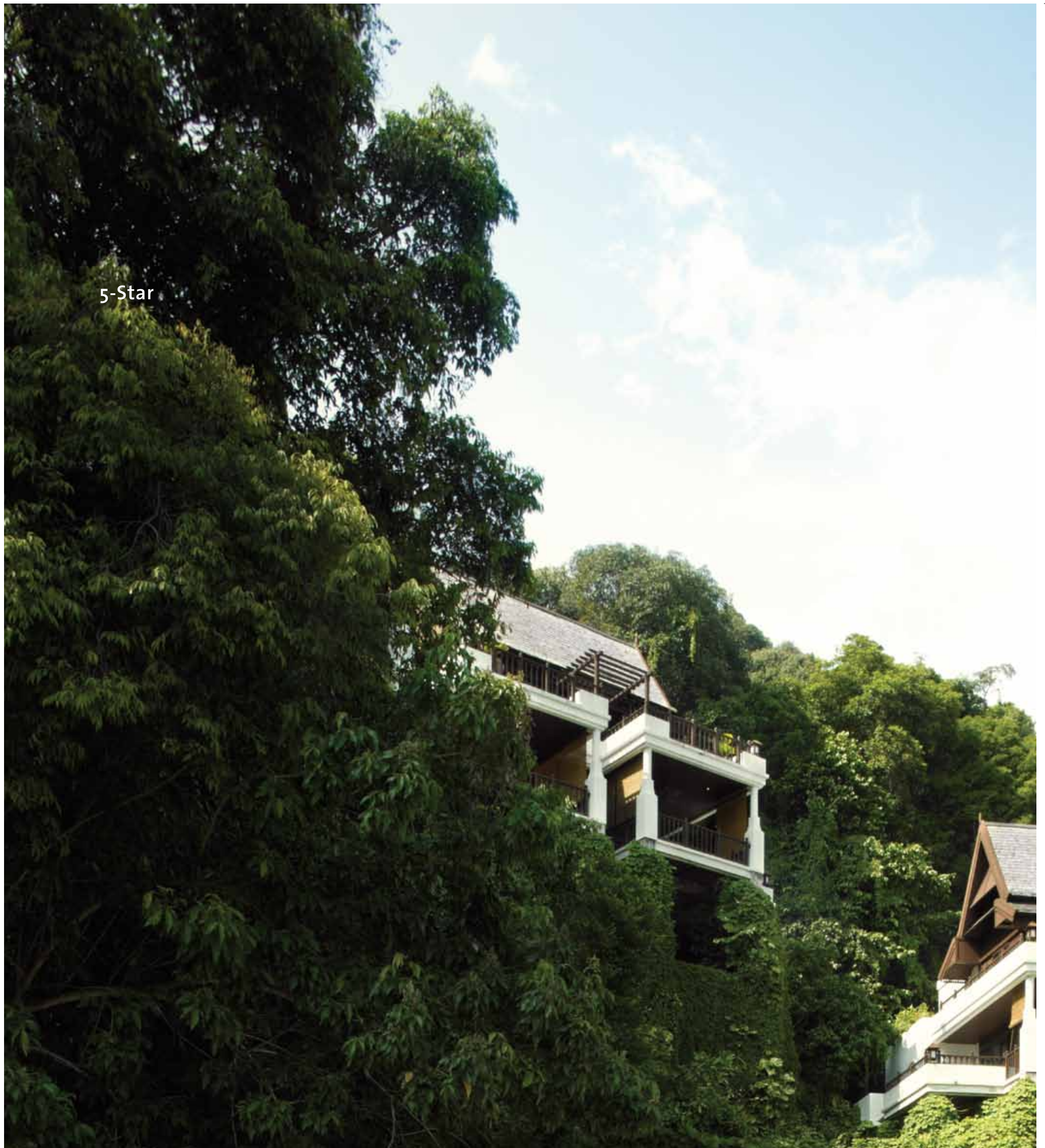


Pangkor Laut Resort

5-Star



“Don’t worry spiders
I keep house casually”
– Kobayashi Issa –

This *haiku* also expresses the care, compassion and good humour espoused on Pangkor Laut with regards to nature conservation.

