



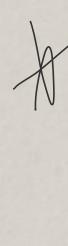
### **VIDA**

Costa Rica · South Africa

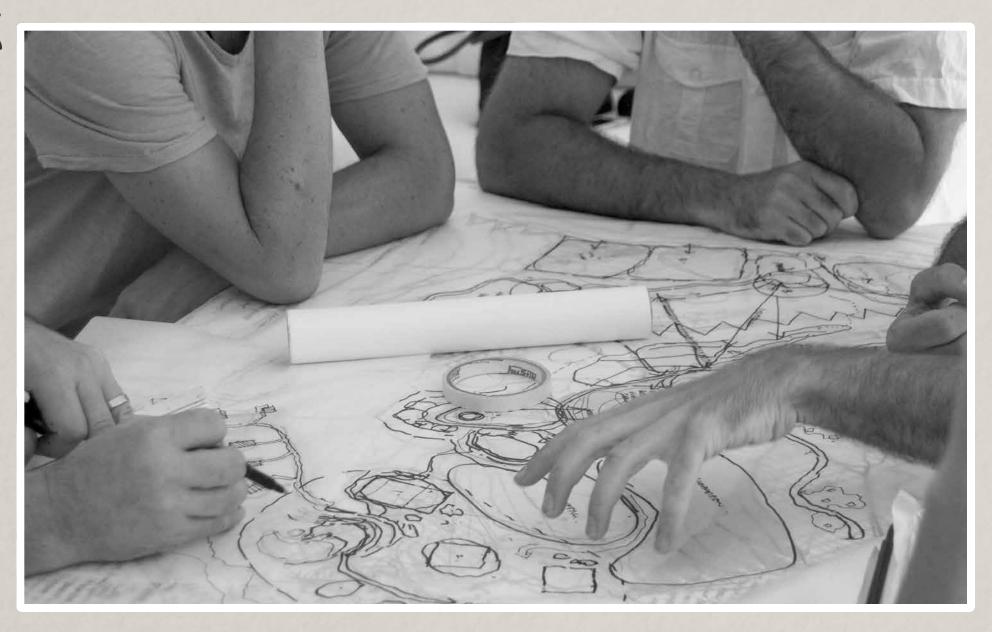
vidadesignstudio.com
info@vidadesignstudio.com



# We Are MASTERPLANNING +DESIGN.







# We Start Every Project With Our VIDA (SESSIONS)®

VIDA SESSIONS® are how we understand your opportunity: they are a 2-5 day workshop with the projects' key decision makers to understand the site, the business case, the people, place and context, the history and the trends, the market, potential risks, programming and phasing.

Based on this understanding, we create a masterplan.

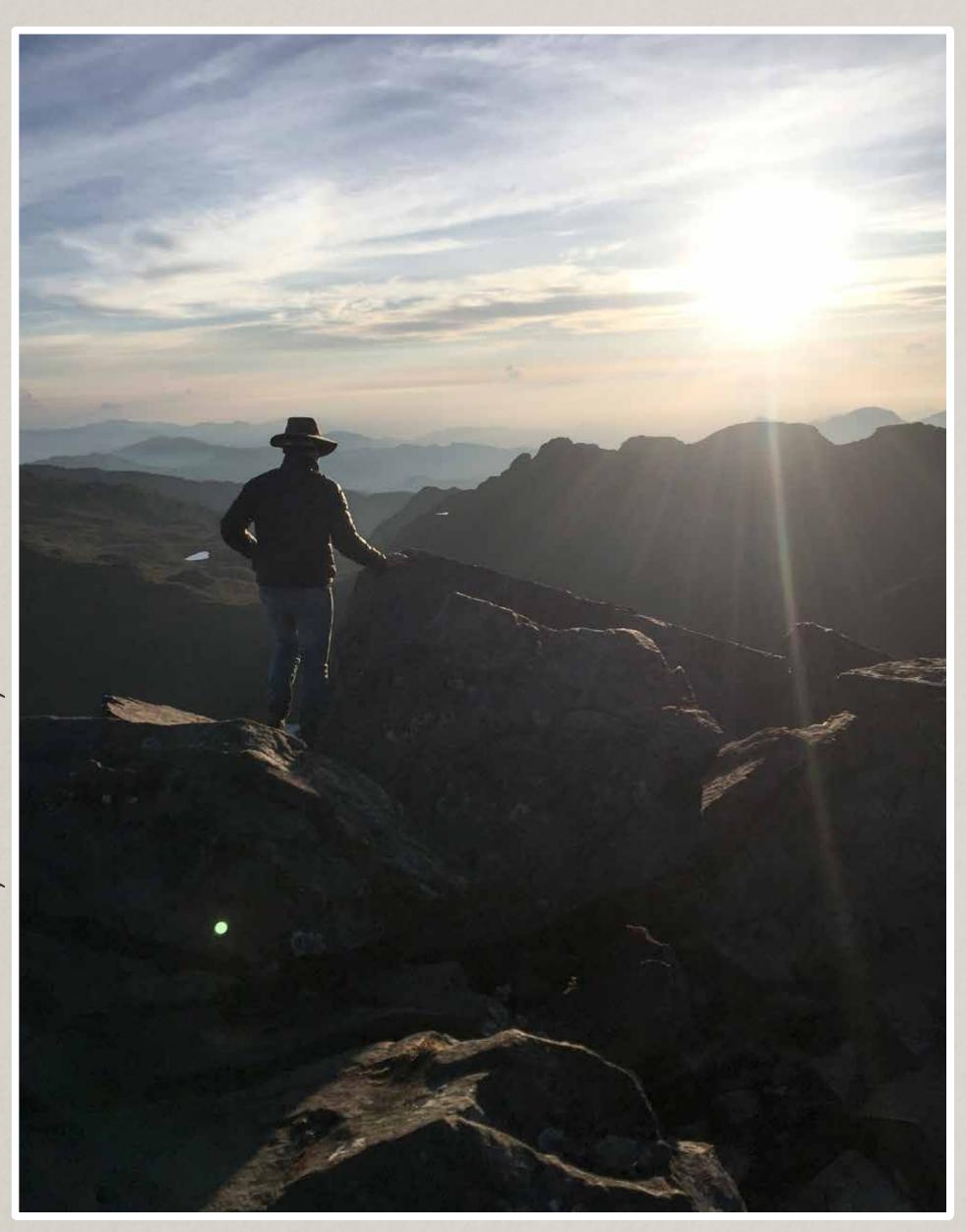
More than that, we create win-win outcomes for all interested parties, through negotiation, listening and sharing.

We create a space in time that rarely exists these days – to focus, observe, to be present and discuss what's possible.

These are purpose-built sessions to understand what 'is' before we develop a vision and a plan for 'what could be'.

VIDA SESSIONS® are the first spark of a successful project.

We believe in what we do, and believe we can do it better.



## We Are GLOBAL.

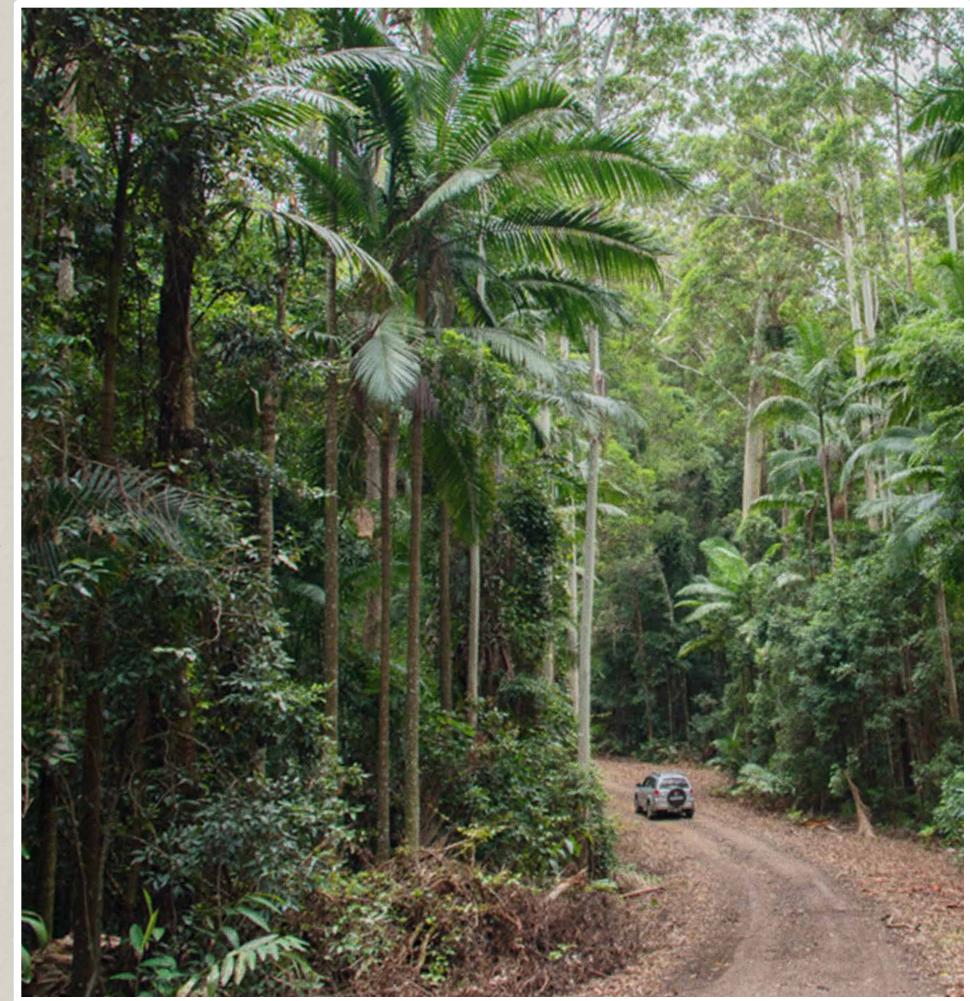
We have offices in Costa Rica and South Africa, our team is international and our work is as well.

### EASTERN ASIA & INDIAN OCEAN

- Grand Bois Community Masterplan, Seychelles
- Nihiwatu Resort Expansion Plan, Sumba Island, Indonesia<sup>1</sup>
- Menjangan Resort Ecotourism Masterplan, West Bali, Indonesia<sup>2</sup>
- Cross Waters Ecolodge, Guangdong Province, China<sup>2</sup>

### NORTH AMERICA

- Kokoro Springs, California
- St Vincents Hotel, New Orleans
- The Drifter Hotel, New Orleans
- Private rural estate, Upstate New York
- Ranch Motel, San Antonio



### CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

- The Lodge at Chaa Creek Ecotourism Masterplan, Belize<sup>1</sup>
- Richmond Bay Ecolodge, Richmond Bay, Dominica<sup>2</sup>
- Dorado Beach, A Ritz Carlton Reserve, Puerto Rico
- Playa El Yankee Masterplan, Nicaragua
- Playa Maderas Masterplan, Nicaragua
- Isla Contadora Masterplan, Pearl Islands, Panama
- Isla Palenque, Gulf of Chiriqui, Panama
- Camp Bay, Utila, Honduras

