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My blue heaven

With its tranquil waters, vibrant coral reefs and powder-soft white sand, the Maldives has long been a favoured destination for discerning travellers — and the new Jumeirah Dhevanafushi offers another reason to go

TEXT: MELINDA EARSDON
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF JUMEIRAH GROUP



The Maldives plays home to some of the most sumptuous resorts in the world, the latest of which has taken the concept of understated luxury, escapism and privacy to unprecedented levels – the Jumeirah Dhevanafushi is an exclusive all-suite resort nestled in the Gaafu Alifu Atoll; its name literally translates to mean 'unique island'.

Designed by award-winning architecture and interior design firm Blink, there are 22 island villas within the tropical foliage of the atoll and a further 16 ocean villas floating in an exclusive water village called the Ocean Pearls. "The concept behind the Jumeirah was to create a resort with two faces, providing a

unique juxtaposition between the traditional, raw style of the Maldives and crisp modern architecture," says Alan A Barr, creative director with Blink. "As such, the design was tailored to create what feels like two completely separate and unique resorts: one on the island and one that sits over the ocean."

With pitched roofs, natural earth tones and clean-lined, hand-rendered architecture, the island villas blend natural Maldivian charm with luxury. Featuring furniture you can literally sink into, the four-poster teak-stained beds are draped with linens to create a mood both traditional and romantic. The muslin cushion linens scattered through the villa are full of sunshine, providing the perfect contrast to the

muted tones of the taupe sofas and honey-coloured timber flooring.

But it is the pool area is clearly the main attraction at the island villas. "One of the most magical things about the Maldives is when you look at the horizon, you can't tell where the sky and water meet," says Barr. "We took this concept and married it with the villas. Delicate sea blue ceramic tiles edge a three-sided infinity pool and lead the eye towards the horizon and beyond to the sky. This creates a patina effect of blue during the day, but at night the colours of the sky, the ocean and the pool are all the same deep blue, interrupted only by the twinkling LED lights we installed to look like stars."



Perched on pristine waters over half a kilometre offshore, the Jumeirah's Ocean Villas were designed to provide a sense of total privacy. When the scenery is this beautiful, the design doesn't need to be ostentatious, and as such, Blink chose to maintain a simple exterior that is at once organic yet impervious to the elements. Each villa also features a private sunbathing deck that weaves gently down into the ocean, and an infinity pool.

"We went for subtle touches, like 3m-wide beds you can get lost in, an outdoor soaking tub positioned near the vanishing edge pool to play on the idea of horizons, and a glass shower room with floor-to-ceiling glass that allows endless views of the sky as it melts into the sea," Barr says.

Easily the most impressive room in the villa

is the bathroom. Featuring full-length windows overlooking the Indian Ocean and natural stone floors, the focal point of the vast room is the hand-poured terrazzo tub.

In contrast to the villas, the Jumeirah's three restaurants and pool bar are a more modern statement in luxury. According to Barr, the idea was to protect guests from the sun, while at the same time making use of the natural light to create shade and shadow. "We created warmth through layers of wooden columns, terrazzo floors, and hand-laid bamboo ceiling strips, and included water features to continue the theme of the resort easing into the sheer vastness of the ocean," he explains.

"At the end of the day, people come to the Maldives for the experience. And the Jumeirah is just that – pure escapism."

"One of the most magical things about the Maldives is when you look at the horizon, you can't tell where the sky and water meet. We took this concept and married it with the villas"



戀上一片藍

除了波平如鏡的海面、繽紛的珊瑚礁與幼細的白沙，馬爾代夫亦憑新登場的卓美亞Dhevanafushi度假村更添魅力，吸引眼光獨到的旅人

撰文：MELINDA EARDON
攝影：由JUMEIRAH GROUP提供

在馬爾代夫可找到一些全球數一數二的奢華度假村，而這裡最新一間更把奢華、度假與隱私的概念提升到極致層次，在卡夫阿里夫環礁中締造出自此一家的全套度假村。卓美亞Dhevanafushi度假村名字的意思，直譯便是「獨一無二的海島」。

度假村由屢獲殊榮的建築室內設計事務所Blink設計，熱帶環礁設有26間海島別墅，而別無他有的水上村莊Ocean Pearls則有15間水上海洋別墅。Blink創意總監Alan A Bart說：「卓美亞背後的概念，是創造出有兩個不同面貌的度假村，帶出馬爾代夫天然傳統風格與簡約現代建築之間的獨特並列並置。如此，我們度身設計出感覺像是兩個完全獨立、截然不同的度假村，一個在島上而另一個則在水上。」

海島別墅結合馬爾代夫的天然魅力與奢華感，斜屋頂配襯一屋天然泥褐色，建築設計線條簡約又以人手塑造。一室的傢具真能讓人放鬆心神盡情躺下，四帷柱式的上色柚木大床垂掛著亞麻床幔，營造傳統又浪漫的情調。別墅四處擺放的亞麻平紋細布坐墊洋溢陽光，與褐灰沙發和蜂蜜色木地板的沉穩色調相映成趣。

不過說到海島別墅的矚目亮點，卻明顯是泳池。Alan說：「馬爾代夫最夢幻的一面，是望向水平線時是真正的海天一色，分不清交界。我們以此為題，將之融於別墅之中。無邊際泳池的三邊鋪上別緻的海藍色瓷磚，把視線引向水平

線，一直到天際。這在日間形成一種多層次的藍調效果，但在晚上天空、海洋與泳池卻是同樣的深藍調，唯一的不同來自營造星空效果的閃爍LED燈。」

度假村的海洋別墅屹立於離岸半公里外的清澈水域，設計帶出極致的隱私感。風景如斯美麗，便無需賣弄設計，Blink因而選擇了簡約的外型結構，天然得來又不受各項元素所影響。每間別墅都有無邊際泳池及徐徐融入海中的私人日光浴露天平台。

Alan說：「我們選了微妙的潤飾，像是三米闊的大床得躺著也會失去方向感，而靠近無邊際泳池的戶外浸浴浴缸即玩味水平線的概念，而玻璃淋浴間則裝上落地玻璃窗引進海天一色的無止盡美景。」

別墅裡讓人印象最深刻的便是浴室。浴室偌大寬敞，牆壁裝上眺望印度洋的等長窗戶，亦鋪上天然木地板，而突出之處自然是水磨石浴缸。卓美亞的三間餐廳和池邊酒吧與別墅截然不同，散發更具現代味道的奢華感。據Alan所言，設計概念是要避免客人直接受熾熱日光照射，同時又善用天然光玩味光影。他解釋：「我們透過木柱、水磨石地板與手鋪竹條天花的層次營造出暖意，並加上水池延續度假村淡淡融入浩瀚大海的主題。」

他續說：「人們來到馬爾代夫終究是為了體驗，而卓美亞便正是純然的度假風情。」E