Rain Forest

“For unadulterated indulgence, there is nowhere else you’d rather be than the private island of Pangkor Laut Resort in Malaysia. Long a favourite, it went straight to the top of the Overseas Destination Spa category this year, its new sensational Spa Village winning it sufficiently high scores to ensure that Pangkor Laut Resort also made the number one spot in our ‘best of the best’ Top 100.”

– Condé Nast Traveller UK Readers’ Travel Awards 2003 –

Every Estate on Pangkor Laut is designed to be complete unto itself. With two butlers and a resident chef, private spas, personal jungle, or even private beach or hill, residents may request anything and enjoy life to the fullest without ever stepping out of an Estate’s acreage. However, should one decide to explore the rest of this private island, a litany of pleasant surprises awaits amidst the jungle and the rocks. From Pangkor Laut Resort to the Spa Village, Chapman’s Bar to the Fisherman’s Cove, each amenity is designed to be in harmony with the environment, optimising the bounty of the rain forest, the geology and the seas surrounding it.

PANGKOR LAUT RESORT

“This place is enchanting, it is a paradise. The morning when I woke up I went out and I was really moved, almost crying, to see what beautiful things God had done. This is a paradise,” gushed Luciano Pavarotti when he first experienced this resort. It was the God-given beauty of the natural surroundings that prompted Pavarotti’s spontaneous response – not the architecture – because the buildings were designed to be eclipsed by the rain forest. This principle was in place from day one of Pangkor Laut’s inception.

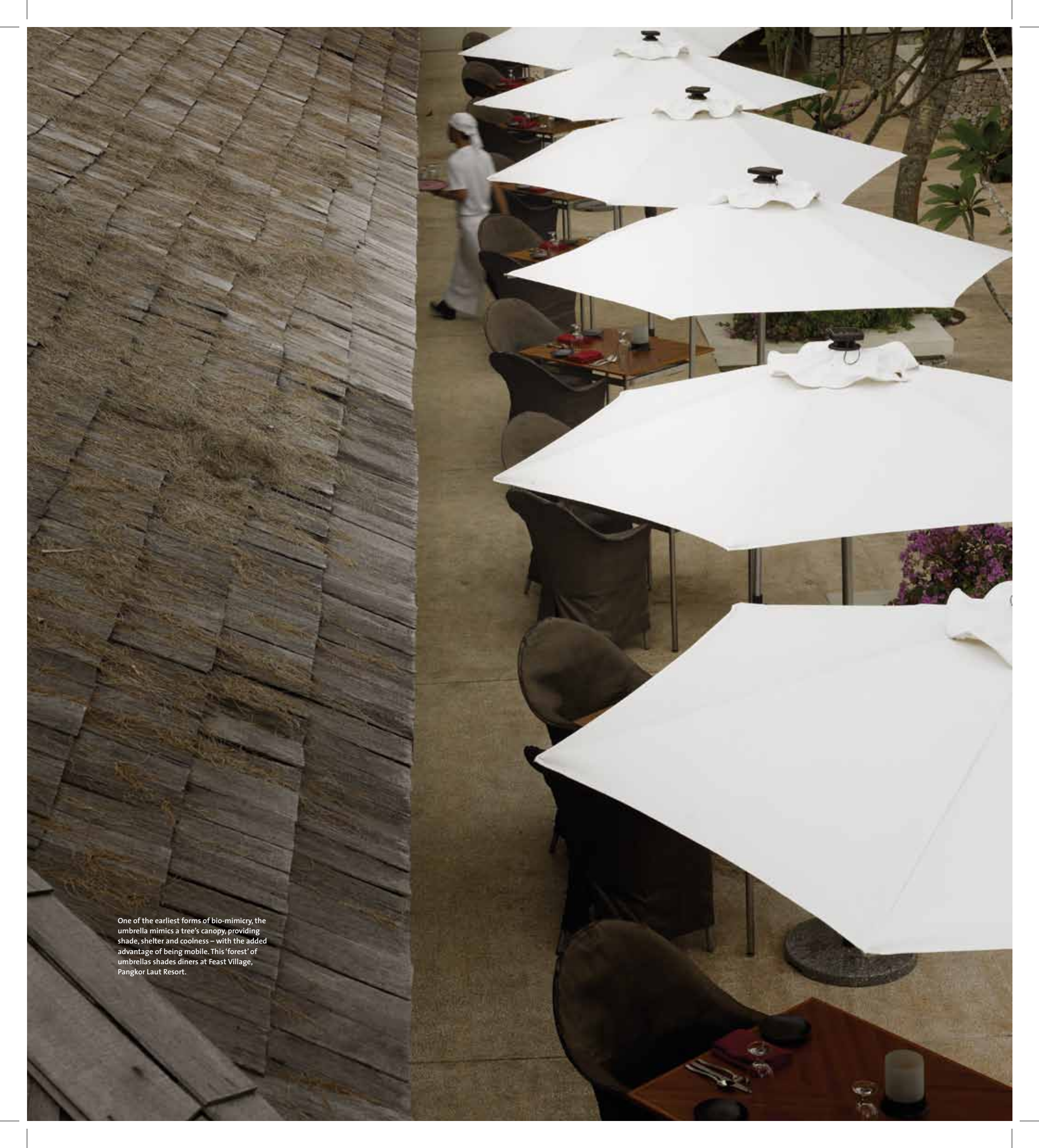
Based on many indigenous designs from the greater Malay Archipelago, the buildings of Pangkor Laut Resort will always look appropriate in their jungle context and will never look dated. Timber is a strong element in the architecture here, used respectfully and intelligently. Take for example, the Library, one of the very first structures to be built on the island. While it is an anomaly that a resort has a library as its first building, it is a testament to the priorities this establishment is committed to.

