

Lavish Living in a Lumbung

To downsize on an island takes upscale creativity as represented by this home-away-from-home on the beautiful island of Bali that offers a lock-up-and-go lifestyle while incorporating traditional and contemporary architectural design: This Lumbung homestead takes its architectural inspiration from the Sasak rice barns. Traditionally a wooden stilted structure, adapting it to entertain an open living area and upstairs bedroom within the skilfully crafted curved roof, saw the addition of a few more support walls that added living space and a pool, to stimulate its metamorphosis into a present-day villa.

STORY BY Dewald Haynes PHOTO BY Bagus Tri Laksono

RICE BARNS IN INDONESIA
KNOWN AS LUMBUNG ARE
BUILT ON FOUR POLES, USUALLY
STANDING ABOUT TWO METERS
UP FROM GROUND LEVEL.

LAVISH LIVING IN A LUMBUNG
CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW

Sliding Bamboo Krey Blinds can be drawn during tropical downpours to protect the interior with its intricate and detailed decor features such as the Spinning-wheel glass topped coffee table, Javanese puppets and soft furnishings

The Guestroom has direct access to the ten meter lap-pool

A Pullman Kitchen adjoins the dining and living area



The upper storage area of a *lumbung* often has a distinct omega shape created by bending flexible framing of split bamboo or betel nut trees to support the roof. The roof is generally covered with *alang-alang* grass and the sides are made of woven, split bamboo called *pagar*. The pole support structure beneath the raised, enclosed rice barn is open with no walls. A floor or platform is constructed of wood and bamboo above the ground. This lower platform provides a convenient, shady place for people to sit and relax. In many villages this lower sitting area is a meeting place for village residents where both business activities and social interaction commonly occur.

For Meg Hutchins, an LA based interior designer, known for her signature style of preserving tradition by adapting it to the times, the *Lumbung* offered the perfect inspiration. Creating a functional home environment on the island of the Gods - where she resides often for leisure, inspiration and at times has to attend to her business - her home offers the perfect lifestyle to escape the tourist traps and live in a home rather than a hotel room.

The design, layout and orientation of the villa is nestled within a courtyard garden setting. The privacy within this sanctuary



shields and completely blocks out the neighboring hotel and street with its internal serenity while being conveniently located right in the middle of the hip and happening Seminyak area.

Meg's taste and design fills the home with style and practicality. Having had a larger villa in Bali before she was able to reintroduce certain treasured items, such as her dining table and a few other pieces. She also turned some handcrafted wooden screens from her previous abode into a sliding door that closes off the pantry and washing area from the open plan kitchen - a very clever design concept that keeps the non-aesthetic completely out of sight.

The luxuries that Meg added to the Lumbung - like her bathroom with its huge spa tub and rooftop garden filled with Lemongrass plants to keep mosquitoes at bay, as well as her media room that has one accent wall and view of the swimming pool below, provides the comforts of modern day living. Meg also enjoys sharing her space with friends, and the addition of an en-suite guestroom downstairs ensures that her sojourn does not turn her into a recluse.



LAVISH LIVING IN
A LUMBUNG
CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

The virtually untouched main curved *lumbung* master bedroom creates a peaceful and spacious resting place with Afghan Kilim rugs and a Sumatran Rice

A Lemari with Balinese Barong and Christian Cross motifs serves as a medicine cabinet with a Borneo Carry Basket functioning as the laundry basket in the en-suite master bathroom

Project
Data

Project Name
Villa Puna Kawan
Location
Seminyak, Bali
Floor Area
200 sqm
Interior Design and Lighting Consultant
Meg Hutchins
Started
March 2011
Completed
December 2011



LAVISH LIVING IN A LUMBUNG
CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT

The Media Room boasts a cushy comfy sofa against a wall treatment with an explosion of color as you arrive upstairs

An unexpected vintage kimono adorns the window in the master bath ensuite while the double frame Hollywood mirror hangs above the Brazilian marble top vanity. The corner spa bath is where luxury indulges the senses as a hint of lemon grass wafts in from the rooftop garden



Interior items such as her ethnic carved spinning wheel with its glass surface as a coffee table and many other interesting pieces always sparks some kind of conversation about design through the times and across cultures. The use of color in the home, makes it appear more expansive than it really is as each room presents a different hue that enchants the imagination. Sky lights in the downstairs bathroom also brings the natural light the open plan enjoys to the more isolated private areas.

Villa Puna Kawan offers a contemporary representation of island life for a designer seeking a practical, yet exotic and stimulating island experience. Set in a tropical landscaped courtyard garden, this two storey freestanding villa features two bedrooms, two bathroom and an open-air living and dining area with a beautiful little rooftop garden. Style, tradition and practicality brought together in a small space where Bali meets Meg year after year as she locks up and goes. ¹⁰

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