



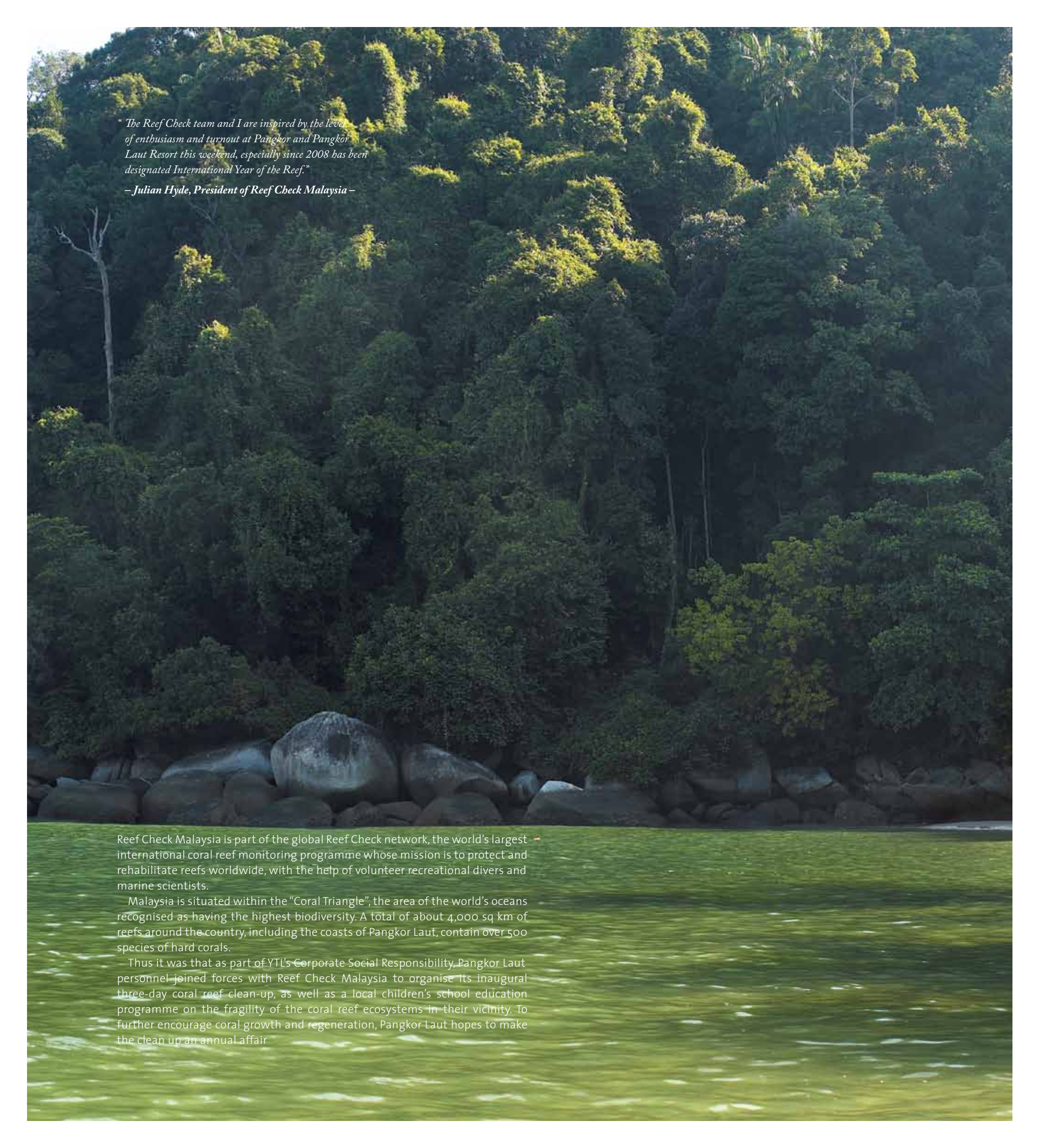




Estate 1

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*“The Reef Check team and I are inspired by the level of enthusiasm and turnout at Pangkor and Pangkor Laut Resort this weekend, especially since 2008 has been designated International Year of the Reef.”*

