



## The Lush Life

*Designed by renowned architect and interior designer Bill Bensley, the Shinta Mani Angkor Bensley Collection in Siem Reap is all about tropical glamour*

The razzle dazzle of Art Deco and exuberant foliage that characterises tropical style may make an incongruous pair, but under Bill Bensley's studied eye, it somehow clicks and makes for a happy marriage. Completed last year, the Shinta Mani Angkor Bensley Collection in Siem Reap, Cambodia, are the very embodiment of the designer's penchant for escapist glamour.

Conceived as a hotel within a hotel, the collection of 10 two-storey villas are a luxurious extension of Shinta Mani Angkor, a boutique property that also boasts the Bangkok-based designer's inimitable aesthetic. Think graphic tiles and a striking black-and-white palette, set against abundant foliage and handcrafted details that hark to its locale. Its main restaurant Kroya, for instance, shows the original plans of the Angkor temple complex, recreated on its ceiling.



The villas feature dramatic mouldings that flank the pool and continue indoors in the bedroom. The drapery-like folds of the plasterwork line the sides of the bedroom and the entrance of the powder room, playing up the elongated layout of each villa. Gilded trimmings and copious use of marble—particularly along the hallways and in the standalone bathroom—complete the lavish treatment, while the tactile comforts of plush cushions, as well as the ample indoor and outdoor lounge areas create a cosy ambience. Each villa is also accompanied by a personal lap pool and butler service, and is contained within a walled compound, designed for optimal privacy to create an intimate enclave.

BY HONG XINYING IMAGES COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE BRANDS



shintamani.com/angkor-bensley-collection

## INTO THE WOODS

Immerse yourself in the splendour of nature at these new projects by Bill Bensley



### SHINTA MANI WILD

Situated at a valley between the Bokor and Kirirom national parks in Cambodia, Shinta Mani Wild is a nature conservation project as well as a luxury camp experience designed with minimal interference to its surroundings. Opening later this year, the property features 16 custom-built tents perched above the estuaries, with the site a short distance from the glorious waterfalls; private expedition boats will take guests along the river to explore the diverse wildlife and beauty of the rainforest. [shintamani.com/wild.php](http://shintamani.com/wild.php)



### ROSEWOOD LUANG PRABANG

Imagined as the grand hilltop home of a gracious French host, the property appears to float above a canopy of trees and is adjacent to a waterfall. Comprising 23 villas, suites, tented accommodation and guest rooms, the design of each accommodation is unique with French-Indochine accents; an array of antiques, found objects and artefacts pay tribute to its location within the historic city of Luang Prabang in Laos. [rosewoodhotels.com/en/luang-prabang](http://rosewoodhotels.com/en/luang-prabang)

### CAPELLA UBUD

This tent-style sanctuary overlooks the serene paddy fields and rainforest of Ubud, Bali, conveying an air of luxury with modern comforts and its colonial-style decor inspiration. Each of the 23 accommodation has been decorated to match a fictional cast of early explorers, which include a naturalist, cartographer, painter, architect and even a princess. Traditional Balinese carved doors and other hand-crafted pieces by local artisans complete the tableau. [capellaubud.com](http://capellaubud.com)