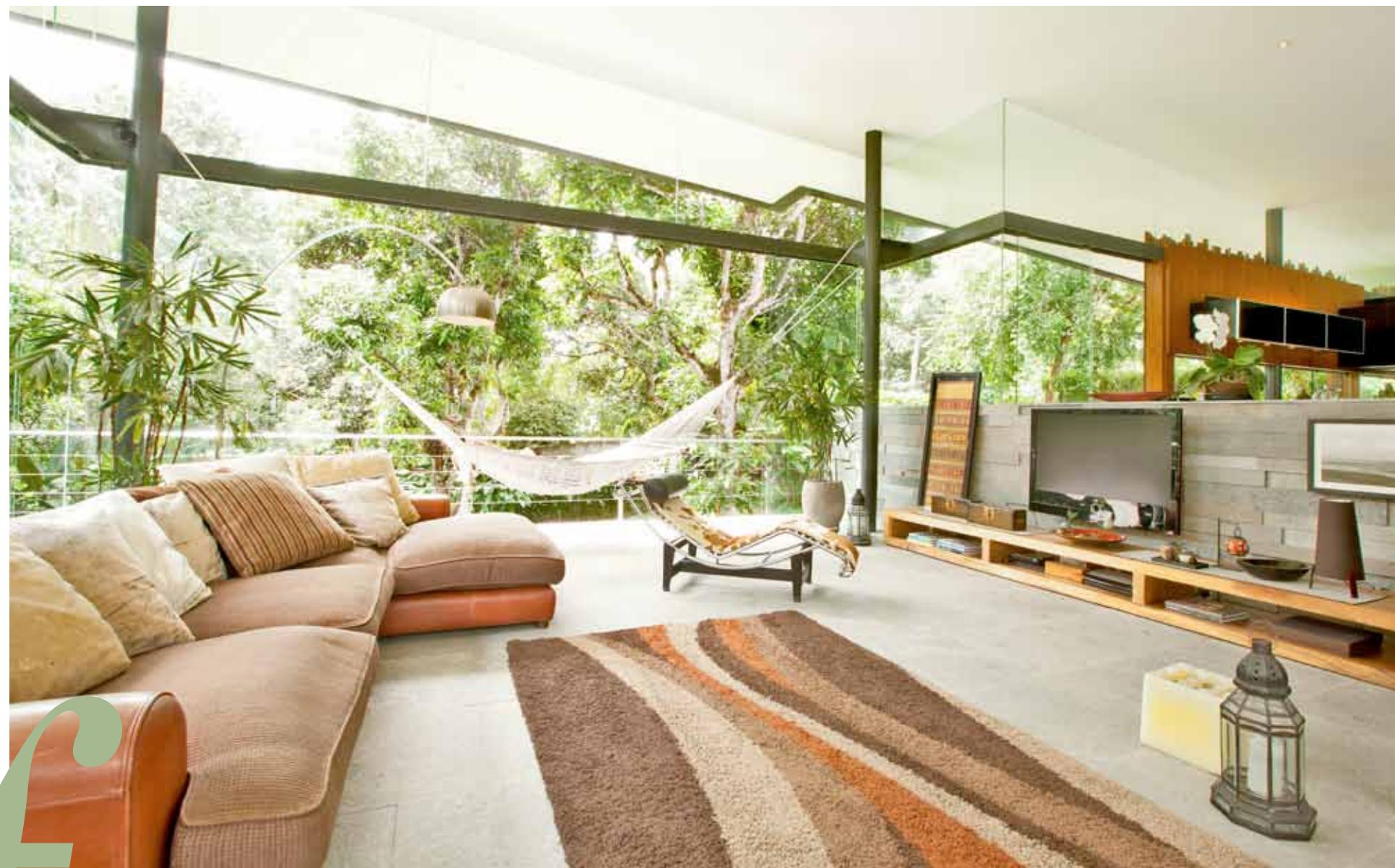




Return to Eden

"Our house was actually built a few meters further into the property than originally planned, due to the trees," Lianne Brennan tells Dewald Haynes as they walk towards her home. "In fact there are nine existing mango trees on the property and besides trimming a few branches we did not remove any of them."

