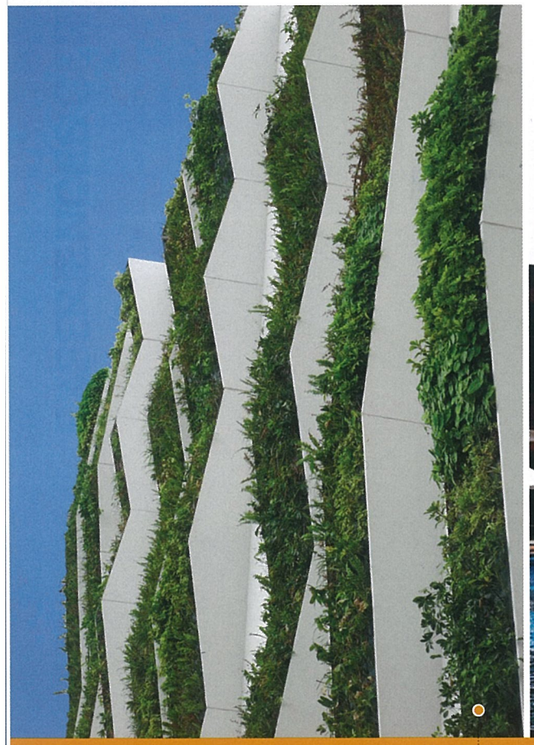
MAGAZINE/THREE

RARE BEAUTY

AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION®
HOTELS

BALINESE MODERN

VISITORS TO BALI'S KUTA BEACH find that it's a party scene—a place to get a cocktail or catch a concert. A refuge of quiet and high design it is not. And so Singapore-based architecture firm ECO ID faced a challenge when asked to create a sanctuary amid all that bustle. Inspired by his surroundings, designer Calvin Sim envisioned **The Stones**, a new Autograph Collection hotel, as a South-Beach-Meets-Indonesia retreat. Here, he explains the magic in the details.



The lush Balinese landscape—especially the **stepped rice paddies**—is echoed in the vertical green wall beside the pool. "It underscores the whole idea of being green," says Sim. There's also a "hammock village" in a grove of coconut trees.

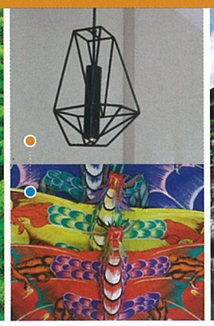
The **traditional kites** that you see flying over Kuta Beach gave rise to the skeletal pendant lamps in the guest rooms.

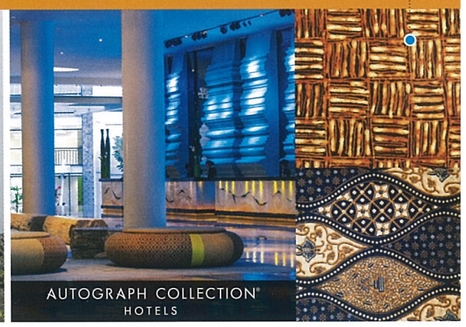
"You get **25-foot waves** in Bali, but in Kuta, it's much milder," says Sim, who looked to the ocean for the swooping exterior of The Stones. **Balinese pavilions, called balés,** come into play in the rooftop, the guest room terraces, and the Presidential Suite, which has a reflective pool.

Because Bali is primarily a beach destination, water elements, like the pool, were essential. **Ceremonial umbrellas** are used as sun shades.

The lobby area (above and below, right) uses an abstracted version of the **"split gate,"** which marks a sacred area, like a temple, in Bali. The back wall of the reception (detail above) features those wavy lines associated with important buildings on the island.

"We like the whole element of **weaving,** so we used lots of batiks and ikat as throw pillows and accents," says Sim. And in a nod to the hotel's name—The Stones—lots of organic shapes, like the sofa pods in the lobby, were incorporated into the look.





FROM TOP, LEFT: AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION (4); THINKSTOCK (2); AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION; IMAGEBROKER/ALAMY; THINKSTOCK; AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION; PETER MORREE/ALAMY; AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION; THINKSTOCK (2)