

Tropical splendour

With their contemporary, pavilion-style architecture, the villas in this Bali development make the most of the warm climate and the lush, picturesque landscape, which was once laid out in rice fields





Privacy and seclusion are prerequisites for a luxury tropical villa – so too is a sense of spa-like tranquillity.

But it is the proximity to water that best conveys the essence of a Balinese retreat.

The site now occupied by the villas featured on these pages has always had a close connection with nature – it was once laid out in rice fields.

Today, however, the water

is tamed, with private pools and lush landscaping creating idyllic retreats for owners and guests staying in the villas.

Developed by Much More Bali and designed by husband and wife team Alessandro Landi and Arlyn Buendia of Landi Designs, the Much More Seminyak Villas reflect the Balinese architectural heritage, in both their passive design and detailing.

“The villas are laid out in pairs, on an east-west axis, which best suited the long, narrow site. This ensure there would be sun on the gardens and pools all day. It also meant the villas benefit from cross ventilation,” says Landi.

The villas have a steel construction, but this is concealed. Posts and I-beams are wrapped in bamboo timber, giving the buildings a warm, natural look.



Preceding pages: To enhance the tropical aesthetic of the Much More Seminyak Villas, the steel structure is concealed within bamboo timber beams.

These pages: Blade walls with oblique angled edges appear to slice through the exterior, supporting the soaring roof and linking the inside with the outside. The textural stone surfaces on these walls provide a distinctive counterpoint to the sleek glass doors and mirrored walls.





Landi also introduced two feature walls to each villa, which are clad in rectangular rough-faced slate laid in a random pattern.

"The contrasting textures add plenty of visual interest," he says. "So, too does the oblique angle of the walls. The larger, central wall is wider at the top, and tapers towards the ground, while the other wall does the reverse. The visual

weight of the stone is balanced by the irregular geometry of the walls, so there is a sense of lightness. The walls appear to support the roof, which slants up to open the interior to the courtyard and sky."

The interior decor plays a major role in delivering the resort-style aesthetic. Just as the sleek glass is juxtaposed with stone on the exterior, so the interior is defined by con-

trasting textural elements. Backlit onyx illuminates the front of kitchen islands and bedroom furniture.

Glass and mirrored wall panels enhance the sense of space and transparency, reflecting the ambient lighting and tropical foliage. In contrast, there are fossilised wood and bamboo bases for coffee tables, and ebony veneer. All the materials provide a strong

visual link with the outdoors.

"Being inside a villa is like being in an outdoor room, especially with all the doors open," says Landi. "Wherever possible I have used frameless glass doors to enhance this seamless connection. And with tiered landscaping right around the villas, residents are enveloped by greenery."

Landi designed the villas so there is a clear line of sight

from one end to the other. With the doors between rooms open, there is an uninterrupted view right to the outdoors.

Although the crisp, modern architecture has a strongly linear look, this is softened by the furnishings. Area rugs, and coffee tables are mostly circular, and chairs, tables, beds and pendant lights have organic, sculptural forms. Walls in the bedroom suites are

clad in teakwood panels with a vertical pattern similar to the slate feature pillars. Narrow halogen beams direct focused spots of warm light to the feature walls and outdoor decks and gardens. Various lamps handmade in rattan by local craftsmen convey a sense of cosiness and intimacy, one of the key design objectives. With full-height glass

walls, bathrooms are light filled, and the lines between inside and out blurred, so there is a strong sense of being a part of the natural environment.

"Here, again, textures play an important role," says Landi. "Some of the vanities with black glass bases also have translucent glass shelving. The glass is contrasted by dark granite tops – light versus heavy, dark versus light."

Preceding pages and above: In keeping with the concept of a private sanctuary, space in the bathrooms is not compromised. The spa-like bathroom in this villa is just as large as the adjoining bedroom. And with glass walls, the bathroom feels like part of the outdoors.

Following pages: Relaxing in seclusion by day and by night – each villa has a private outdoor living area with a lounging terrace and a swimming pool.

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Development: Much More Seminyak Villas (Seminyak, Bali, Indonesia)

Architect: Alessandro Landi, Landi Designs (Bali)

Builder: IWM Constructions

Doors and windows: Frameless tempered glass by Dekkson & OMG Hardware

Flooring: Polished andesite

Decking: Merbau timber

Wallcoverings: Slate feature walls, mirror, teak wood panels and doors

Paints: Kem-Tone

Furniture: Custom by Landi Designs

Curtains: Sheers in natural linen with blackout drapes

Kitchen cabinets: Plywood construction with two-pack gloss

Countertops: Black granite

Backsplash: Black glass

Refrigeration: Samsung

Bathtub: Toto enamelled steel

Vanity unit: Teak wood

Basins, taps and shower fittings: Toto

Story by Colleen Hawkes

Photography by Rocco Marosi

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Left: A mirrored wall creates a lively backdrop to this bedroom suite, which opens right up to the tropical landscape. The recessed ceiling is illuminated to provide a soft glow.

Above: This bedroom features side tables formed from backlit onyx. All the furnishings and accessories have been chosen to convey the romantic ambience of a five-star resort.