



*Luxury Design*  
**ALILA  
 DIWA**  
 Goa's old world charm blends with  
 contemporary luxury  
 Architecture  
*Stapati*  
 Interior Design  
*Plan Design West*

Alila Hotels & Resorts - owner of nine boutique hotels and resorts in India and the Asia Pacific region - decided to expand its luxury destination travel brand to a beautiful oasis off the coast of Majorda Beach in Goa, India. A serene landscape of lush, verdant rice plantations flowing towards the Arabian Sea sets the stage for this refreshingly unique resort, which has won high honors - including "Critics' Award" for Best New Hotel in India at the HICSA Conference.



▲ View of the swimming pool in the Diwa Club

**ARCHITECTURE**

One of the primary considerations of the architectural consultants from Stapati, while designing the Alila Diwa resort, was the articulation of an architectural vocabulary which was rooted in Goan sensibilities - while at the same time being contemporary and relevant. With the firm being well known for creative design solutions and attention to detail - as well as its use of traditional elements in a modern context, they truly lived up to the client's expectations of wanting it to be as contextual to the place and time, as possible. To this end, the language and proportions used were a direct evolution of the detailed analysis done by Stapati on Goan vernacular architecture.

The elements of the site formed strong generators which guided their physical and visual planning process. One of the main strategies was to integrate all the existing trees into their spaces, taking care to conserve the existing trees while the built spaces were organized around them. Thus, the cluster of mango trees became part of the main courtyard, while the banyan trees adjacent to the Spice Studio - the specialty restaurant - defined the ambience of the space.

The architects wanted all the spaces to be in tune with the elements of nature, which was a major planning principle which guided their design process and ultimately the spatial syntax. Thus the building has a very open planning which allows the spaces to flow freely. The surrounding views and vistas further helped evolve the zoning - with spaces oriented to maximise the views over the terraces of the distant paddy fields. Except for critical areas like rooms, conference halls and portions of the main restaurant, all other areas are left open allowing the flow of natural light and wind. The microclimatic considerations were further carried forward in the positioning of the swimming pool, where careful analysis of the wind direction helped in orienting the swimming pool so as to bring cool air into the courtyards. High energy efficiency is achieved by opening out the plan and allowing the natural flow of air and light. This is especially evident in all the common areas which are devoid of any artificial lighting in the day time, thereby cutting down the energy load.

◀ Infinity Pool

A further aspect that was considered by the architects was imparting a human scale to the large built-up areas. This was achieved by innovative design details which evolved from their analysis of the vernacular architecture of Goa. There is also a functional clarity to the circulation, with clearly segregated circulation paths for the guests and the services. One of the challenges of the project was to keep the services hidden, especially since the built spaces are really spread out.

The concern for the context was further carried forward even in the landscaping - where only the native plant species were used, while maintaining all the existing vegetation on site. This further accentuates the local character and highlights the indigenous flora of Goa. Also, the use of native plants reduces the maintenance requirement. The material palette was consciously kept to a minimum, using only locally available materials like laterite.



