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**BOUTIQUE HOTELS
IN SIEM REAP**
HOW DESIGN CAN HELP TO
CHANGE A CITY'S APPEAL





/ WORDS MICHELE KOH MOROLLO

MEDITERRANEAN MAGIC ON AN INDONESIAN ISLAND

Inspired by the storied spirit of Southern Europe, this luxurious villa in Indonesia is designed to encourage absolute relaxation.

On the Indonesian island of Nusa Lembongan, Bali-based architecture and design studio Word of Mouth has recently completed Seascape Villa – a bright, white, breezy and two-storey holiday home inspired by the island villas in the Mediterranean.

Elements from Cycladic architecture, such as shelves and storage cubbies carved out of smooth plastered walls, a colour scheme of white, blues, and aquamarines, and a strong connection between the indoors and outdoors, are expressed in a cheerful, contemporary style that suits the villa's tropical setting.

The property, which is located on a peaceful, ocean-front plot on Nusa Lembongan – an island just off the southeastern coast of Bali – is owned by a group of friends from Malaysia and Hong Kong, who pooled their resources together to create this extraordinary, shared holiday oasis.

They wanted the villa to accommodate five bedrooms, two kitchens, a pool bar, a media room, and a separate guesthouse. Their request was for a leisure retreat with “Mediterranean feel” that would complement the property's sunny, beachside location.

/ ABOVE
A bamboo screen facade draws in plenty of light and fresh air, while still providing privacy for the interiors.





They also asked the architects to avoid using the colour black, and instead use white and blues – colours commonly seen in the cliffside homes of Santorini in Greece – as much as possible.

Sited on a 1,400m² plot on Lembongan Island's Sandy Bay Beach, the 684m² villa, which includes a swimming pool, was designed by Word of Mouth's co-founder and lead architect Valentina Audrito.

To meet the brief for Mediterranean aesthetics, Audrito conceived of a structure comprised mainly of clean, soft, white volumes with concrete surfaces, round-edged white plastered walls and pebble floors.

Local building regulations meant that the Word of Mouth team had to work within a tight footprint. To overcome this constraint, Audrito developed a compact two-storey floorplan to contain most of the bedrooms and communal spaces.



/ 1
From the main living area on the ground level, a staircase leads up to a second “hammock” floor on the upper level.

/ 2
The exterior walls of the bathrooms are made of bamboo.



2

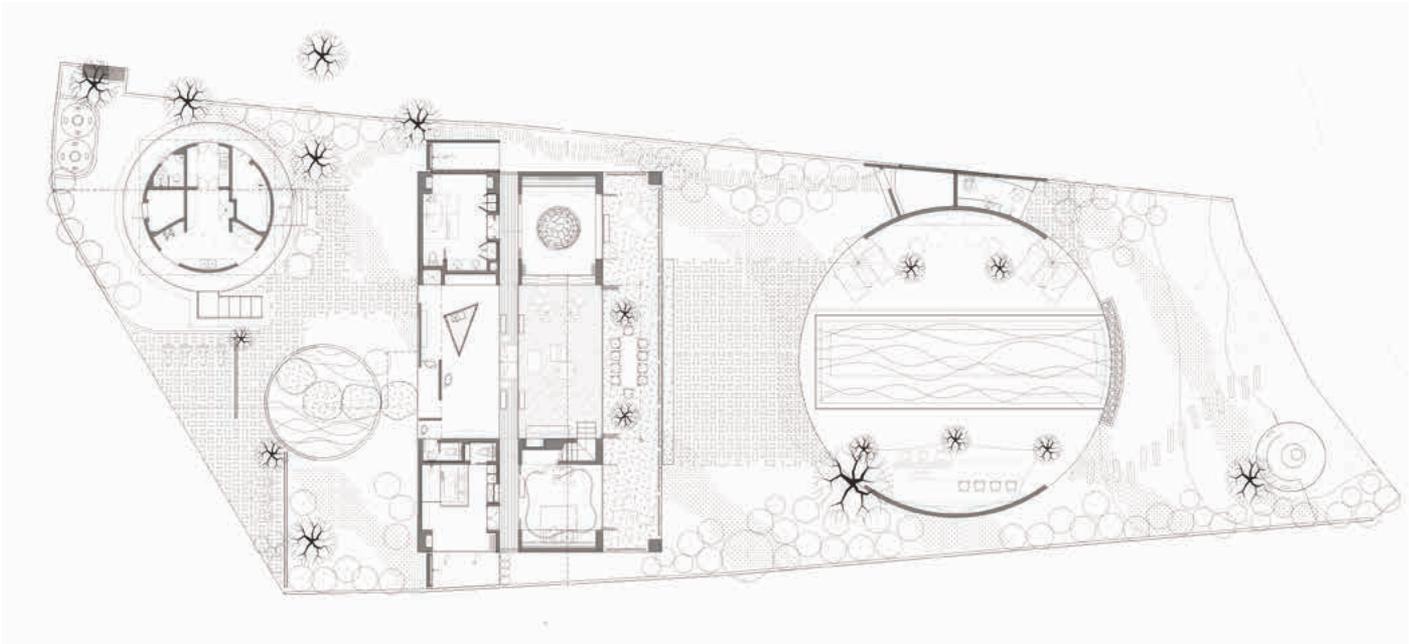
The building that houses the service area sinks slightly below ground to reduce its impact against the main building. The guesthouse that the clients wanted is located within a separate structure, sited above a circular base, which serves as staff quarters.

