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These pages, top: the private villa of the TPV Estate is designed to give the illusion of floating cubes. The dining area overlooks the impressive view while the dining table is a Dutch Era antique found in Galle. Opposite page, bottom left, the pool chairs are designed for longevity with concrete bases. The shade is made of cinnamon timber; bottom right: the view of the pool and hillside from the third cube. This page, above left: the entrance cube with sculptures that depict the owners' love for animals; bottom left, clockwise from left: Patrick Österman, Vadim Stepanoff and Thomas Elbaum, designers and owners of TPV Estate and Three by TPV with their pet Coco.



Located amidst the breathtaking scenery of Wanduramba in Galle, the TPV Estate is a private villa designed with a creative and inspired ethos. Text by Keshini de Silva

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Photo Vadim Stepanoff



Photo Vadim Stepanoff

Thomas Elbaum, Patrick Österman and Vadim Stepanoff TPV Estate



Top left: the rooms are furnished with modern chic and a subtle tone with gentle pops of colour; top right: the bathrooms are modern and minimalist with a skylight instead of a window. Centre left: the state-of-the-art kitchen with a skylight and cupboard made to design in Moratuwa, the heart of carpentry in Sri Lanka. Below, the terrace overlooking the beautiful view at dawn is fringed by the pond. Opposite page, top: the lounge connected to nature with large glass windows; below: the dining cube at dawn. The unique topograph adds to the character of the villa.

The TPV Estate in Galle is a six-acre land with a private villa, which overlooks the mesmerising scenery of the Wanduramba hills. Designed by the owners Thomas Elbaum, Patrick Österman and Vadim Stepanoff; the private villa cocooned by greenery provides the illusion of three “floating ice cubes”. In relation to the designers and owners of the estate, the number three plays an important role in the design.

Upon entering the land, one must enter through a cubic formation. Due to the incline, once at the top, the scenery and first two structures come into view, creating an almost dramatic effect. The most compelling sight is that of the open dining area, which looks like a cubic formation floating off the hill. The bigger cube structure on the left hosts the main living quarters of the owners, the lounge, terrace overlooking the mountainside, four luxury rooms and a state-of-the-art kitchen. On the highest point of the land is located the third cube, which includes a private bar, bathroom, sauna and open lounge; all overlooking the plunge pool.

The simplicity of the architecture accentuates the beauty of the property. The three main structures and other buildings throughout the land are in cubic form; the total floor area of the structures is 9,750 square feet. Three of these have roof gardens. The structures, from the walls to the flooring, have a greycement finish, to com-



plement the environment as well as to ensure easy maintenance of the property. Many of the installations such as the pool chairs are made of concrete for longevity. Stainless steel has also been largely used in construction for this same reason. The palette is subtle with the main colours being grey, black, copper and purple. With efficiency in mind, the designers have sought to introduce colour through linens such as cushion covers, which can be changed easily.

The owners Thomas Elbaum, Patrick Österman and Vadim Stepanoff who are also the proprietors of the lifestyle stores Three by TPV. Their keen eye for selecting unique interior installations, which have a contemporary artistic feel and

distinctive aura, flows through the spaces of the private villa. From decorative sculptures to light installations and even tableware, there is diversity as well as a seamless connection. The trio’s love for animals is evident through the interior as well. The selection of objet d’art are either of their own design, or have been selected from overseas. These steel sculptures are spread throughout the garden as well. While furniture has also been imported, the wooden cupboards in the kitchen and other rooms were designed

in-house and produced by carpenters in Moratuwa. In addition, a wooden Dutch-era table found in Galle, featured in the dining area is surrounded by copper chairs. Art is an important element of the owners, therefore paintings that were specifically commissioned for the villa add character to each room.

The kitchen is equipped with industrial range appliances, which are durable and easily maintained. The roughly finished wooden table and vintage locker cupboard add a unique character to the kitchen.

The design has sought to interact with nature as much as possible, with large glass windows and doors. The element water is introduced through a long pond with a fountain; although the Galle coast is located approximately 30 minutes away. Skylights have been used in the bathrooms and kitchen to maximise the use of daylight. Solar power system is in place and will operate the entire estate once it has been connected to the National Grid. Throughout the TPV estate, tea and cinnamon have been planted. There is also a herb garden. Meanwhile, cinnamon sticks from the estate are used for the shade of the pool chairs and for a light feature on the third level.

While the unique topography of the land is part of its distinctive character and was a great source of inspiration for the design of the villa,



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it proved to be a challenge during construction. Another challenge for the Scandinavian designers and owners was the difficulty in communicating their ideas to the construction team, especially in terms of finishes.

However, in the end, through a collaborated team effort and after 12 months of construction they were able to create a characteristic private villa with a continuous theme, while also ensuring the TPV Estate is surrounded by nature and enjoys its serenity.