STORY BY Dewald Haynes
PHOTO BY Bagus Tri Laksono

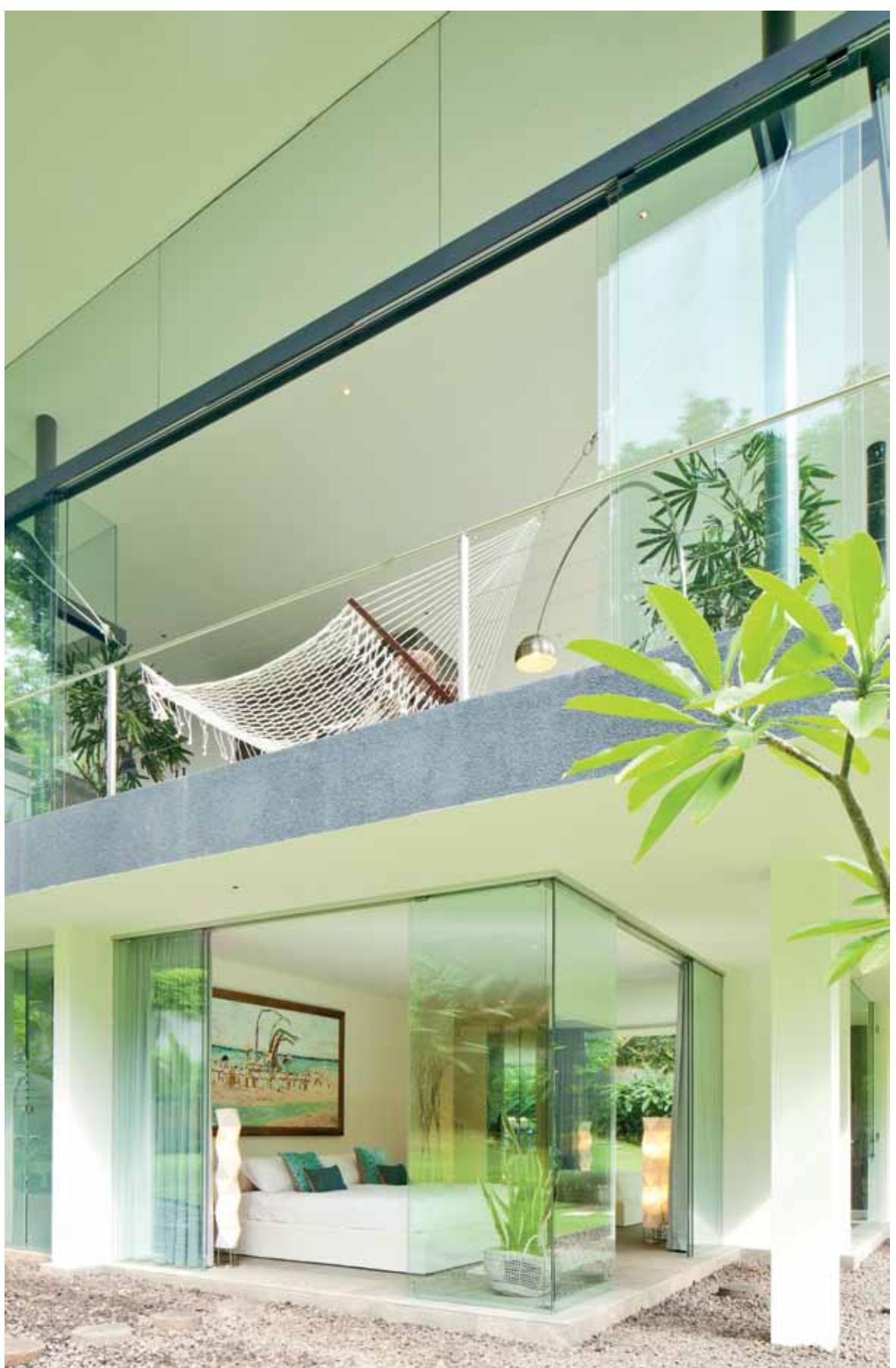


ROM THE MOMENT YOU TURN INTO GANG Rusak (Broken Lane) you realize that this house is completely hidden and private. The two track gravel road almost has you thinking you're going off the beaten track, but once you arrive at the home of Sean and Lianne Brennan you enter a lush tropical environment that captivates nature and modern comforts with stylish simplicity. Twenty-five acres of land were transformed into a tangible haven, with a soft lawn bordering on a fencing forest that shields and hides their home.

