

# A *forest* FOR THE WHOLE *family*

The grand opening ceremony of RIMBA in November 2013 was a magical event. Mermaids, Fire Dancers, Hoola Girls, Models, a Bride and Groom plus, to top it off, a spectacular Firework display launched this prime development that is managed by the Capella Hotel Group and is the sister hotel of AYANA Resort and Spa. RIMBA, named after the Indonesian word for 'forest', brings luxury and sustainable 'blue'- or rather 'greenprint', together for the ultimate family getaway in Bali.

STORY BY Dewald Haynes PHOTO BY RIMBA & Bagus Tri Laksono





**FAMILY FOREST**  
CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT  
— All the bathrooms have a luxurious shower and round soaking tub  
— The semi-private swimming pool of the pool access rooms on the ground floor  
— Comfortable seating inside the birdcage cabanas  
— The decor of all the rooms are spacious and contemporary

## THE UNIQUE DESIGN ALLUDES TO ITS EXOTIC

eight hectare forest location in Jimbaran on the southwest peninsula of the island of the gods. It's not just the interiors that charm perspicacious travellers with its stylish outline featuring Western and South-East Asian elements. At the heart of the grounds is a huge, partially covered one hectare pool and lotus pond area, bordered on one side by forest and on the other by the modern hotel buildings, which reflect present-day Balinese inspired architectural influences.

Eclectic rustic elements and bright colors blend in seamlessly with the modern design ideas. Linear and curvy shapes unite in harmonious flow while organic





and fluid shapes, that are reminiscent of waterfalls, compliment the tropical surroundings. The public spaces are open and airy. Outdoor wooden 'birdcage' cabana seating areas and provided indoor or semi covered lounging spaces merge seamlessly and often extend over several levels, so that the overall atmosphere creates a lofty relaxed setting.

In all 282 rooms of the hotel, divided into four generously sized room types, you will experience five star modern luxury and comfort. The 70sqm Jimbaran Bay Suites, 38sqm Jimbaran Bay Rooms and 38sqm Hillside Rooms offer views of the surrounding forest, tropical gardens and multi-tiered pools from a private, furnished balcony. While the ground floor's 38sqm Pool Access Rooms feature direct access to a semi-private swimming pool area. Décor is contemporary and vibrant, with an emphasis on sustainable design. The ensuite bathrooms have

marble finishings with deluxe mosaic tiled showers and large round soaking tubs. Amenities include complimentary high-speed internet, 47-inch flat-screen TV, DVD, writing table, aromatherapy set, mini-bar, and tea and coffee making facilities.

Being family oriented the hotel offers a Kids Club and children's pool with waterslides, plus a Swim-up Pool Bar where adults can enjoy their leisure time. The Ah Yat Abalone Seafood Restaurant at the hotel is Indonesia's biggest Chinese Restaurant famous for live seafood preparations, while the stylish all-day dining and gourmet bakery, To'ge Restaurant, serves a variety of cuisines from around the world. Cooking classes can even be scheduled for patrons who would like to improve their culinary skills. RIMBA is also an ideal wedding and function venue with various on site conference facilities with break-away rooms and a sizable Ballroom for joyous occasions.

**FAMILY FOREST**  
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

— A view of the surrounding forest from the pool at the reception area

— The decor of the restaurant compliments the theme

— Lounging inside the pool



While at RIMBA guests may even make use of a complimentary shuttle service to AYANA to enjoy the spa, seven restaurants and private Kubu Beach. If wanting to embark on a scenic jogging trail that also leads to AYANA, visitors will be pleased to know that charges at the AYANA facilities can be billed back to their room at RIMBA.

Conveniently located just 12 kilometers from the Ngurah Rai Airport, RIMBA presents visitors with dramatic views across the Uluwatu Hills to the south-east and the Indian Ocean to the west from their rooftop bar suitably named UNIQUE. This is perhaps the only Bali bar that will bring you both sunset and sunrise views – if you lounge long enough! Designed around a central swimming pool with oversized lounges, sofa beds and a mezzanine for guests seeking a more intimate experience, this breathtaking roof-top Bali bar exudes an ultra-glam yet relaxed club atmosphere. Soak up the sun and watch the sky change colors as you enjoy innovative cocktails and a grazing menu from morning to midnight. Definitely an experience that no other forest could trump! ☺



