnations of Vishnu. Located on the foothills of

the Tirumala Hills, this hotel is 33km away from the most famous temple of India, the Lord Venkateshwara Temple. Just like the beautiful views from the room, the hotel itself is architecturally stunning and the concept of incorporating the ten manifestations of Lord Vishnu has been executed to perfection. Naturally, my

interest was piqued and I can say that I was very impressed with the design sensibilities I saw here.

THEMATIC DELIGHT

Right from inception, the hotel's design team was driven by the architectural structure of the temple at Tirumala. The main concepts of orthogonal, introverted and circumambulatory — key concepts at the main temple, were refined and integrated into every aspect of this hotel. For the uninitiated, the *Dashavatara* depicts the ten manifestations of the Supreme Being and each avatar has been captured in a space that has been designed with the symbols, colours and emotions evoked by each avatar. "Our idea for this hotel embodies the classical