There is a very good reason why this house needs to be in a private location. Literally all of the outside walls are made of frame-less glass, with sliding doors suspended from steel beams which are in turn cantilevered off slender steel columns. This



EQUATORIAN EDEN
CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT
— Glass-walled platforms on both floors create natural ventilation
— The study with photograph-covered walls and view of the manicured lawn
— The living room interior designed with nature-hued colours with a hammock as a beckoning feature



EQUATORIAN EDEN

The lounge area on the kitchen terrace. Cool and comfy. A favourite place for drinking tea.

OPPOSITE PAGE FROM TOP

Polished granite on the kitchen floor in a zigzag pattern

The dining area at night with additional reflected mood lighting from the pool



allows opening up or entirely closing the house with minimum effort, depending on weather conditions. "When you design in the tropics you have to deal with a lot of heat and humidity, but also wind, rain and the occasional thunder storm," Alessandro Landi of Landi Designs Inc. passionately explains to me. "The long roof eaves protect the internal spaces from the elements and create a shady platform from which to admire the forest surroundings. The use of frameless glass was essential to achieve this sense of openness and make you feel part of the trees"

"We knew we wanted to build a house in Bali to finally have a home base and it took a year looking for the perfect location where you have the luxury of space and the privacy we wanted. And, from the very first time I saw Alessandro's design of his own house, I knew I wanted him to design our house," Sean explains how he envisioned their home. Actually both Lianne and Sean lived mostly in hotels while travelling together. Through their travels they kept collecting pieces of furniture from all the exotic places they visited throughout South East Asia. "Our treasures always ended up in storage for that one day when we will have a home of our own," Lianne completes the story about how they accumulated the décor of their home.

Alessandro is a former clothing designer, who turned his passion towards architecture into a full time job. Although his design of the Brennan's house is contemporary, it is aesthetically classical and built

to withstand the test of time. The lower level structure, which houses 3 bedrooms and a study, is built from reinforced concrete while the upper level is a steel-framed pavilion in which the dark anthracite steel elements also serve as a primary architectural motif. All the floors, indoor & outdoor patio area are covered with large flamed granite slabs laid in random lengths with the exception of the kitchen where polished slabs were used. An indoor staircase constructed from steel and granite connects the two levels. The terrace and stairway railing are all custom-made in stainless steel, ensuring that this house is structurally engineered to perfection to endure economically with minimum maintenance expenses.



EQUATORIAN EDEN
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

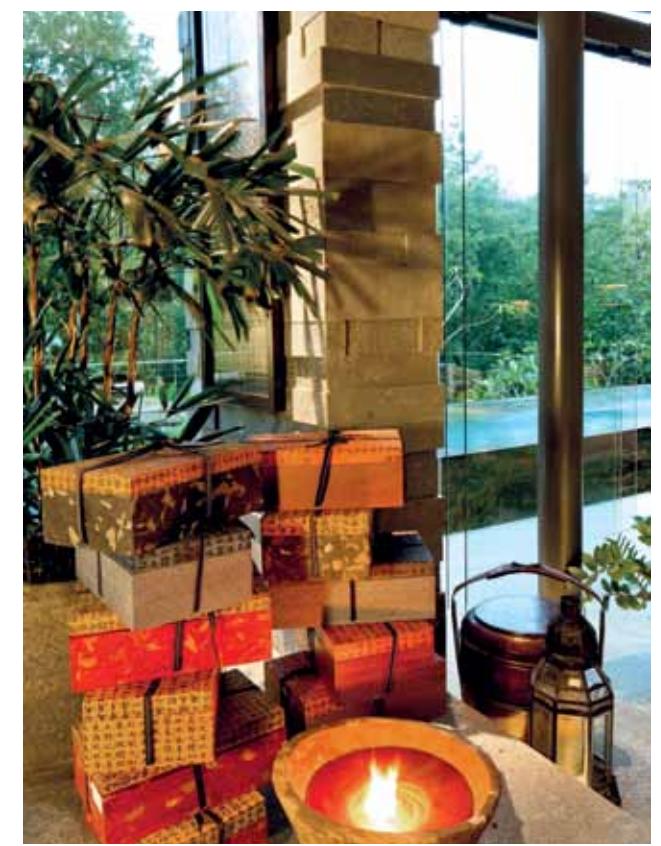
The child's room with three beds intended for visiting cousins and sleepovers