Four massive pillars of wood hold up the Library, each of which was an entire ancient chengal tree. These four columns are the very same ones from the original Library built decades ago, and retained when Pangkor Laut Resort was refurbished. The use of wood in this manner for this region parallels the use of marble in Greek and Roman civilisations.

Exploring beyond the Library to the other parts of the Resort, one gets a sense of orientation through its natural axis. Subtle crafting of the architecture and landscape ensures the experience does not get monotonous despite the endless expanses of greenery. Careful placing of “courtyards within courtyards” is one of the architectural techniques employed. The entrance corridor is also designed as a sequence of spaces, so one is continually experiencing new spaces and new sensations.

Nature and architecture merge so splendidly that guests have wondered where the jungle starts and where living spaces end. Trekking with the resident naturalist through the rain forest even revises one’s concept of time. Moments of quiet contemplation, ‘aha’ moments, as well as breathtaking moments descend subconsciously at different points. Sudden revelations of ocean vistas through gaps between the rocks change one’s perception of depth and space. The result is nobody ever leaves Pangkor Laut Resort as quite the same person.

How is this achieved? The architect of Pangkor Laut Resort, Baldip Singh Bhullar, shares his disarmingly simple maxim, “Make the buildings disappear as much as possible”. That way, the rain forest that so moved Pavarotti will continue doing so for countless others, just as its Creator intended.



One of the earliest forms of bio-mimicry, the umbrella mimics a tree's canopy, providing shade, shelter and coolness – with the added advantage of being mobile. This 'forest' of umbrellas shades diners at Feast Village, Pangkor Laut Resort.



Serving deliciously fresh cuisine drawn from an ancient fusion of Malay Archipelago influences, Uncle Lim's Kitchen is set against gigantic boulders.

Juxtaposing granite boulders and natural timber with handwoven silks, private dining booths line both sides of The Straits Restaurant.

