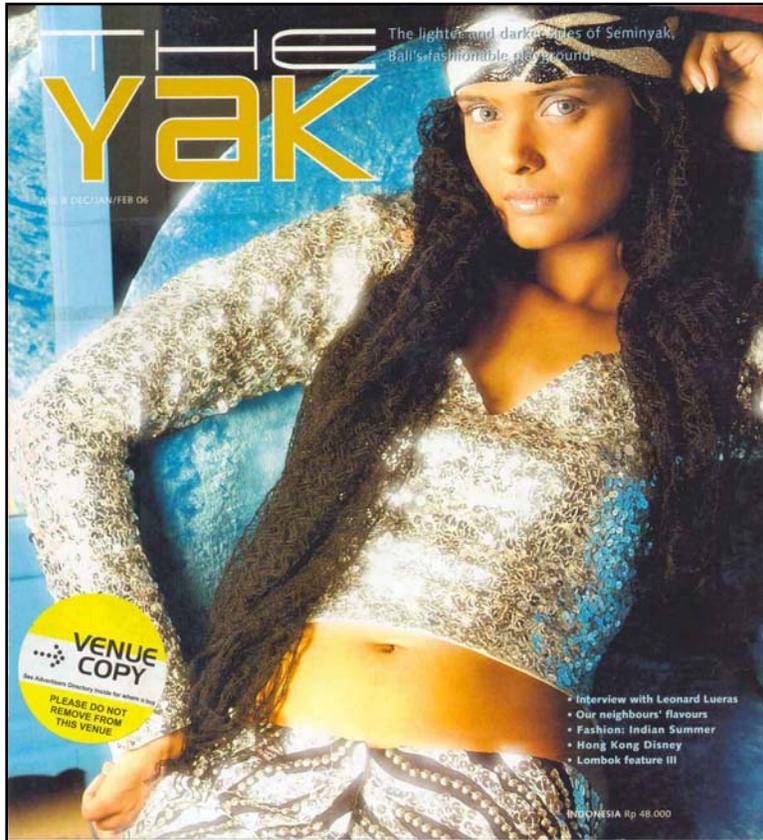


THE YAK – VILLA KUBU

VOLUME 8 DEC/JAN/FEB '06



Dwelling on a dwelling

Dee Myton has lived all over the world – Australia, Hong Kong, London, Singapore, Jakarta and has now settled in Bali where she owns a small 10-villa complex. An ex-runway model, Dee has turned her hand to many vocations including a sandwich delivery service in Jakarta in the 90s. The Yak talks to her about living and managing her property in Seminyak.

The Yak: Something we always ask – why did you choose to live and build in Bali?

DM: Initially, Bali was my default place. I just couldn't see myself living in another country. UK too cold, HK too busy, Singapore too clean, Jakarta too exciting. Bali is a great mix between a slow country lifestyle and fast creative energy. We have many talented creative people from all nations living on this little island which makes it easy to try out and implement new ideas – gourmet local foods, jacuzzis surrounded by lotus ponds, wi-fi for the guests that actually have to work on a computer while holidaying in Bali. Now they can do it sitting around the pool or soaking in the hot!

The Yak: Why did you develop in this part of Seminyak (between Jalan Legian and the Sunset Road)? Because it's so peaceful?

DM: It was one of the first pieces of land shown to me and it was cheap at the time. If I had thought too long on it, I wouldn't have bought anything – feet and head, first – sorry about the consequences later.

The Yak: When did you buy the land and how many years did it take you to complete the whole project?

DM: Eight years ago and its still not completely finished. It should take another year or so – I'm not in a hurry and plan to stick around for a while.

The Yak: Each villa is a different design, why?

DM: Because its more fun to design something new and I'm lucky that I have a passionate architect.

The Yak: Who was your architect? And why did you choose him?

DM: Ross Franklin. He understands space and beauty. And he accommodates and supports my beliefs in Feng Shui. I use Feng Shui in every design. I find its boundaries useful when starting a design from scratch.

The Yak: What were the challenging issues you faced?

DM: People love air-conditioning and Jacuzzis. They also expect good healthy food.

The Yak: Do you have any plans to ever leave?

DM: I couldn't image living anywhere else. I feel honoured to be part of the Bali island spirit. It's heaven on earth.

www.villakubu.com

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Her little slice of heaven

Dwelling on a dwelling

DM: You mean everyday when I wake up? Just kidding – but without going into my closet of insurances, the one issue I needed to get over was the fear of commitment. Don't we all. Now I have 35 gorgeous staff members, three dogs, three cats, schools of fish, frogs and one crab...and sometimes a few guinea. I feel very blessed.

The Yak: What makes your villas different from other villas?

DM: The staff are like one big family and I find that they pass that feeling onto my guests. They have a special way with people and children. Nothing is ever a problem.

The Yak: Where do most of your guests come from?

DM: Singapore, Australia and Japan – ah, and we've had two Egyptian guests!

The Yak: How long do they generally stay for?

DM: Three to seven days.

The Yak: Do you tend to get more couples or families?

DM: I also sell Neem products in the minibar. They are cheap and great for the environment. I use Biosystems sewage waste recycling, elephant dung for the plants (the best fertilizer ever!), and plan to luster all my pools when the budget allows.

The Yak: What are the biggest problems you face when running a group of villas?

DM: Once a rooster lived next door and he woke us all up everyday at 4.30 am, sometimes 2 am, he definitely had insomnia and wanted everyone in the neighbourhood to know. He didn't last long...probably ended up as satay. All the other problems are only problems the moment they arise. At Kubu we like to say that there are no mountains and there are no molehills. So, no problems. Simple, no?

The Yak: Has there been any changes in market demand which means you have to adapt or re-think your A.O.G.?

DM: We have a nice mix. We're child friendly.

The Yak: Your in-room Spa range is a great idea, does it do well?

DM: Thanks. The soap is extremely popular and we have often had guests buy 20 pieces to take home. We use natural ingredients in all the products. They are doing well.

The Yak: Doing you have any 'green' policies?

DM: I fog with neem (an Aroyvedic mosquito repellent). Neem is great for many diseases as well, and the more we inhale or drink it, the better it is for us. The fish love it. I die-fry my dogs with it and cure stomach ulcers to boot. No kidding. It's a miracle plant. Check it out

MAGG

TABLES
BAR
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COMFORTERS

SOFTERS
SHEERS
TABLE TOP
COMFORTERS

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DC: Initially, Bali was my default place. I just couldn't see myself living in another country, UK too cold, HK too busy, Singapore too clean, Jakarta too exciting. Bali is a great mix between a slow country lifestyle and fast creative energy. We have many talented creative people from all nations living on this little island which makes it easy to try out and implement new ideas – gourmet breakfasts, Jacuzzis surrounded by lotus ponds, wi-fi for the guests that actually have to work on a computer while holidaying in Bali. Now they can do it sitting around the pool or soaking in the bath!

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DC: Eight years ago and it's still not completely finished. It should take another year or so – I'm not in a hurry and plan to stick around for a while.

The Yak: Each villa is a different design, why?

DC: Because it's more fun to design something new and I'm lucky that I have a passionate architect.

The Yak: Who was your architect? And why did you choose him?

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