**Project Data**

- **Project Name**  
RIMBA Jimbaran Bali
- Location**  
AYANA Resort and Spa, Jimbaran, Bali
- Site Area**  
8 hectare
- Gross Floor Area**  
23,504 sqm
- Architecture Consultant**  
WATG & TWS
- Principal Designer**  
Bill Reed
- Interior Design Consultant**  
P49 Deesign
- Lighting Consultant**  
Lumina
- Landscape Consultant**  
St. Legere Design International
- Mechanical & Electrical Consultant**  
PT. Arnan Pratama Consultants
- Civil & Structural Consultant**  
PT. Perkasa Carista Estetika
- Main Contractor**  
PT. Nusa Raya Cipta
- Interior Contractor**  
PT. Citra Bika Cipta, PT. Indo Mitra Pratama, PT. Jati Sungkai
- Started**  
September 2012
- Completed**  
September 2013 (soft opening)
- 1 November 2013 (grand opening)



Bill Reed

**Bill Reed,  
Dennis Selinger &  
Roger Habermacher**

# Designing a Sustainable Forest



Dennis Selinger



Roger Habermacher

While concerns are on the rise about over development in Bali, the latest projects on the island, including RIMBA, aim to be more ‘environmentally friendly’. **Dewald Haynes** of Indonesia Design directed a few questions to **Bill Reed** the principal architect at WATG Architects, **Dennis Selinger** the principal landscape architect of St. Legere and **Roger Habermacher** the General Manager of AYANA Resort and Spa as well as RIMBA Jimbaran Bali, to understand exactly how sustainable development is achieved. After all tourism is a major source of income yet hotel design should not neglect the obvious and aim to offer a unique as well as GREEN experience.

**Was the design of RIMBA in anyway inspired or influenced by AYANA?**

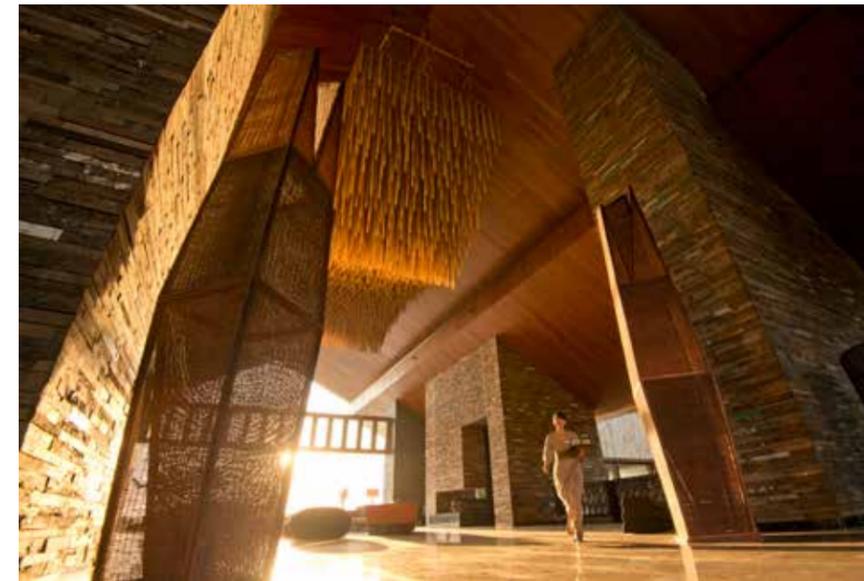
**Bill Reed (BR)** The RIMBA design complements the AYANA Resort and Spa, yet has its own distinct identity. Each is a destination in itself and an amenity to the other. As a guest of either property you share the same privileges, access and services.

**Dennis Selinger (DS)** In the early 1990s, when the original AYANA Resort was being developed, visitors to Bali wanted a traditional Balinese feeling where they stayed, whereas today, visitors tend to appreciate a design which is fresh, modern, luxurious, and has more subtle hints of Bali. RIMBA is a big departure from the design of AYANA and is much more modern and not as “Balinese”, except for some deliberate traditional accents. We believe guest expectations are going in this direction and cleaner, more modern lines have been successfully applied over the last few years into a number of new Balinese projects.

**What design elements aided to make RIMBA more environmentally friendly?**

**Roger Habermacher (RH)** RIMBA’s commitment to sustainability is evident in elements such as:

- Rainwater harvesting and water recycling plant;
- Resort Lobby made of recycled wood from three old fishing boats that were personally sourced by RIMBA’s engineers in Sulawesi, and driftwood which they helped to gather by hand along a 1-mile stretch of beach while



- sourcing the boats;
- Natural light is maximized in rooms and public spaces, in features such as a sky-light running from the Lobby to To’ge restaurant on the ground floor;
- Walls made from handmade bricks;
- Furniture made from recycled packing crates and other materials;
- UNIQUE Rooftop Bar featuring recycled glass bottles and walls made from recycled ship wood;
- Eco amenities in all guest rooms, such as bathroom amenities made of recycled glass, and beach bags made of recycled materials.

