

ALL ACCESS PASSIONS

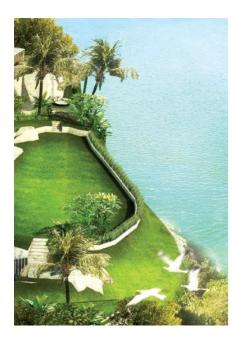
SUPREME DESIGN

Clint Nagata's BLINK Design Group will showcase its talents with the first Six Senses resort in Bali.

By Yessar Rosendar







CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: ARTIST RENDERING OF THE SIX SENSES RESORT IN BALI; CLINT NAGATA



ix Senses Hotels Resorts Spas is known for its luxurious resorts in Asiayet so far has nothing in Indonesia, including Bali. Thus the new Six Senses in Uluwatu, Bali, slated to open in two years, will be an important addition for the firm. Everything has to be perfect, to launch the brand here and compete successfully in the crowded Bali market.

For the critical aspect of the resort's interior design, the firm turned to BLINK Design Group, whose founding office is in Bangkok. "We've been talking with BLINK for many years and we thought that when the right project comes along we'll work together," says Six Senses President Bernhard Bohnenberger.

Established in 2006, BLINK has a team of more than 100 professionals. Besides Bangkok, it has offices in Singapore, New Delhi and Shanghai. It focuses on design for the hospitality industry, and its clients are top-tier hospitality companies such as Jumeirah, Regent, and Rosewood. BLINK-designed interiors can be found in hotels and resorts in China, Indonesia, India, Maldives, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam and even Kenya. Recently it has started to branch out into spas and restaurants as well.

Clint Nagata, founder of BLINK Design Group, has spent two decades in design. Clint cites Sri Lankan design luminary Geoffrey Bawa as the enduring influence on his design philosophy, and the author Malcolm Gladwell as a source of inspiration. He is especially passionate about doing projects in Indonesia. "Indonesia is one of the few places in the world where you can source everything locally and reflect the culture. There are so many resources there. So what we have done before we

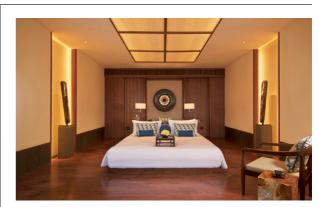
don't have to do again, just because there are so many sources of inspiration," says Clint.

His love of Indonesia means he has a special passion for the Six Senses project in Bali. "We are really excited about having an opportunity to bring the Six Senses brand to life," says Clint. According to Clint, the design of the Six Senses will be unique to the site, offering a distinctive view for each villa, expressing different ambiances, tones and emotions. "It's about taking cues from the site and the brand—as fun and quirkiness is in the DNA of the brand. So door handles made from a rock or drift wood-that's just one example of what we will put into the design," Clint says,

The resort will feature 28 sky villas, 62 one-bedroom villas, seven two-bedroom villas and a one-of-a-kind retreat villa that sits on a prominent knoll with sweeping views of the ocean and overall resort. Two restaurants, a pool bar and a specialty restaurant with a chef's table, cooking school and an extensive organic garden are also planned. The resort will be located on 12 hectares in Uluwatu, set atop a rugged cliff that at its highest point is 170 meters above sea and shares ocean views with the island's famed Uluwatu temple.

The project will be completed in two stages. The first phase will cost Rp 870 billion, including the resort. Phase two will include 60 residential villas available for purchase including luxurious three-bedroom family retreats. The project developer is PT Cahaya Warna Prima, a subsidiary of PT Kencana Graha Global (better known as KG Global), which is also building the Regent Hotel in Jakarta.

The brand hopes that the resort will be a top selection among the resorts in the area. "We want the resort to be unique and standout from the rest," Bernhard says. The brand is also planning to have more resorts in Bali in the long term. "It's nice to have a circuit, something in a mountain and the other parts of the island, but it must be different and contrasting, so it could be unique," Bernhard says. 30



SANUR BEAUTY

Clint's previous work on the island of the gods was the Fairmont Sanur Beach Bali (formerly the Regent Bali). Each of the resort's 94 suites was created as three distinct sanctuaries, a lavish inward-focused bathroom, an understated sleeping area, and a 25 sqm outdoor living area enclosed by laser-cut screens inspired by a classic Balinese batik motif.