

AMANPURI PHUKET ISLAND



Project Data:

Location: Phuket Island, Thailand

Client: Adrian Zecha, Aman Resorts

Architect: Ed Tuttle, Paris

Contractors: ITD (Ital Thai Corporation, Joint Venture Company)

Site Area: 100 acres

Completion: December 1987

Amanpuri is the sister hotel of Amandari (see page 24)

Below: A view of the pool and restaurant, showing Amanpuri's setting: a century-old coconut plantation.

Amanpuri, which means 'place of peace' in sanskrit, defies conventional categorisation as a resort hotel. Comprising 40 private pavilions, it was commissioned to surpass in character and quality normal standards in hotel design.

The client, Adrian Zecha, is an Indonesian-born businessman with substantial experience in the international hotel field, having been a partner in the Regent Group of hotels, a shareholder in New York's Mark Hotel and Orient Express Hotels, and owner of several hotel chains in Asia. Amanpuri presented a different challenge; it was conceived from the outset as a place with a homely, personal and uncommercial atmosphere.

The pavilions are located on the 100 acre site of a coconut plantation, rising from Pansea Beach to an elevation of 130 feet. They were inspired by Thai temple construction; Architect Ed Tuttle researched many examples of this traditional building type, visiting various regions of Thailand. His designs are based on the Ayutthaya period.

All the pavilions and even the walkways are raised on columns protect the natural configuration of the land.

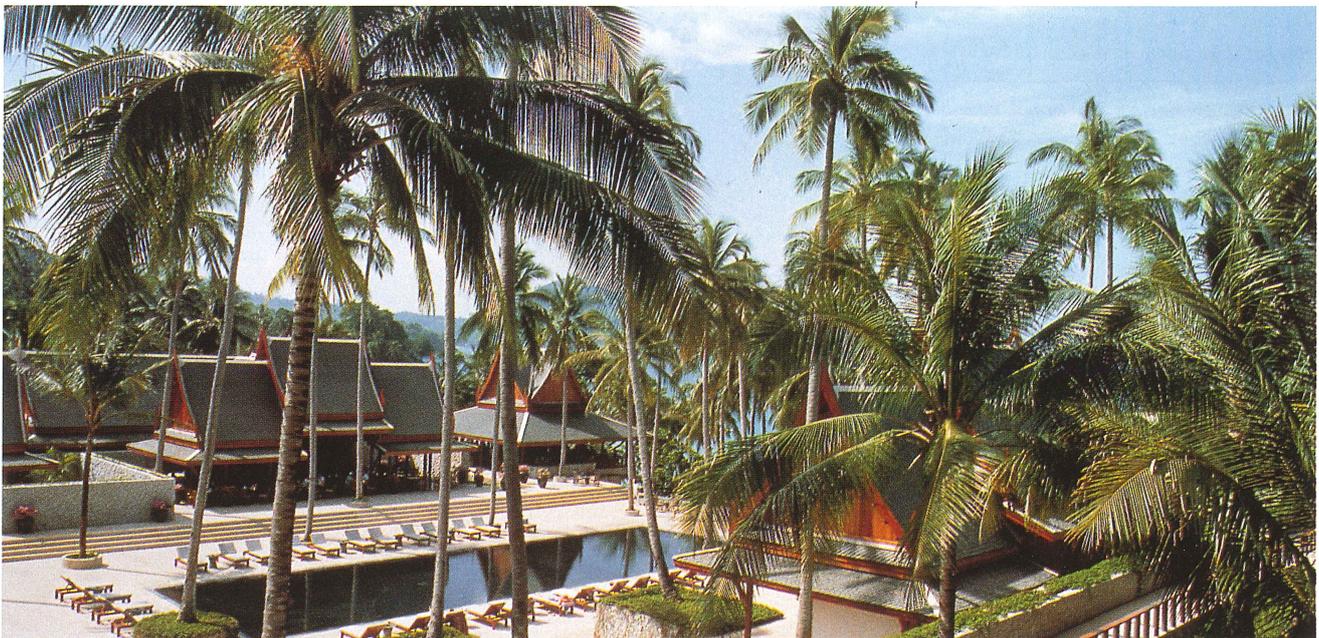
Most of the existing trees of the plantation have been preserved and the pavilions are built around them.