### MIDDLE EAST

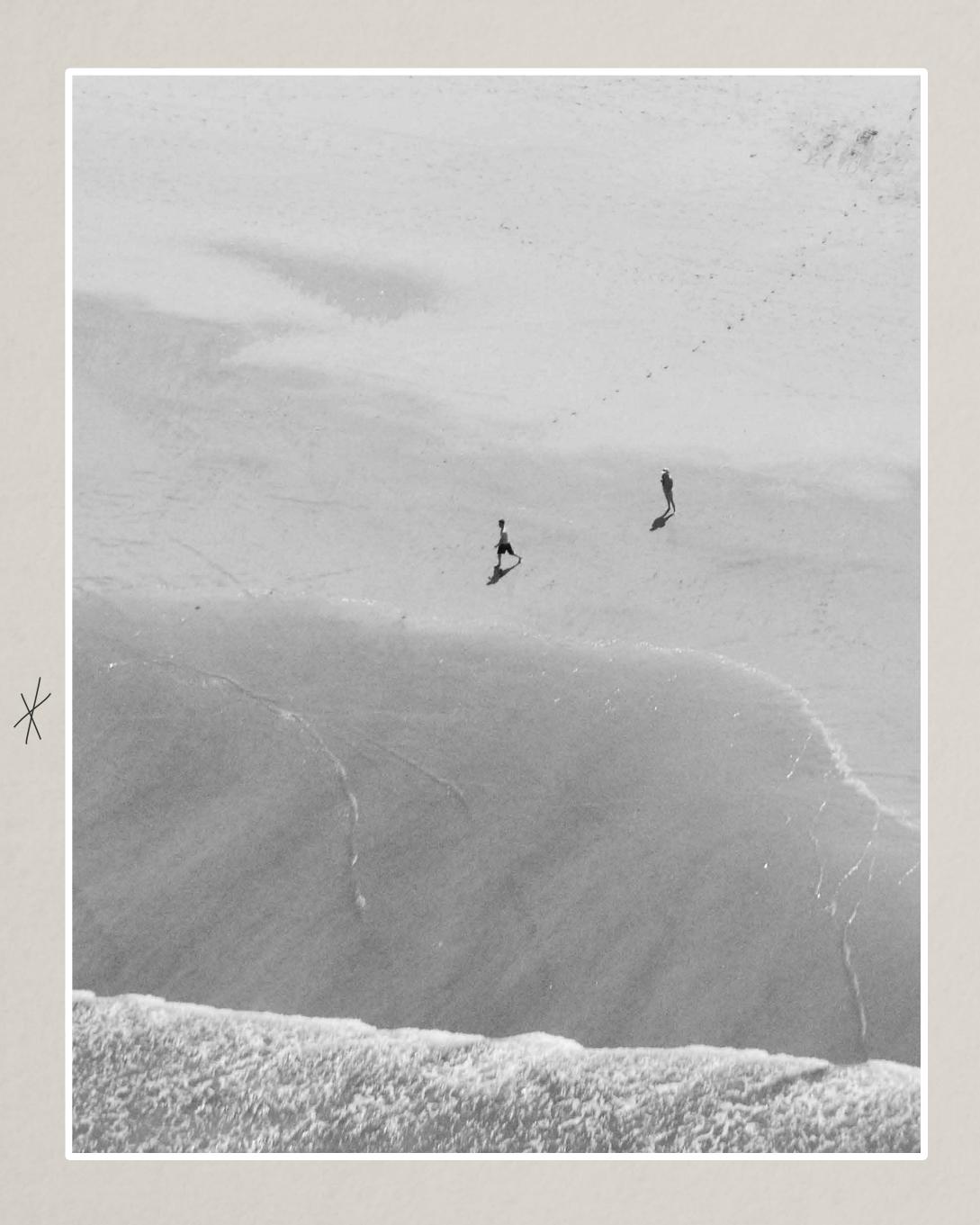
- Park Hyatt Hotel and Yacht Club, Dubai, UAE<sup>2</sup>
- Madinat Jumeirah Resort, Dubai, UAE<sup>2</sup>
- Hilton Hotel and Spa, Luxor, Egypt<sup>1</sup>
- Private Island, Dubai, UAE<sup>1</sup>
- Private Palace, Dubai, UAE<sup>1</sup>

### EUROPE

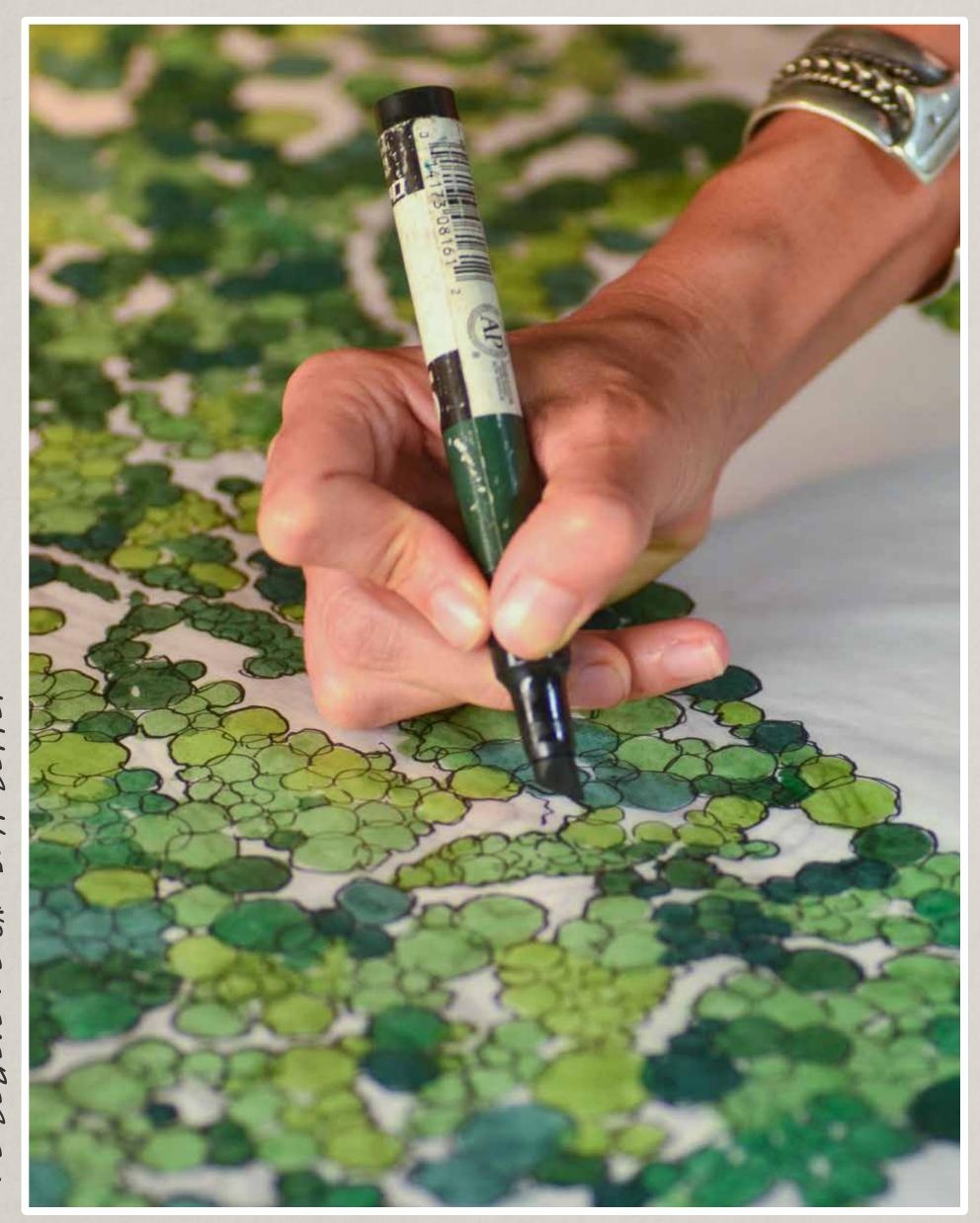
- Hospitality concepts with Al Fresco Concepts, UK
- Antognolla Resort + Spa Masterplan, Umbria, Italy
- Old Park Wood Development Masterplan, UK
- Country Estate, Wiltshire, UK

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Completed while Managing Director of 40North, Costa Rica, 2006-2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Completed while at EDSA, Fort Lauderdale and Beijing, 2001-2007.



We Are a Small Studio with BIG IDEAS.



### We Are VIDA.

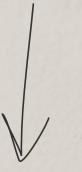


We are the first spark of a successful project.

We are visionary, pragmatic creatives: we see what something is, and we envision what it could be.

We are masterplanners for conscious, sustainable developments. We create strategies for large-scale enterprises and constructions, strategies that consider social, economic, ecological, and metaphysical viability.

We offer the balance that we all crave now: a complete, analytical and sensible vision, coupled with effective, beautiful landscape designs that come from a natural systems perspective.





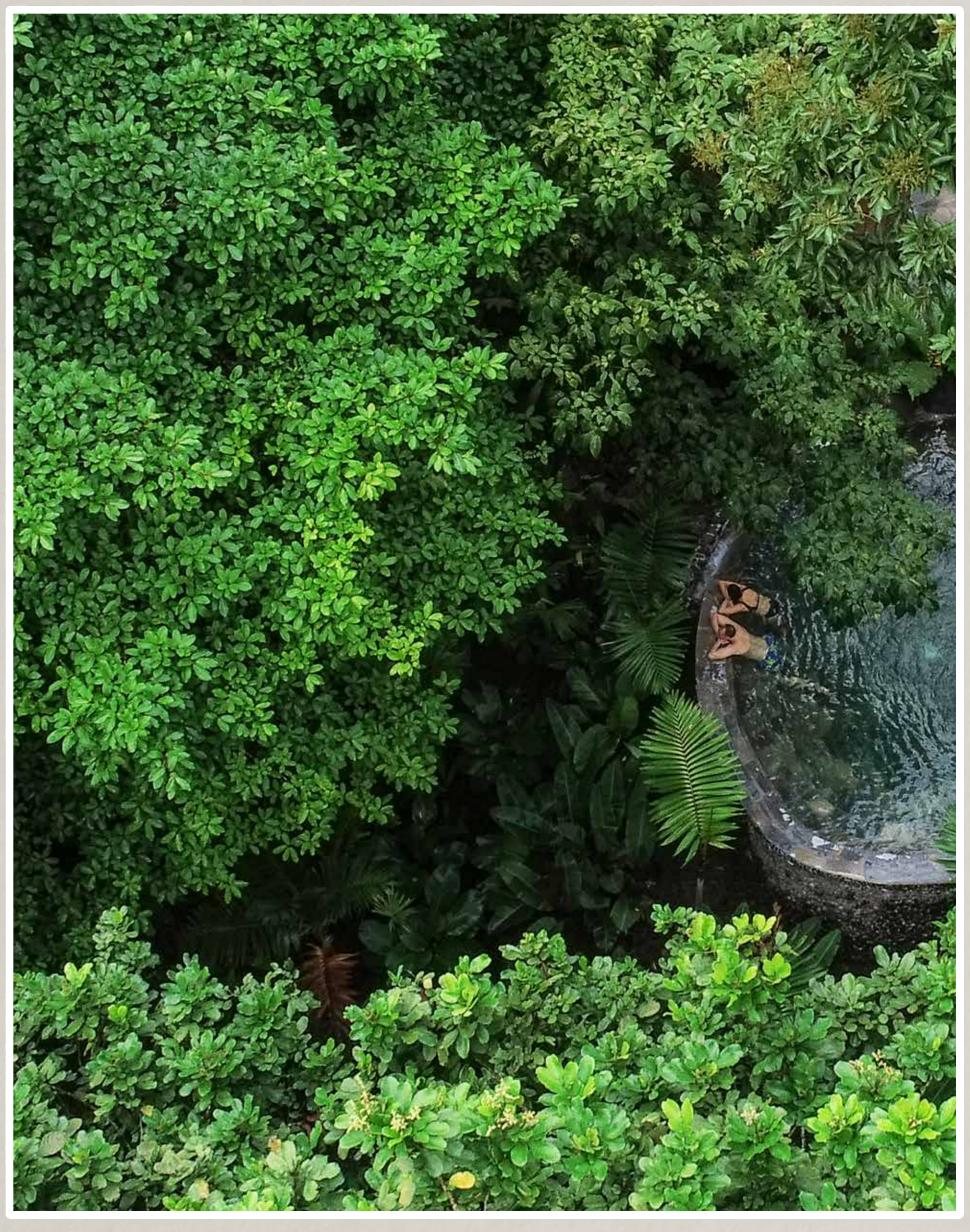
We exist between extremes, and that is what makes us good. We are artisanal and corporate, we are small and large, we are inspiring and sensible, we are business strategy and soul. We are pragmatists and dreamers, we are profit and heart, we are the big picture and the small details, we are the plan that sets you apart... but, most of all, we are listeners.

