Tsunami

Crisis in South East Asia

December 26, 2004 was a dark day in the history of the world. Phuket, the biggest island in Thailand, and which is located in the Andaman Sea of Southern Thailand, was particularly devastated by the “Tsunami waves”. Cape Panwa located on the southern coast of the island was especially decimated. It was a traumatic day for many people, not only here in Thailand but all around the world.

After the tsunami hit, Phuket’s environment was completely changed, including nature, landscape, architecture and tourism. All tourist travel was reduced greatly after the tsunami’s attack. Hotel business in Phuket has been stagnating since this tragic event.
Abstract + Proposal
Life after the big wave “Tsunami”

Five years later, Phuket’s environment and Phuket’s architecture are being recreated to become the most unique and beautiful island once again, but the project of Hilton Hotel Corporation is still being held back, leaving their site vacant. For Thai people like me, I would like to help resuscitate and promote Phuket tourism and hotel industry to make a comeback and have it boom once again. In my project, I will take the strongest points of Phuket, which include exquisite environment, abundant natural resources, and unique culture, and apply these to my design. These qualities will attract travelers from all over the world and bring tourism back to Phuket once again.

In term of design concept, and design programming, I will use the elements of nature to make a connection between people, culture and environments. The resort will provide living space, environment, relaxation and a sense of well-being for the guests before they go back to their lives at home.

Thailand is often called the “Land of Smiles”, not only because visitors love its natural beauty and historical riches, but also because of the country’s friendly people and fascinating culture.
**Phuket Information**

Phuket is an island with no boundaries

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**Phuket’s Geography**
Phuket lies off the west coast of Southern Thailand in the Andaman Sea, approximately 890km from Bangkok. It is Thailand’s largest island at 550sq km, roughly the same size as Singapore, and is surrounded by many smaller islands that add a further 70 sq km to its total land area. Phuket is separated from the mainland by the Chong Pak Phra channel at its northernmost point, where a causeway connects the island to the mainland.

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**Phuket’s History**
Phuket was known as Bukit, meaning Crystal Mountain. Phuket is a town with a long history. In centuries past, Phuket was an important trading post on the eastern shore, handling shipping and dealing with sailors from the Arab, Malay, India, Burman and China in 16th century, the island was also well-known to Europeans, as first Portuguese and Dutch, then English and French sailed to its fabled shore. The island enjoyed an unprecedented surge in wealth when tin was found to be available in large quantities in the nearby shadows. Ambitious, hardworking miner and business flocked to the island from the province of south China (the 19th century)
Phuket’s Architecture

The cultural built heritage of Phuket is a reflection of the settlement’s prosperity during the tin boom days. The townscape is unique in Thailand, but resembles that of the British Straits Settlements, which comprised Penang, Malacca and Singapore. The architecture is usually called ‘Sino-Portuguese’ by the Bangkok architects today. Phuket town was really modeled after British colonial Penang, and that was the origin of any European influence on its architecture. Upon close examination, it is evident that Phuket’s shophouses and villas resemble those in Penang in form, materials and design, although the occasional Thai motif reminds us that we are in Thailand. Phuket oral tradition in several cases claim that Penang architects, builders and materials were brought to Phuket for its best mansions.
Mind Map

Resort + Spa and guest requirements to design solutions

Every year, many people make the resolution to get healthy and stay healthy with luxurious health retreats. Resorts with spas need to offer programs that are designed to cultivate a healthy lifestyle in unique and permanent ways. Each spa features regimens that fall under the heading “wellness” and focus on overall health and longevity, all the while keeping, of course, within the latest in style, luxury and ultimate comfort.
Well being - more than just good health, well being describes a state of wellness of body, mind and soul, where all are in a state of health, the individual is happy and prospering.

**WELL-BEING**

The state of being happy, healthy, or prosperous. Popular use of the term 'well-being' usually relates to health.

**Bring nature back to our life**

5 elements of nature

- Wind
- Wood
- Water
- Stone
- Fire
Bubble Diagram
On site Cape Panwa

Public Area
Private Area
Transportation Area
Sketches

“From sketch files, we’ll find a pose that shows the emotion behind a particular character’s story”
Lobby

The lobby is the first area that guests experience and is the starting point of transition to the other areas of the resort. The arrival of travelers is comparable to the movement of the wind that comes with fresh air to the wellness resort. Therefore, I chose wind, as one of nature’s five elements, to be the main theme for the lobby and to represent the lobby as the welcoming movement.

I developed the concept of wind by creating open spaces around buildings which easily circulate wind from the outside because the project is located on the highest area of the resort. For the interior spaces, I focused my design on ventilation and decorative objects that related to the wind.