▲ The Diwa Club

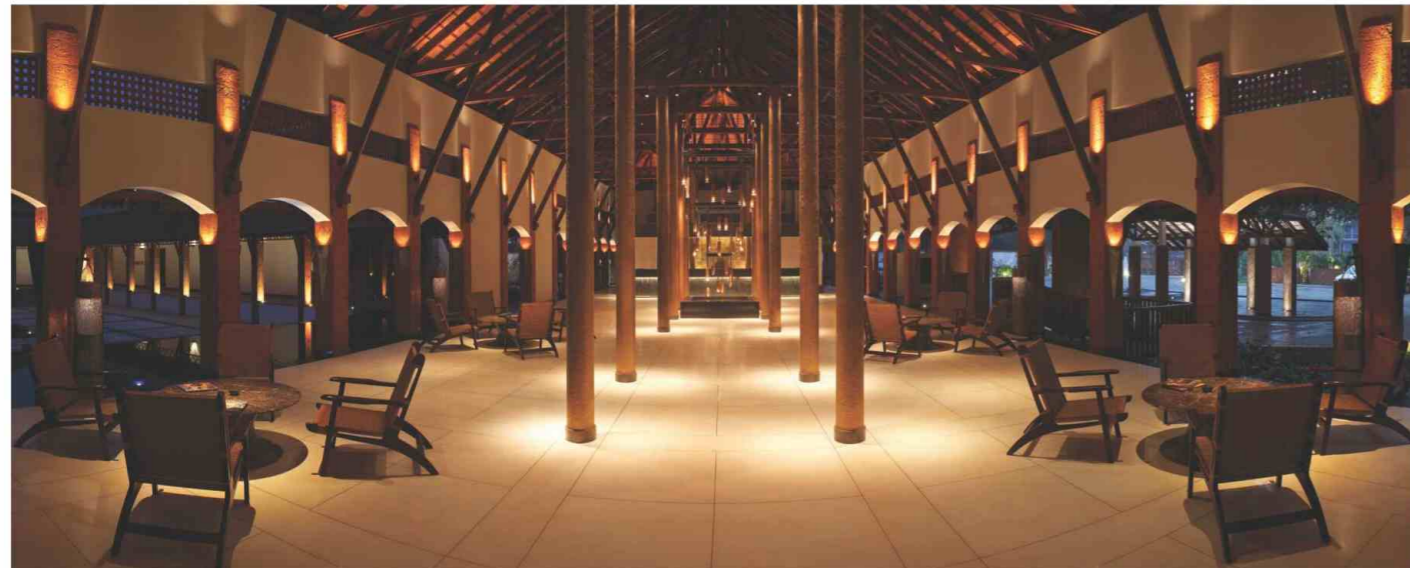


▲ Bistro

### INTERIORS

Inspired by the exotic Goan location, interior designer Lisa Garriss of Plum Design West (formerly Plum Design) created an authentic native Goan world at the Alila Diwa Goa with a luxurious contemporary feel - combining the best of contemporary Goan architecture with rich cultural traditions - to fashion an exotic, luxurious and unforgettable experience. Plum Design created the interiors for all of Alila Diwa except Edge Bar and the Spa, which were both created by Stapati.

Guests are welcomed into a grand and elegant open-air sanctuary permeated with warmth and surrounded by reflecting pools. Air and light filter through a dramatic high-pitched open-air ceiling into the lobby - which is fitted with rows of bronze pillars that sit upon a polished terrazzo floor with brass details. Guests can recline in low, teak-and-rattan lounge chairs while gazing up at the rows of hand-beaten brass light fixtures adorning the walls or



▲ Lobby

admiring the raw natural beauty outside.

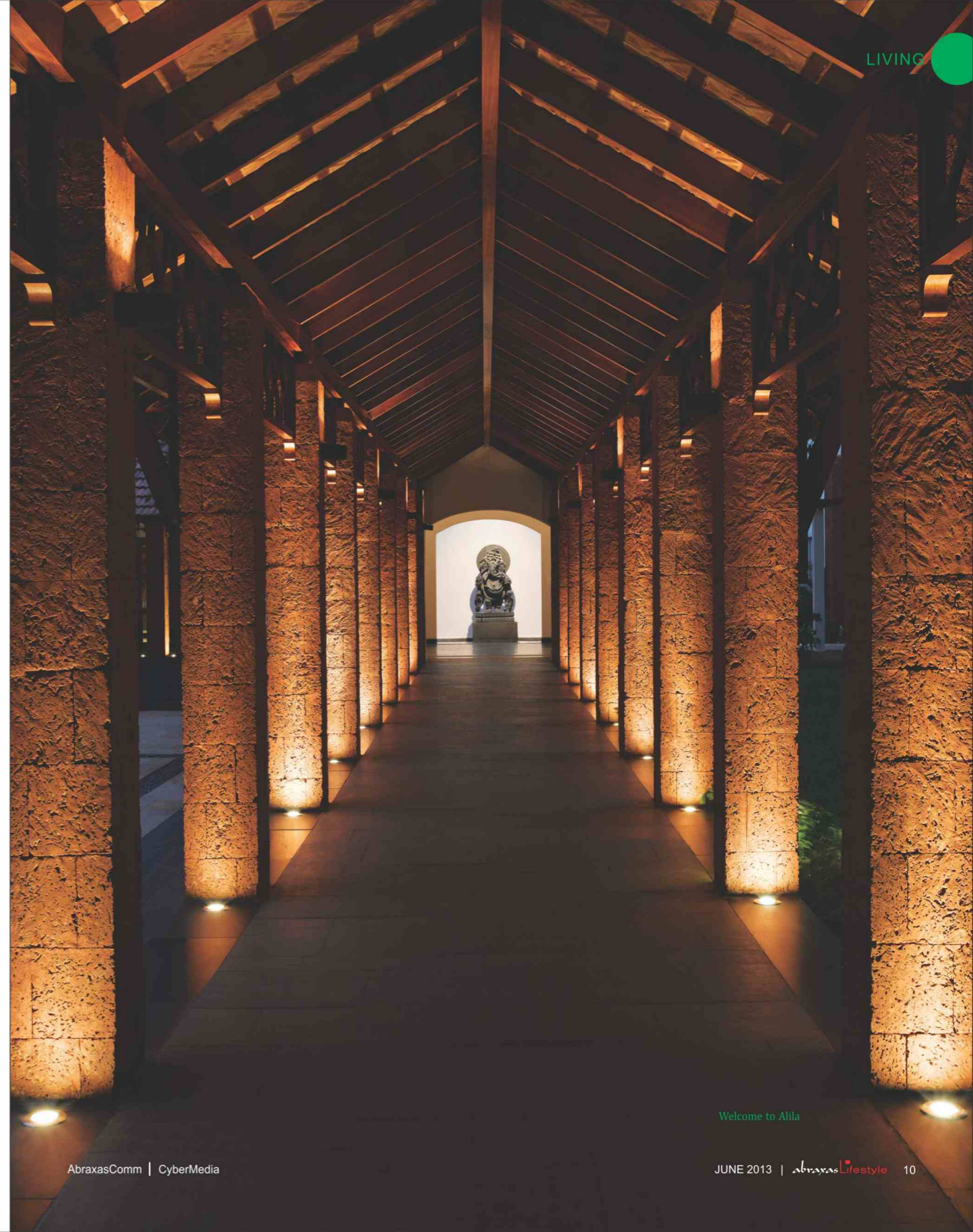
Visitors can choose between three on-site restaurants and a bar that blend the best of local flavor with a fresh, contemporary twist - Vivo, Spice Studio, Bistro and Edge Bar and Lounge.