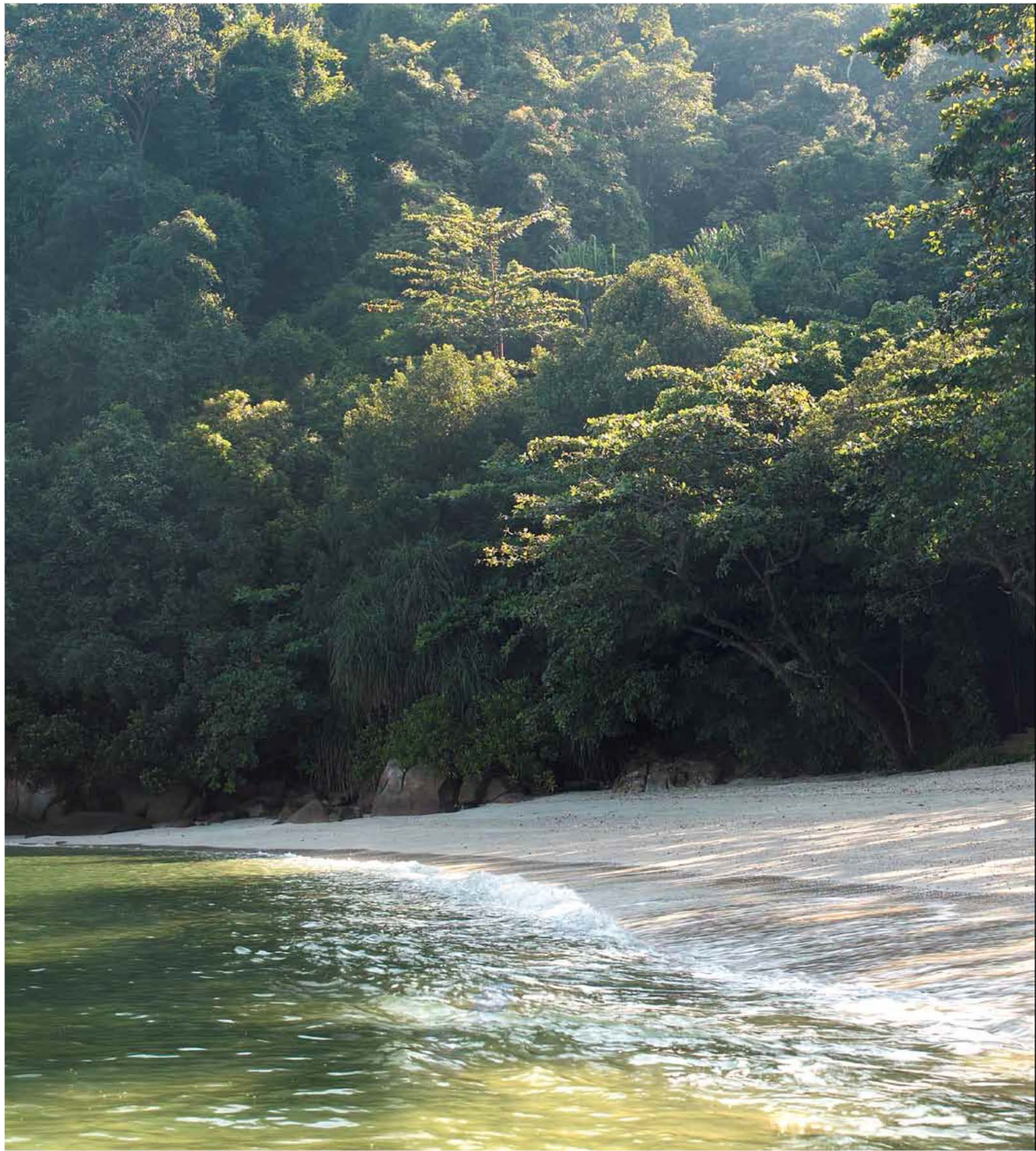
*– Julian Hyde, President of Reef Check Malaysia –*

Reef Check Malaysia is part of the global Reef Check network, the world’s largest international coral reef monitoring programme whose mission is to protect and rehabilitate reefs worldwide, with the help of volunteer recreational divers and marine scientists.

Malaysia is situated within the “Coral Triangle”, the area of the world’s oceans recognised as having the highest biodiversity. A total of about 4,000 sq km of reefs around the country, including the coasts of Pangkor Laut, contain over 500 species of hard corals.

Thus it was that as part of YTL’s Corporate Social Responsibility, Pangkor Laut personnel joined forces with Reef Check Malaysia to organise its inaugural three-day coral reef clean-up, as well as a local children’s school education programme on the fragility of the coral reef ecosystems in their vicinity. To further encourage coral growth and regeneration, Pangkor Laut hopes to make the clean up an annual affair







A photograph of a traditional building with a large rock formation and a tree trunk in the foreground. The building has white walls and a dark roof. A set of stone steps leads up to the building. A large, mossy rock formation is on the left side of the image. A tree trunk is in the center foreground, and another tree trunk is on the right side. The ground is covered with dry leaves and twigs. The text "The Rejected Stone" is overlaid on the image.

The Rejected Stone



## is now the Cornerstone

genius loci e1

GIANT BEDROCK OF GRANITE AS NATURAL FOUNDATION

*The stone which the builders rejected is become the chief cornerstone.  
This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.  
– Psalm 118: 22-23 –*