NOURISHED BY NATURE

Robin Leach, host of “Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous”, described Pangkor Laut as “pure Robinson Crusoe country,” *sans* hardship and hunger. Various dining outlets are carefully placed throughout the island, blending in with the luxuriant foliage and the huge boulders. Each offers a different culinary adventure in their respective cuisines, yet all share the same commitment to freshness and 100% natural ingredients. The chefs, raised in the region, know where to source the choicest cuts and fighting-fresh produce. Schooled in their respective traditions, it has been reported that discerning palattes can taste the centuries of refinement in their cooking.

Feast Village

As the name suggests, Feast Village is an exciting heart of culinary activity, abuzz with sizzling woks, fragrant native herbs and spices, baskets and cauldrons. Located beside Royal Bay, it is a highly evolved extension of the buffet concept, with five show kitchen islands with these culinary adventures: 1. Western / Italian / French cuisine; 2. Chinese / Thai / Vietnamese; 3. Teppanyaki; 4. Sashimi / Sushi; 5. Indian / Tandoori / Middle Eastern / Malay. Besides the show kitchen islands, there is a bakery, café, and wine cellar.

To ensure maximum quality, the food is freshly cooked in front of patrons when they place their orders at their selected islands, unlike regular buffets which have every item already cooked and laid out for common perusal. For rather more adventurous diners, do explore the quieter nook of Feast Village, where one will discover a private dining room – replete with white board and chef’s office in the adjacent space. The food on offer here is the degustation menu of the day, with the message: “Come dine in my office”.

Fisherman’s Cove

Adjacent to the Spa Village, Fisherman’s Cove is a fine dining restaurant with stunning views of the sea. Architecturally, it derives its inspiration from Thai tradition, a part of the Malay Archipelago. True to its name, Fisherman’s Cove

features seafood so fresh, it comes directly off the boats of local fishermen and flavoured with herbs freshly gathered from the adjacent Spa Village Pangkor Laut garden.

Chapman’s Bar

Located on Emerald Bay, this bar is named after the famous British colonel, Freddy Spencer Chapman, who spent 36 hours on Pangkor Laut hiding from Japanese soldiers during World War II and made his dramatic escape from this very spot in May 1945.

Aside from Chapman’s Bar, the rest of Emerald Bay is intentionally left undeveloped. If Chapman were to return to Pangkor Laut today, he would undoubtedly notice that Emerald Bay is as he left it. The same beach of powdery soft sand, pristine emerald-green waters and rain forest. In fact, Emerald Bay was ranked among the top ten beaches in the world by “Ultratravel”, the luxury travel magazine of UK’s “The Daily Telegraph”, in their Summer 2008 issue.

Sembilan Island Adventure and Sunset Cruise

These are for explorers who plan to go beyond the rain forest on the island and out to sea. Both are held on board Pangkor Laut’s teakwood Oriental junk, reminiscent of the 15th-century trading ships which sailed through the Straits of Malacca. Though technically not architecture in the conventional sense of the word, such junks were homes for countless people during voyages to this region, bearing silks, Ming Dynasty porcelain, paper and princesses in exchange for exotic rain forest produce.

The fact that such precious cargo was used to barter for jungle products provides an educated estimate of the immense value of the rain forest 600 years ago. Today, the value of the rain forest has become even more priceless as the world is increasingly beset by climate change. To address this challenge in Malaysia and regionally, YTL leads the way with its annual Climate Change Week programme which comes up with solutions and activates changes.



On this page:
Outdoors or indoors, or both? With the delightful way the trees grow into the bar area through the window and through the roof, there is no need for an answer.

Opposite:
The Library of Pangkor Laut Resort, and its annexe, where one can curl up on handwoven rattan chairs to read under the 'umbrellas' of rain forest trees.