We listen deeply to every ounce of information we have so that we can develop a really good plan. Because we firmly believe in doing things right: in that rare mix of the spiritual and the practical.

We believe in smart design, in the small big details, we believe in being curious, and living a simple, grateful life. It might sound utopian but we still believe we can help improve the world through better planning, more listening, and more conscious action. We believe in our clients and in ourselves. We believe in what we do, and we believe we can do it better.

Nice to meet you, we are VIDA.

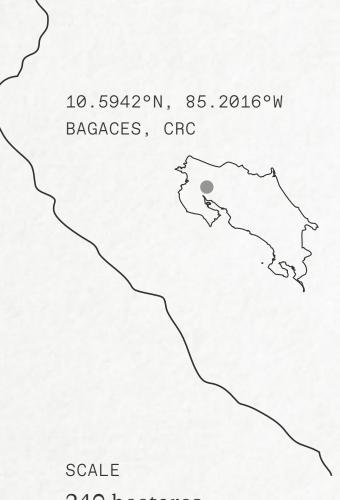




# This Is OUR WORK.

7

### Río Perdido Hotel & Spa.



240 hectares

SCOPE

Masterplanning + Full Service Landscape Architecture

CLIMATE ZONE

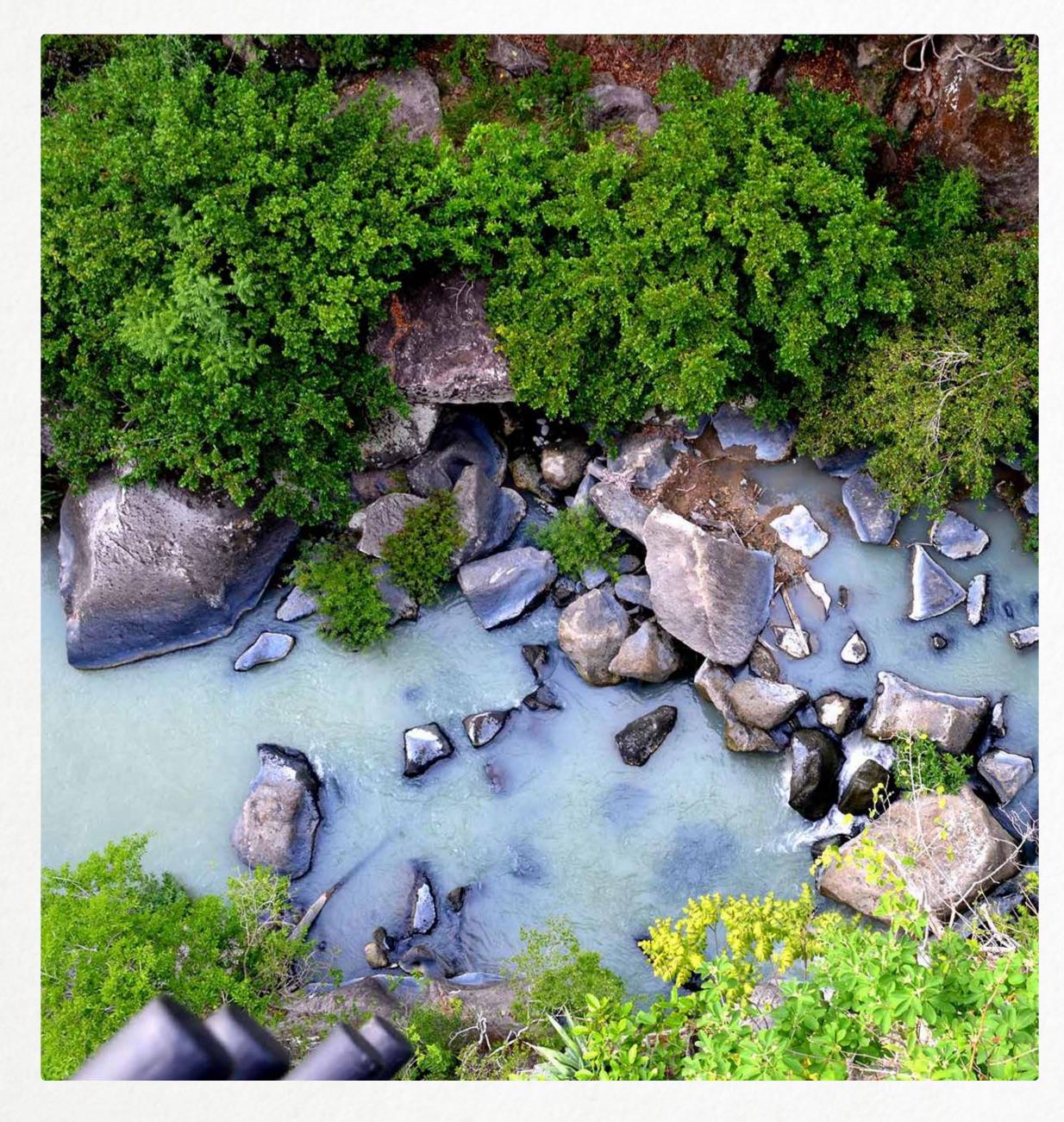
November—April: 148 mm May—October: 1391 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY

2.6°C

YEAR OF COMPLETION 2012



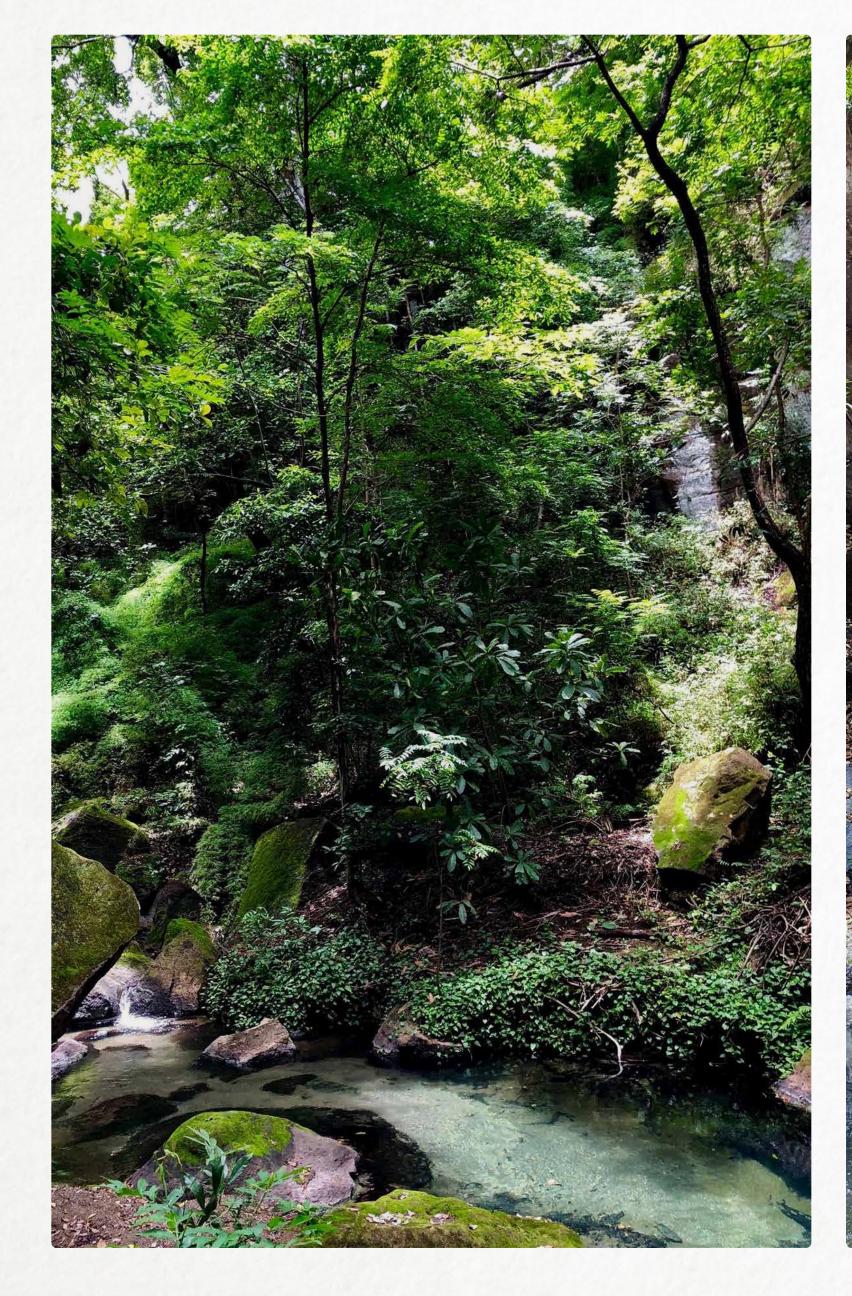


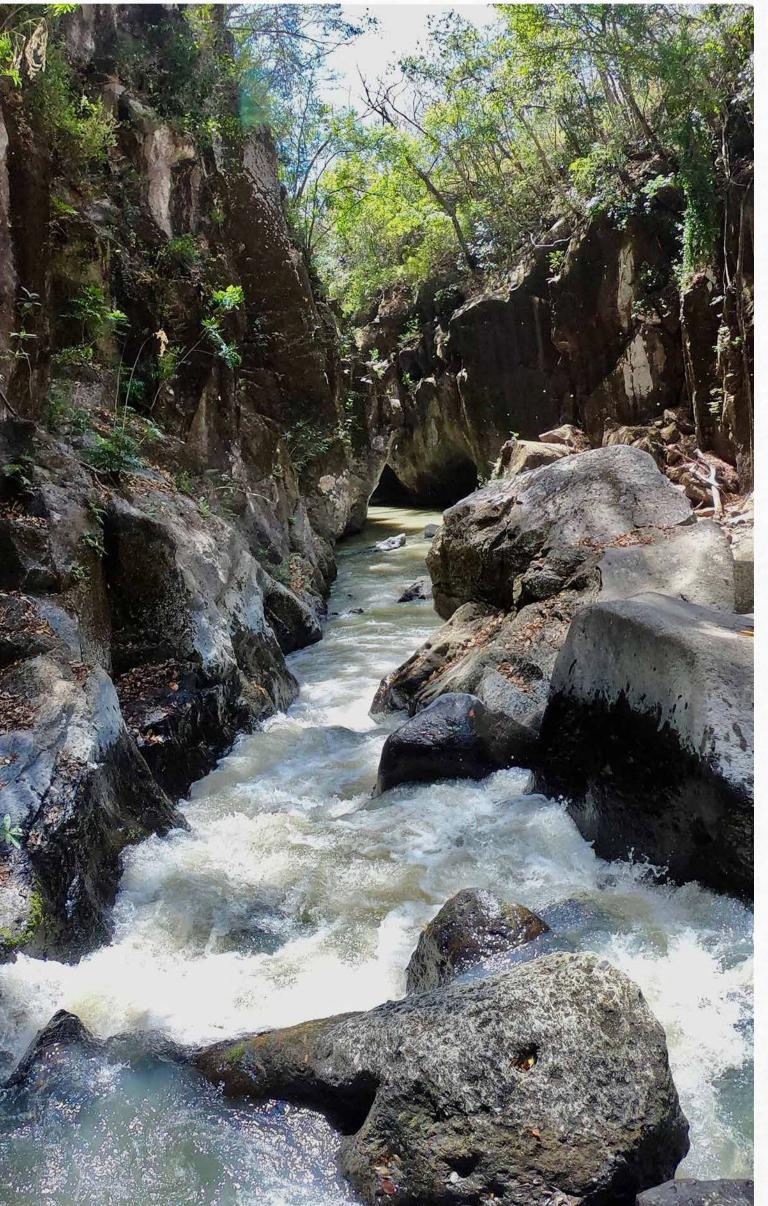
The spectacular *Río Perdido* property features the confluence of two rivers, including one of which is thermal. These rivers cut dramatically through the property, exposing rugged cliffs and a scattering of enormous boulders remnant from volcanic activity. Up to five surrounding volcanoes can be seen from different viewpoints across the property.

