



# The Art of Eco-Development

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ARCHITECTURE AS ART. ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE ART AT THAT. THIS IS THE VISION ACCLAIMED ITALIAN ARCHITECT AND DESIGNER GIACOMO PASSERA HAS FOR SEA SENTOSA, BALI'S LATEST LUXURY DEVELOPMENT.

**G**iacomo Passera loves art, ecology and Italian design. It's a combination that has seen him through designing awe-inspiring buildings around the world for the past 35 years. It's the combination which has now brought him to Bali to play a leading role, alongside local Indonesian architect Putu Edy Semara, in creating a resort complex that will lead the way in luxury eco-development.

Passera is not your average architect, however. In his own words what he does can effectively be called "haute couture for the home." What this means is that not a single aspect of Sea Sentosa will escape his artist's eye. From the bare bones structure and walls, to the interior furnishings and artworks, to the fabrics used and the very plates guests will eat off, Passera will be involved. "I will be working on the outside and the inside. It is impossible for me to do one without the other," he explains.

The real art for him, however, will lie in combining his love of Italian style with local Balinese materials and finishings as well as environmental sensibility. It sounds like a big ask. Before Passera could accept this project,

however, it was imperative that it would, "include vegetal construction and that all construction completely blends with the natural background – I did not want to see concrete walls on the beach." Having been satisfied on this score thanks to the inclusion

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of such design elements as Patrick Blanc's living vegetal walls, Passera set about designing a hotel that, "will be a Balinese construction with Italian influence and art, contemporary design and the most ecologically advanced processes."

"When you are inside you will have the

impression of living outside," Passera promises of the Sea Sentosa apartments. Which, to be fair, is typical of the Balinese living experience. Not so typical, however, will be the pure Italian energy to go with the balmy tropical lifestyle. As part of Sea Sentosa, Passera is designing an Italian piazza – a shopping galleria if you will – which will replicate the very best of European sidewalk café lifestyle.

Passera knows full well that, "you cannot just transfer Italian design onto another country." While drawing on his Italian style and worldwide knowledge of architecture and design from his extensive travels, "I will be adapting this worldwide influence to create a design that will blend in with the place it calls home," reassures Passera. "In Bali, this means that nature, the vegetation here, is particularly important. You can be sure this has influenced me greatly on this project."

The end result? An ever-evolving eco-design, a giant work of art really, that will in no way detract from the natural beauty of its surroundings. A certain creator couldn't have done it better himself. **ERV**