*"Our estate was fantastic, far more beautiful than we ever thought it could be. Our bedroom looks out on a white sand shoreline and a deep blue sea. It's completely romantic. We have our own cook. The place is entirely peaceful as we are entirely on our own in our own private estate in paradise. We hope to come back again in years to come - with a family."
- Emma Noble and James Major -*



Spa Hut of Spa Village Pangkor Laut

“The Pangkor Laut Resort isn’t quite Eden, but it’s as close as you’ll get in this life.”
- Robert Erdmann, photographer for Sports Illustrated -



Nap pavilion of Spa Village Pangkor Laut

SPA VILLAGE PANGKOR LAUT

Nature’s Healing Touch


It can be observed that many spas in other resorts are part of an annexe, or have a wing set aside for that purpose. Some even appear to have been added on as an afterthought. In a different league altogether, Spa Village Pangkor Laut was designed to be a destination in its own right. As the name indicates, it is an entire village dedicated to the spa experience; and its treatments are also inspired by the time-tested therapies of local villages. At its conceptual stage, the designers of Spa Village, Sylvia Sepielli and Baldip Singh Bhullar contemplated the essence of the vicinity, the cultures and traditions of the region – by spending three days and three nights on the island absorbing the essence of the place – without referring to any books at all. From there, everything evolved naturally, including the treatments and the architecture.

The treatment menu of Spa Village Pangkor Laut is devoid of kitsch and trends. Instead, everything is derived purely from time-honoured bath experiences and healing cultures actively practised in this region, which include the Malay *materia medica*, Indian *Ayurveda* and traditional Chinese medicine. These healing systems have used the forest apothecary for up to 5,000 years. Ninety percent of the spa products here are prepared just prior to application. Interested parties can request to see the therapists peeling, pounding and grinding their ingredients. The spa menus utilise the region’s rich heritage in traditional and botanical treatments, using 100 percent natural ingredients. Most are sourced fresh daily from the forest or the traditional wet markets, or stored with great care to maintain optimum efficacy.

The Spa Village’s architectural language is that of the greater Malay Archipelago, in harmony with the rest of Pangkor Laut. The architectural “intrinsic power of the axis” in its design was provided by an immense granite

rock embraced by the roots of a rain forest tree. Using this dominant feature as an axis, other elements like its lap pool, herb gardens, massage huts, nap pavilions, ponds and wells, were aligned accordingly. Understanding the therapeutic qualities of water, even the cadence of this element is skilfully crafted to help guests de-stress step-by-step. To achieve that, the reception features sparkling splashes; this gradually moves on to the gentler trickling of Zen water as you enter, and then slowly it evolves to almost inaudible ripples within the inner sanctum. Subconsciously, guests are lulled from the frenetic pace of the outside world into one of peace and harmony.

The male and female sections of Spa Village Pangkor Laut are designed clockwise and anti-clockwise respectively, incorporating the Yin-Yang principles into the architecture. A courtyard and the Jamu Bar are also thoughtfully incorporated into the male section to balance out the differences in treatment duration for couples, as women traditionally have longer spa sessions than men. To help patrons in their transition from the passive pace of spa treatments back to the active world, nap pavilions are provided. Featuring large overhangs and lattices to soften the sun’s rays and cool the air, each guest is cradled in their private pavilion where they can nap, sketch, read or write before proceeding to their next experience on the island. When one scrutinises the map of the island, it will be noted that Spa Village Pangkor Laut faces east. This is an ideal position because the light of the rising sun is traditionally believed to cleanse and purify. At its entrance, two pools of water are strategically placed to herald the rising sun. These pools also reflect its gentle glow deep into the interiors, inviting the reflection of sunlit ripples to dance upon the Spa’s ceiling from dawn until noon. These are but a few examples of how harmony is restored utilising the architectural principles of balance, symmetry and rhythm.

A photograph of a tropical garden. In the center, a large, textured tree trunk stands vertically. To the right, a wooden fence with a woven pattern is visible. In the foreground, several large, green, elongated leaves of a plant, possibly a type of fern or orchid, are prominently displayed. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The overall atmosphere is serene and romantic.

*"Pangkor Laut was everything one could hope for
in a honeymoon because it was restful, romantic,
private and it was perfect."
- Joan Collins and Percy Gibson -*



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