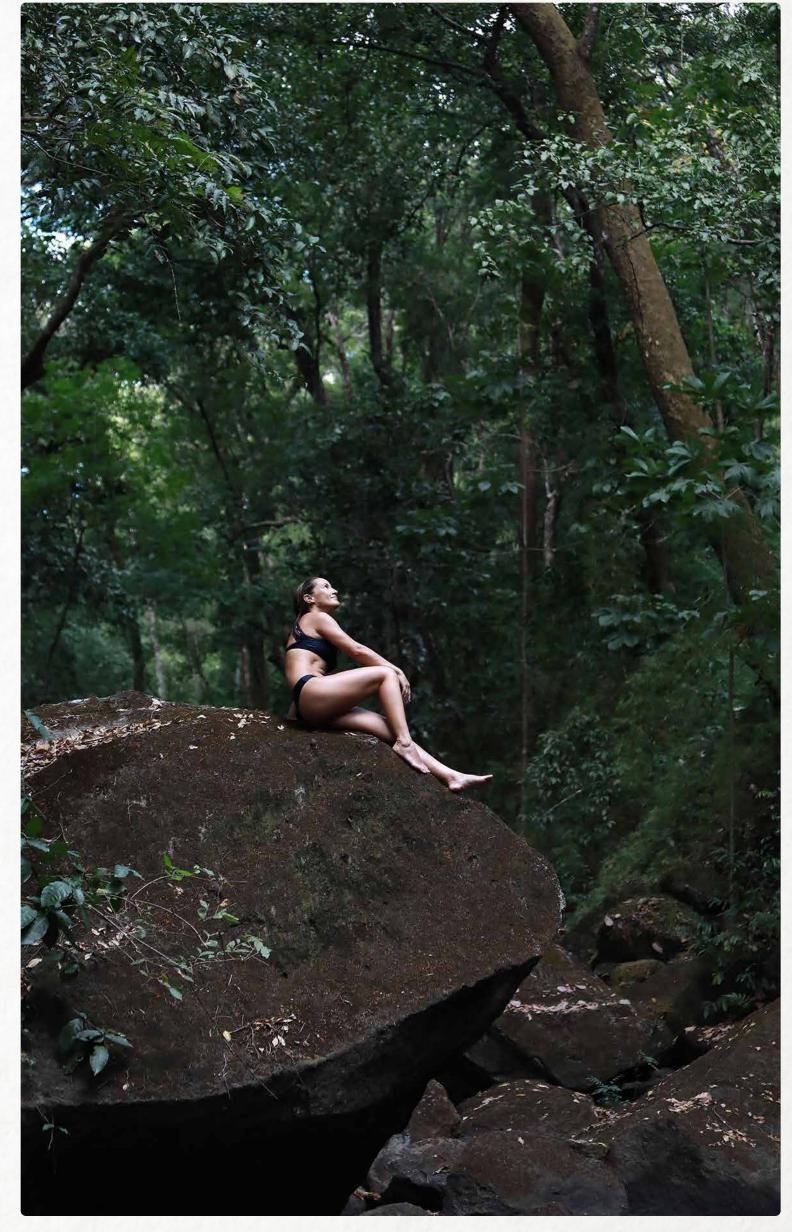
In late 2010, following *VIDA's* first site visit and a review of the planned facility, *VIDA* made several recommendations to the client team which fundamentally changed the way they had been looking at the arrival experience, the routing of the required infrastructure, the external spaces and the overall guest experience.

Supported by the client team, *VIDA* re-planned and designed the arrival experience, guest transfer area, the main road, the routing of the services, the pool and resort-style facilities as well as working with the architects to improve the entry points and exits from the main building to create a more attractive and memorable guest experience.

VIDA's team also routed a circuit of nature-based and interpretive trails connecting the thermal river experience, a suspension bridge crossing the lush canyon of the thermal river and several lookouts. Nature based infrastructure can add another dimension to the guest experience. Our objective as designers is to create connections between people and the natural environment, literal connections like bridges.

