

# Bamboo & Beyond

The future looks bright besides being depicted on television as being filled with doom, gloom and a dose of likelihoods that created the illusion that the dawn of “Star Trek” is an unpreventable prophecy. Even actuality TV programs such as Beyond 2000, introduced a future to us where mankind overcomes obstacles through technology and design. Regardless whether there is life in outer space or not; it almost seems like humans, through their own design, would become aliens or even robots in the existing, almost artificial future environment. Discovering a more down to earth, sustainable and true to life philosophy in architectural and interior design by Bali based Ibuku gives organic hope to the future, that surprisingly introduces BAMBOO as an obvious solution to the next generation and beyond.

STORY BY Dewald Haynes PHOTO BY Rio Helmi



main feature SHARMA SPRINGS

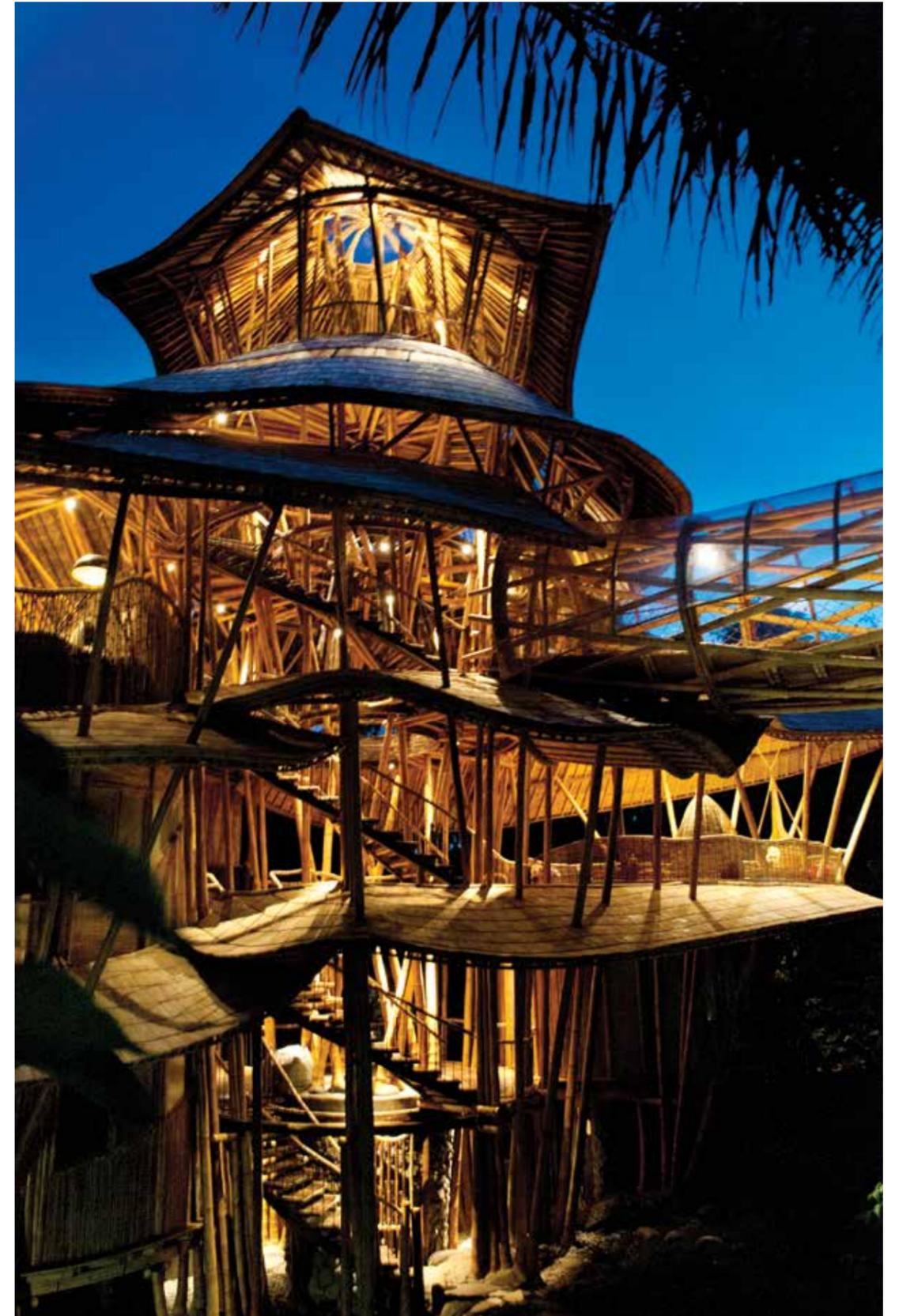


BAMBOO AND BEYOND  
CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT

— The spiral staircase forms a visible core to the structure that allows movement between different levels of the home

— All the fixtures, including these brass lamp shades, are custom made

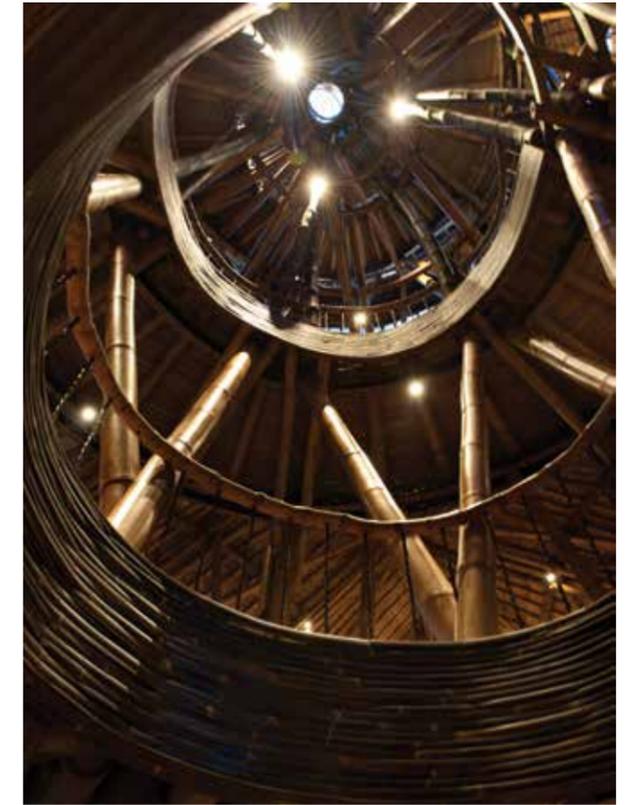
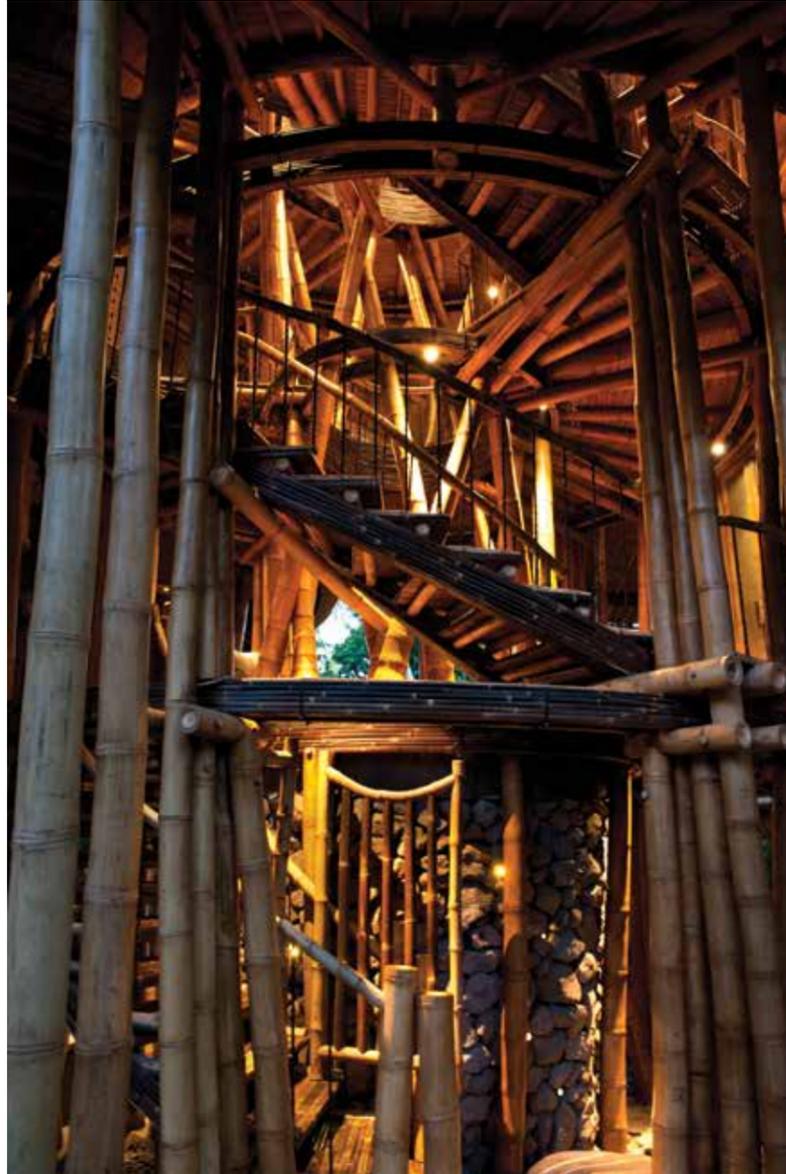
— The open plan second level loft living area, furnished with an S-shaped lounging couch and round ottomans designed by Ibuku



