



奢華極致

The Luxury Issue

Macau ushers in a new era of luxe with Club Cubic and the brand new Galaxy resort hotel; while the new Yasuragi villas debut in Hokkaido and Morocco welcomes the revamped La Mamounia hotel

Club Cubic與銀河酒店開創澳門新奢華時代
北海道Yasuragi公寓盛大登場
摩洛哥La Mamounia酒店頂級享受

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"I love building spaces: architecture, furniture, all of it, probably more than fashion. The development procedure is more tactile. It's about space and form and it's something you can share with other people"
— Donna Karan

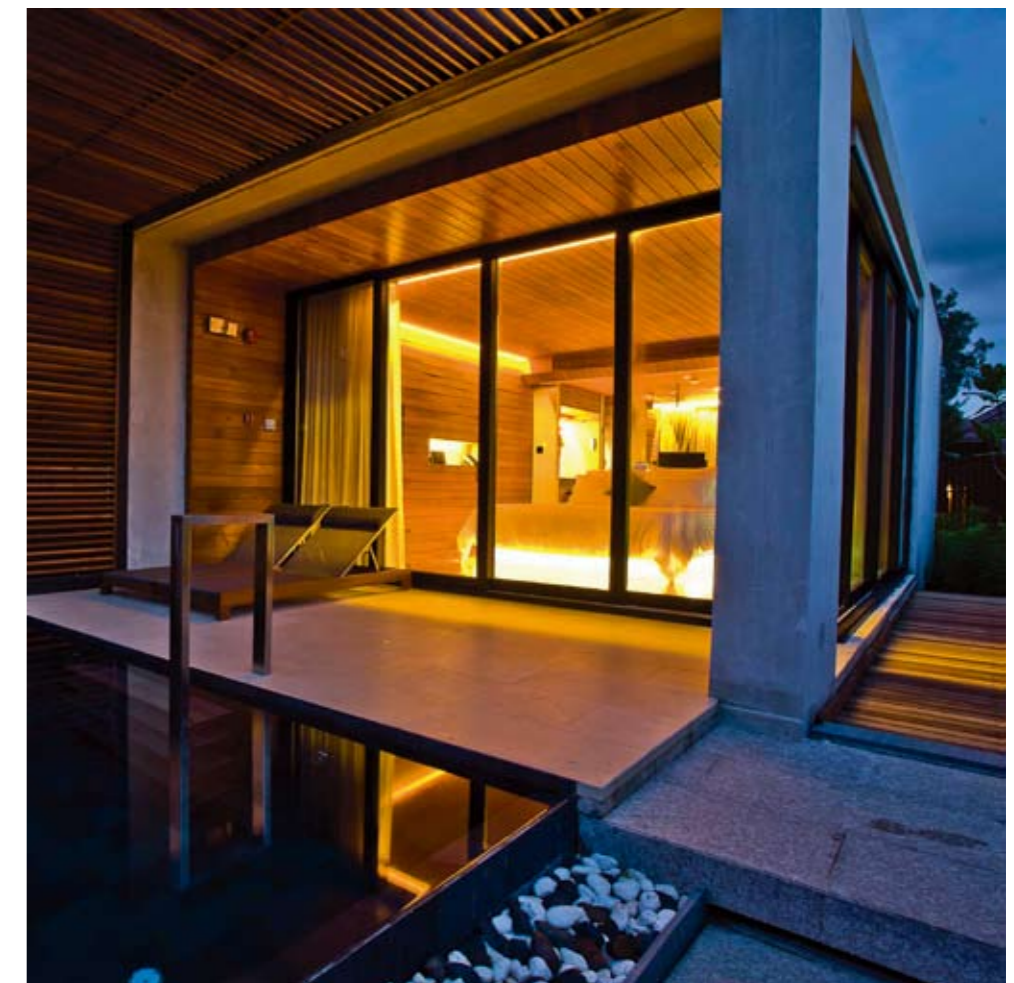


The tropical majesty of coastal Khao Lak on the shores of the Andaman Sea seems an unlikely setting for an ode to the angular geometries of Brutalist architecture. Casa de la Flora, the brainchild of businessman Sompong Dowpiset, is a 36-villa resort which nonetheless applies a distinct sensitivity to the adjacent landscape and local flora, making the VaSLab Architects-designed hotel Khao Lak's only resort offering contemporary architecture and design.

Created by Vasu Virajsilp and Boonlert Deeyuen, founders of Bangkok-based VaSLab Architects, Casa de la Flora is a vision of Brutalism, its linear planes evocative of a Le Corbusier edifice. Collaborating closely with the owner, VaSLab has produced a hideaway which unifies nature with sophisticated design. With the overall form of each building representing bold, controlled yet calming characteristics, the architects successfully eschewed traditional notions of beachfront hospitality, instead choosing to craft a space as striking as it is humble.

Struck by the 2004 tsunami, the preservation of the recovering Khao Lak coastline reigned supreme in the development of the hotel's progressive eco-credentials. Solar cell pads are fully, yet unobtrusively integrated into the resort's design, while elsewhere rainwater is collected and used as a water reserve. Responding to the organic nature of the immediate vicinity, dialogue is created between the resort and its backdrop, accomplished by opening up the space through partially uncovered public areas and the invitation of indigenous plant life into the fore.