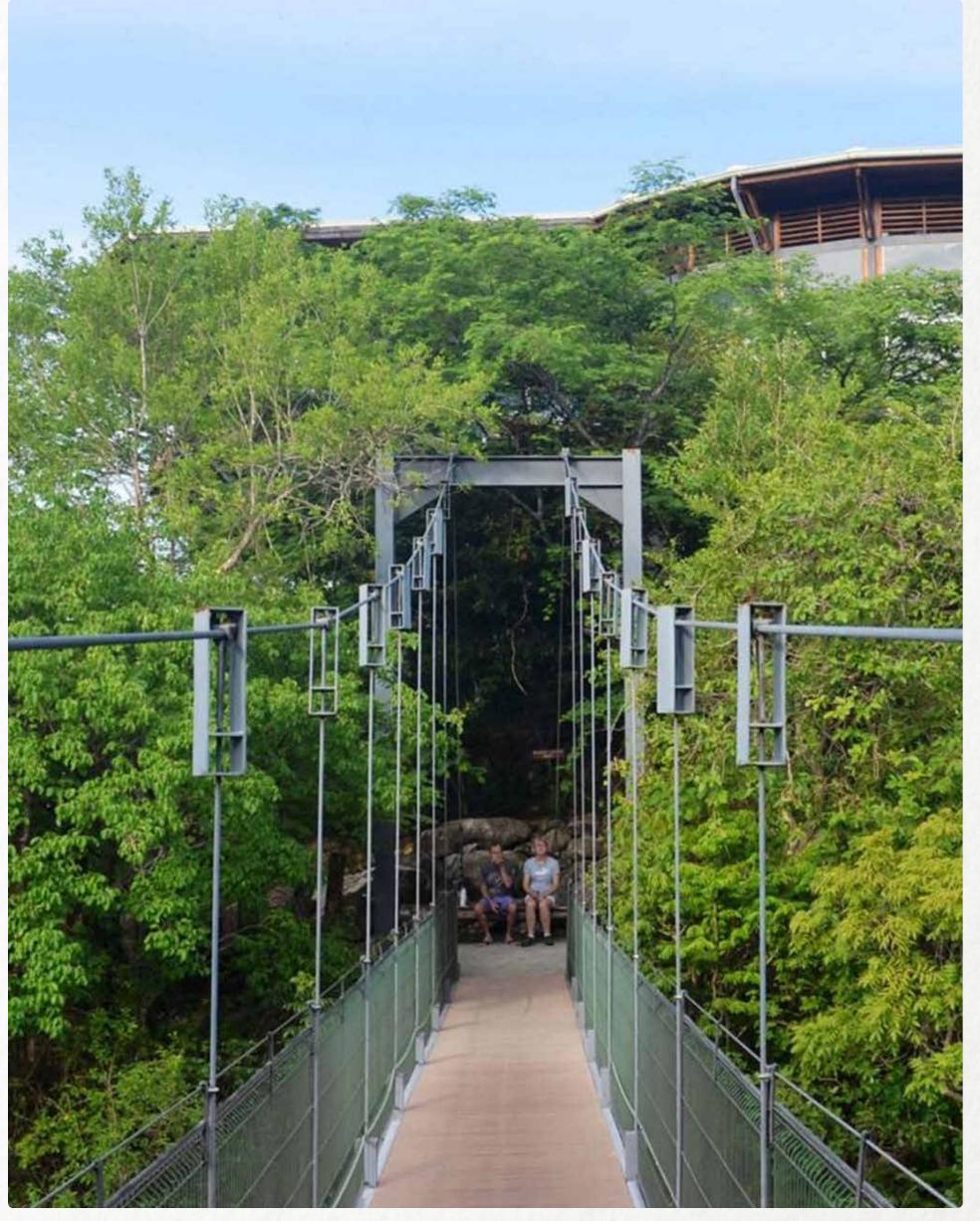


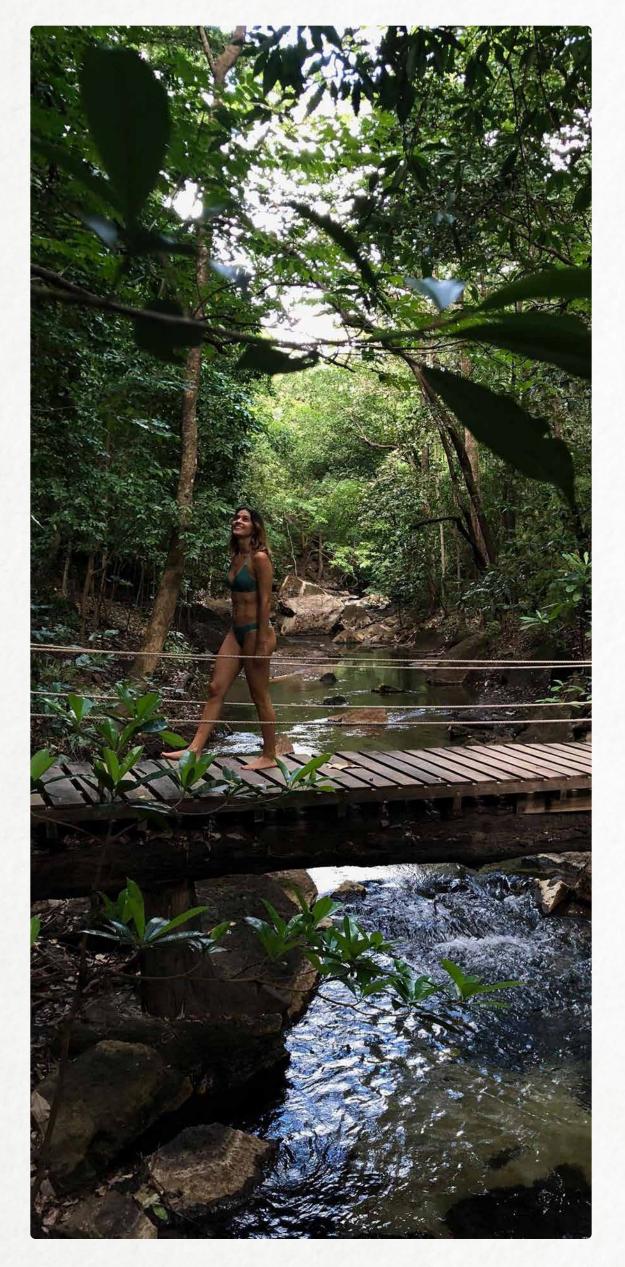






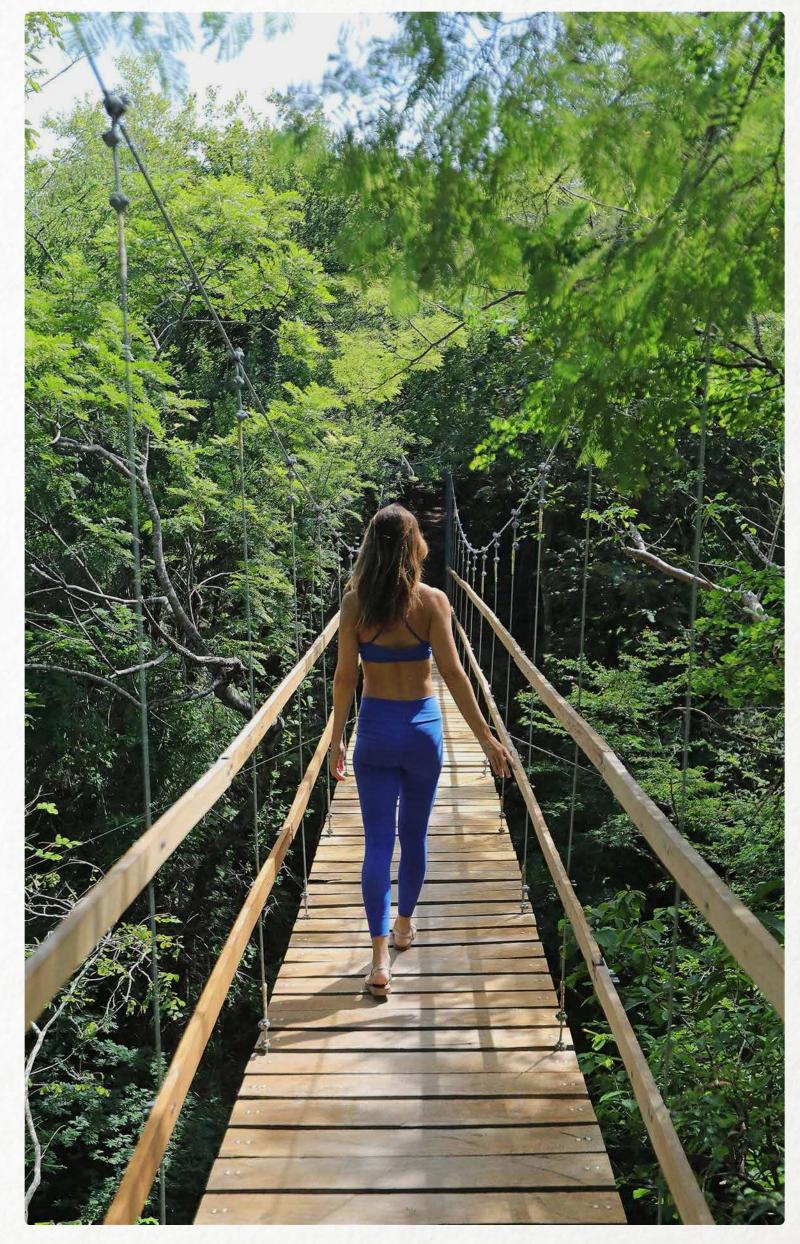




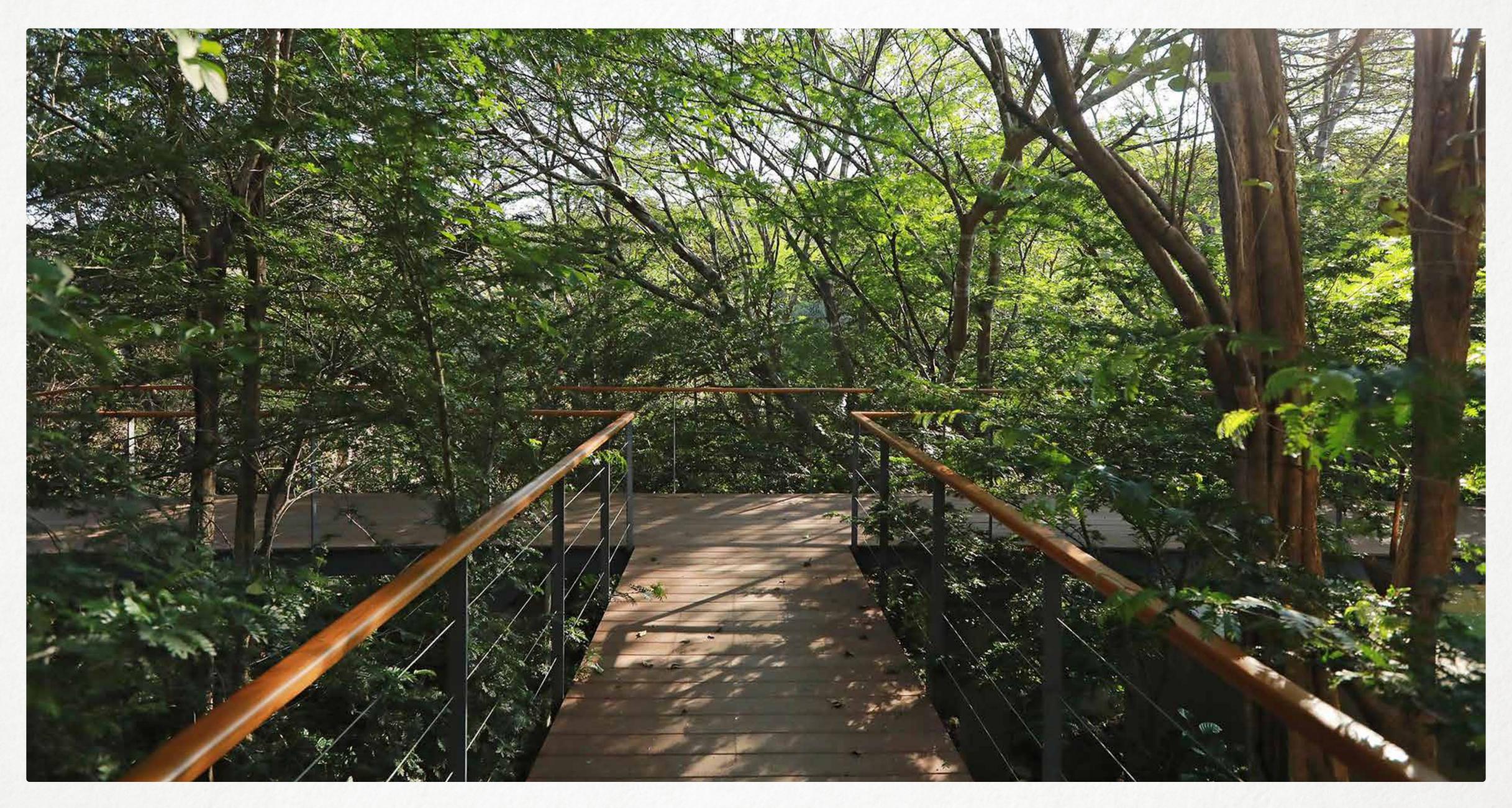


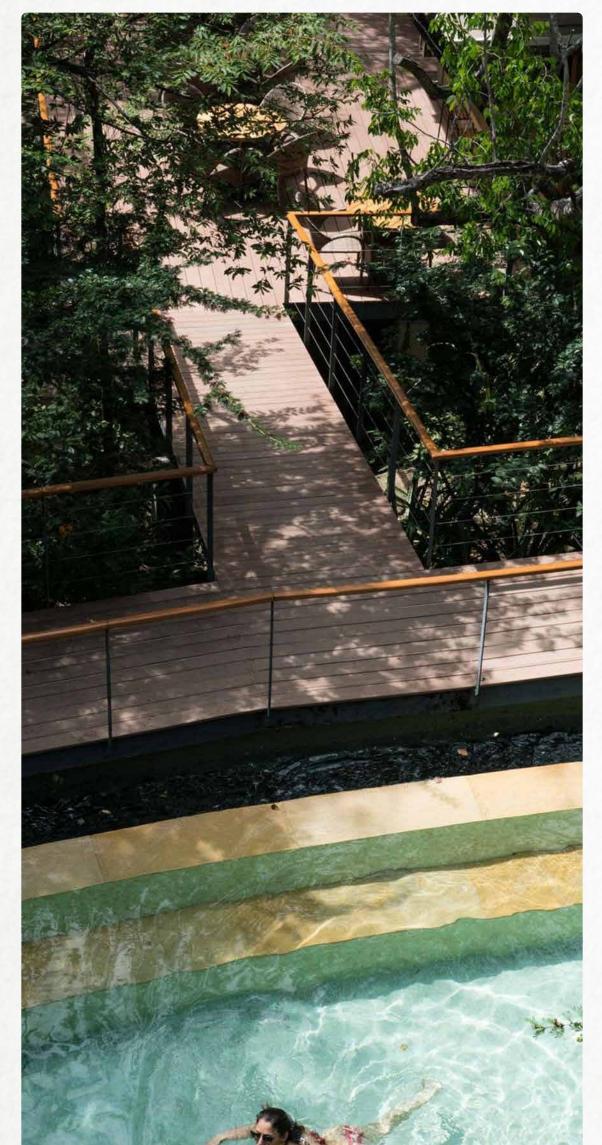






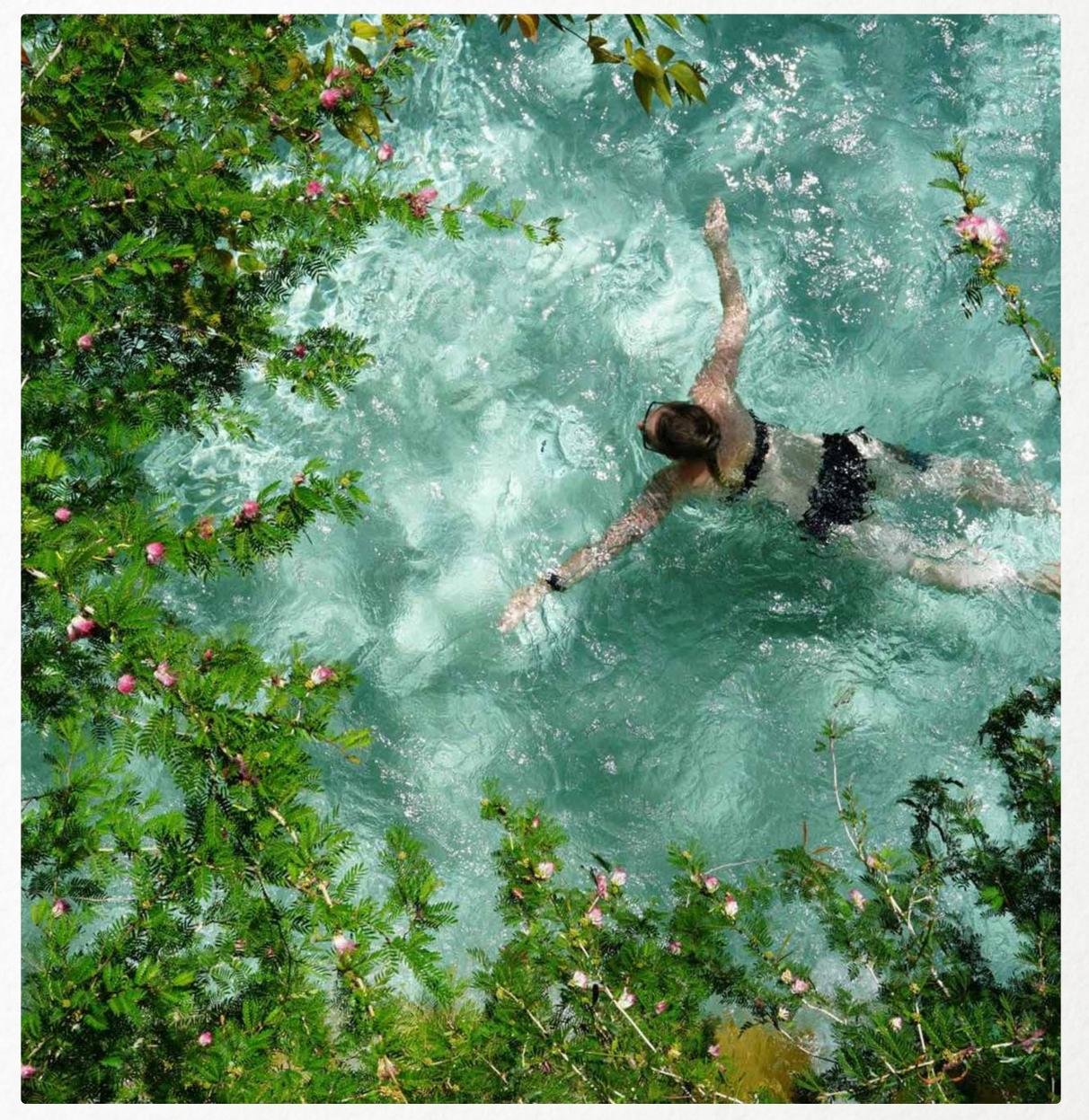




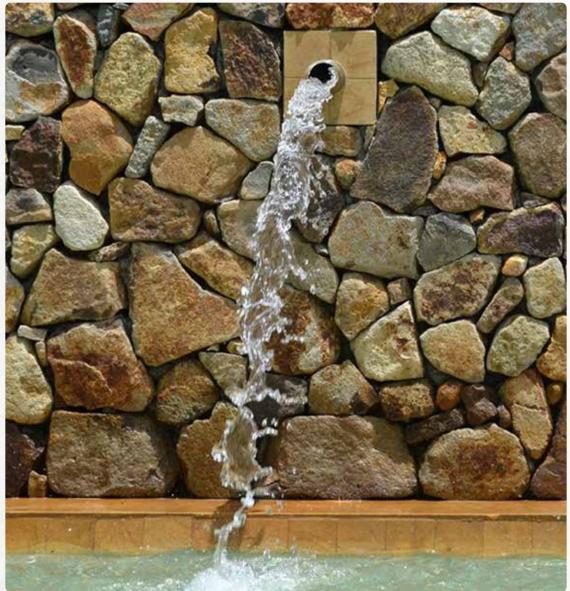


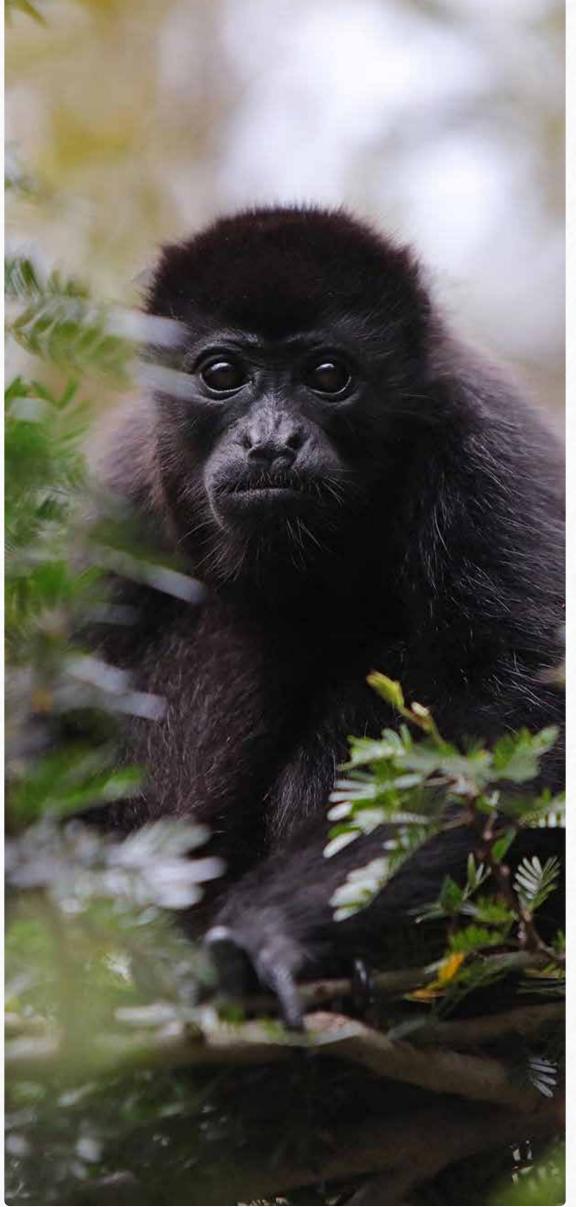










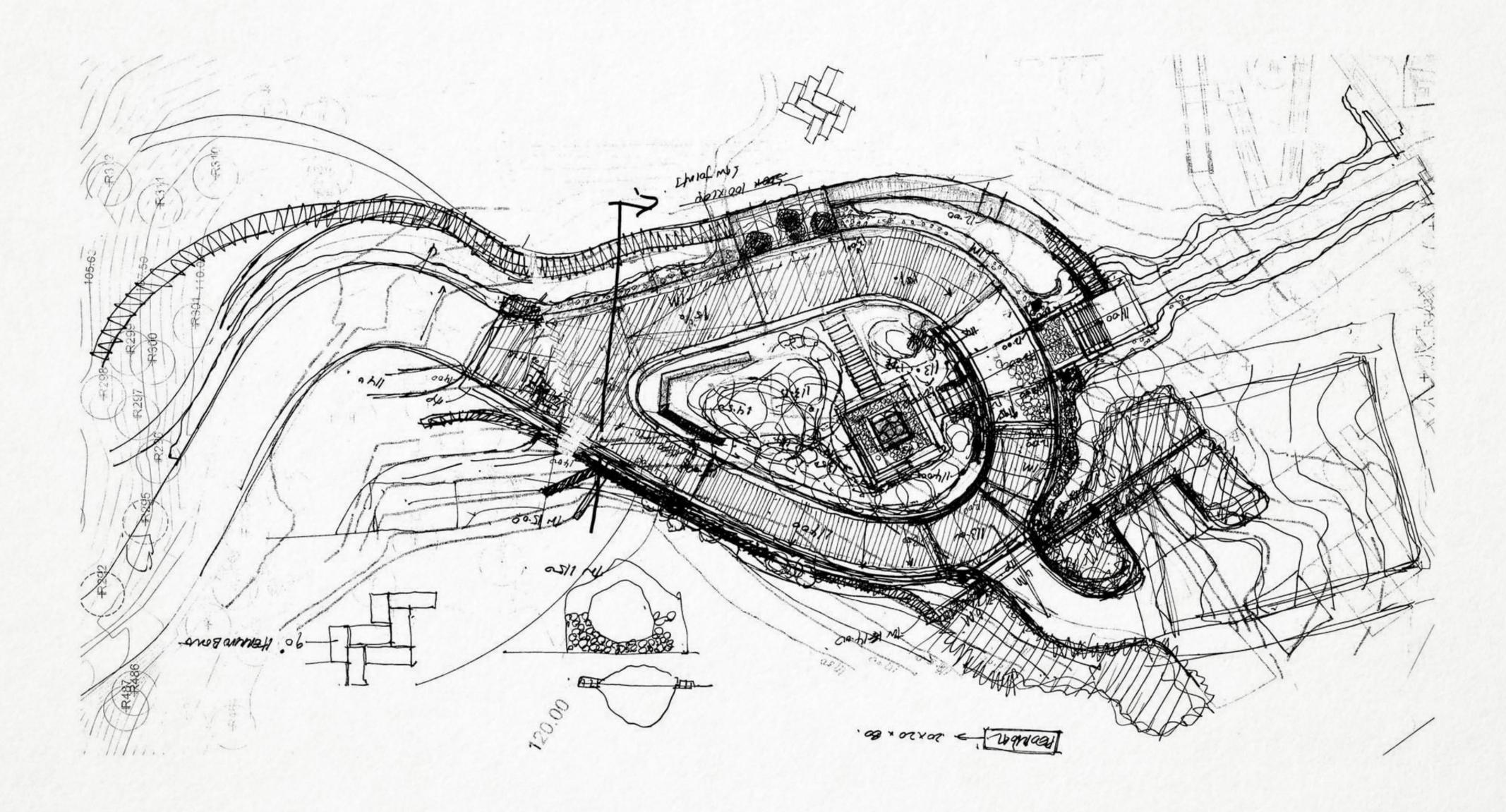


"We've been developing tourism projects in Costa Rica for almost two decades and after getting to know the VIDA team and their inspired projects, it was unquestionable that they were the only contenders to undertake the land planning and landscape design in a project where the balancing of these two elements will dictate its ultimate success as a desirable destination."

Gabriel Saragovia COSTAPLAN