**Conceptually how does RIMBA aim to be more original and different than its competitors in the hospitality industry?**

**(BR)** The overall aesthetics are of ‘New Bali’, rooted but not bound in tradition. The design is very adaptive. The built environment is conducive to guests using the property however they choose and staff accommodate them with ease. You might think of RIMBA as a jungle estate where each guest is the owner and the owners do as they please while discretely being attended to by attentive staff.

**(DS)** Since RIMBA is set back from the coastline, it was key to have lots of water in the landscape design. Guests enter the lobby and immediately see a reflecting pond with a horizon view of the ocean and sunset. Starting from the lobby as the highest point, five terraced pools cascade into each



other and even over-hang each other. To make this possible, St. Legere made the key decision to raise the lobby level by several meters, affording the view, more height for cascading levels of pools and also allowing back-of-house and services to be located underneath the lobby. A sixth rooftop pool is part of the design elements of the “UNIQUE Rooftop Bar” venue with panoramic views, which also serves the adjacent rooftop function room and create a destination in its own right.

**(RH)** RIMBA’s location within a 77-hectare estate makes this the only 5-star integrated resort in Bali, offering guests the exclusive privilege of having full access to all facilities and services at both AYANA and RIMBA. RIMBA’s unique design emphasises its forest ambience; the land on which RIMBA now

sits was once known as ‘Bukit Alas Jimbaran’, which is old Sanskrit for Jimbaran forest. The eco chic design naturally blends into the surrounding environment, while drawing guests to modern venues such as UNIQUE Rooftop Bar which offers sunset views across the forest and out to the Indian Ocean.

**How long did it take to complete the project and was there any delays?**

**(RH)** RIMBA welcomed its first guests one year after construction began, making it one of the fastest hotels built anywhere in the world. There were no delays; RIMBA’s opening was scheduled to accommodate the APEC CEO Summit in October 2013 and we delivered on our commitment as an APEC Host Hotel.

**What was the challenges faced while meeting this deadline and how where they over come in the end to complete the project?**

**(RH)** The main challenge was ensuring RIMBA opened on time for APEC, and this was also part of the triumphs as the resort’s management kept our commitment and ensured the event ran smoothly with all participants accommodated on-site, to attend the conference and meetings at AYANA’s new MICE facilities.

**A lot of recycled materials was used as decorative features in the design, however are there any features to try to recycle water and prevent wastage?**

**(RH)** Yes, RIMBA has its own rainwater harvesting and water recycling plant. In addition, bathrooms feature dual flushing for toilets to conserve water consumption and sensors for taps.

**Can luxury design also be environmentally friendly?**

**(BR)** For the sophisticated traveler, luxury must be accomplished responsibly and with authenticity. The design of ostentatious displays and tradition of imported materials is well on its way out. Luxury design is responsive to its environment, conveys a relaxed elegance, enjoys longevity and provides comfort.

## main feature RIMBA



### Who is the target market and what design features was added to attract them?

**(RH)** RIMBA attracts leisure travelers who enjoy the sanctuary of the forest setting, the great outdoors and lush gardens, sunset views, and the access to facilities at AYANA Resort and Spa. Families enjoy features such as the children's swimming pool and waterslides and RIMBA Kids Club. RIMBA is also Bali's newest MICE destination, with corporate groups responding very positively to RIMBA's Ballroom and meeting rooms, as well as the access to AYANA's world-class MICE facilities which were relaunched in 2013 in preparation for APEC. We also built a Wedding Pavilion at RIMBA to cater for weddings of up to 100 people in air-conditioned comfort. This is an additional venue at RIMBA, to add to AYANA's six wedding venues, 2 of which are wedding chapels with seating capacity of 50, so the pavilion at RIMBA enables us to cater for larger weddings indoors.

### The hotel has many impressive features, but how sustainable is the landscape design?

**(DS)** RIMBA's design minimizes the use of freshwater, as the irrigation uses both treated water from a reverse osmosis



system, and rainwater retention. Energy usage is minimized by the efficient engineering design, such as the way that the pools are all inter-connected, reducing the number of pumps required and thus saving a large amount of energy. The planting of large trees, especially near the buildings and in public areas, provides natural shade and significantly reduces the solar heat gain and thus air conditioning requirements. RIMBA's lobby is located on an

elevated section of land which has generous wind flow, also reducing the need for artificial cooling. By intent, the site design placed much of the service and back-of-house areas in the basement, which reduced solar heat gain and cooling requirements, and which required much less construction, materials and resources compared to what would have been needed to build the back-of-house areas in separate on-grade buildings. <sup>10</sup>

# PLATINUM

CERAMICS

