



Media Information

Kamalaya's Architectural Concept

Robert Powell, artist, and architect of Kamalaya, has created a community of individual structures that naturally embraces the surrounding landscape. Drawing upon local materials, each is a balance of raw nature paired with elegant detailing. The resulting spaces impart a sense of lightness and ease of movement.

The roofs provide a stabilising balance and shaded refuge. Made of locally crafted cement tiles which were chosen for their durability, they will continue to integrate with nature as they age. With each monsoon, they acquire a deeper patina that blends with the surrounding nature.

The cross ventilation system designed for the villas and suites optimises Kamalaya's valley setting. As an alternative to the air-conditioning available in all accommodation, Robert designed wide, sliding screened doors with opposing windows to maximise the natural ocean breeze flowing up the valley.

Kamalaya's pool setting is inspired by the traditional bathing areas of Nepal and India, with their stone steps and *ghats*, or *quais*. The main pool is set within flowering lotus ponds, waterfalls, and smaller multi-level pools accessed by stone walkways. The stone detailing, as seen in the meditating Buddha and the entrance tunnel over the pool, also draw from Robert's love of Himalayan architecture. The overall effect is a welcoming, refreshing oasis.

Kamalaya's overall design was created with a reverence for its landscape. Existing rocks and trees became the defining elements for the design of the buildings. Rather than destroying these natural elements to make way for construction, the buildings were designed to incorporate some of these aspects as key architectural features.

Care was taken to preserve the natural environment, from the transplanting of over 150 trees removed for building, to the implementing of an eco-friendly water purification system. The resulting "Spirit of Place" communicates a connection to nature, the elements, and the environment.

To quote Robert Powell, "Few designers have the privilege to work with such a site and such a brief. I was clear that this rare chance must be reflected in a respect for the beauty and integrity of the land and its special character."

The overall architectural concept of Kamalaya is a reflection of its wellness concept; that a connection to nature is a vital, nurturing element integral to one's overall health and wellbeing.

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