

18th-Century Tamil Building Ananda Ranga Pillai Mansion

Among the buildings owned by Tamil noble men and traders, the house of Ananda Ranga Pillai (109 on the street that bears his name), built in 1735, is one of the oldest. Spared by the British in 1761, this is one of the most beautiful examples of a traditional Tamil house with European influence in Pondicherry.

On the ground floor, in typically Indian fashion, the courtyard is surrounded by exquisitely carved wooden pillars ; on the first floor, the terrace is supported by elegant masonry columns of European design.

This edifice is plainly the expression of the two cultures to which the great *dubash* of the French governor Duplex belonged.



Portrait of Ananda Rangapillai
dubash of Duplex



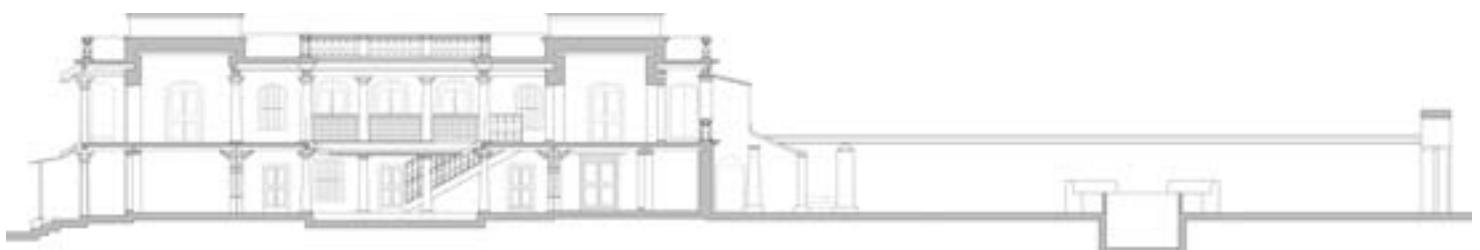
Ground Floor Interior - Tamil Style



First Floor Interior - French Style



Ground Floor Plan



Long Section