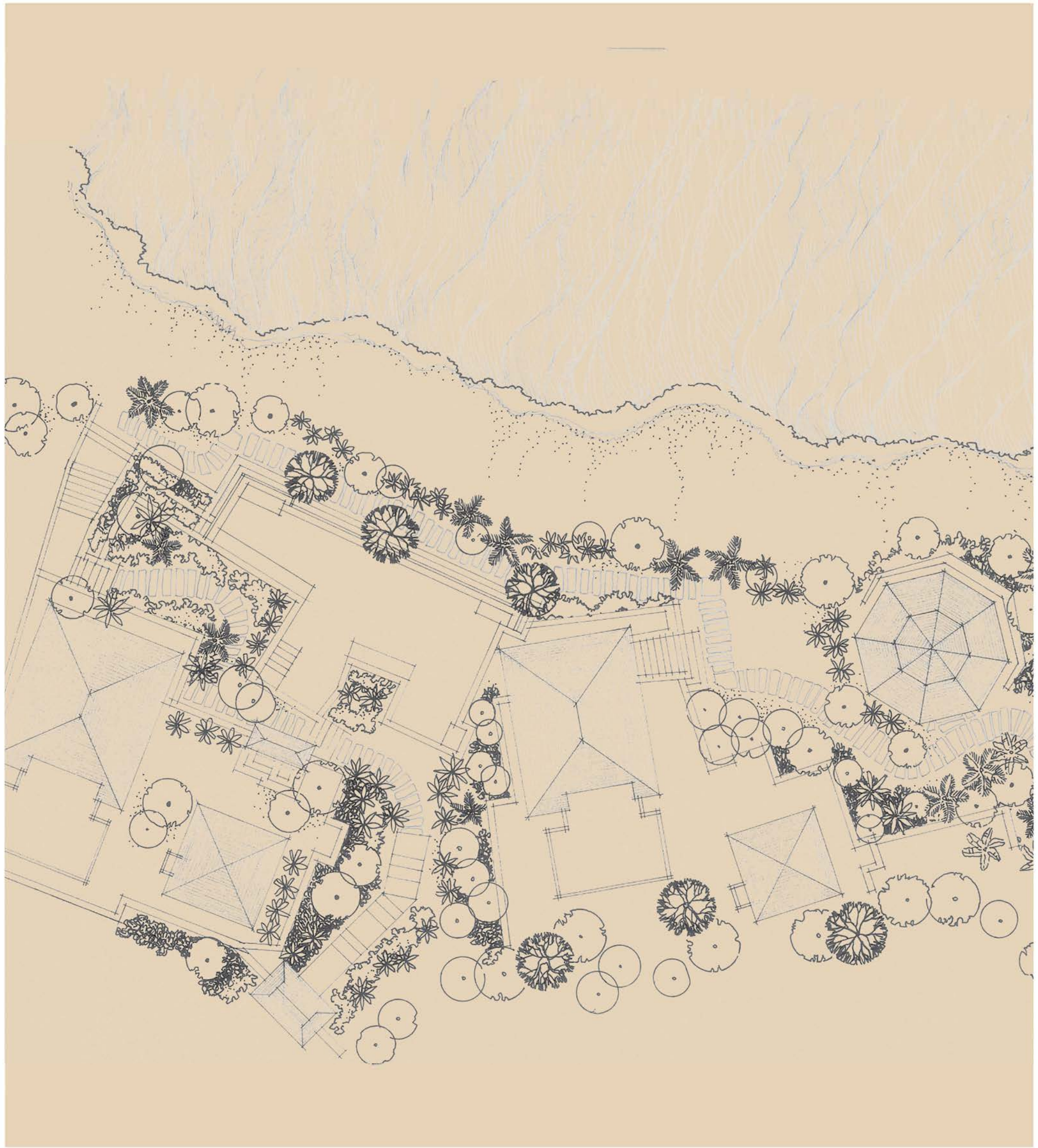
Under the spreading *nyatoh laut* tree, at the transition point where fine beach sand meets rock solid granite, lies the open secret of Estate 1. When the architects surveyed the area, they found a huge boulder under the sand. Their first thought was to remove it, but Pangkor Laut's *credo* of treading lightly on the land meant that construction plans would have to respect the existence of the boulder where it was. Any structure would have to be built around it.

The rock was thus left undisturbed, but it gained new life. It now forms the firm foundation on which the breezily open living pavilion is built. The *nyatoh laut* (*Planchonella obovata*), whose leaves can be made into a poultice on the loins for lumbago, also found its own bit of sky through the hole in the roof which was specially cut to accommodate the tree.

Estate 1, situated at one horn of Marina Bay's crescent-shaped shore, enjoys the intimacy of a secluded bay and a panoramic view of the beach. It was the very first Estate to be built and the first tree identified for conservation was tagged here.

Part of this Estate is tucked so closely into the hills that it almost seems as if the structures spring from the rocks themselves, such as the entranceway which is strewn with the exposed tops of boulders. The flight of sandstone steps that curves down to the villas accommodates the terrain of the area and is flanked on one side by a rocky slope hidden behind a wall of trees.

A stone pathway wends its way to the living pavilion. Next to it, the dining pavilion is carefully slotted within the partial embrace of the rocks so that it rises where the rocks end. The dining pavilion offers diners breathtaking views of the sea and sky as they sup.







## Estate 1

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Tucked away in a corner of Marina Bay, Estate 1 parallels the shoreline. As an intimate and cosy hideaway, its seclusion is much appreciated by those who prize private time together or want a quiet, contemplative retreat. It has:

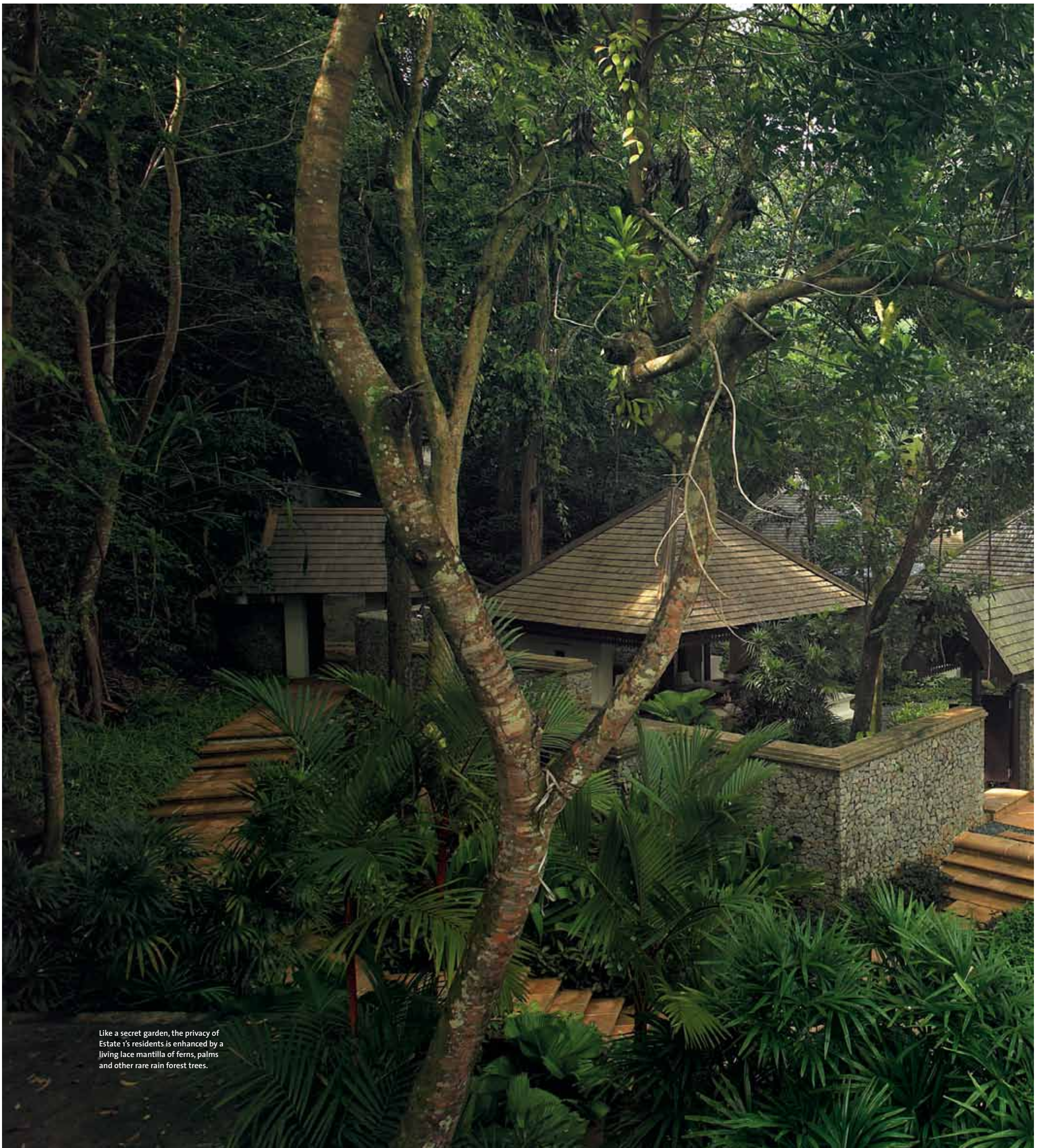
- Two bungalow bedrooms
- Two outdoor jacuzzis
- Geometric infinity pool
- Living pavilion
- Dining pavilion
- 'Fossil wall' in bungalow bedroom
- Walled outdoor jacuzzi set in a private courtyard

The Estate's high stone walls, flanked by trailing creepers, offer complete sanctuary from the outside world.

Dominated by an infinity pool providing views over the clear, warm waters of the bay, guests can choose to laze in the pool, bask on the beach between cooling dips in the ocean, or with a good book in hand, enjoy the breeze on a deckchair shaded by the ancient trees.

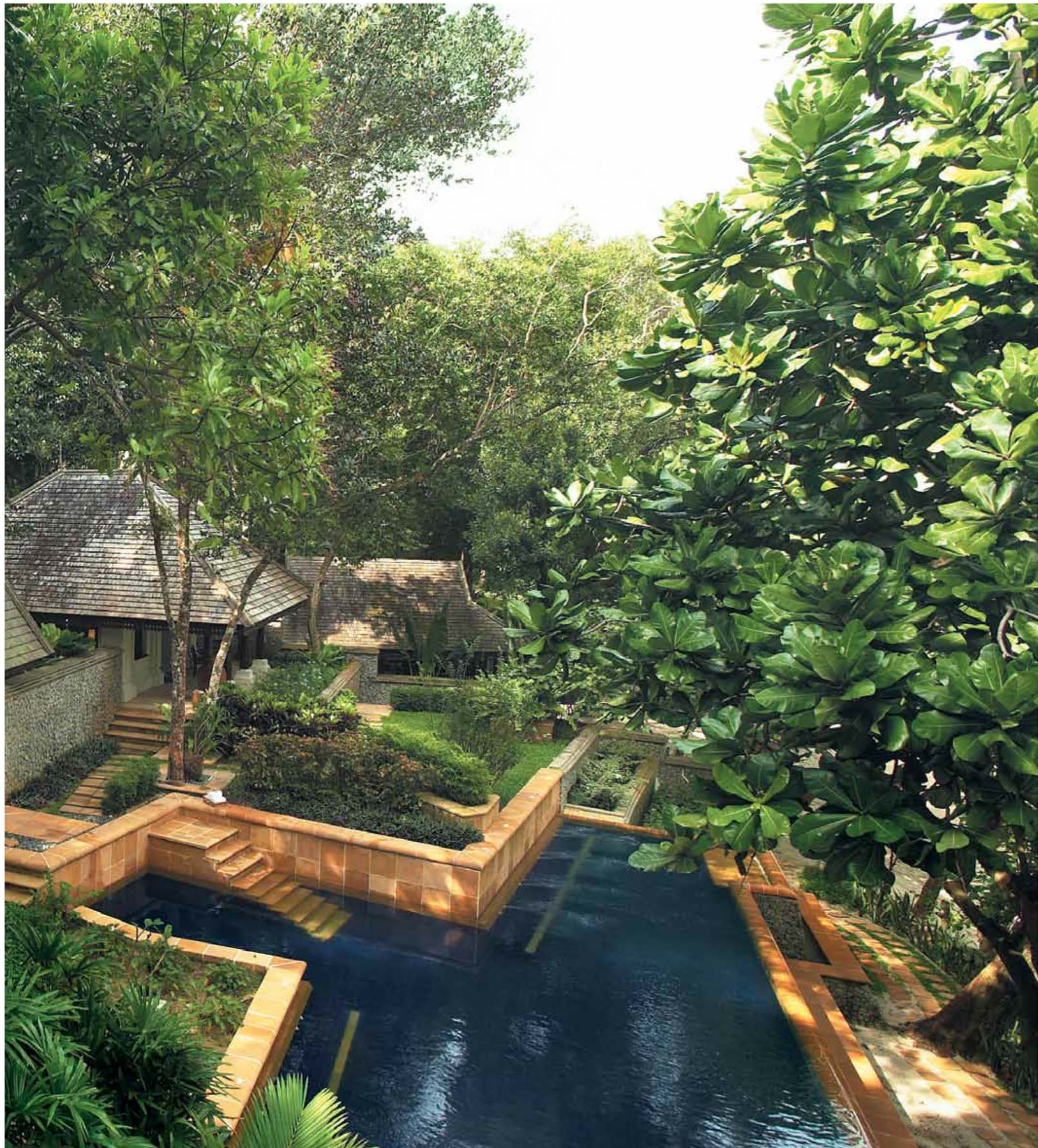
*Personalities that have enjoyed the facilities of Estate 1 include Joan Collins.*