WHY BAMBOO?" IS A QUESTION ELORA Hardy, principal designer of Ibuku, answers time and again without ever showing signs of losing any enthusiasm. The answer is also very prominent in the latest behemoth seven storey house built almost entirely out of bamboo harvested from established local sources in Java and Bali, having none of the bamboo used for the project being older than five years. In comparison with a wooden cabin where trees take years to grow, this house is literally a brand new home for the Sharma-family—suitably named Sharma Springs directly across the river from Green Village in close vicinity to Ubud.

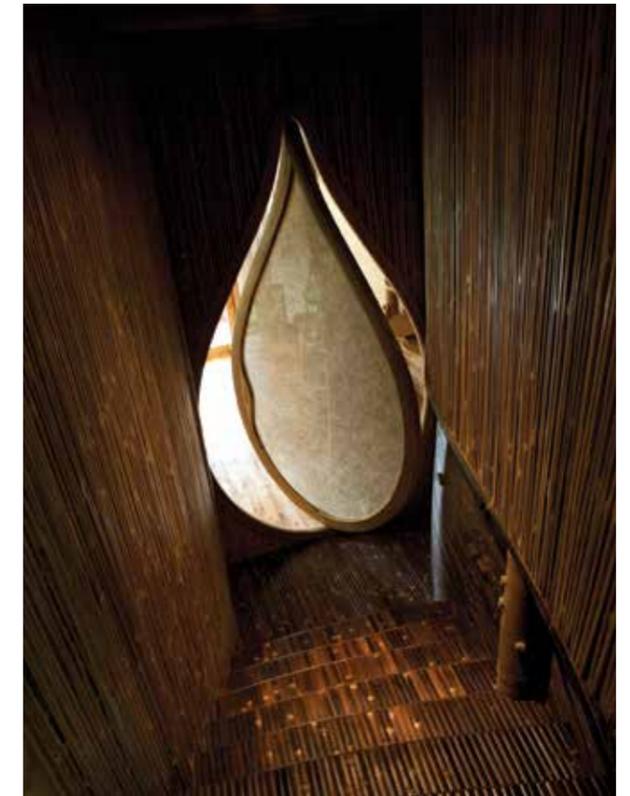
Any leader has a legacy and inspirational ancestors that cultivated their ideas. For Elora the story of Bamboo in Bali started with the work of a lady named Linda Garland. Sailing around Indonesian during the 1980's on a traditional fishing boat she was captivated by the large bamboo outrigger.