Vivo provides a relaxed ambience for all-day dining either within its indoor or shaded open-air spaces. Overlooking the lush resort gardens, reflecting pond and surrounding paddy fields, guests can dine on authentic Goan, Mediterranean, Pan Asian and Oriental cuisines while sitting in rattan and teak chairs that offset the brown Kota Indian stone floors and marble counters that wrap around the perimeter. Large hand-made copper light fixtures - reminiscent of birds' nests - cascade down the tall ceilings offering a magical touch to this natural-shaded environment

Spice Studio offers an elegant, contemporary setting for dining. Located on an elevated platform that spreads naturally around a banyan tree and surrounded by a water body, it features a menu celebrating the spice traditions of the five regions of India. Guests sit in upright chairs dressed in a blueish hue. Handmade Indian ceramic tiles adorn the floors.



▲ Reception



Welcome to Alila



▲ Spice Studio Exterior

The design of the interiors for the 'Edge Bar' captures the beautiful view of the expansive terraces of the paddy fields - which forms one of the focal points of the property.

Functionally, the Bar is segregated into three distinct seating areas. The feature Bar, which is the focus, spans the entire length of the lounge and is oriented so as to face the pool. This is flanked by the Indoor Lounge area in the double height space. This lounge area is further extended out in the exterior towards the pool as deliberate design intent - to create a very relaxing lounging experience by the infinity pool.

The ambience is further enhanced by furniture designed with



▲ Spice Studio



▲ Vivo

special emphasis on the sensory and tactile aspects. This emphasis is also evident in the materials used. Natural black stone on the floor as well as wall cladding helps in subduing the bounding planes so that the spatial experience alone is highlighted. Dark coloured wooden screens again substantiate this theme. The feature Bar is minimalistically detailed with the black granite counter and mother of pearl with an elaborate wine rack backdrop. The delicate wooden slide doors of the wine rack add to the detail.

"The Water Droplets" artwork by Goan artist Subodh Kerkar in the double height space was conceptually derived for the Edge Bar and the Pool area and enhances the sensory experience.