"Adrenaline junkies have been making a beeline for Río Perdido's 240 hectares of forest to go canyoning, tubing, mountain-biking and hiking on trails that lead to hot springs or along the Agua Caliente River. A 30-minute drive north of the small town of Bagaces, through farmland and down a bone-juddering track where clouds of dust billow in the fourwheel-drive's wake, takes us to what feels like the middle of nowhere."

CN Traveler COSTA RICA'S NEW GROOVE, NOV. 2014



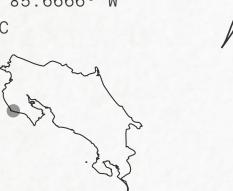






## Harmony Projects.

9.9430° N, 85.6666° W NOSARA, CRC



SCALE

Confidential

SCOPE

Masterplanning + Full Service Landscape Architecture

CLIMATE ZONE

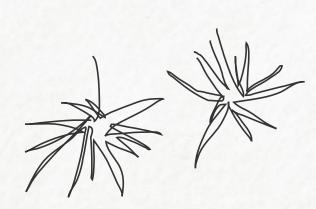
November—April: 191 mm May—October: 1737 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY

 $2.7^{\circ}C$ 

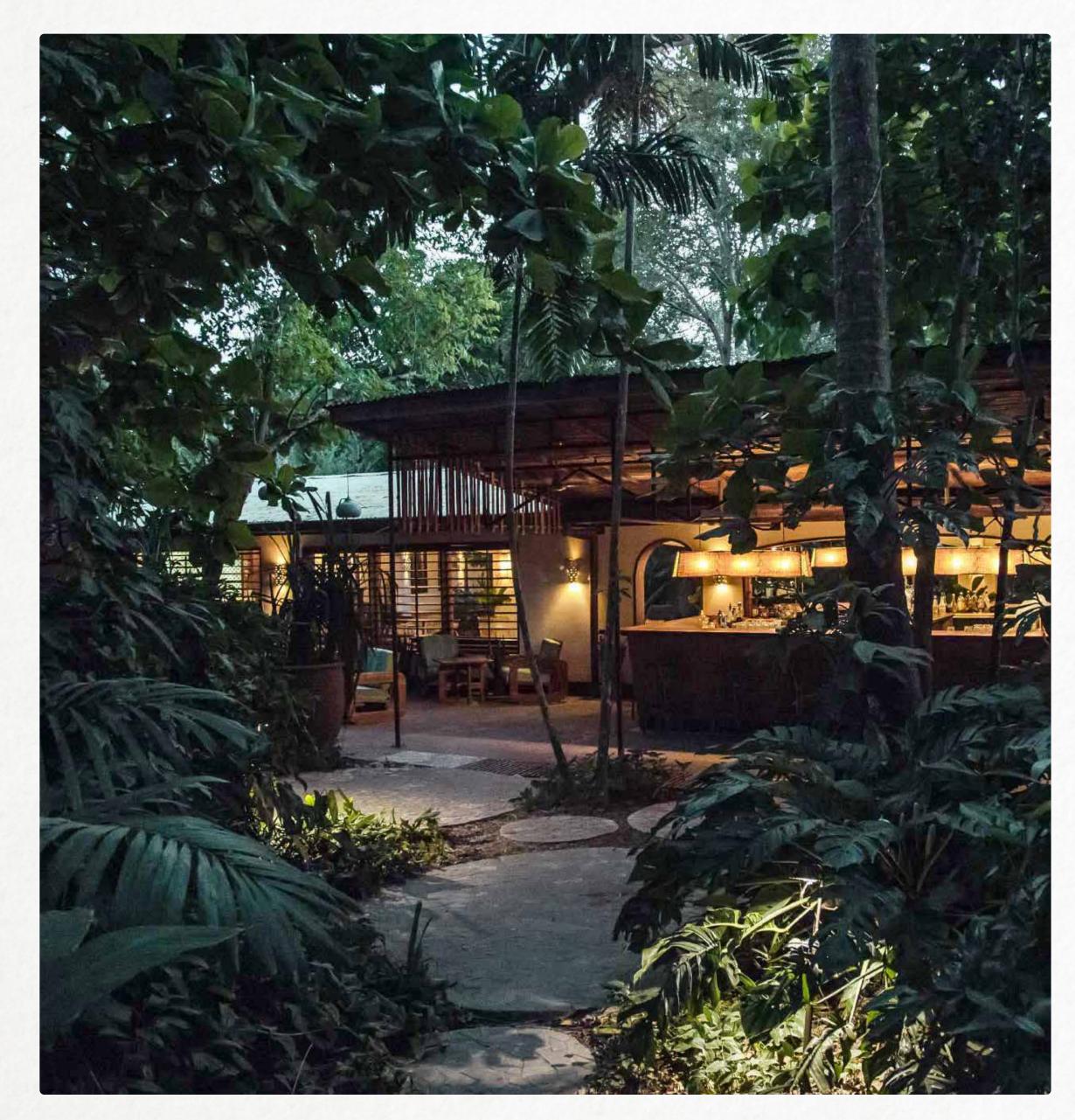
YEAR OF COMPLETION

Ongoing





PLAYA GUIONES, GUANACASTE. COSTA PICA.



