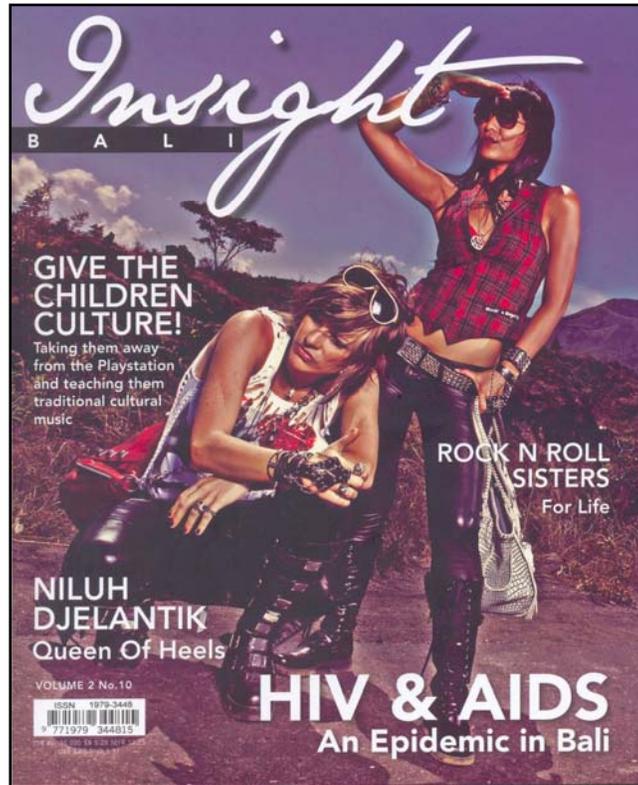


INSIGHT BALI – VILLA KUBU

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Seminyak Sanctuary

By Jamie Innes

Photos by Alexander Raditya

Who knew you could find serenity in Seminyak, that buzzing area known more for its shopping and party scene than peace and quiet? And yet serenity is exactly what Dee Caulfield has built – from the ground up – at Villa Kubu.

When it comes to shopping, Dee Caulfield's personal philosophy is "If I can't buy it within five to 10 minutes by motorbike from my home, then it's probably not right. "Fortunately, Dee lives in Villa Kubu, just off Jl. Raya Seminyak, an area renowned for its brilliant shopping so, when it came to furnishing her villa when she moved in just over a year ago, her philosophy was able to translate into quirky original pieces that make her home so, well, quirky and original. So Dee.

Take for example, the pair of the feather lamp shades in shades of cream, jewel green and glossy black from Alabaster Lighting that go perfectly with her twinkling black hanging chandelier from Haveli Interiors. Both shops are within spitting distance of her home. For the rest of her interior furnishing, it's very much a work in progress, an 'as I go' process," admits Dee. "The colours, the art – all have been bought according to how I feel on a particular day. I'm very much an in the moment kind of person". She even goes so far as to say that her style is "Pure luck. Winging it!"

Of course, when it came to the actual building of her villa – and the 15 other villas that make up Villa Kubu, the luxury villa complex owned by Dee and partners – she needed more than an unerring eye for style, spur of the moment buying abilities and the courage to wing it. Dee's villa stands on "a triangle piece of land, which makes it tricky for a house to work, so I called in the architect Ross Franklin to help. " Between Dee and Ross they managed to come up with a living space that "puts comfort first, design second." Comfort that embraces the open air living so unique to Bali – "there are not many places in the world where you can live outdoors all year round". Comfort that includes multi-hangout areas, "no

home should be without at least three hangout areas”; a lounge big enough to share with someone; and the ultimate home accessory, a guest toilet.

It’s also a comfort that definitely doesn’t cut corners. “If you get the fundamentals right – infrastructure, legal, etc, then you have a chance of making it work. If you cut corners when building a villa in Bali, or anywhere, it will come back to bite you!”

Comfort issue aside, “it was also important to marry Indonesian architecture with modern design in a way that wouldn’t date and that wasn’t the same as everyone else”, stresses Dee. Not that Dee’s home could ever look like anyone else’s. Not with her definite and totally original ideas and style. Such as her furniture, which was custom made for her by Jorge. “I wanted round, modular, furniture,” explain Dee. “Jorge came to see the space and then came back with the designs.” Design that included a throne chair: “I wanted a throne and this was Jorge’s interpretation of that. Although my dogs use it far more than anyone else, if I’m honest,” laughs Dee.

The long-dreamed of throne chair aside, Dee’s favorite space in her home would have to be “My bedroom. My one stipulation was that my bedroom be soundproofed against the party situation in Bali. It’s also slightly isolated from the rest of the house and it has become a control panel to the rest of my world.”

For more information on Villa Kubu and how you can take advantage of Dee Caulfield’s comfort and style, check their website at www.VillaKubu.com