

LUXURY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

# Robb Report

# The

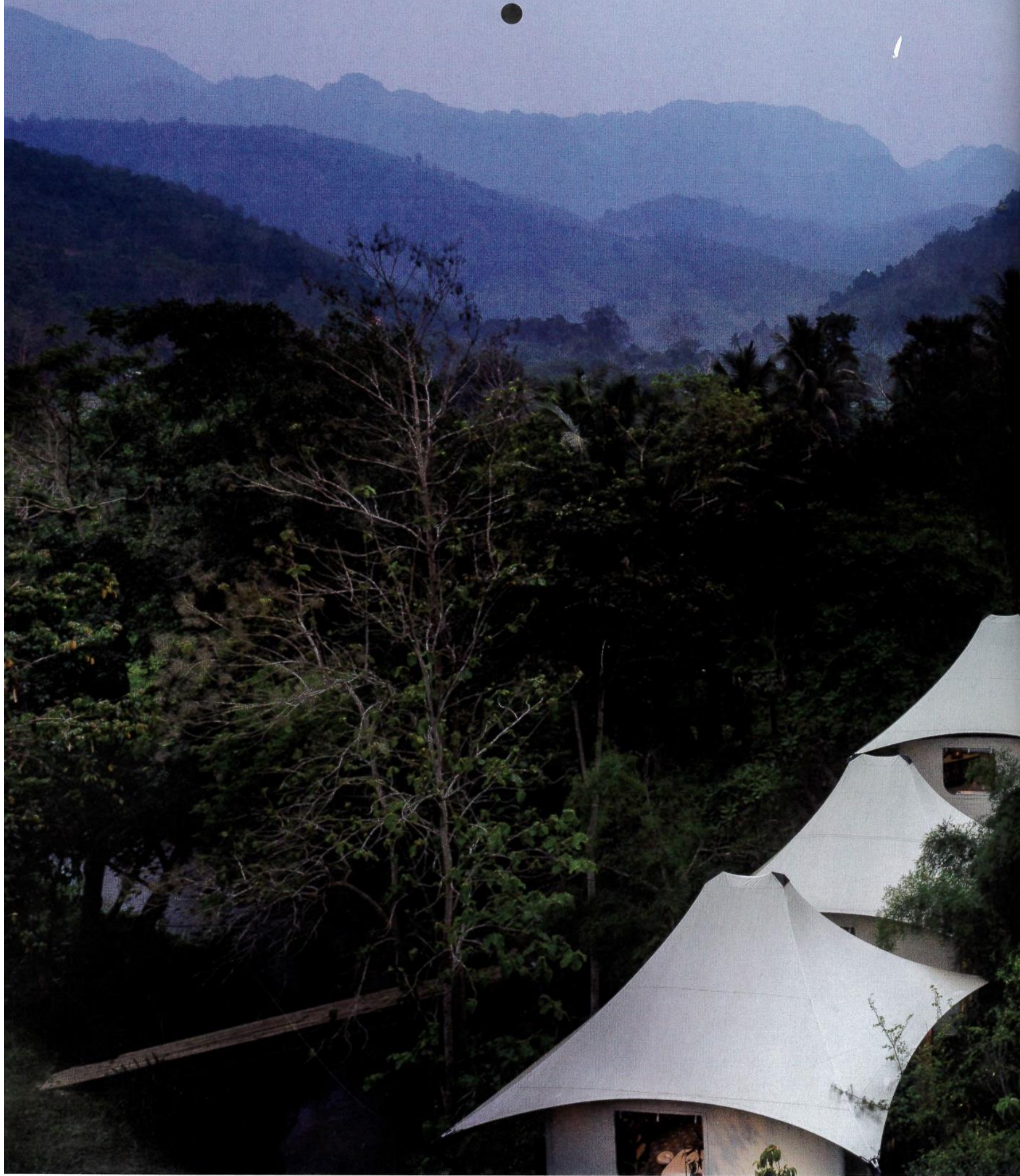
# Life,

OCEANS OF SEAWORTHY PURSUITS

# Aquatic

JULY 2018

# Gallery





## welcome to the **jungle**

PROVING YET AGAIN THAT *ordinary* isn't in his vocabulary, Bangkok-based architect Bill Bensley has unveiled his latest out-of-this-world project: Laos's **Rosewood Luang Prabang** ([rosewoodhotels.com](http://rosewoodhotels.com)). In a clear departure for Rosewood—a brand best known for its polished city hotels and tropical resorts—the forested retreat is home to just 23 villas scattered across a verdant hillside at the edge of a rushing waterfall.

Of course, Bensley was the natural choice for such an innovative undertaking. Each of the accommodations, including six tents set high among the oak trees, is a modern rendering of the region's early-20th-century French-colonial architecture and design, adorned with outdoor wooden bathtubs, traditional local textiles, and artifacts like vintage croquet mallets and Kodak cameras. The lush surroundings, meanwhile,

have remained miraculously intact; Bensley ensured that every tree on the 57-acre site remained preserved and untouched. Admittedly, such unadulterated terrain makes for the occasional uphill trek, whether to the Colonial Great House for farm-to-table Laotian dishes or the tented spa for a Hmong herbal massage. But the journey is well worth it—and you might even glimpse a roving monk or two along the way. —LAURIE WERNER