From the point of view of planning, the units are simple and repetitive; a *sala*, or covered reception area, is open on all sides, and the bedroom and bathroom of each pavilion give onto the sala and a large veranda. Bedrooms are 1200 square feet, with a king-size bed.

Construction of the individual pavilions, and the restaurant buildings, was by local Thai labourers (from 600 to 1000 worked on the project during the ten month period to completion), and the structure relies on local materials. All the floors are of local wood called tebak, while the mouldings, veneer for concrete columns, and framing is of maka, a local wood which resembles teak.

Interior finishes were also locally produced – such as the cotton fabrics woven in Bangkok. Thai art has been introduced throughout the complex. The serenity of the site is enhanced by lotus ponds surrounding the public pavilions, drawing the eye to a 27 metre freshwater pool, and then to spectacular views over the Andaman Sea.

– EDITORS





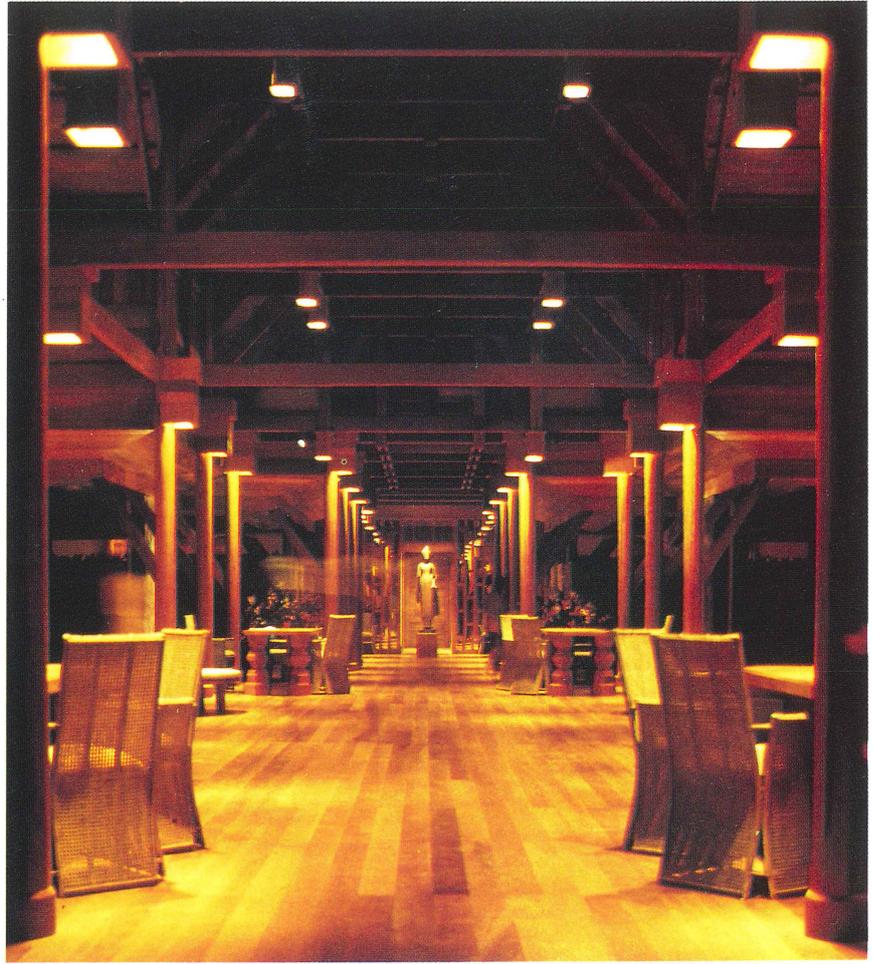
Above: Overtones of ancient Thai architecture – as seen in the entrance pavilion.



