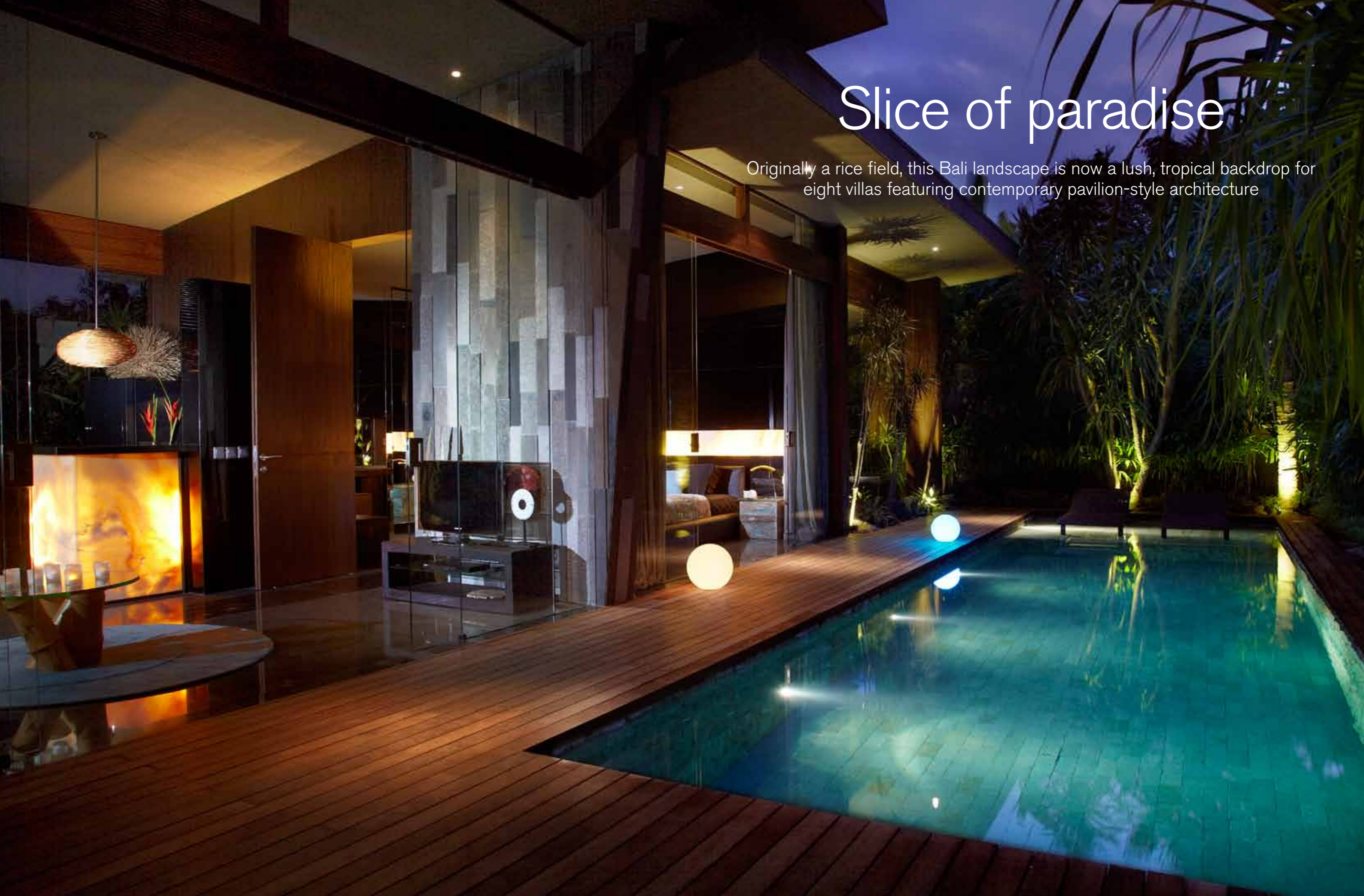


# Slice of paradise

Originally a rice field, this Bali landscape is now a lush, tropical backdrop for eight villas featuring contemporary pavilion-style architecture





*Preceding pages:* All rooms in this resort-style Balinese villa open to an outdoor courtyard and private pool. The merbau decking was installed to retain a seamless surface – there are no holes on the top.

*Above:* Although most of the structure is steel, it has a look of wood. The steel posts and beams are wrapped in bamboo timber.

**With the right architecture** and landscape design, even a wetland can become a tropical paradise. These Bali villas in the town of Seminyak sit on reclaimed land that was once laid out in rice fields.

Architect Alessandro Landi was commissioned by local developer Much More Bali to design a series of luxury villas that would convey the essence of Bali as a peaceful, tropical

resort. Privacy and seclusion were essential, and so too, was a sense of spa-like tranquillity. And each villa needed to have its own pool and landscaped outdoor living area.

Landi says because the site is long and narrow, the eight villas were laid out in pairs, on an east-west axis.

“This ensured there would be sun on the gardens and pools all day. It also meant the

villas could benefit from cross ventilation,” the architect says.

The villas, which vary in size, feature a steel construction, but this is concealed. Posts and I-beams are wrapped in bamboo timber, so the buildings have a warm, natural look that complements the lush tropical landscaping.

Landi also introduced two feature walls to each villa, which are clad in rectangular

dark granite slabs in a honed, polished or flamed finish. These are 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



*Above:* Large overhangs help to keep the interior shaded and cool, while the sun shines on the pool and garden.

*Left:* The entire site, which accommodates eight villas, is attractively landscaped to provide privacy and tranquillity, and a lush outlook. Gates open to the respective villas. The villas, which are being marketed to the public, were developed by Much More Bali.





**Above:** The interiors of the villas are defined by contrasting textural elements. For example, the rough texture of the fossilised tree trunk on the coffee table base is contrasted by the glass top. Furniture was custom designed by architect Alessandro Landi.

**Right:** With the lines between inside and outside blurred, the living room resembles an outdoor room.



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 rest of the interior is also defined by contrasting textural elements, which include backlit onyx, glass and mirrored wall panels, 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 also 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 through the interior 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 rounded, sculptural forms.

In the bedroom suites, highly polished surfaces, including black glass wall panels, help to reflect light. In one room, backlit onyx creates a dramatic headboard.

With full-height glass walls, bathrooms are also light filled. The extensive use of transparent glass is contrasted by dark granite and black glass.

**Top:** Rectangular slabs of polished, flamed and honed granite were laid in a random pattern on oblique-angled walls that extend through to the outside of the villa. The walls also help to link the indoors with the outdoors.

**Above:** This bedroom features mirrored panels on the walls. The mirrors on the left conceal a bank of wardrobes.

**Architect:** Alessandro Landi, Landi Designs (Bali)  
**Builder:** IWM Constructions  
**Decking:** Merbau timber  
**Doors and windows:** Frameless tempered glass by Dekkson with OMG hardware  
**Flooring:** Polished Black Impala granite  
**Wallcoverings:** Granite feature walls in polished/flamed/honed finish; mirror; ebony veneer  
**Paints:** Kem-Tone  
**Home audio:** Harman Kardon  
**Furniture:** Custom made designs by Landi Designs  
**Paintings:** Alessandro Landi

**Story by Colleen Hawkes**  
**Photography by Agus Pande**

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**Above:** Glass walls in the bathrooms reinforce the close link with nature. The vanity features transparent glass sides and shelving, a black glass base and dark granite top.

**Right:** Black glass also brings a reflective quality to this bedroom, where it lines the wall behind the bed. The glass is inlaid with a backlit strip of onyx.

