Debuting in China, EDITION Hotels, a partnership between Ian Schrager and Marriott International, opens The Sanya EDITION resort on the luxuriant Hainan Island. Tonje Ødegard from SPACE discovered how local culture became the inspiration for the organic design.

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The oceanfront property with its sophisticated design is a meetings of traditional Chinese culture with a modern and cosmopolitan China. Drawing inspiration from local influences, the property has remained respectful of Hainan Island's rich cultural heritage yet infused the property with ultra-modern luxury.

Situated in the city of Sanya, within a huge area of meticulously landscaped tropical gardens, the property offers a striking private ocean overlooking the South China Sea.

Designed in collaboration between interior designers GLC Design Studio/ CKP Atelier, architects WOA, lighting designers Lighting Planners Associates (LPA) and landscapers Horticon Civil, the Relax show-shaped property is home to 350 guestrooms and suites, 10 food and beverage outlets, exclusive Asian Lifestyle, four restaurants and two bars. And that wasn't enough, the resort also offers outdoor cabanas, meeting spaces, a spa, art gallery, a retail shop and a family lifestyle.

In ancient times, Sanya was known as 'the end of the sky and the ocean' and it is easy to see why. Set on a 1.5km stretch of pristine white sandy beaches and tropical climate, inspired by the sea, the Sanya EDITION is defined by water, a source of both vitality and purity.

OUTDOOR AREAS

Sourcing inspiration from the island's ever-changing landscape and taking advantage of the lavish vegetation surrounding the property, the hotel has an impressive outdoor area. Conceived as empirical oasis and inspired by the Summer Palace in Beijing, the landscaped ground covers: nine literary'pen name of the total 180 area, promoting largely native and indigenous flora and fauna.

For instance, as you enter, the driveway is lined with tropical date trees, leading to the hotel's entrance, which is a dramatic, double-height space with a soaring, 18m high, pedestal black granite finishes, which mirrors the sky. We also assembles a working well, and is completed with dramatically lit rows of bamboo.

The private ocean front is the centerpiece of the property. With water surrounded in from the South China Sea there's a large lab water swimming area that features a 25m lap pool, a kids' pool and a shallow, sandy beach area that leads to the beach with view edge, entry into the sea. The surrounding area is planted with tall coconut palms.

At night, the private ocean is transformed with hundreds of floating candles and lanterns, creating a magical atmosphere. A custom-designed wooden dining deck, which is set on the beach, is the perfect spot for dining al fresco. Subtle lighting and fabric canopy further enhanced the space. Exotic tropical hardwood decking and boardwalk sit along the perimeters encloses the sea.

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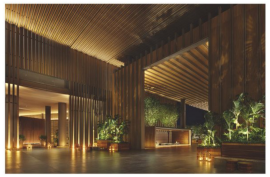

The Sanya EDITION offers several cabanas, a modern interpretation of outdoor pavilions in traditional Chinese gardens, surrounded by lush landscape. With teak frames and stretch canvas roof, they are surrounded by a 'moat' filled with water lilies and lotus flowers and are connected by raised, floor lanterns with clear glass roofs. Completed with custom upholstered lounge seating, the cabanas are a relaxing addition to the hotel.

The outdoor pool bar is housed in a pavilion with vertical bulrush wood slats crowned with flowering vine and ivy, and green hedges in planters. It is surrounded by a 25m lap pool and a kids' pool, with a shallow, sandy beach area. Dramatically lit after dark with underwater lighting fixtures, the area is completed with oversized daybeds and shade-lounges on tropical, hardwood decking.

LOBBY

The reception highlights, and reflects the hotel's duality where a traditional, blue pool and the bamboo grove serves as a counterpoint to the curated art gallery displaying the work of renowned Chinese artists. The series of luxurious tranquility the Sanya EDITION aims to portray is established here. As you arrive, you are greeted with a striking view of the private ocean, gracefully framed by a series of teak pavilions. Clean and minimal, the open-air architecture creates a beautiful, welcoming punch.

Inspired by the Hainan Island's 1.5 Mtpa lifestyle, the major functional zones of the lobby are separately housed in individual, rectangular pavilions clad in dark timber and connected by glass walkways. Positioned on the ocean front, the pavilions offer the best spot to take in the stunning view and serene surroundings.

Additionally, there are a number of reception pavilions designed to give the impression of floating on the reflecting water. At the centre of the pool is the check-in pavilion, which is clad in dark timber and has a 'floating' roof. A custom-designed, cultural reception desk, crafted from oil-soaked Hinoki tea-wood logs and artistically stacked. The main reception also has another beautiful sculpture made of Inlaid leaves in a stainless steel panel.

