

HOUSE & GARDEN

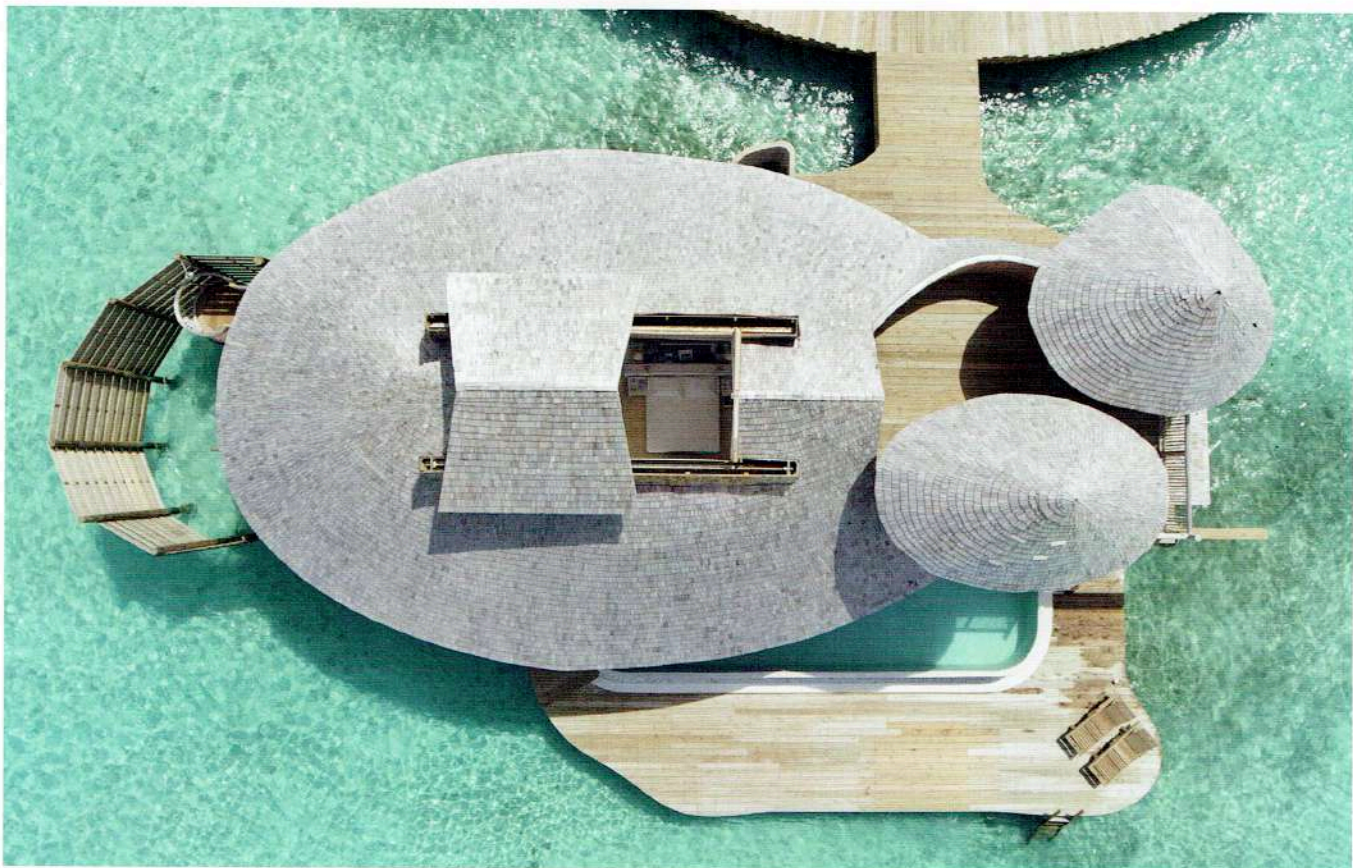
*Hotels
by
Design*



*A guide to the most beautifully
designed hotels in the world*

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SONEVA JANI, 2016's big opening in the Maldives, proved lots of points: that these tiny Indian Ocean islands are still perhaps the most beautiful beach destinations on the planet; that treading lightly on this earth can work hand in hand with deep-rooted luxury; that curves are so much more exciting than straight lines; and that Sonu and Eva Shivdasani (creators of the Soneva resorts) are at the top of their game in coming up with great design features. Take, for example, the roof panels (pictured) in each 'retreat' or 'reserve' (as the villas are known), which, at the touch of a button, slide open above the bed to reveal the starry night sky. Should rain fall, they'll close automatically. Genius.



AT A GLANCE *beach life*

◀ Hôtel Les Roches Rouges, on the **FRENCH RIVIERA**, ticks all the laid-back boxes. There are wooden huts and lookout points and one of the most beguiling seawater pools. The early Sixties structure has been stripped back to its modernist essentials and refashioned in simple, stylish white (pictured). The **SEYCHELLES** island of Félicité is now home to Six Senses Zil Pasyon - lavish but subtle, with 30 villas secreted within a lush landscape. The spa opens this year. In **SRI LANKA**, George Cooper, owner of Kahanda Kanda near Galle, has launched KK Beach, a bright, modern, six-suite hotel on the edge of the ocean. The hotly anticipated Miavana opens imminently on the island of Nosy Anka, off the north-eastern tip of

MADAGASCAR (South African dream team Silvio Rech and Lesley Carstens are behind the design). And talking of private islands, check out Cempedak and Bawah in **INDONESIA**, two new far-flung outposts of boho chic not far from Singapore. In nearby **BALI**, get ready for Echo Beach from the stylish Como Hotels. On **ST BARTHS**, colourful, characterful Villa Marie has opened above Flamands Bay, and on the gloriously pretty **GRENADINE** island of Canouan, glamorous Pink Sands Club has arrived. London grande dame Dukes has exported a touch of St James's glamour to **DUBAI** with its beachside hotel on the Palm Jumeirah, where a 'women-only' floor is decked out in Liberty fabrics □