

Soo Chan

SCDA

The founding principal of Singapore-based Soo Chan Design Associates checks-in to his fantasy hotel, where an underwater paradise awaits.

Where are we?

Underwater in the Maldives.

How did you get here?

By luxury submarine.

Who's at the concierge desk?

Rather than one concierge, I am greeted by the villa host and General Manager from Alila Villas Soori.

And the owner / manager?

Adrian Zecha.

Who are you sharing your room with?

My wife, Ling.

Is there anything you would like waiting for you in your room on arrival?

A bottle of 2000 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti.

Describe the hotel, your room and the view...

The building is underwater, surrounded by coral and fish. From every viewpoint, you can see water and nature, and the water is lit up. Inside, all the natural elements are present: the building is carved from coral and rock and has full tempered glass; the interiors are made from wood; and there's a fireplace giving off warmth and light - the three primal elements of water, earth, and fire. There's an incredible sense of stillness and tranquility. You are standing still, but life is swirling and moving all around you.

Who designed it?

It is a fantasy collaboration between Pritzker Prize winner Peter Zumthor and interior architect and product designer Christian Liaigre.

What's the restaurant / bar like?

The restaurant and bar are like a wine cellar: cavernous and crafted from coral with natural woods lining the interior. The wine bottles are sealed in casks and naturally chilled in salt water.



Who are you dining with this evening?

American architect Louis Khan; actor Kevin Spacey; Ludwig Mies van der Rohe; French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson; and Singapore's first Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Who's manning the stoves?

Yannick Alléno, the three-Michelin-starred chef who has worked the kitchens at Le Royal Monceau and Le Meurice.

And what's on the menu?

Starter: Marinated prawns with green apple jelly and caviar *Main:* Wonton mee (noodles with dumplings) paired with char siew (Chinese barbecued pork) *Dessert:* A palate cleansing pineapple lemon pavlova.

Would you like something to drink with that?

Prieure Roch Nuits-Saint-Georges and a chilled Montrachet.

What's playing on the iPod?

Soft jazz.

What's on the movie channel?

Something on the Discovery or History Channel.

And a book at bedtime?

One of my many unfinished books that I started...

What's in the mini-bar for a night cap?

A bottle of Château d'Yquem.

Would you like a newspaper or magazine in the morning?

FT Weekend and Monocle.

What toiletries would you like to freshen up with?

Whatever my wife has packed for me - she's the expert. For fragrance, Le Labo Bergamote 22.

Early morning alarm call or late check out?

Early morning alarm call.

Bath, jacuzzi or power shower?

Power shower.

Full English, continental or something different?

Continental breakfast.

Swimming pool, spa or gym?

Spa.