Like a secret garden, the privacy of Estate 1's residents is enhanced by a living lace mantilla of ferns, palms and other rare rain forest trees.













Left:  
In the process of accommodating the trees,  
this Estate ended up with delightful  
pockets of rain forest paradise like what  
you see here.

#### LIVING WITHIN A PRIVATE PARADISE

Estate 1 is the only Estate with a bungalow bedroom that is attached to a private jacuzzi sited within its own personal, walled courtyard, complete with garden. Such secluded courtyard gardens, enchanting “rooms without roofs” where nature and building meet, have been part of dwellings from as early as the ancient civilisations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome and China. Courtyards are also prevalent in the urban architecture of the Malay Archipelago. In his book “Tropical Architecture and Interiors”, Tan Hock Beng explains why: “This ‘open-to-sky’ space brings light, rain, natural draught and a feeling of openness into the interiors, modulating the spatial effects of the rooms as well as renewing essential contact with the organic world. At the same time, it serves as a reference space where all other ancillary areas are related to it physically.”

An enclosed garden has been described in the old Persian language as *pairidaeza* which means “paradise”. Paradise is certainly an apt description of the private courtyard in this Estate. The warm, swirling water of the jacuzzi helps to relax the body and free the mind to appreciate the sounds and scents of the rain forest. In the quietness, one cannot help but hear the rhythmic lapping of waves against the shore just beyond the swinging doors of the courtyard. Within “paradise”, the cicadas serenade the coming night and the fragrance of tropical blossoms waft elusively in the air.

Both bungalow bedrooms, furnished with an elegant mix of textured fabrics, indigenous timber and glass, offer stunning views of the sea. The walls of the bungalow bedroom nearest to the beach even contain a subtle reminder that the waves gently breaking upon the shore are mere steps away. The “fossil wall” in this bungalow bedroom is made from tiles that have been embedded with common seashells to give them a fossil-like look. The embedding of shells, as well as other elements of nature, into tiles follows Bevis Bawa’s (the brother of architect Geoffrey Bawa) practice of using leaves from his garden to produce fossil-like impressions on cement or clay tiles, which he then used to pave footpaths and integrate into table tops. Estate 1 is the only Estate to feature a “fossil wall”.





On this page:  
The dining pavilion of Estate 1 opens up  
to the private beach of Marina Bay.

Opposite:  
The solid granite upon which Estate 1 is built  
provides remarkable stability, and creates a  
bastion of natural privacy without the feeling  
of being walled in.

