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HOTEL DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT & ARCHITECTURE

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ANDAZ
MARCEL WANDERS'
BOOKISH BOUTIQUE

QT - SYDNEY
A DEPARTMENT STORE
DOWN UNDER CONVERTED

DAS STUE
BERLIN'S DANISH
EMBASSY REINVENTED



The Stones Hotel

Legian

Words: Elly Earls Photography: Courtesy of The Stones Hotel

The Autograph Collection's first foray into Asia Pacific balances traditional Balinese influences with contemporary flair, courtesy of Eco.id.

When Singapore-based architecture and design consultancy Eco.id was briefed to design the Autograph Collection's debut hotel in the Asia Pacific region, they were given almost free reign.

"Our brief was simply to develop a hip beach side resort," recalls Carol Chng, Associate Director of Eco.id. "Other than the requirement for a large ballroom and the number of keys specified, there was a lot of room for creativity."

For Bali lover Chng this couldn't have been a better state of affairs, and she jumped at the chance to pour her experiences gained from visiting the island into the project.

"The elements included in the design of The Stones are basically a culmination of the inspirations I've acquired over the years," she confirms. "I've visited Bali countless times and every trip made to the island, whether for work or leisure, is always inspiring. It's a place that is very rooted in its own culture but it also has a unique modern design ▶



THIS PAGE: It was absolutely key for Chng that the indoor-outdoor lifestyle so integral to Bali could be experienced by guests. As such, boundaries between interior and exterior space throughout the hotel are blurred **PREVIOUS PAGE:** The hotel's pool-facing façade is partly covered with flourishing vertical gardens

► identity; I find it very refreshing and I can't think of any other place like it."

It's this distinctive mix of traditional Asian design and contemporary flair that Chng has brought to The Stones, giving it a more upmarket feel than many of its neighbouring establishments, and allowing it to appeal to both the Kuta party crowd and the high-end clientele that Legian tends to attract.

Located at the southern tip of Legian Beach, The Stones marks the 36th hotel to be added to the Autograph Collection's rapidly expanding roster of independent hotels. Each property is said to possess its own distinct identity and here, the Balinese influences are evident from the first moment you step into the expansive, open plan lobby. "The feature wall behind the reception counter is a reinterpretation of the Balinese split gate, while the batik fabrics used in the giant poufs

are made from local prints, another trace of Balinese culture," Chng remarks.

The focal point of the property is the 3,000m² pool and entertainment deck, where the Balinese theme continues. "The parasols that provide shade for the deck chairs were inspired by the traditional Balinese umbrellas used for religious processions," Chng continues. "For us, it's very much a representation of Balinese culture that we have extracted and re-interpreted."

The lush landscape that typifies the Island of the Gods, as well as its stunning beaches, have also served to inspire much of the hotel's interior and exterior design. Indeed, despite the fact that The Stones does not have direct beach access, you're almost fooled into believing you're by the sea thanks to the organically-shaped pool, complete with several different platforms and even a hammock village. ►



ABOVE: The hotel offers a range of culinary delights at its three restaurants. The Long Rice Table takes on the Indonesian tradition of sharing indigenous plates

► The hotel's pool-facing façade is also partly covered with flourishing vertical gardens, while the natural colour scheme of the open air restaurant adds to the organic feel of the public areas. It was absolutely key for Chng that the indoor-outdoor lifestyle that is so integral to Bali could be experienced by guests. "The boundaries between interior and exterior space are blurred," she emphasises. "For example, you'll notice that the swimming pool tile pattern continues into the lobby floor."

Moreover, even in the privacy of their own rooms, guests are not limited to staying inside; each room has a cabana style balcony, with a small living area and bathtub. "It's kind of like an indoor-outdoor space," Chng notes. "You can close the curtains – inspired by beach cabana style flowing drapes – and have a bit of privacy."

Other extra design touches that make The Stones a little bit different include angular, kite-shaped lamps in every room, inspired by the Balinese people's passion for kite-flying, and a wall-sized blackboard in the hotel's Indonesian restaurant, which is filled daily with cheeky quotations and limericks.

The hotel offers a range of culinary delights at its three restaurants: Stones Kitchen is a contemporary-designed space serving European dishes; the Long Rice Table takes on the Indonesian tradition of sharing indigenous plates; and Big Fish Bar & Grill is a casual poolside café.

Chng and her team have certainly succeeded in giving the Autograph Collection's first Asia Pacific hotel the unique character that typifies each property managed by the ever-expanding brand. ■

EXPRESS CHECKOUT

The Stones Hotel, Autograph Collection
 Jl. Raya Pantai Kuta
 Banjar Legian Kelod
 Legian, Bali, Indonesia
 Tel: +62 361 3005888
www.marriott.co.uk

➔ 286 guestrooms, 22 suites
 ● Stones Kitchen, The Long Rice Table, Big Fish Bar & Grill
 ☪ Ditto
 + Celestine Spa, pool, The Stones Gym
 8 meeting rooms

Developer / Owner: Oso Group
Operator: Marriott International
Architect: Eco.id Architects Pte Ltd
Designers: Eco.id Design Pte Ltd