**BAMBOO AND BEYOND**  
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

- Dinner with a view of the Green Village across the Ayung river valley
- A view from the bottom of the staircase up
- All the bedrooms have glass walls and oval or teardrop swing doors and are fully sealed and air-conditioned
- The bathroom fittings are all custom made and designed to fit a particular theme
- The bottom of the staircase leads to a glass bottom pond and an exit to the garden pool area





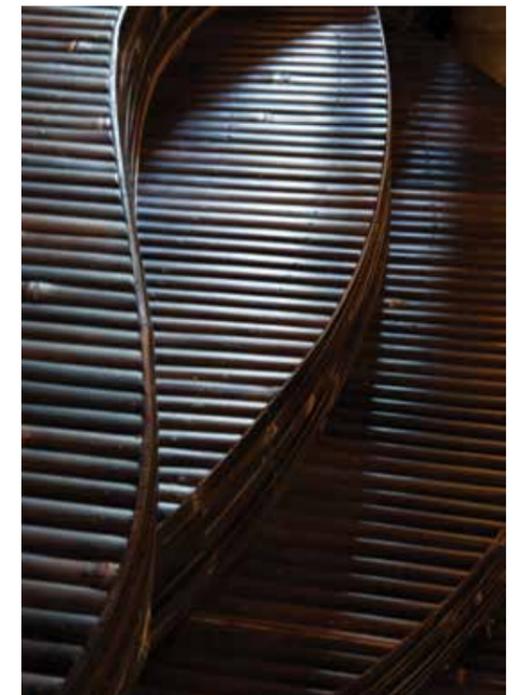
**BAMBOO AND BEYOND**  
CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

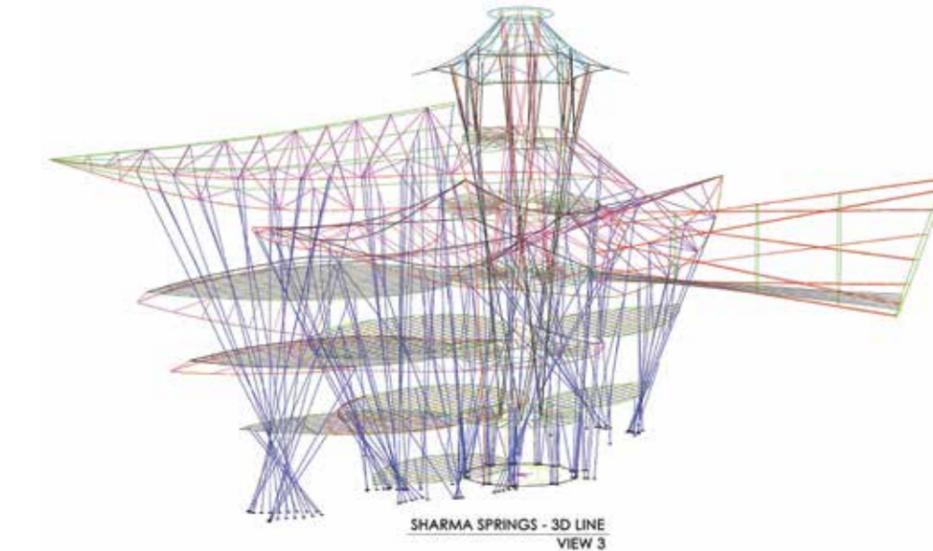
- Ornamental decor supporting the tranquility of a bamboo structured dwelling
- Each ensuite bedroom has its own balcony with comfortable soft furnishings
- Even the floors are made from bamboo, with natural darker hues that add depth and detail



Asking the fishermen where she could find the source where these huge bamboo plants grew, was the beginning of a journey that launched the Environmental Bamboo Foundation in 1993 and the experimentation of bamboo as a long-term sustainable building material.

Elora's accomplished father, John Hardy, who has resided in Bali since 1975 provided the opportunity for Elora to be raised on the island of the gods as a Canadian that could fluently speak Balinese with her closest childhood playmates, was originally inspired by Linda's work. John also saw bamboo as the future of sustainable building and made a vow never to construct another wood or concrete building ever again. His first serious bamboo building was conceived with architect Cheong Yew Kuan in a rice field full of tall Umbul-Umbul flags. Inspired by the natural curve of the bamboo, they tied the tips of the poles together into a towering arch and constructed the showroom of the John Hardy Jewelry artisan compound. Her father was the driving force behind many projects, even constructing a traditional Sumatran clan house out of bamboo!