A streamlined toilet and shower with direct access to the lawn

A composition of wooden tokens from time spent living in Korea

Bengkirai wood battens cover the façade of the outside kitchen wall

Square granite stones serve as footpath





Alessandro's artistic attention to detail and unique trademark of craftsmanship in design is brought forward with the feature walls and pillars that accentuate the contemporary architectural design. Using random sized flamed and honed andesite, sourced from different quarries, he created unique walls and pillars each with their own signature random pattern.

The remainder of the inside walls are either jade-coloured glass, white painted or floor-to-ceiling mirror to create an even more spacious ambience. For a bit

of fun he recessed a blue LED rope light at the base of the kitchen island, as being an open-plan house this can feature as a cocktail bar area. The whole top level converts into a venue for entertainment, complete with an infinity pool tiled with natural green stone to reflect and highlight the tropical environment. The design produced a neutral and natural zone that embraces nature and adapts to any lifestyle.

This is indeed a dream home, and the Brennans have been dreaming about it for years. It is as if Eden bore no forbidden fruits and that the Brennan's choice

EQUATORIAN EDEN CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

The south-facing master bedroom enjoys privacy and features an open plan space highlighted by the curved wall, jade-coloured glass for wardrobes and headboard and andesite feature wall by the bath area

The open bath area was designed to enhance intimacy and exposure at the same time.

to settle in such a beautiful tropical location as Bali's Bukit is kismet. "In this home I can raise my son and our family and friends can come and visit us, I also dream about adding a yoga pavilion and perhaps a library for my books, as Sean already has his own study," Lianne intuitively daydreams about expanding on her existing home in paradise.

Konstruksi ini membuat desain rumah dapat dengan mudahnya diatur menjadi terbuka atau tertutup, tergantung musim dan cuaca. "Membuat desain di lingkungan tropis berarti Anda harus banyak berurusan dengan cuaca panas dan kelembaban, selain juga dengan adanya angin, hujan dan bahkan badai," jelas Alessandro Landi dari Landi Designs. "Lis atap yang panjang melindungi ruangan-ruangan bagian dalam dari elemen-elemen cuaca dan menciptakan sebuah *platform* rindang di mana kita bisa berdiri dan mengagumi keindahan hutan sekitar. Penggunaan kaca tanpa *frame* sangat penting dalam menciptakan kesan terbuka dalam desain dan membuat Anda merasa sebagai bagian dari pepohonan di sekitar," tambahnya.

"Kami sangat beruntung bisa mendapatkan properti ini sebelum harganya naik dan begitu saya melihat desain rumah pribadi Alessandro, saya langsung merasa cocok dan memintanya untuk mendesain rumah tinggal saya," kata Sean Brennan merendah saat ia menjelaskan asal usul rumahnya yang indah itu. Sebenarnya Lianne dan Sean sering bertualang dari satu hotel ke hotel lain saat mereka berpergian bersama. Sebagai kenangan, mereka selalu menyempatkan diri untuk membeli beberapa perabot atau pernak-pernik dari tempat yang pernah mereka kunjungi di Asia Tenggara. "Semua harta karun hasil temuan kami itu berakhir di tempat penyimpanan, disimpan sampai kami memiliki rumah sendiri," cerita Lianne





EQUATORIAN EDEN
CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

— Located near the entrance, the kitchen area serves as a welcoming and gathering point

— Black and White photos and escaping butterflies fill up the white walls along the staircase

— The powder room overhangs onto the indoor staircase, which is constructed in steel with granite flooring

tentang berbagai perabot dan ornamen indah yang dipajang di rumah itu. Dan memang benar, saat Anda menginjakkan kaki di dalam rumah itu, Anda akan langsung tahu bahwa inilah rumah idaman pasangan ini, yang telah bertahun-tahun mereka impikan.