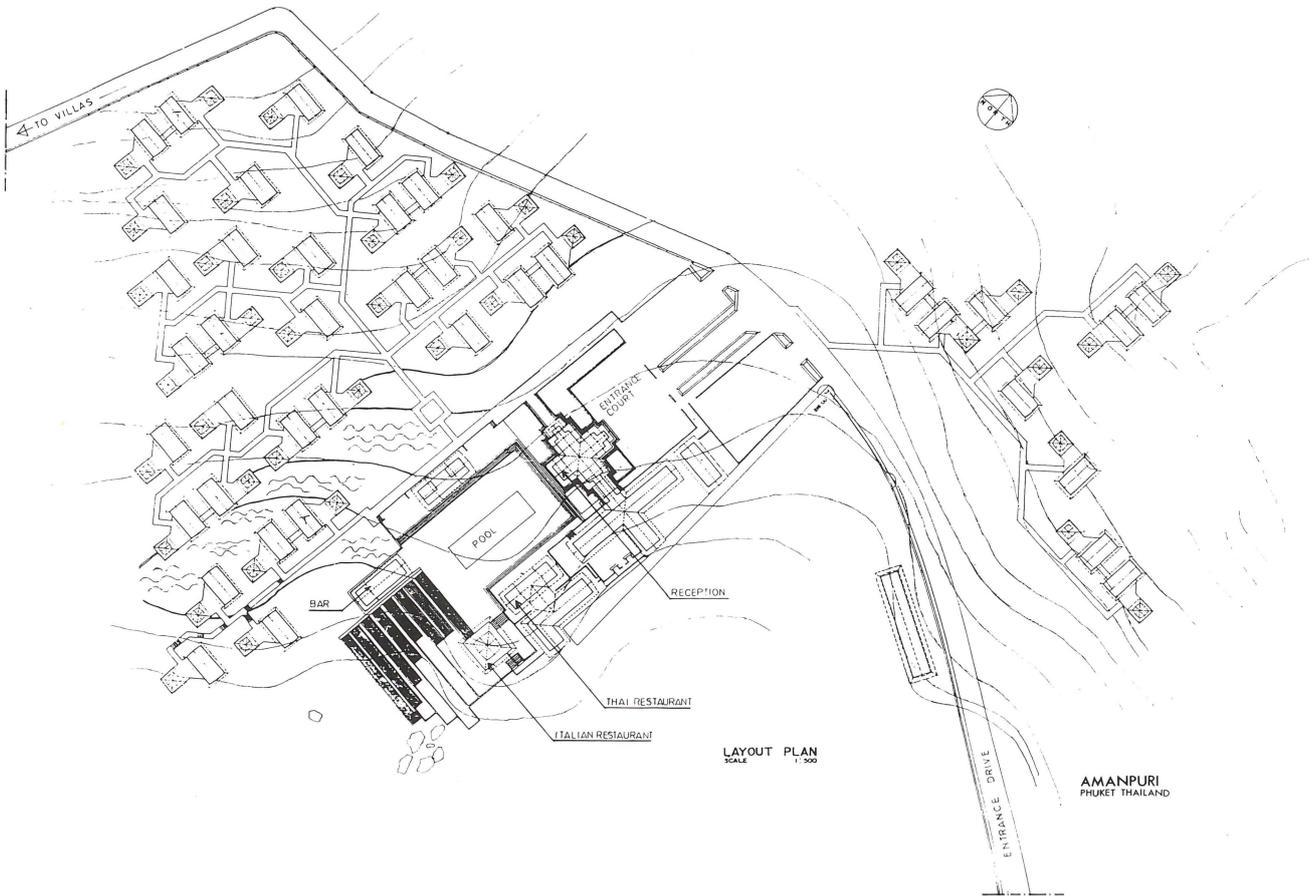
Above: Detail of the distinctive Amandari roofs, inspired by local temple construction.

