

KELLERWILLIAMS
Luxury

**DEEP END OF
LUXURY**

TODAY'S POOLS ARE
TRUE SHOWSTOPPERS

**MAKING IT
PERSONAL**

TOP INTERIOR DESIGNER'S
UNIQUE STYLE

**THE LEGACY
EXHIBIT**

A GRAND SCULPTURAL
EVENT COMES TO FLORIDA



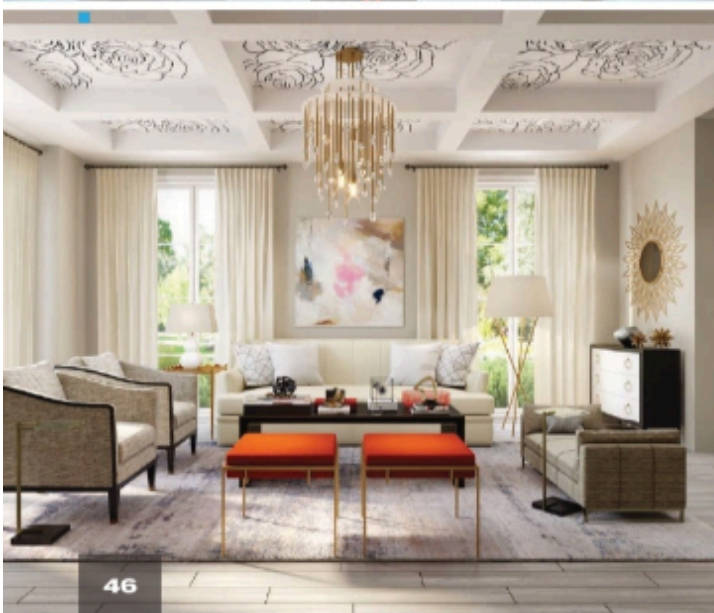
SHAMIN ABAS
COMMUNICATIONS FOR ULTRA-LUXURY BRANDS



42



48



46

LUXURY HOMES BY LOCATION

Arizona	14	Missouri	65, 67	Pennsylvania	74-76
Arkansas	15	Montana	20	Tennessee	77-78
California	4-5, 16-20	New Hampshire	64	Texas	79-85
Colorado	21-25	New Jersey	66	Utah	86
Florida	26-33, 50-60, Back cover	North Carolina	67-69	Washington	87-88
Kansas	61, 66	Ohio	70	Canada	Inside back cover
Maryland	62-63	Oklahoma	71		
Massachusetts	64	Oregon	72-73		



Terrestrial Paradise

By Marlene Ridgway

In the heart of the historic Newton district of Singapore, a garden of tropical, lush greenery shoots towards the sky and towers above.

More than just a garden, EDEN is a 22-story, ultra-luxury apartment building that stands out among Singapore's traditional glass and steel structures with vibrant plant life extending from the ground up to the rooftop.

A joint vision between Thomas Heatherwick — founder of Heatherwick Studio and Designer of EDEN — and Swire Properties, the biophilic apartment building blossomed in this exclusive luxury district with a climate that nurtures tropical foliage and a design that encourages a connection between residents and nature. This lively apartment building is a leafy paradise among urban living.

"We felt that it was important to move away from some of the impersonal, manufactured developments we had seen in the region," says Mat Cash, partner and group leader at Heatherwick Studio. "Instead, we chose to celebrate the quirks and unique textures of different materials to make a building that felt more organic and would be truly distinctive." The entire look and feel of the building is utterly unique, which lends to the original design and concept, a city in a garden with invigorating cross ventilation and open spaces.

The idea of traditional block apartments was torn apart and deconstructed to create an unconventional design that is executed so well in EDEN. Each floor is its own apartment, with 20 apartments total. The service areas have been moved to the perimeter, creating large central living spaces, which are surrounded by smaller private rooms and wide balconies.

Cash explains how the initial inspiration held firm throughout the





project. "Rather than isolating hermetically sealed boxes, we wanted to create open, flowing homes that raised into the sky and connected with the lush physical environment of Singapore. It was clear to us from the outset that the design should embrace the natural environment and that did not really change throughout the process."

The spirit and nature of Singapore shines through EDEN, even in the smallest of details. The designers have shown an appreciation for the big and small components. "This is a handcrafted building. It isn't just a ubiquitous off-the-shelf package of expensive components," notes Cash.

The natural components meld together in EDEN, from the foliage to the flooring to the front door. Textured slate on the balconies meets oak floors on the interiors that came from the United Kingdom. The bathroom walls and floors are decked with 180-million-year-old cross-cut Jura limestone from Germany where fossilized imprints can still be spotted.

"Every detail has been designed to work with the richness of nature that we found in Singapore, and to celebrate that biophilic connection. We focused on the human scale, using texture and rich materiality to create a very personal and close relationship between the building and the residents," according to Cash.

EDEN, from top to bottom, acknowledges the environmental impact and is a counterpoint to flat, steel buildings that are most popular in cities. Cash explains that the communal garden on the ground level encourages social interactions and helps keep the building's footprint at ground level to a minimum. The garden rises up the balconies and the hand-selected greenery cascades down from the sky garden.

"To create an exuberant waterfall of foliage, we have used a range of trailing plants of different lengths to drape over the balconies at intervals," according to Cash. The plants have all been carefully selected to thrive in Singapore's climate, and to streamline maintenance, compatible plants were placed together to minimize the need for heavy intervention. **KW**



Do you think designs such as this, with a strong emphasis on nature will become more popular or remain a novelty?

"Buildings of the last 100 years have tended to remove us from our connection to nature; we thought we needed to live in 'machines for living' instead of homes for humans. Since the pandemic, we understand more than ever the value of having a natural connection through gardens, parks, plants and trees," says Cash.

"It's really important to smell the plants after rain or see the gentle ripple of leaves as they move. It's about creating an environment that gives people a sense of well-being and calm."

PHOTOS BY HUIFON AND CROW



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