Alessandro sendiri adalah mantan desainer pakaian yang minatnya terhadap arsitektur telah membuka sebuah lapangan pekerjaan baru untuknya. Meskipun desain yang digunakan untuk rumah Brennan cenderung kontemporer, secara estetika tampilannya klasik dan abadi. Misalnya struktur lantai bawah yang terdiri dari 3 kamar tidur dan sebuah ruang membaca. Struktur itu terbuat dari beton bertulang sedangkan struktur lantai atas merupakan paviliun berbingkai baja di mana elemen baja antrasitnya digunakan sebagai motif arsitektur utama di lantai itu. Semua lantai di dalam rumah dan juga di beranda *indoor* dan *outdoor* ditutup lempengan besar granit bakar berukuran acak. Satu perkecualian tampak di dalam dapur di mana lantainya terdiri dari lempengan granit yang telah dipoles. Sebuah tangga *indoor* yang terbuat dari baja dan granit menghubungkan kedua lantai rumah itu. Teras dan *railing* tangga dibuat secara khusus dari *stainless steel*, yang membuktikan betapa struktur rumah ini diciptakan dengan sempurna agar tahan lama secara ekonomi dan tidak memerlukan biaya pemeliharaan yang tinggi.

Kemampuan artistik Alessandro dalam memperhatikan detail rancangan serta ciri khasnya



Project Data

Project Name	Brennan House
Location	Bukit, Bali
Site Area	2450 m ²
Gross Floor Area	750 m ²
Client/Owner	Sean Brennan
Architecture, Lighting & Landscape Consultant	Landi Designs Inc.
Principal Designer	Alessandro Landi
Cabinetry	Alurnatura
Main Contractor	IWM Construction
Started	August 2009
Completed	November 2010



dalam mendesain tampak dari dinding dan kolom yang mengaksentuasi rancangan arsitektur kontemporer buatannya. Dengan menggunakan lempengan batu andesit yang telah dibakar dan diasah, yang didapatkannya dari berbagai tambang, dia menciptakan dinding-dinding dan kolom-kolom unik dengan motif dan ciri khasnya masing-masing secara acak.

Dinding-dinding lain di dalam rumah ada yang terbuat dari kaca berwarna hijau seperti batu giok, ada pula yang dicat putih ataupun terbuat dari cermin setinggi langit-langit guna menciptakan suasana yang lebih lapang. Agar tampak lebih ceria, Alessandro meletakkan lampu tali LED berwarna biru di dasar meja dapur sehingga area ini bisa juga berfungsi sebagai bar koktail karena desainnya yang terbuka. Seluruh lantai atas dirancang sebagai area *entertainment* lengkap dengan *infinity pool* yang menggunakan batu alam hijau sebagai dasarnya agar

menceerminkan dan memberi penekanan pada lingkungan tropis di sekitarnya.

Sejatinya rumah itu sendiri merupakan zona netral dan alami yang seolah merengkuh alam sekitar dan menjadi tempat sempurna bagi kehidupan keluarga. Selama bertahun-tahun keluarga Brennan telah berkeliling ke banyak lokasi eksotis dan jika sekarang mereka memutuskan untuk tinggal di belantara tropis yang indah di Bukit Bali, itu adalah takdir. "Di rumah ini saya bisa membesarkan anak laki saya. Keluarga dan teman juga bisa dengan leluasa berkunjung kemari. Ke depannya saya ingin menambahkan sebuah *yoga pavilion* dan mungkin juga sebuah perpustakaan untuk menampung buku-buku saya karena Sean telah memiliki ruang bacanya sendiri." Demikian harapan Lianne untuk mengembangkan rumahnya yang serasa terletak di surga itu. □

EQUATORIAN EDEN

Come nightfall, the indoor-outdoor spaces create a balance of serenity and openness, which can only delight the senses.