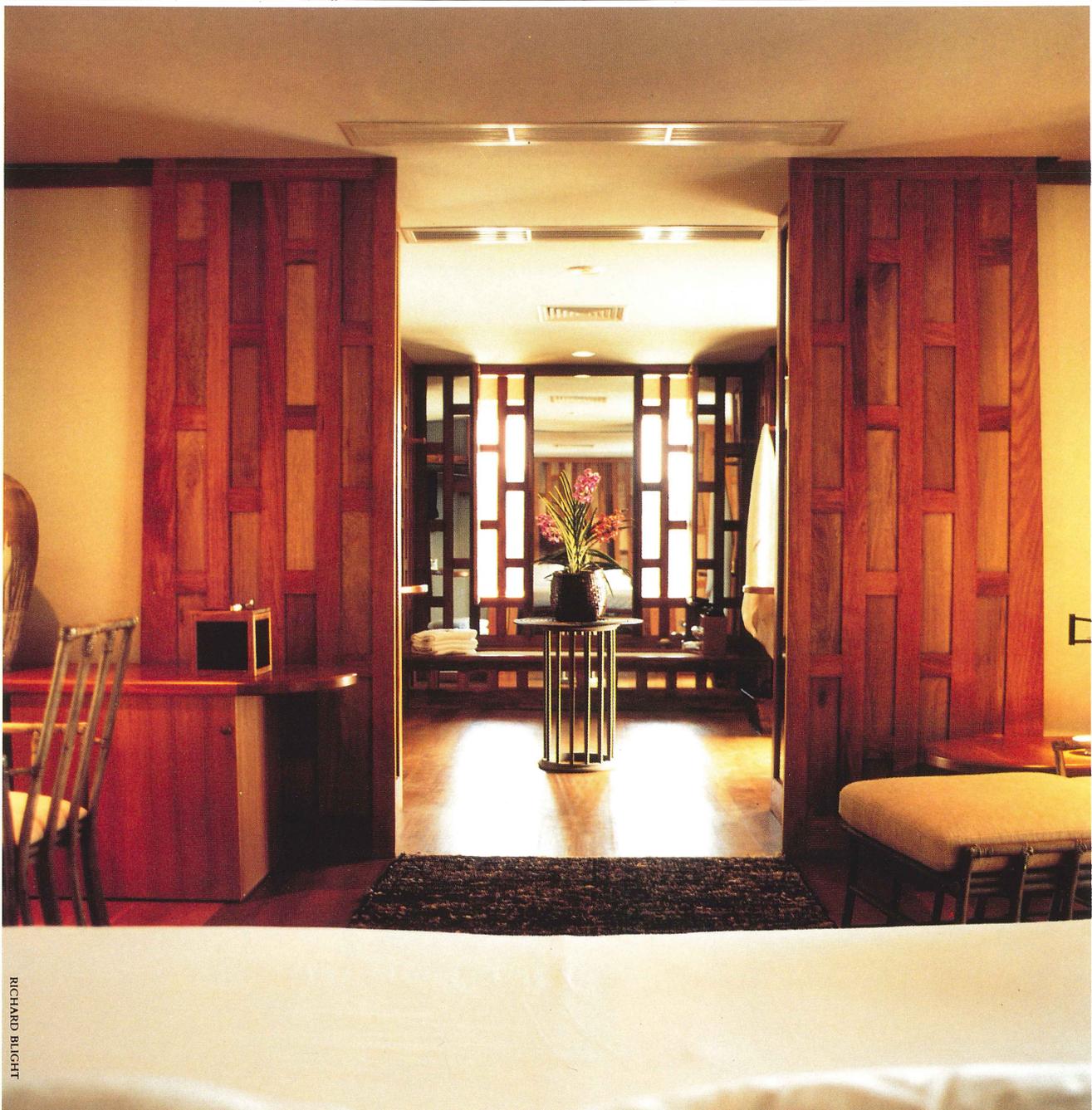
Right: The image of the Buddha stands at the end of the restaurant.

