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A Restorative Blend of Home and Art

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main feature **UMAH JEMPIRING**

The house owners in Denpasar, Bali have a dream of living in a comfortable home, which also serves as an art space. They could not realise it until they entrusted the home renovation to Xavier Loup, a landscape architect and designer with artistic talent.

Umah Jempiring, that's the house is named, is situated in Denpasar's stunning residential area. It was built in 1998. After 22 years of living in the house, the couple felt the need to refresh and remodel it so as to realize their dream of living in a comfortable home which allows them to enjoy their art collections more. Design-wise, the house was surrounded by ample space to enjoy outdoor views from all the indoor living areas.

Spending a big chunk of time at home due to the pandemic, the couple realized that their house could be much better as a living space with a good design and well-directed indoor and outdoor interactions. That's how they came up with an idea of renovating the house. The house owners entrusted the renovation work to Xavier Loup, an Art Director and Landscape Architect.

Xavier explained that, at first, the garden looked empty. It only had one tree, grass, and a few potted plants scattered around. Reversing this area, the landscape architect wanted to turn it into something visually substantial viewed from different angles, from the living room, the kitchen, the master suite, and also as the perspective view from the entry hall. From the dining room, there was a direct view of the garden. He came to the idea of placing a 6 x 3 meters mirror on the back of the wall, reflecting the garden with impressive depth and presence. It almost feels like the living room inside the garden!

Arduous renovation efforts were made as Xavier and his team had to rework all the plumbing, wiring, walls, roof, and floor before bringing in all the interior design elements. He pointed out that it took longer to renovate than to build one as the renovation project adopted European construction standards.

Everything has been custom-made to create coherence between the spaces and their functions. All the elements are a fusion of natural materials designed to blend with



the outdoors and artworks. It had to be very subtle and minimalist. The color palette had to be very fresh, light, soft and pastel-coloured for the indoor living spaces connected to outdoor spaces via patios or gardens, as shades of the plants aesthetically influenced the perception of indoor spaces.

Meanwhile, the owners have a deep passion for Indonesian art in many forms, from traditional dance, hand-painted batik and hand-woven

- 01 A unique back-lit frame for digital family pictures
- 02 Façade to the main entrance of the house
- 03 The stairs as the focal point of the house
- 04 Friends and family dining table to enjoy togetherness
- 05 Overlooking the beautiful landscape backyard



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fabrics from many parts of Indonesia. They like to be able to display those fabrics, sculptures and paintings. Both of them love contemporary arts. While they acquired some of the paintings occasionally, they also plan to change the display with a different theme, and it feels like it has been made easy to do with the renovation.

To accommodate what the owners plan to display, walls and door frames were neutralized by painting them off-white, a colour that works with the gallery-style lighting for the paintings. Furthermore, versatile lights were used to fit for art viewing as in a gallery and, at the same time, suitable for a home.

Upon completion, the owners express satisfaction with the result, which is better than expected. Through every project phase, Xavier understands their need for a house where they want to live comfortably and enjoy the art collections in their daily life.

“There is a connection between the indoor and outdoor as one very nice living space. It is like one beautiful painting,” the lady of the house said, complementing their newly renovated house. ^{ID}



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Project Data

Location:
Denpasar, Bali

Land Area
1000 sqm

Floor Area
500 sqm

Architecture, Interior & Landscape Design Consultant
Xavier LOUP STUDIO

Principal Designer
Xavier Loup

M&E Consultant, Main & Interior Contractor
Bali Home Builder

Vegetal Species
Gardenia, Brazilian Fern Tree, Giant Swamp Taro, Dwarf Lilyturf, Spider Lily

Notable Features
House and art gallery duality

Construction Started
2020

Completed
2021

Xavier Loup Studio
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- 06 The impressive reflection of the garden
- 07 The space to relax in the corner of the room
- 08 A calm-ambiance master suite
- 09 A clean looking bathroom with his and her sink

Creating an Art Gallery as A Living Space



What was your concept in renovating Umah Jempiring?

Create an Art Gallery as a living space. We worked with a structural engineer to remove many walls and partitions, even bearing walls, and replace them with steel beams to simplify and fluidify the space. There are now only four spaces, each with a simple function: Entrance, Dining, Living (with a kitchen space), and Master Suite (bedroom, dressing, study, bathroom), with the right balance where Art Gallery and home blend and complete each other.

What challenge did you face in designing the house as an art gallery, residence, and landscape together?

To bring new volume and new function. The project was extensive, as we had to rework it. It takes more time to renovate than to build a new one!

As an art director of this home renovation project, how did you create a seamless connection between the interior design of the house and the landscape outside the house?

All the elements are a fusion of natural materials designed to blend with the outdoors and artworks. It had to be very subtle and minimalist.

Where or what is the focal point of the house?

Perspective transversal with a focal point on the garden. The lighting was a big challenge here. It needed to be versatile and fit for art viewing.

As a landscape designer, what combination of plants did you use to create a fresh ambiance outdoors?

We played on different spaces by linking the interior and the exterior spaces with large pots of gigantic *Monstera*. My rules in creation are to work with five



Umah Jempiring in Denpasar, Bali, integrates the balance of living space and an art gallery where the owners can live comfortably and enjoy their art collections daily. As an Art Director and Landscape Architect, **Xavier Loup** has successfully turned the house into a genuine life place.

Could you explain your role in the Umah Jempiring renovation project?

Art Director, landscape, and furniture creator. This project is a renovation, a refurbishment. The reception room, dining room, kitchen, storage, bedrooms, and living room were already allocated. However, they were undersized because of an overabundance of walls and partitions. The main objective was to open the spaces — great perspective to always have views on some green or patio garden.

repeated elements, a mass planting of *Gardenia*, and prune in waves. The graphic side is given by the repetition of the straight trunk of the ferns from Brazil: *Gardenia*, Brazilian Fern Tree, Giant Swamp Taro, Dwarf Lilyturf, Spider Lily.

strong perspective, and the opening of the garden portion brought the outdoors inside. To be able to enjoy an art collection and, at the same time, be able to enjoy the house with the function. ¹⁰

What has given you any feeling of accomplishment finishing this Umah Jempiring project?

The different volumes and new functions we did create, the