Behind the creative architecture and design of Kandolhu Island

PRESS RELEASE

There’s so much that come to one’s mind when you picture Kandolhu Island; a surreal escape in the Maldives, a slice of exotic perfection, and a best kept secret in the Maldives are just a few taglines to give an insight into the concept of the intimate island. Apart from the natural allures, there is much more that makes this island so special. The resort boasts an eloquent display of world-class brands in architecture and design, adding flair with contemporary elements combined with cutting edge products that make up the lavish and decadent Kandolhu Island.

Due credit to Kandolhu’s magnificent renovation goes to local architect; Mohamed Shafeeq, commonly known as Sappe’. Widely regarded as one of the most influential architects in the Maldives, he is a boon to the development its tourism industry. His key projects are varied, including ventures in the Maldives and Seychelles, with one of his most recent masterpieces being the naturally minimalist Kandolhu, by adding a few local recipes to architectural ambitions.

The result: a combination of lavish villas each unique in their own way, adorned with world-class furnishing brands such as Parador, a German wood manufacturer known for their use of material derived from sustainably managed forests. Hülsta beds and cabinetry feature in all villa types, a German furniture maker priding itself on its vast collection of patents in its industry and has received prestigious accolades from German government and industry. Extra detail is given in the bathrooms of the villas, where the famed Bisazza Mosaico tiles are used, an Italian maker of luxury glass mosaic used consistently in luxury outlets. The creation of the decadent bathrooms incorporates other major premium brands such as Alessi, the famed Italian home design company, and Laufen, a Swiss brand pioneering bath and sanitary ware and ceramic products. These aforementioned high-design pieces are differentiated in each room category and are all with free standing baths.

The ubiquitous Maldivian Dhoni is inspired as a model for architecture, used in many of the areas: Reception, Varu Spa and the Duplex Pool Villas. Strong focus is given to privacy offered to guests, which fits in well with the lush green and candid landscaping scheme of Kandolhu Island.
Onto the restaurants where painted is a vivid picture of sleek, contemporary dining outlets built to perfection. Giving you the option to dine around, four sophisticated restaurants are featured in Kandolhu Island, each offering a truly sensational experience for food connoisseurs, those who appreciate the art of fine dining. The Market, an all-day dining restaurant lets you view the tranquil turquoise ocean, while Olive has a more exquisite and elevated setting, open only for dinner. Sea Grill stands out as a romantic venue with recycled coral as a backdrop (a commonly used material in traditional Maldivian architecture years ago), while serving tantalising meat and seafood fare. Banzai summons the essence of Japanese cuisine in an inclusive seating, letting you witness masters of Teppanyaki at work.

Throughout the general areas of the resort, the reception – integrates the trademark Dhoni shape, roofing a two storey building complete with two viewing balconies and a library displaying funky lounging furniture and hand-crafted lighting. Varu Spa, a mere few meters away, and at first glance into the design, evokes a sense of calm and serenity, notably with a cathedral-like roof, a feature wall that ascends into a flight of box stairs which lead to four treatment rooms impeccably and subtly created to portray the ‘stairway of heaven’ cliché.

The birth of Kandolhu Island cost an investment of $15 million says General Manager, Abdul Latheef, and the end-result is this wonderful 5 star boutique island aimed to deliver perfection and the best Maldivian experience to guests.
Note to Editors:

Ringed by an intricate yet stunning coral garden, teeming with colourful reef fish, Kandolhu Island is a patch of paradise hidden in the North Ari Atoll of the Maldives. Intimate and bare, this tiny gem is encircled with wide beaches that are veiled by the emerald green ocean that Maldives is known for. This magical sanctuary is surely one of nature’s best kept secret, guaranteeing enchanted experiences for all its guests.

Note to Picture Editors:

High resolution images are available for download at: http://www.universalimagesonline.com/kandolhu/index.html

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