Below: Site plan, showing the arrangement of the 40 private pavilion suites.



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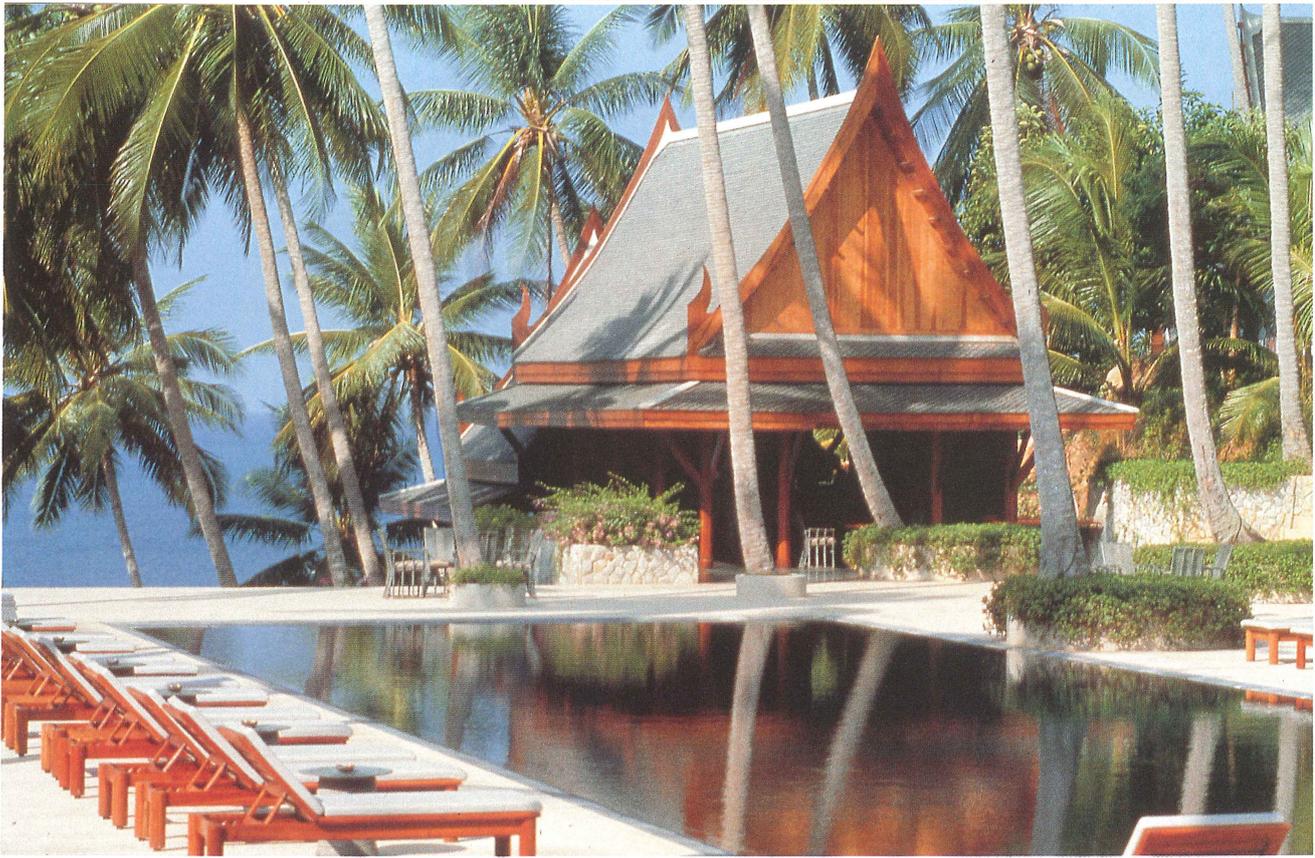




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Above: Interior of one of the pavilions, with fittings and furniture of local wood.





Left: Steps leading from Pansea beach to the freshwater pool and hotel buildings.

Above: Two views of the split-level bar, overlooking the pool on one side and the sea on the other.