Despite this exposure to the elements, privacy is paramount. With just 36 villas, ranging from a two-bedroom beachfront pool villa to the Casa Presidential suite anchoring the main building, the site layout is optimised to offer maximum privacy and solitude. Most villas are buttressed by topiary conceived by landscape designers Trop, while all feature a private pool and secluded patios or balconies.



Thinking out of the box

Where most tropical beach resorts tend to follow a common theme of wood and local architectural influences, Casa de la Flora breaks from the pack with its 'concrete cube' approach

TEXT: PHOEBE LIU
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF VASLAB ARCHITECTURE



An integral ingredient of VaSLab's aesthetic formula is concrete, omnipresent throughout the structures. Angular but never piercing, each monolithic, glass-fronted villa fosters the architects' objective to obscure any barriers between guests and the surrounding location. "It was our aim to allow guests to experience the environment from inside out," says Virajsilp of the villas' glass façades, which widen the perspective frames when looking outward to the sea. Natural materials such as teakwood temper the minimalist interiors, augmented by monochromatic schemes and lighting designed by APLD. In the bathrooms meanwhile, beige Italian quartz sets the stage for ample bathtubs offering an alternative to outdoor rains showers.

Playing with a long, compressed space, VaSLab's skilfully-constructed foyer brings in the open sky behind the lobby walls. The peaceful rooftop terrace of La Arunya restaurant offers extensive ocean views and a similar atmosphere is found in the light-filled library, where the abundant greenery of the outdoor gardens is in view.

The fourth hotel in Sompong's empire, Casa de la Flora is an exercise in combining celebrated Thai hospitality with progressive architecture. "At Casa de la Flora, we are combining the oldest Thai traditions with contemporary design," he says, having worked directly with the design teams of all his properties in order to fully accomplish his vision. His vision for Casa de la Flora is simple: a private sanctuary where the pervading philosophy is 'rest and relaxation'.



不甘平凡

縱觀熱帶沙灘度假村，設計題材離不開木材與當地建築；Casa de la Flora卻打破常規，大膽興起一個個四方混凝土別墅。

撰文：PHOEBE LIU
攝影：由VASLAB ARCHITECTURE提供



蔻 位於安達曼海海邊，粗獷主義的多角幾何建築似乎跟濱海壯麗怡人的熱帶景色有點格格不入。Casa de la Flora度假村是商人Sompong Downiset的得意之作，三十六間別墅外型獨特地呼應鄰近的環境與當地的植物，使得由VASLAB建築事務所設計的這個蔻立酒店度假村，成為唯一一間為客人帶來當代建築與設計的度假村。

Casa de la Flora是曼谷建築事務所VASLAB的創辦人Vasu Virajitip與Boonlert Deevuon的得意之作。設計以粗獷建築主義為題，直線平面讓人聯想到Le Corbusier的宏偉建築。VASLAB與度假村東主緊密合作，創造融匯自然與細膩設計的隱世樂土。各間別墅的整體形態展現大膽、卻又恰到好處且恬靜的格調，成功避免流於傳統沙灘酒店的層面，細膩刻畫既備人又粗糙的空間。

二零零四年南亞海嘯帶來的破壞，令酒店確定朝重整且保育蔻立海岸線的革新環保方向走。度假村設計全面採用太陽能墊，巧妙融入設計之中不易為人察覺；同時又收集雨水作為儲備用水。度假村貼近大自然，於是公共空間設計成半露天空間，別墅前栽種了本土植物，使空間更見開揚，讓度假村與其天然背景互動交流。

雖然建築暴露於自然環境之中，私隱度卻不成問題。度假村共有三十六間別墅，包括兩睡房設計的沙灘泳池別墅，以及主樓核心的Casa總套房。總佈局經精心設計，盡量為客人帶來私人獨立空間。大部份別墅由園景設計師Todd設計的樹木剪飾作襯托，而所有別墅則設有獨立泳池與僻靜的天井或露台。

混凝土是VASLAB美學設計的核心元素，在整個建築結構中著實是無所不在。建築設計呈多角形態，卻不尖利；而每座巨型而前方鑲嵌玻璃的別墅，實現VASLAB要打破一切界線障礙的目標，讓客人無阻隔親近四周環境。Vasu說：「我們的目標是要讓客人從內到外，好好感受大自然。」別墅的玻璃外牆使從室內觀覽外面的海景時，能享有更遼闊的視野。柚木等天然物料為簡約的室內環境帶來柔和感覺，而APLD設計的單色色調與燈光配置則把韻味帶到另一層次。浴室飾有意大利米黃石英石，為寬敞的浴缸提供最佳佈景，讓客人在享受露天淋浴之外的另一選擇。

VASLAB擅用扁長空間，巧妙地設計門廳，把天空帶進大堂之中。La Arunya餐廳位於屋頂平台，氣氛恬靜，享有遼闊海景。圖書館同樣散發類似的格調，光線充足，同時飽覽室外花園的翠綠園景。

Casa de la Flora是Sompong旗下的第四間酒店，把泰式酒店與前瞻建築融合為一。他說：「在Casa de la Flora，我們結合了泰國最古老的傳統與當代設計。」Sompong每次開新酒店，都會直接與設計團隊溝通合作，務求設計能完美實現他的理念。這次Sompong給Casa de la Flora的理念非常簡單，就是要創造一個到處洋溢閒暇放鬆氣息的私人避世樂園。E