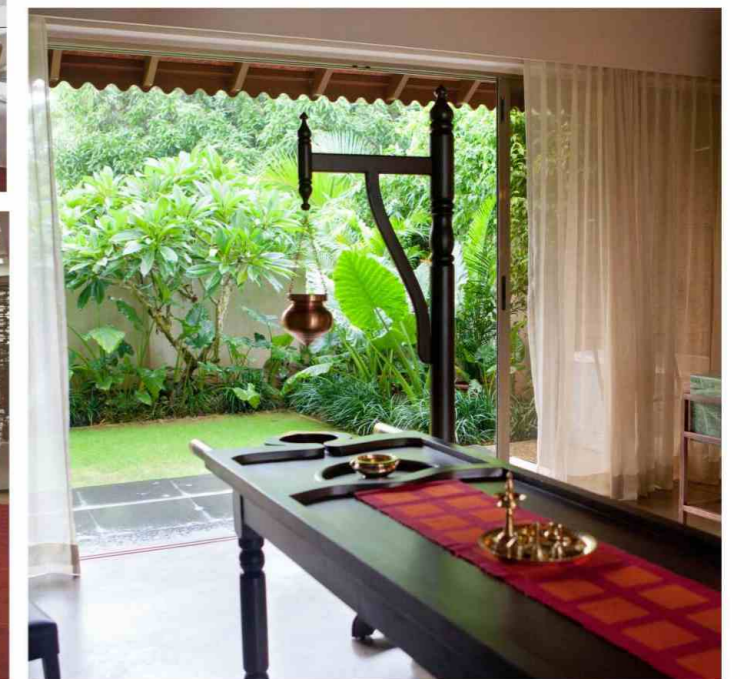
▼ U Shape - Ballroom



▲ Ballroom

▲ Edge Bar

The bar space opens up onto the pool area and is well lit naturally during the daytime, avoiding the need for any artificial lighting. During night, the bar counters and the double height areas are lit using indirect lighting to create an intimate soothing ambience. The Bar counter is lit up with specially designed metal light fixtures. On the whole, all the design elements combine to create a wonderful ambience for the space and a unique experience for the end user.



▲ Ayurveda Room



▲ Alila Suite

Guests stroll down a warm hallway embellished with spiritual sculptures into simple yet elegant earth-toned rooms enlivened with the jewel colors traditional to Goa. Guests can relax on the bed, which is dressed in crisp white linens and adorned with a russet upholstered headboard. Curvy dark Oriental chairs made in Indonesia at the foot of the bed complement the brown and russet jute rug. A mahogany desk, situated close to outlets and Wi-Fi, is an agreeable area to conduct business. High-pitched wood ceilings lead the eye out toward the natural environment. Cushioned day

beds on a private balcony offer guests a comfortable perch from which they can gaze across at the swaying palm trees, lulled by the gentle ocean breeze.

Goan-inspired teak lattice screens divide the bedroom from the upscale bathroom, featuring top-of-the-line sterling plumbing fittings, a raised tub, and custom-designed vanity where guests can retreat for a soothing spa-like experience.



▲ Terrace Room



▲ Alila Suite Bathroom

Thus by pairing Goan traditions with luxurious contemporary style, Stapati and Plum Design West bring a new level of luxury to the beautiful and exotic beach destination - that is the Alila Diwa Goa.

**STAPATI** : Stapati was established in the year 1989 by Tony Joseph. Within a short span of time it has emerged as one of the leading architectural consultancy firms in the state with offices in Calicut, Cochin and Bangalore with an associate office in Dubai.



**TONY JOSEPH** - Tony completed his B.Arch from MIT Manipal, Mangalore University and his M.Arch from the University of Texas, Austin, U.S.A in the Charles Moore Program. He has worked in Delhi, Bangalore and Auroville (Pondichery) before starting his own firm STAPATI at Calicut in the year 1989. He is also the past chairman of the Calicut Centre of Indian Institute of Architects.



**ANUPAMA** - Anupama is a Partner to STAPATI design studio operating in Bangalore. Her modernist design sensibility is balanced by her large understanding of the construction process. She plays an active role in the operational and administrative side of the practice and is currently involved in large-scale complex developments and commercial ventures.



**MOHANDAS** - Mohandas brings in over 18 years of work experience in architectural projects of various scales. A talented designer, Mohandas is skilled at understanding the regional architectural character and developing modern interpretations. His extensive experience and understanding of the natural environment allows him to create innovative and sustainable design solutions. His current works involve several specialised high budget resorts for noted players in the hospitality industry.

**PLUM DESIGN WEST** : Founded by acclaimed interior designer Lisa Garriss, Plum Design and Plum Design West have provided interior design services for hospitality companies across the globe. From Singapore, Goa and Bali, to Los Angeles, Milan and Dubai, the visual story of each unique location is captured through Garriss' luxurious and dynamic interiors.

**LISA GARRISS** : After graduating from Parsons School of Design in New York, Garriss found her niche in luxury hospitality design at Rockwell Group working on the landmark W Hotel New York. Following stints at Kohn Pedersen Fox Conway and Gensler in New York, and Kerry Hill Architects and Wilson Associates in Singapore - where she worked alongside Giorgio Armani on Armani Hotels in Milan and Dubai - Garriss founded Plum Design (Singapore) in 2006, designing celebrated properties, including the Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay, the Padma Resort in Bali and the Alila Hotel in Goa.



Cabrio Beige 80x80 cms

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