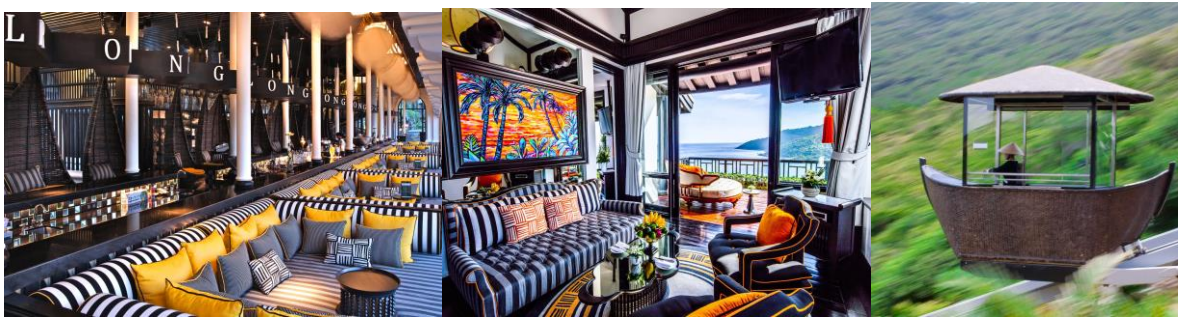


BACKGROUNDER

OUR DESIGNER'S PICKS: THE RESORT'S MOST PHOTOGENIC SPOTS



Wherever you look, you'll find a picture waiting to be taken.

The Intercontinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort is a riot of colour, unconventional design and a healthy splash of whimsy. Wherever you go you're likely to see something that stops you in your tracks, whether it's the delicate curve of a silk lantern, a giant pen-and-ink bird portrait, striking geometric floor tiles or a statue of the *Ky-Lan*, a mythical creature that's half-dragon, half-dog.

We asked designer Bill Bensley, the visionary architect behind the resort, to share with us five of his favourite photogenic spots.

1. "M Club, designed by an aristocratic monkey with its banana-yellow cinema - complete with banana wall sconces."

Never one to create anything that could be perceived as boring, Bill Bensley took a completely different approach to M Club, one of our favourite venues for private parties and celebrations. Instead of choosing to come up with the design himself, he decided to put himself into the shoes of an imaginative well-heeled monkey, named Charles, from a family with a rich history and old money. How would he have designed his own bachelor pad? What would it look like? The result is a burst of whimsical details, with papier-mâché busts of Charles' monkey friends, custom-made geometric floor tiles, and an 85-seat cinema with banana sconces and bright yellow leather seats. You could say it's all a bit bananas, in the best possible way.

2. *"The One-Bedroom Club Peninsula Suite. More than half of the total area is indoor-outdoor space, with giant soaring ceilings. It's a great place to be in a tropical rainstorm, and a great place to have a massage!"*

There's always something special about a space where the indoors and outdoors merge into each other, and this suite is no exception. The dramatic views of the forest-clad peninsula and turquoise waters of the bay from the black-and-white striped daybed are enough to make anyone reach for their camera. And inside the suite there are also plenty of snap-worthy opportunities. From the cloud-shaped marble table to the vintage fan, lime green fabric accents and paintings of tropical birds, this suite is a real feast for the eyes.

3. *"The L_O_N_G Bar! It's just so much fun. The best place for a lazy day with cocktails and a good book."*

L_O_N_G by name and definitely long by nature (50 meters, in fact), Bill is spot on when he says it makes a great place for a long, lazy day. Located by the beachfront with views out to sea, the bar blends design touches inspired by buildings from the colonial period with a colour scheme of black and white, punctuated by bright, sunny yellow. A dramatic row of white columns is reminiscent of Vietnamese temple design, while slowly moving *punkah* fans are suspended from the ceiling. Look out for the surfboard-shaped table and hanging chairs inspired by fisherman's baskets, and you'll definitely have inspiration for a snap or two.

4. *"The Living Room of the Heavenly Penthouse."*

If there's one suite in the resort that embodies the colourful energy of tropical living, it's the Heavenly Penthouse. And the living room is filled with eclectic style and design that captures the attention everywhere you look. From the delicate curvature of the ceiling inspired by the sloping roofs of temples to the pop of colour from the vivid painting of palm trees on the wall and the orange, black and grey scheme that graces the furniture and carpet, this is one space that demands attention. But cast your eyes outside onto the sunny terrace and private pool, and there's even more to see – or just sit back and enjoy.

5. *"The Nam Tram, of course!"*

The Nam Tram connects the upper part of the resort (or the Heaven level, as we call it) with the beachside. It's a funicular tram with carriages shaped like traditional basket boats, each with its own monkey mascot at the helm. It's a fascinating subject from whichever way you look, whether you watch it gliding past the backdrop of tall, tropical trees, or from inside the carriage as you journey seawards. The journey takes 80 seconds from top to bottom; you'll



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want to savour every visual moment!

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