VIDA was engaged in early 2013 to work with the Harmony Hotel owners, hotel operations group and design team to develop a Masterplan for the proposed expansion of the property. Key to the planning process was a 5 day VIDA SESSION facilitated by VIDA where we worked as a team to identify the opportunities and constraints of the property and developed alternative scenarios for the future expansion of the hotel.

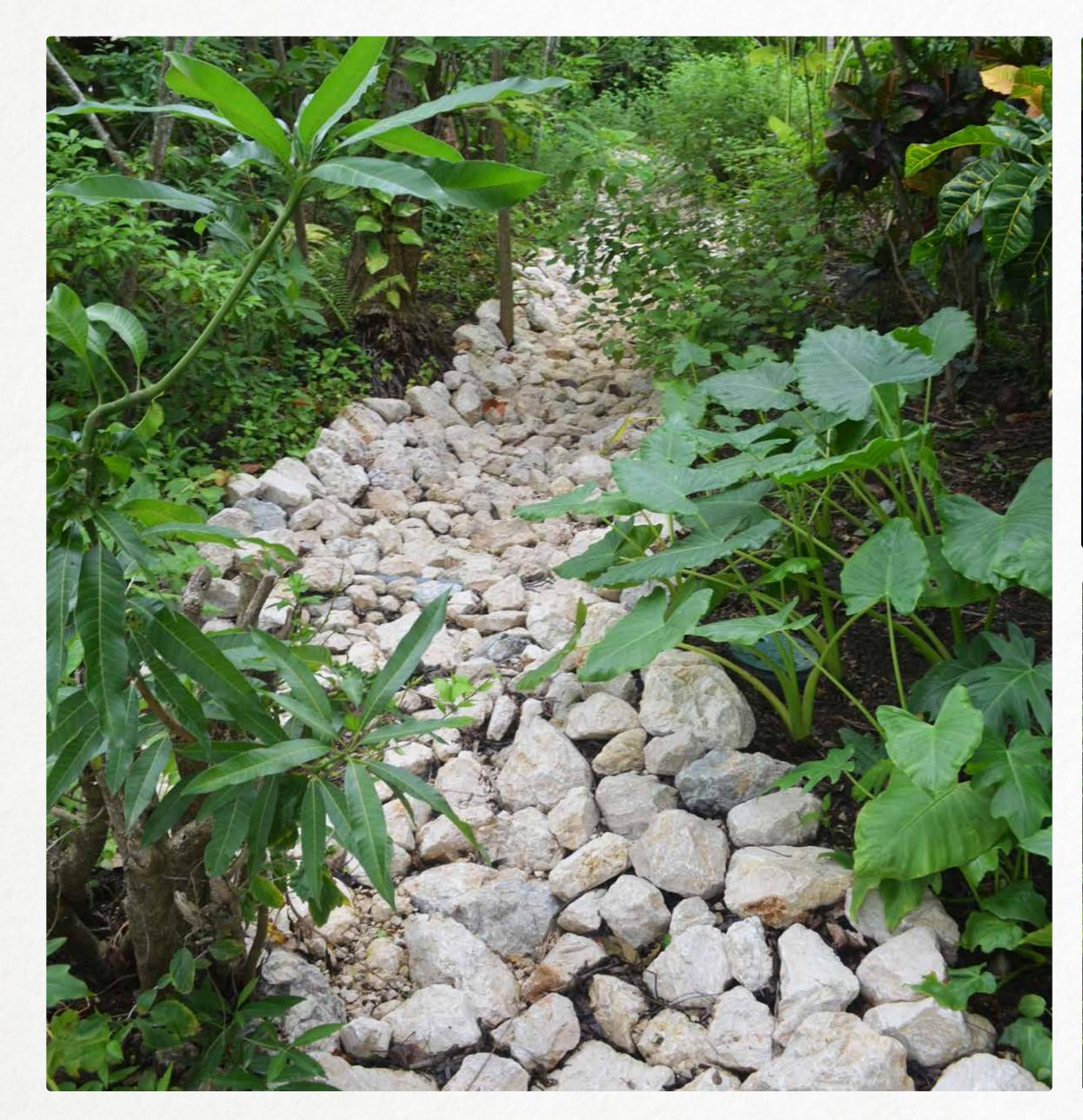
With the agreed direction of the Masterplan, *VIDA* has since been engaged on numerous occasions to carry out additional masterplanning and full-service landscape architecture for the multi-phased project.

VIDA completed the first phase of the project in 2014— the new hotel arrival, working with Karen Arras, a specialist in native plant material, on the planting design and implementation. Since then, *Harmony* has been an ongoing project for the Costa Rican studio. With a world class wave on the doorstep, a collaborative team of passionate local and international designers, as well as a progressive, visionary client, *Harmony Projects* is the type of hospitality project VIDA is committed to.

VIDA also continues to be involved with various project visioning, masterplanning and design of many of the owners' other local pursuits, including the Sunset Shack: a younger-focussed property just across the road.

