



ISLAND OPUS

Desires quenched. Twenty-eight cutting-edge hilltop residences emerging amid giant granite boulders and thoughtfully integrated with nature, on an untouched island. Each one unique, organically sculpted for space and privacy. Out of this world. Yours to own with Per Aquum, an established leader and innovator in luxury travel experiences. Architect Richard Hywel Evans sheds his light.

www.zilpasyon.com

ZIL PASYON

SEYCHELLES



Architecture with new meaning

Through Zil Pasyon, the Per Aquum lifestyle now includes a mould-breaking ownership experience. As the designer behind it, how would you describe your approach?

Richard Hywel Evans (RHE): A simple question: Whatever happened to independent thinking? To a new idea, to designing something unique? Does everything have to be another formulaic box?

We formed RHE Architecture & Design to do something different. And it worked. Today we have over fifteen major design awards to our name and have delivered over fifty architectural projects around the world. Our secret, you're asking? Simple, really: we believe in being bold.

How would you sum up your vision for Zil Pasyon?

RHE: Our desire is to create a whole new standard for holiday destinations in terms of vision, design, experience and sustainability. The resort is to be created from indigenous materials to melt into the landscape - boosting residents' bond with the island's improbable natural beauty, staggering views and ultra-healthy environment.

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RHE: We want to create a new 'stealth' architecture that remains unseen from the surrounding islands, camouflaged by the site's natural materials. Each of the buildings is life-changing to experience but minimal in environmental impact.

Have you done anything like this before?

RHE: In Grenada, West Indies, we created a 'Super-Villa' semi-submerged into the landscape. On the island it's known as the 'Cave House' and is surrounded by rumours of underground tunnels and rockface lifts!

How does your concept match the Per Aquum vision?

RHE: We have a natural affinity with Per Aquum, their company philosophy is 'Naturally Modern'. The same line could be applied to our work. We both believe in maximising the potential of each site, pioneering rather than following others, and delivering more. Too much resort design is based upon cynical money-making opportunities - we share the belief that we should be creating beautiful 'surprise and delight' features wherever possible.

In what ways did Félicité Island and the Seychelles inspire you?

RHE: The Islands are the inspiration. Amazingly, each differs from its neighbour. Félicité is unique in being a black granite island with distinctively rounded, Jurassic, 'whale-back' forms and riotous green vegetation growing inbetween. It was clear to us that although we had previously worked in the Seychelles, Félicité's unique profile had to be kept and not tainted by white villas on the hillside.

I spent last Christmas snorkelling with my children on Cocos Island facing Félicité - a different way of seeing the island site. This confirmed our design direction of natural camouflage with a unique play on water and the use of natural light.

What other design-inspiring sources are there?

RHE: Our work draws inspiration from all modern culture. There are references to aircraft, yachts, furniture, literature, art and music - Félicité's got the lot!

The role of water and light seems central to your design here...

RHE: The Seychelles are unique in the world - the clarity of light and the water's natural transparency and colour are what people dream about. We wanted to find ways of expressing this throughout the buildings. For example, using the swimming pool as a roof light in the villas provides a unique experience, beautiful filtered light and great entertainment!

If you had to describe Zil Pasyon in five words...

RHE: Spectacular. Unique. Natural. Beautiful. Dynamic. But words are too weak.

How would you describe the resort's future atmosphere?

RHE: There are environments, experiences and spaces to match your every mood - relaxed, energetic, fashionable, laid-back, sexy, dream-like...

It's a cocktail of everything that works at Huvafen Fushi, with some new thinking and spatial relationships. It acknowledges that people want much, much more from their vacation time than just relaxation.

What do you want a Zil Pasyon resident to experience?

RHE: Everything! We have possibilities for every human sense. Personal appetite is the only limitation.

We want it to be everyone's favourite space - even if they're not quite sure why.

If Zil Pasyon were a car, what brand would it be? A person? A furniture brand?

RHE: A car? The Maserati Gran Turismo 2007.

Total luxury from design firm Pininfarina and an enigmatic, classic, Grand Prix-winning marque that makes the hairs stand up on your neck, from the tuned exhaust note to the contrast stitched leather upholstery and signature clock. It's a refined, informed driving experience that's not for everybody. And looking to the future, it has to be a hybrid!

A person? Jade Jagger - beautiful, cool, vibrant, connected, natural, multi-faceted, designer/DJ.

The furniture brand? Minotti - design-driven, flexible, craftsman-made, elegant, unique.

What will the interior decoration be like?

RHE: Importantly, we will be designing everything on the island so that there is a single signature. The spaces are created to be furnished in a particular way. By maintaining one design intent, we will ensure that the undiluted vision is delivered.

The spaces will be elegant, chic, surprising and comfortable, utilising the world's best brands: B&O, Kohle, Moroso, Minotti, Sub Zero, Apple... Everything required to create the 'favourite place'.

Luxury in its raw state



Artist's conception only. All floor plans, other plans and amenities are subject to change without notice. Dimensions, specifications and amenities may vary or be optional.

Zil Pasyon – Per Aquum's most exclusive destination yet – is Seychellois Creole for Island of Passion.

Designed as an experience to lust after. Poised to indulge every desire. Nestling on a small segment of unspoilt Félicité, one of the inner Seychelles islands, commanding panoramic views of the aquamarine Indian Ocean, this upscale private-island resort knows no limits. A gathering place for those in the know. Dramatically approached by helicopter, down to the private helipad.

Wild, unblemished splendour all around. Jungle canopies fringing Jurassic cliffs. Dazzling beaches caressing smooth granite shoulders and boulder archways. Secluded bays. High in the sky, emerging from the rawness of a primal eco-system, only 28 Bond-style residences. Pupil-wrenching form factor. Absolute privacy. The ultimate fusion of open-plan living and humble landscape-driven design. Sophisticated, lusciously understated lifestyle. So much sexier. If Zil Pasyon were a metal? Silver-white palladium, not blingy gold. A food? Sashimi, provocatively raw but immensely refined.

Worship your lush nature. Or come down from your hillside HQ and party. Shop. Lounge. Dine. Imbibe. Down at the resort, life sizzles. A rock and water spa with attitude. Vistas and hidden nooks showcasing the Seychelles' beauty and promising sensual escapes. Epicurean addresses for intimate celebrations, including the world's first-ever natural granite wine cave. A limited number of beachfront villas for non-resident guests. An avant-garde lifestyle mix like nothing else out there. Passion beyond fashion.

Thoughts

the resort www.zilpasyon.com
the search hedonistic + überchic, Jet Sex + privacy, height + space + ownership
the definition perfect Feng Shui, salt and sweet flavours in absolute balance
the reason sybaritic island living in a surreal setting
the look sensual stealth

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