The Gift reception pavilion features a custom designed silk tapestry backdrop, which is inspired by the traditional Chinese Qipao dress and has a lone silk with woven lotus embroidered within stunt dressed resembling the artistic style from the later Qing Dynasty. The elegant silk screens contrast with the rustic wooden log counter and the clean contemporary form of the pavilion. An overwhelming solid teak wooden platform on the edge of the podium provides a semi-outdoor lounge capturing dramatic views of the private ocean.

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GUESTROOMS

With all rooms having an ocean view, the designers have gone for a relaxed beach-like vibe for the guestrooms. Light oak finishes and lime stone floors create a neutral backdrop, complemented by splashes of colour from the local cobalt. Bathtubs are placed in the main room and surrounded by views of the private ocean; the rooms are made even more luxurious and spacious.

The 10 make-ups, nestled into the terrace facade, has private pools and pavilion spaces. Minimally designed, they are modern and emphasises on the beauty of the ocean. Each pool villa has a private pool, a spacious, white-stone bathtub and a dramatic, circular sheer curtain embracing the beds. There are features that are perfect for the open-plan solution. Thick veneer in cream-cut bleached oak with brushed open-grain finishes is a nice touch, and with extra balcony space, there's room for semi-circular daybeds and a deep-soak bathtub outside.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

The Sanya EDITION offers four restaurants: Market at EDITION, The Jade Dyan, Xiao Hai By The Sea and Beach Barbecue at EDITION.

Market by Y.A.T EDITION. The eatery references Sanya's history as a trading port. The timeless design evokes the feeling of an old Chinese warehouse - a layer of vertical oak/teak wood slats defines the architectural shell of the restaurant. The large, high-ceilinged space has columns clad with horizontal slat oak planks in a heavily brushed antique finish.

Dyan Restaurant, Bar & Lounge. The Asian fusion, oak shelves and racks displaying hand-made pottery, tea glass herb jars and ceramic dishes and bowls. The floor is grey limestone tiles with white faded ornate patterns, hand-painted to give reference to South East Asian classical architectural design.

Overlayed custom-designed moon lanterns with outer shades, made of white, hand-woven rattan, hang from the ceiling and cast a soft, warm glow over ambient glow, leading in an eclectic mix of bleached wood, dining chairs, beige leather and natural grey upholstery with a combination of custom-designed low-line banquettes. A longer semi-outdoor terrace offers direct private ocean views and is lavishly participated with tropical palms and ferns. The Dyan Bar, with its comfortable, low-slung furniture, is perfect for enjoying a sophisticated meal. Walls are clad with oak planks in a matte white lacquer finish and the ceiling in a high-gloss white. The long, custom-designed bar counter in streamlined nautical shape is formed by white homogeneous reconstituted white stone and equipped with full height wine cabinets. Creating a more laid-back vibe is the open-kitchen with a stainless steel oven, flanked by apple tree logs. Taking inspiration from

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luxury vessels, the use of white lacquer reference this, and the solid teak wood strips floors that extend into the pool platform in front of the restaurant completes the look.

XIAN XIAI BY THE SEA

The signature restaurant offers a different dining experience, where guest are situated on a series of Balinese-style floating platforms, only accessible by boat. Each platform is surrounded by the ocean and has a private dining space that is covered with a shaded canopy, and from afar, it looks like the restaurant is a collection of glowing lanterns shimmering the water. Composing of two small pavilions and one large a la carte pavilion connected by an outdoor dining platform clustered with water-view seat, the space is varied and intriguing.

BEACH BARBECUE AT EDITION

Seafood grill Beach Barbecue is inspired by the Jimbaran Bay in Bali. With sand underfoot and an eclectic mix of furniture, it's a lively and fun spot. The kitchen counter front is clad with Hainan Ginkgo's glory tree stone in a herringbone pattern. Recommended dishes include wok-fried seafood in a fire pit, finely cooked in relaxing and casual, non-pretentious.

ROOFTOP BAR

The Rooftop Bar and pool is an elegant and sleek area with the hotel's most impressive interiors. Clad with a slat-slim wood in a three-dimensional light finish, with long banquette sofas in deep maroon velvet, which contrast with dark oak and light grey upholstered lounge chairs. Above the centre bar area, more than a dozen pieces of black cut acrylic drops are installed on the ceiling, creating a stunning, eye-catching statement. The bar area is made out of two solid planks of slim wood. This infinity pool, with sun beds on the teak deck overlook the private ocean.

EDITION Hotels is an unexpected and refreshing collection of individualised, lifestyle-driven hotels and residences that are distinctly local and intimately global. It is therefore impressive to see how the designers have been able to convey this philosophy into such an enormous property. Local culture and modern design has gracefully been combined, making the Sanya EDITION a beautiful destination.

DESIGN: GLC Design Studio, CKP Atelier
ARCHITECTURE: WOA
ILLUMINATION: Lighting: Lighting Planners Associates (LPA)
Landscaping: Horticon Civil

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