

RECONNECTING WITH EARTH IN VILLA KUBU

THE NATURE-ADORING VILLA KUBU WAS VE HANDOJO'S PERFECT LOCATION TO READ A NOVEL. TOO BAD, THE PLACE OUTSMARTS THE STORY.



From left:

Reception foyer of Villa Kubu.

Natural materials and tone build some contemporary forms.

A pond in every villa gives a calming effect.

My most impressive memory of staying in Villa Kubu is as simple as it can get: walking barefoot from my villa to the spa, leaving the door unlocked, wearing only a sarong and nothing else above or under. In my hands there was no BlackBerry, no iPod, no iBook, no watch, and not even a wallet. I performed this close-to-hippie nudism escapade, not somewhere in the middle of nowhere, but within easy walking distance of the vibrant Seminyak area.

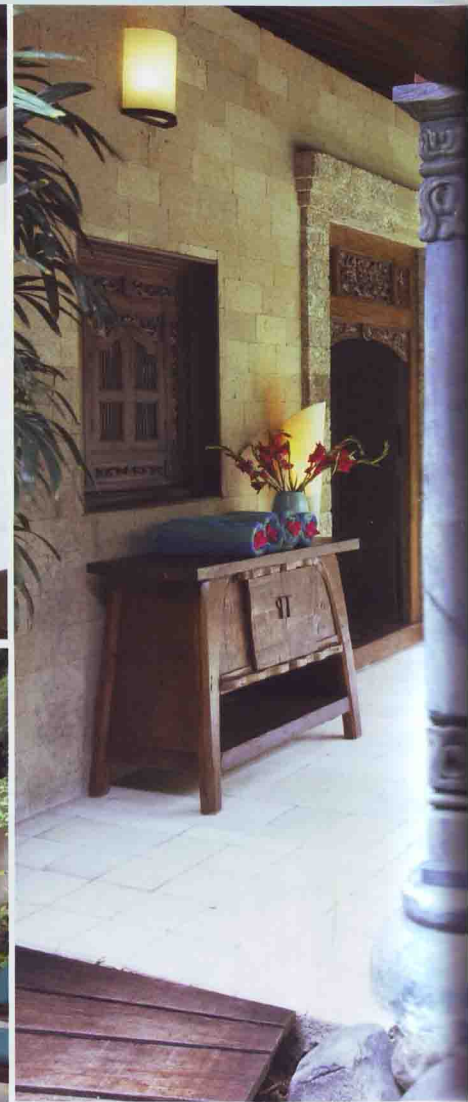
It was only me and my copy of Elizabeth Gilbert's *Eat, Pray, Love* that occupied one of the fourteen villas in Villa Kubu. There, I got the chance to completely reconnect myself with Planet Earth. As much as I recall, it was the truest essence of luxury an urbanite like me could have experienced.

Comprising one to three-bedroom, super-spacious villas, the compound offers an organic lifestyle as its main feature. No coffee shop, no restaurant, no bar, no high-tech gym, no function hall. A 24-hour kitchen, a range of superior quality treatments in Spa Venus, and professional

butler service – that's basically all. Covering all these essential and basic features, Villa Kubu's comfort is a D.I.Y. – Do It Yourself – thing. (Well, of course the butlers help a lot!)

I woke up in the morning to have my sunny side-up eggs prepared directly from the fully-equipped kitchen in my villa. An iPod, pre-installed with cool tunes, was already nestled in its dock, ready to set the soundtrack of the morning, noon, and evening. The villa's indoor area merged seamlessly with the outdoors, allowing natural light to penetrate freely, yet still keeping me under comfortable shade. There was no need to switch on any lights at all during the day.

Gardeners were trimming the trees and cleaning the small lotus pond. When they were done and left me to my privacy, I made good use of the 9 x 4.5m ionized swimming pool. Putting on my birthday suit, I lapped back and forth in the water warmed by the sun. The balé by the pool was the perfect spot to rest, drink cold tonic water on the rocks, and read Gilbert's *Eat, Pray, Love*. After



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about 10 pages, it successfully managed to knock me out to a lengthy nap.

While the afternoon was too sunny for me to be in the crowded and hectic Seminyak and Legian areas, I actually opted for a much hotter activity. Spa Venus has an infra-red sauna booth where I could kill thirty minutes and effectively detox my body by sweating it all out. The following Balinese massage treatment sent me to just another 90-minute deep slumber.

Approaching sunset, I packed up that soon-to-be-a-movie-starring-Julia-Roberts book, and set off to find a quiet beachfront cabana. When I had one of those, I caught up with 10 more pages of the book, then the dramatic sunset happened. I filled my time enjoying it, doing nothing.

My villa was quiet and calming in the evening. The plasma TV screen and DVD player took me away from Gilbert's depressing tale of self-discovery.

The complementary high speed WiFi connection distracted me from reading more. By the very end of the evening, I wondered why I should read a story while I actually could live the same – or, even better – experience in Villa Kubu? So, I soaked myself in the tub inside that huge semi-outdoor bathing area.

I wondered why I should read a story while I actually could live the same, or even better, experience in Villa Kubu?

I decided to throw away the book, and enjoy the rest of my stay in Kubu – or “house” – to the fullest. If anything, it's my own experience in Villa Kubu that Hollywood should've adapted into the big screen, and not some story of annoying obsession over “exotic self-discovery” from a divorced woman in a euphoria of hyper-orientalism. My stay in Villa Kubu would make a more interesting story. And, a much sexier movie – wink, wink! **FRV**

Previous page:

Top left: The living room merges seamlessly with the swimming pool.

Bottom left: The pool, the hammock, the bale bengong all speak of perfect getaway.

Right: Design with immaculately styled ornaments.

This page:

Left: Romantic bedroom setting for honeymooners.

Top right: Red colours give contemporary touches to some of the furniture.

Bottom right: Another living room in different style.