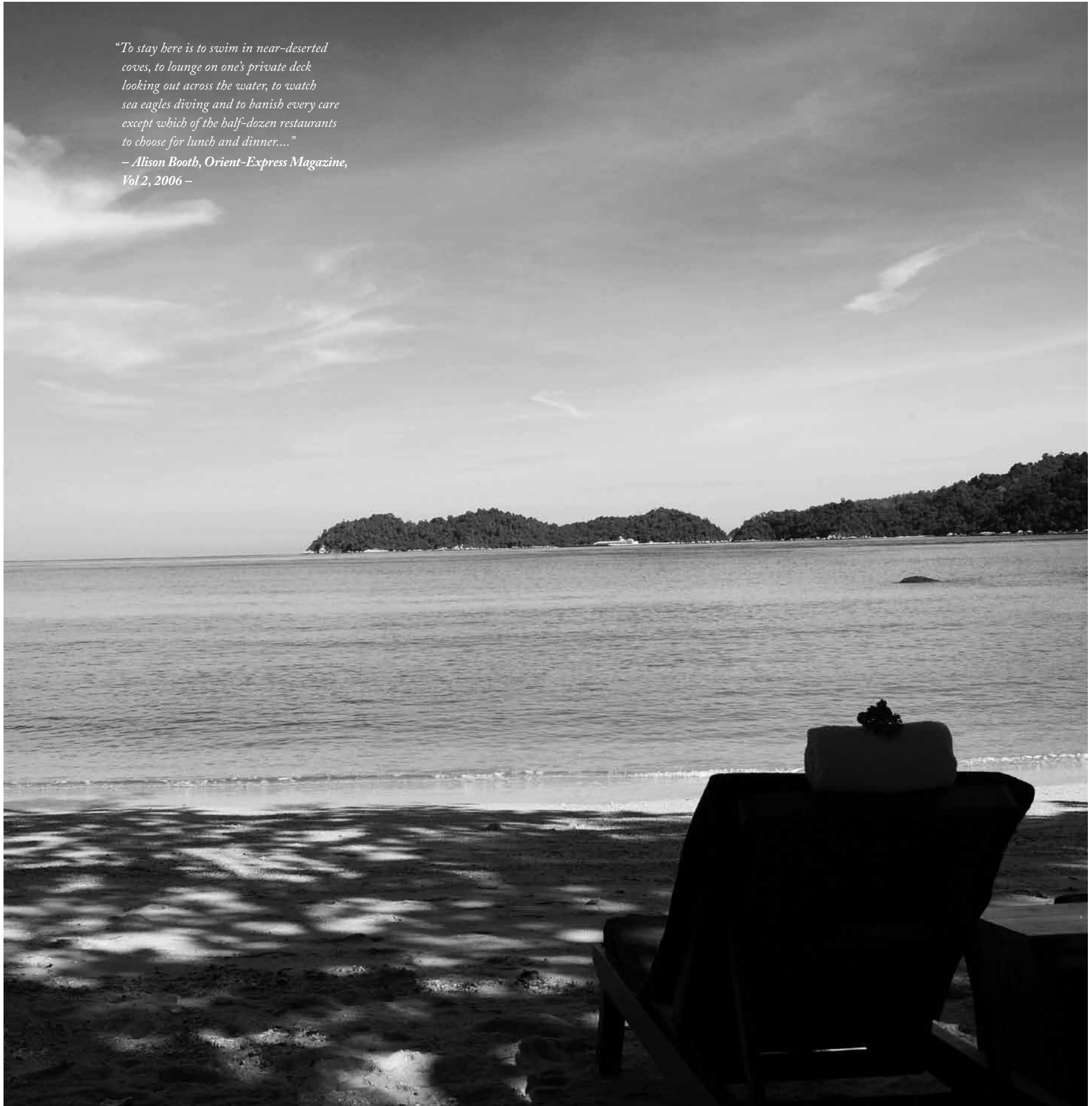








*“To stay here is to swim in near-deserted  
coves, to lounge on one’s private deck  
looking out across the water, to watch  
sea eagles diving and to banish every care  
except which of the half-dozen restaurants  
to choose for lunch and dinner...”*  
– Alison Booth, *Orient-Express Magazine*,  
Vol 2, 2006 –







Opposite:  
Hidden 50 feet under these waters in front of Estate 1, is a veritable paradise of coral and other marine life.

This page:  
On the table, beside the solid wooden tray with red flowers, is a traditional rice mortar, known in Malay as a "*lesung*" – after which the Philippine island of "*Luzon*" is named. Every piece of furnishing in Estate 1 is sourced from different countries of the Malay Archipelago, yet they form a harmonious mix as they all share the same cultural heritage.





Estate 1 has an excellent collection of *pandanus* species thriving on its acreage, ranging from the huge ones in the foreground of this photo, to the tinier variations that look like tufts of grass.

#### WEAVING THE RAIN FOREST INTO THE CULTURAL FABRIC

The *pandanus* is a plant that is very much a part of the handicraft culture of the Malay Archipelago and there are as many uses for this plant as there are species. The leaves of this plant are used to weave *mengkuang* mats and baskets.

One species, the seashore screw pine (*Pandanus tectorius*), grows on the beach in Estate 1. Its compound fruit looks like a red pineapple and is composed of the fused fruits of individual flowers, each topped by an indurated style. In Thailand, the fruit is wielded like a teasel for combing out yarn, and in Myanmar, as a scrubbing brush. The fragrant species of *pandanus* is used as flavouring for local *kueh* (cakes) and *kaya* (coconut jam made from coconut cream, eggs and palm sugar or *gula melaka*), jellies, *nasi lemak*, and *pandan* chicken.

#### KNOWLEDGE FROM THE SEA'S SCHOOLS

An introduction to the teeming marine life in Pangkor Laut begins right at the jetty itself as the visitor disembarks. A school of Sergeant Majors, colourful inquisitive fish that flash the insignia of a military sergeant major on their sides, mill about in the waters and hope for titbits thrown to them. Black stripes

against a bright background of blue and yellow scales, the Sergeant Major (*Abudefduf saxatilis*, family *Pomacentridae*) belongs to the damselfish family and can grow to a length of about 15cm.

An ardent snorkeler may come across three not-so-common fish that inhabit these waters: the copperhead butterflyfish (*Chelmon rostratus*, family *Chaetodontidae*), the peacock grouper (*Cephalopholis argus*), and the blue-spotted stingray (*Taeniura lymma*).