The main living area was designed with cosy nooks and gathering spots to create relaxing environments that encourage both social interaction and relaxing quiet time alone. The folding doors of the media room can be opened to connect with, and expand the living area.

A second living room was located on the upper level, and designed as a large hammock “floor” where guests can lounge in the net while chatting with friends in the kitchen or living area below.

Bamboo was used to create the exterior walls of the bathrooms and sections of the living areas. Glass bead curtains provide privacy in the toilet and shower areas without closing these areas off entirely.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN





Geometric elements can be seen throughout the villa, for example in the pool area, where a circular deck wraps around the long, rectangular pool to balance out its slender elongated form, while connecting the house with the beach.

"This combination of round and squarish shapes continues across the entire project – in the round pond, square and circular wall cutouts, and the circular bed in the media room. We used materials such as bamboo screens to give the interiors an organic feel that works well with the clean, contemporary silhouette of the building," says Audrita.

Most of the furniture items, including the

kitchen cabinet, entertainment console, tables and sofas, were custom designed by Word of Mouth, and locally made.

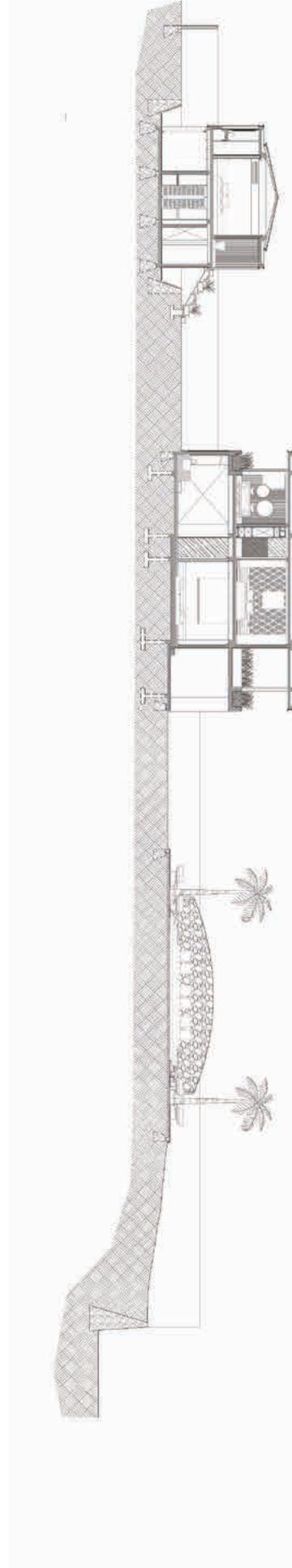
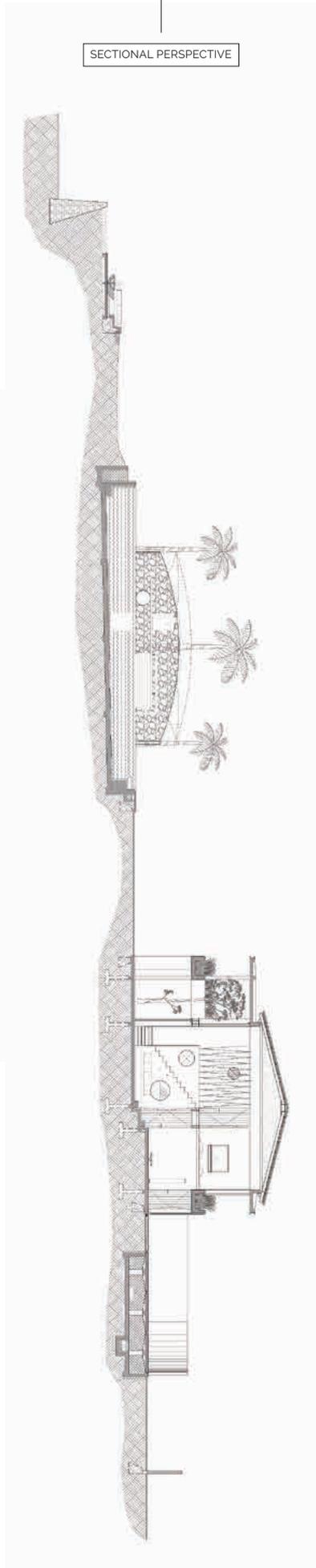
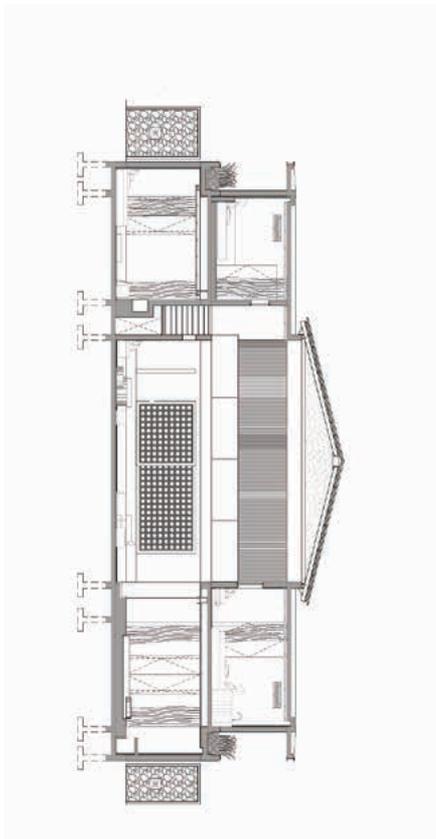
For the kitchen, Audrita designed a sophisticated triangular island. This kitchen island harmonises with the other geometric forms, and serves as a wet bar and casual dining zone.