## Project Data

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**Project Name**  
 Sharma Springs  
**Location**  
 Banjar Dualang,  
 Sibang Kaja,  
 Abiansemal,  
 Badung, Bali  
**Site Area**  
 ± 26,000 sqm  
**Gross Floor Area**  
 ± 700 sqm  
**Client/Owner**  
 Sumant Sharma  
**Architecture Consultant**  
 Ibuku Design Team  
**Principal Designer**  
 Elora Hardy  
**Interior Design Consultant**  
 Yajaira Smyth  
**Interior Contractor**  
 PT Bamboo Pure  
**Lighting Consultant**  
 Wilson & Associates  
**Landscape Consultant**  
 Orin Hardy  
**Mechanical & Electrical Consultant**  
 Mr. Fix It  
**Civil & Structural Consultant**  
 Ashar Saputra, Ph.D. –  
 Ketut Sudarsana, Ph.D.  
**Main Contractor**  
 PT Bamboo Pure  
**Started**  
 Jan 1st 2012  
**Completed**  
 June 30th 2013

It was in 2007 that John Hardy gathered a team to design and build the Green School. Some of the original members of the Green School design and construction team continued on to work with Elora when she returned to Bali, after working for the designer Donna Karan in New York, to found Ibuku in 2010. The talented Indonesian designers of Ibuku includes leading architect Defit Wijaya, with fellow architects Nyoman Kerta, Putra Wiarsa, Eka Wiradana, Dwi Widhi Nugroho and Fillologus Iryono. Together this winning team has built over forty new bamboo structures in Bali. Many of these buildings now make up Green Village, the community of luxurious private homes

neighboring Green School, and the cream-of-the-crop construction: Sharma Springs.

The design takes on the form of a lotus plant, with the entrance bridge leading you (as if walking inside a tree branch) into the house's living area level and centered staircase. The staircase could be seen as the supporting branch of the structure and creates graceful passage to each level in a circular pattern with a lookout tower at the top and a pond at the bottom of the staircase that has a wine cellar underneath it. Each level opens up like an extended leaf with as much beauty and detail as a blooming lotus flower. The living area loft has a lower section - housing the kitchen, with custom made fittings and

**BAMBOO AND BEYOND**  
 —  
 CLOCKWISE FROM TOP  
 —  
 Exterior frontal view  
 —  
 Architectural drawing of  
 the bamboo structure  
 —  
 The small scale model  
 of Sharma Springs  
 that was build prior to  
 construction

top of the range refrigerator and coffee machine, including the round dining table seating area, and the upper level—that has a lovely lounging area and privately to the side its own bamboo basket guest lavatory.

The home has four ensuite bedrooms, each inspired by a different theme bringing forward elements in design to enhance each individual theme. Overall the bathrooms are made with both custom copper and bamboo fixtures. The semi round shaped showers seem to invite and embrace intuitively, a design concept Elora says sprung from the bathroom that her mother designed for her childhood home. All the bedrooms and TV room are fully air-conditioned,

while the rest of the home is naturally cool and open aired. The open playroom area is especially designed for children, and can make any adult feel that they were somehow deprived for not playing. The past and future developments comes together on a very personal level through the design innovations by R.A Putri Wiwoho and Indriana Sukma Hayuningtyas—the Ibuku interior design team.