The shallow waters also yield a whole host of other fish that snorkelers will have no trouble spotting. Among them is the skunk anemonefish (*Amphiprion akallopisos*), a brown-scaled fish with a distinctive white stripe down its back that lives among anemones, a type of coral which is poisonous to most fish but acts as protection for the fish that do manage to live among its waving tentacles.

Fish generally get their colours from what they eat. Hence, coral fish are usually colourful because their food consists of the vibrantly coloured corals, but they are not as tasty on the dinner plate! The surgeonfish (family *Acanthuridae*) in these waters is a black and white fish that owes its name to the hard spines at the base of its tail. When provoked or in danger,





The ripe compound fruit of the seashore screwpine (*Pandanus odoratissimus*) that thrives on Estate 1.



a flip of its tail will unsheathe a scalpel-like spine from each side of its tail. Another resident, the striking harlequin nudibranch (*Doridaceans*), a soft-bodied, shell-less marine mollusc, is easily identified by the twin tentacles on its head as well as a crown on its back that is made of its scales. Its bright colours serve as a warning to predators.

#### THE RAIN FOREST OF THE SEA

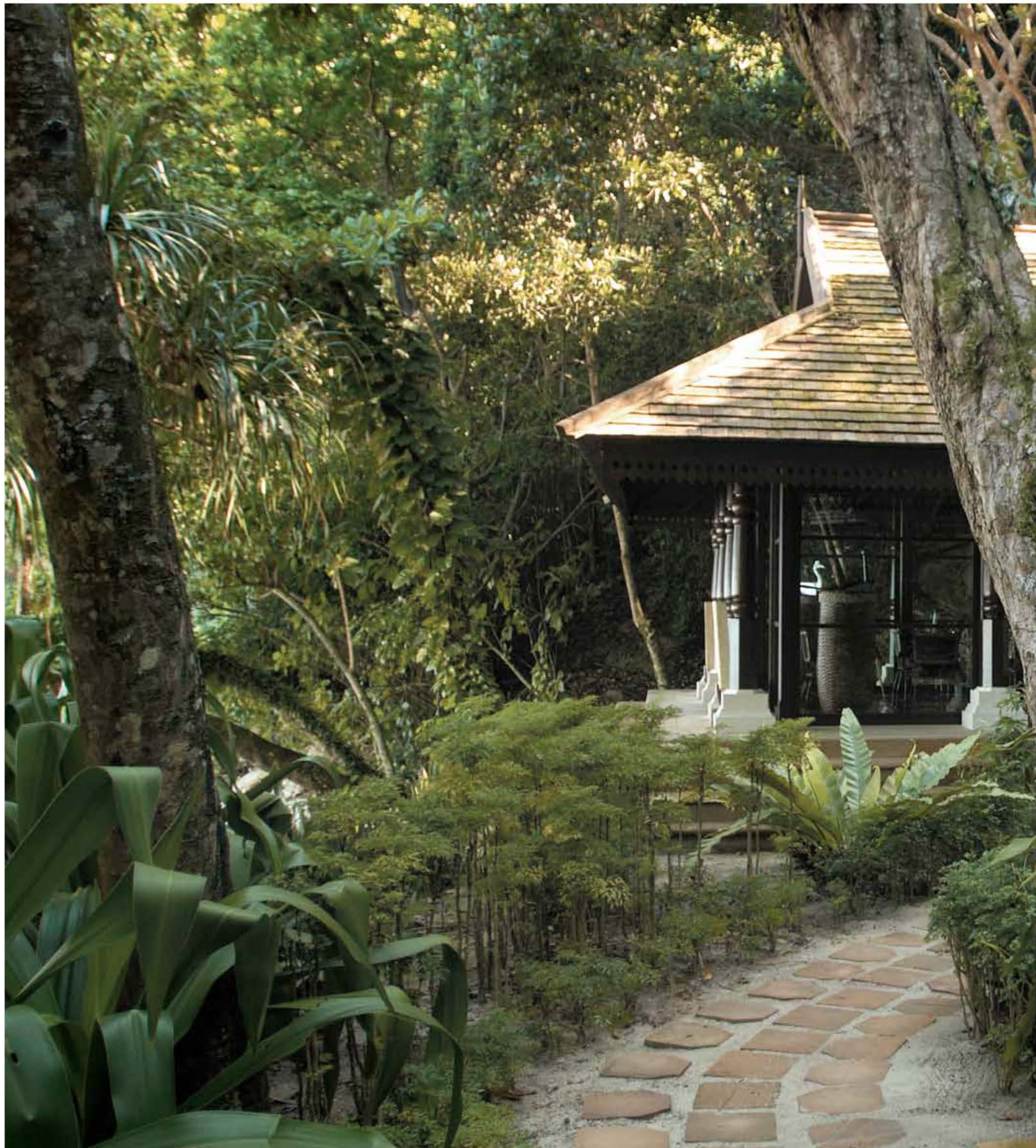
Unexpectedly rich in their biodiversity, coral reefs are often dubbed “the rain forest of the sea”. When corals spawn, the current disperses the tiny new babies. Those that take root and grow do so in areas where the water is clear and the light plentiful. This is because corals are sensitive creatures that require the right amount of light and food in order to survive and thrive. The presence of silt reduces the growth of corals since the amount of suspended sediment blocks out the light so essential for coral growth. Thus dive instructors were pleasantly surprised to discover how healthy Marina Bay’s coral reefs were, despite poor visibility caused by silting from major developments on the mainland. The finest coral specimens of Marina Bay are located a bit further away from the shore, at a depth of about 50 feet.