To enhance the leisurely atmosphere of this coastal dwelling, at the edge of the beach, Audrita created a semi-circular concrete bench that embraces a streamlined, circular fire pit. The light and warmth of the fire allows the owners and their guests to enjoy drinks and chat by the sea long after the sun sets.

/ 3
The bedroom follows a Mediterranean palette of brilliant whitewashed walls and pops of bright aqua blues.

/ ABOVE
The sophisticated triangular island in the kitchen – which can be used as a relaxed dining spot and wet bar – complements the other geometric forms throughout the villa.

SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE



SEASCAPE LEMBONGAN

LOCATION / NUSA LEMBONGAN, INDONESIA
COMPLETION / 2018
SITE AREA / 1,400M²
BUILDING AREA / 684M²
ARCHITECT / WORD OF MOUTH HOUSE BY VALENTINA AUDRITO
COLLABORATING ARCHITECT / ROBIN BIMANTORO
CONTRACTOR/BUILDER / CV ADI JAYA UTAMA
C&S CONSULTANT / TRILOKA STUDIO BALI
QUANTITY SURVEYOR / RATIO CONSTRUCTION
EXTERIOR & INTERIOR FINISHING / CV ADI JAYA UTAMA
LANDSCAPE / CV MANDALA KARYA PRATAMA
MEP CONTRACTOR / CV PANCAR ELECTRIC
AUDIO/VIDEO EQ / CV SMART TECHNIC
TENT/ ROLLING BLIND / CANOPY ART BALI
NANO COATING / RESOLVE INDONESIA

"Building a luxury villa on a remote island location presented some challenges, such as a narrow footprint due to local building restrictions, but we were all very happy with the result.

"The villa is incredibly open. Indoor and outdoor spaces seamlessly connect with each other, and we managed to frame the gorgeous ocean views from the common areas as well as the bedrooms," says Audrito.



4



5

/ 4
Giant, pebble-like forms create a path that leads towards one of the villa's entryways.

/ 5
A circular bed in the media room contrasting against the latter's rectangular shape.