Elora Hardy's legacy and the Ibuku team's accomplishments extends beyond a mere trend and as a group of young designers their masterpiece Sharma Springs, changes the IF into a WHEN, it is that the next generation will catch onto the sustainability of bamboo as a prophesied solution. <sup>10</sup>

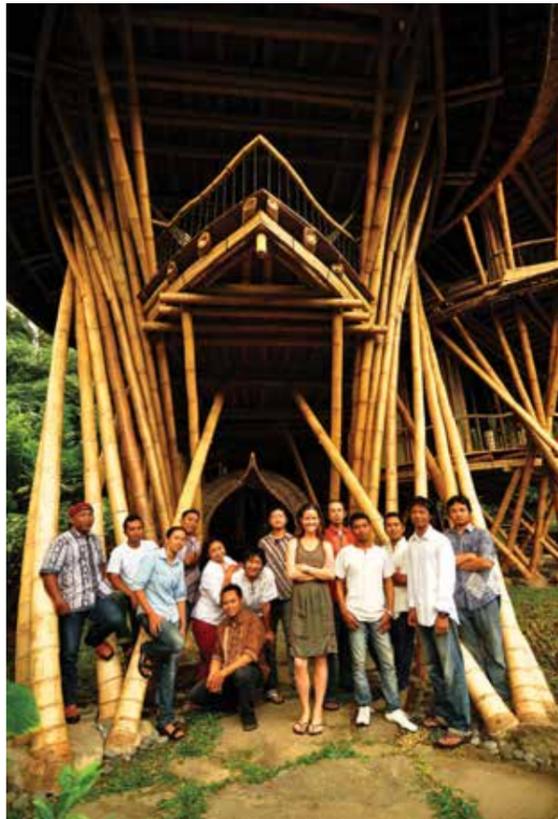
## Elora Hardy from Ibuku's: Bamboo Ambition

Besides having the opportunity to stay and share the experience of Sharma Springs with friends, Dewald Haynes of Indonesia Design also had a very inspirational and informative interview with the talented and completely humble and humorous Elora Hardy herself. After meeting her it became very transparent that her natural inner peace and beauty transcends through her design and captivates as much as it comforts.

**Understanding the “whys” let’s talk a bit about the “hows”: How is designing and building with bamboo firstly different, and secondly, better than any other materials?**

Bamboo is flexible, and it demands our creative flexibility. Our team of trained architects, in making the transition to designing with bamboo, must re-adjust their mindsets: the personality of the uniquely curving and tapering material requires us to be innovative and versatile in our approach. Both the strengths and the limitations spark creativity, and we grow through the challenge. We start the design process on the site, often sketching the structure according to the contours of the land. We bend slim sticks and make simple scale models, then evolve them into a detailed architectural model that is the blueprints of the structure. Our engineers study the computer 3D line, then the bamboo model itself guides our workers onsite. We build by hand using our own selectively harvested and sustainably treated bamboo, lab tested to confirm its durability and integrity. Ibuku structures will last for generations.

**After staying at Sharma Springs I must say I am very surprised that the house has no insect infestation and hardly any mosquitoes, how is that possible with such an open plan?**



Our bamboo is treated with a natural salt solution to protect it from the powder post beetle, and the Ibuku Garden team created the gardens here at Sharma Springs to be a balanced ecosystem that keeps mosquitos and other overly friendly bugs away. My brother, Orin Hardy, works alongside Scott Godfredson, an international permaculture design consultant; Yohanes Wiryawan, a

young architect from Java; and Made Gojing, an avid gardener from the Sibang Community. Ibuku Gardens creates ecological landscapes following the principles and ethics of permaculture, producing edible gardens that connect people to the land and assist in controlling insects in a natural way.

**Ibuku literally means “my mother” in Indonesian, what does the name and the company mean to you?**

The name Ibuku comes from Ibu Pertiwi, mother earth. Cultures across Indonesia have a long held reverence for nature, the ‘Tanah Air’ land and water of the archipelago, and personified it in songs and poems about Ibu Pertiwi. We at Ibuku are taking a stand for the creative and responsible use of the materials that this land provides us. What if we could build our dreams out of a grass that grows boutifully in our own back yards? By choosing bamboo, we embrace and develop the future sustainability. Bamboo’s strength, grace, flexibility, 4-year growth cycle, and carbon sequestration capacity is unparalleled. Our engineers, architects and designers at Ibuku have created a completely new design vocabulary from this humble and majestic local material. Not only is bamboo good for the environment, but it also inspires and connects people with nature, and mother earth - Ibuku. 🌱

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