Corals are divided into hard corals and soft corals. Hard corals found here include the staghorn, tube, compact, brain, boulder, lode pore, fine table, and funnel corals. Among the soft corals that grow in this vicinity are the sea squirt, orange cup, orange seawhip, delicate whip, gorgonian sea fan and harp corals.

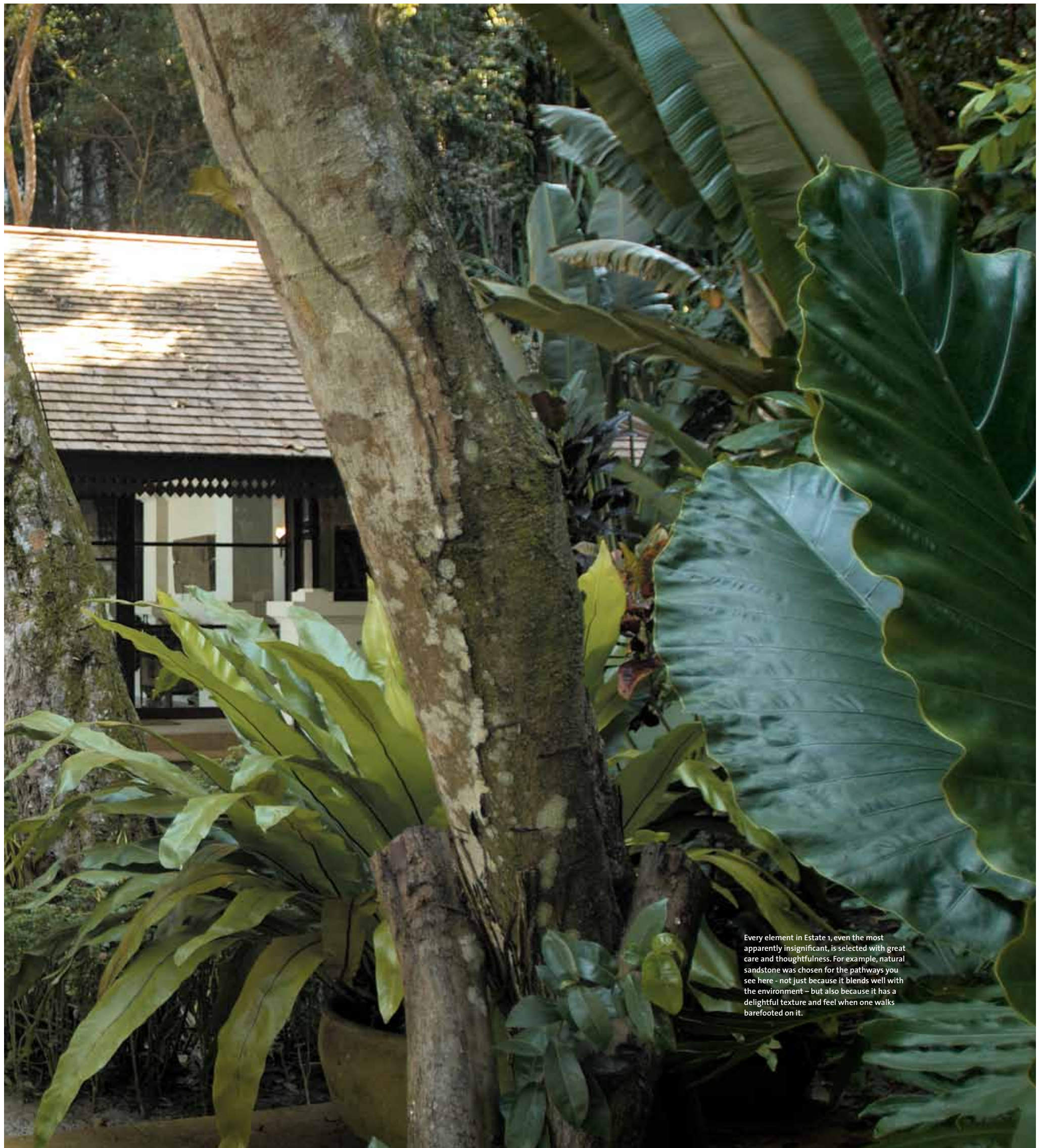
Some of the best examples of marine life in Pangkor Laut can be seen near the rocks of Marina Bay. “In those magical moments between tides when the water is very still, what the locals call *air mati*, the bottom of the sea can be very clearly seen,” says Richard Smith, one of YTL’s dive instructors. “The fish in Pangkor Laut were initially not easy to approach and observe. Now you can get closer as the fish no longer perceive divers as quite so threatening. They are less affected, so they will continue with their natural behaviour – protecting their territory, swimming about and feeding – instead of fleeing.”

This spectacle of coral reefs and ancient forest thriving in Estate 1 eloquently expresses the harmony between nature and architecture, and provides much-needed encouragement for future conservation efforts.









Every element in Estate 1, even the most apparently insignificant, is selected with great care and thoughtfulness. For example, natural sandstone was chosen for the pathways you see here - not just because it blends well with the environment - but also because it has a delightful texture and feel when one walks barefooted on it.