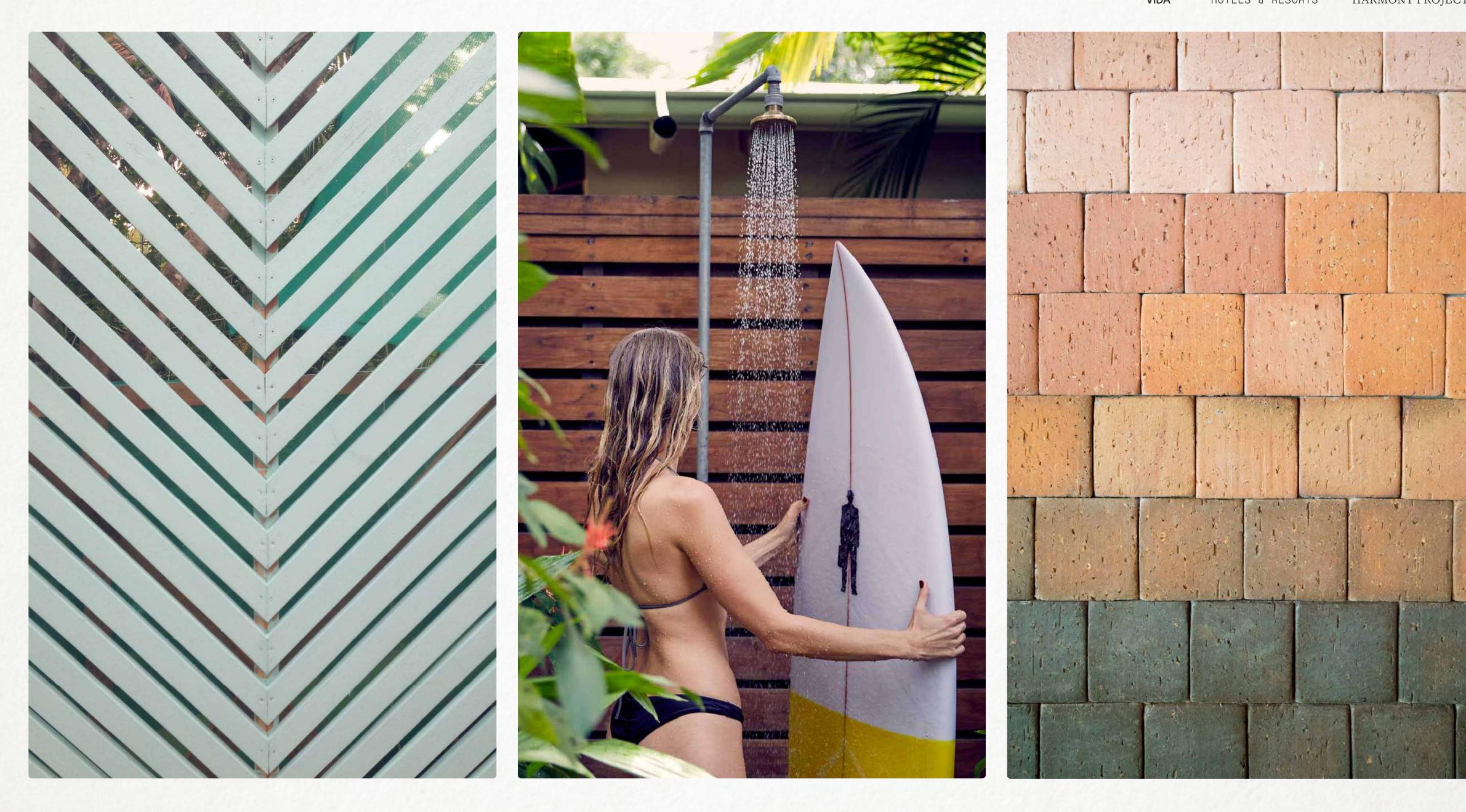






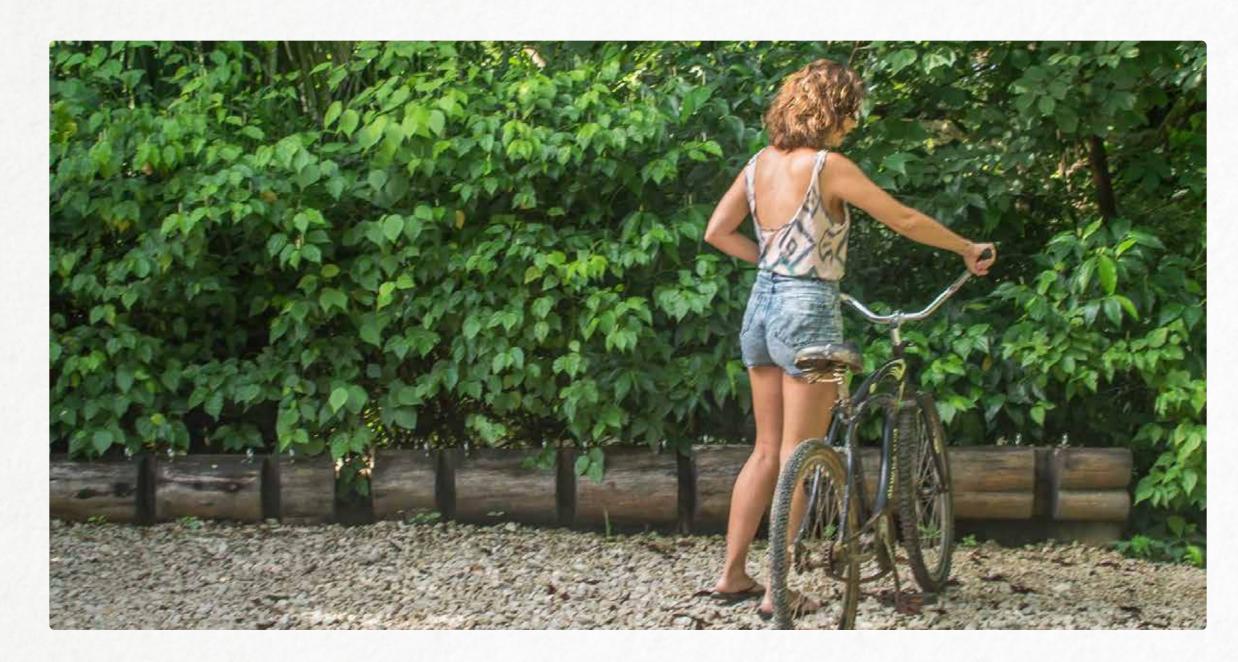




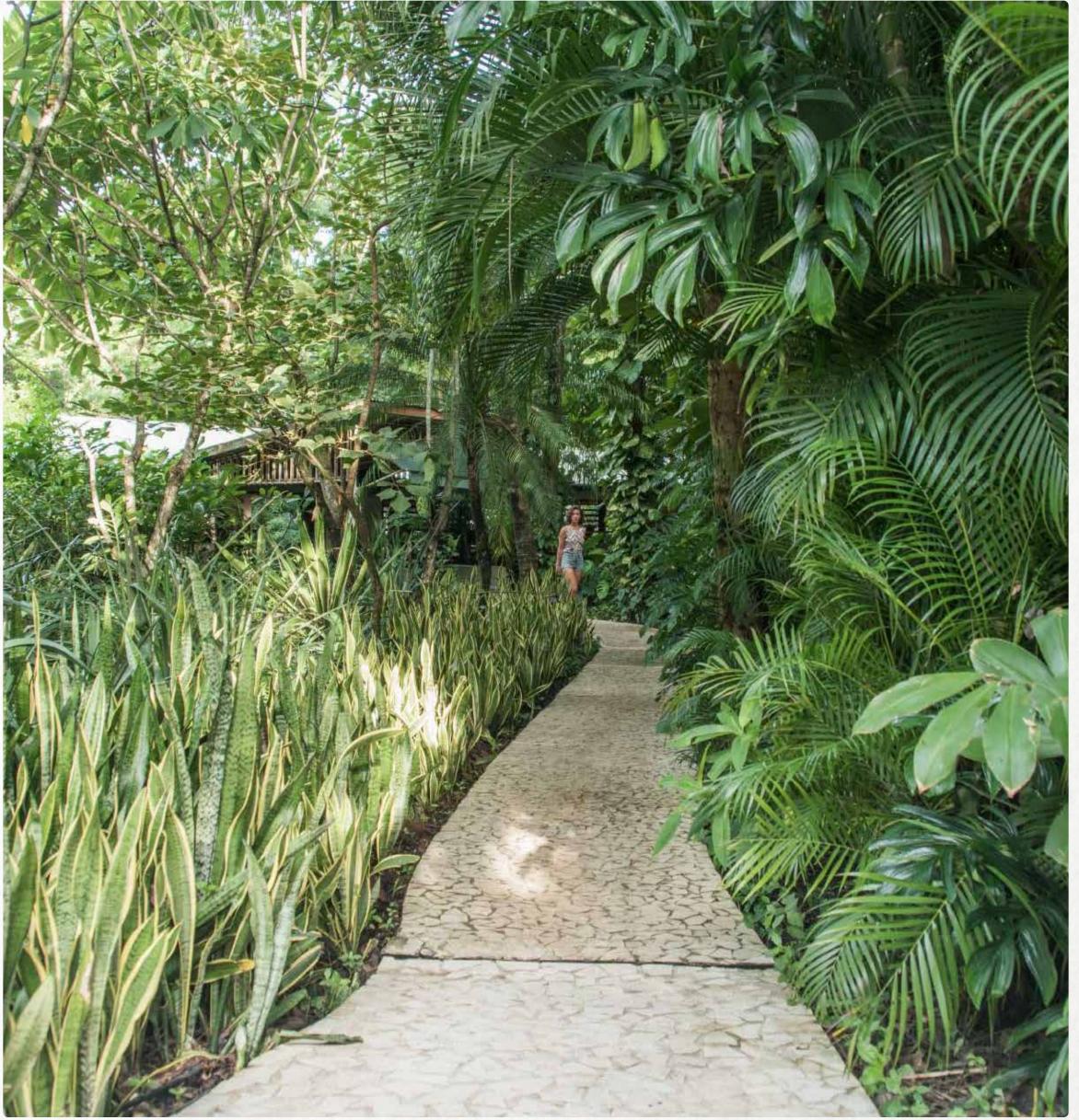


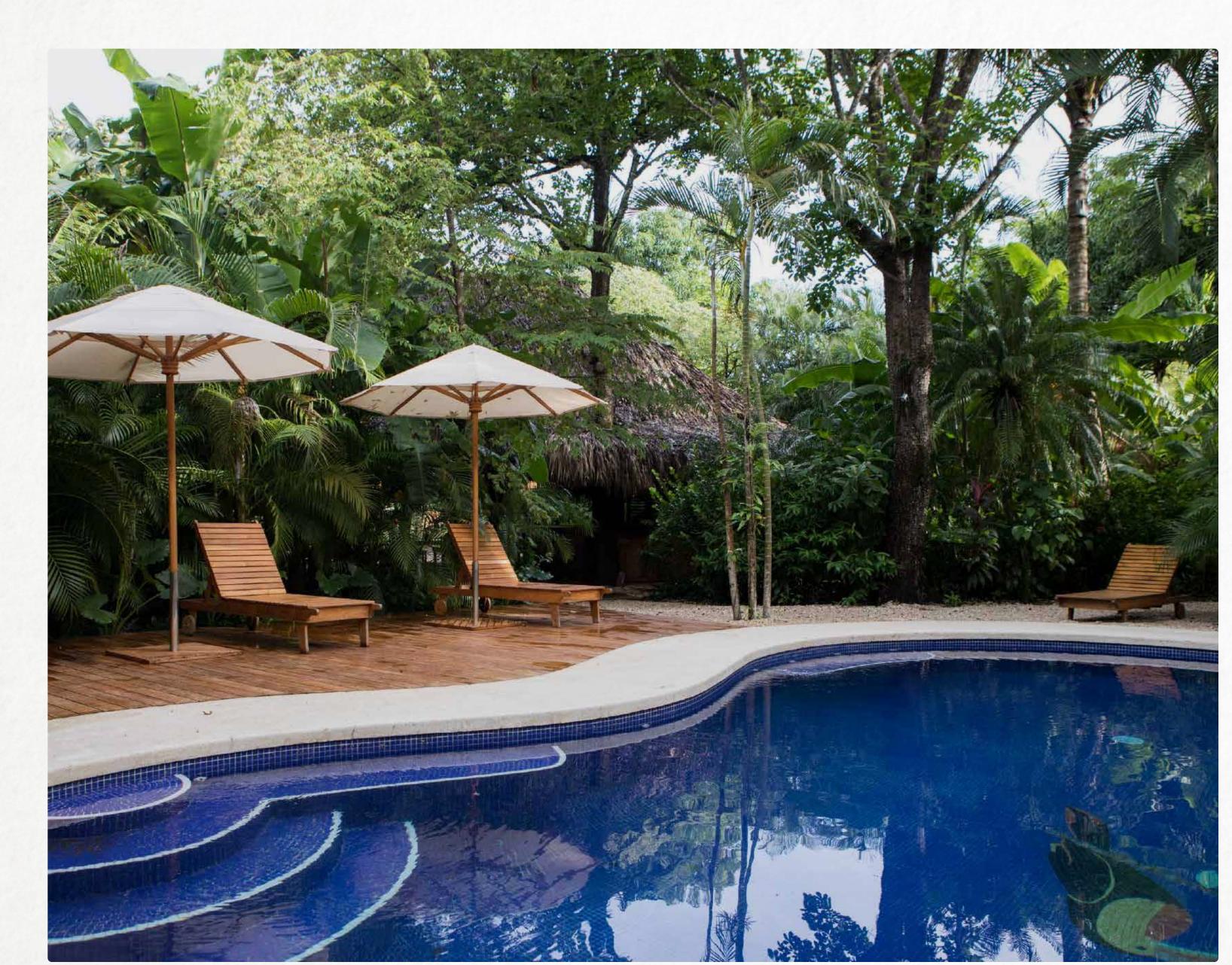


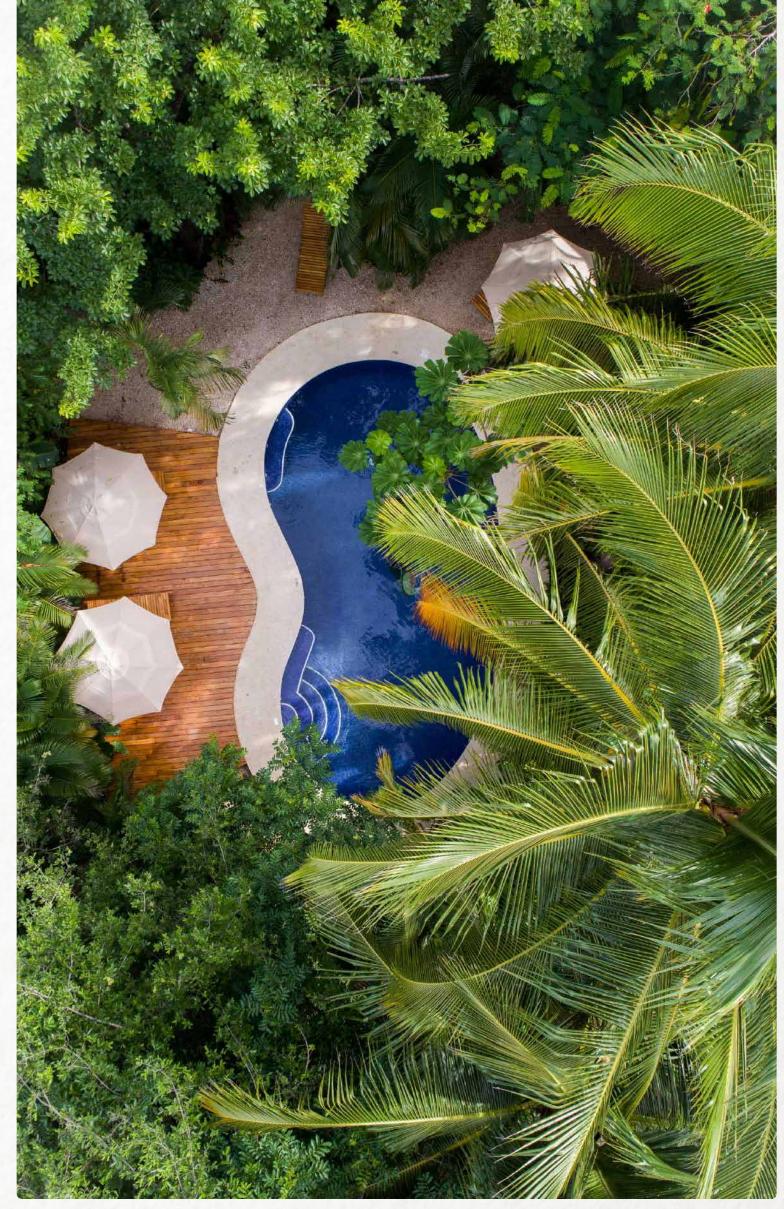














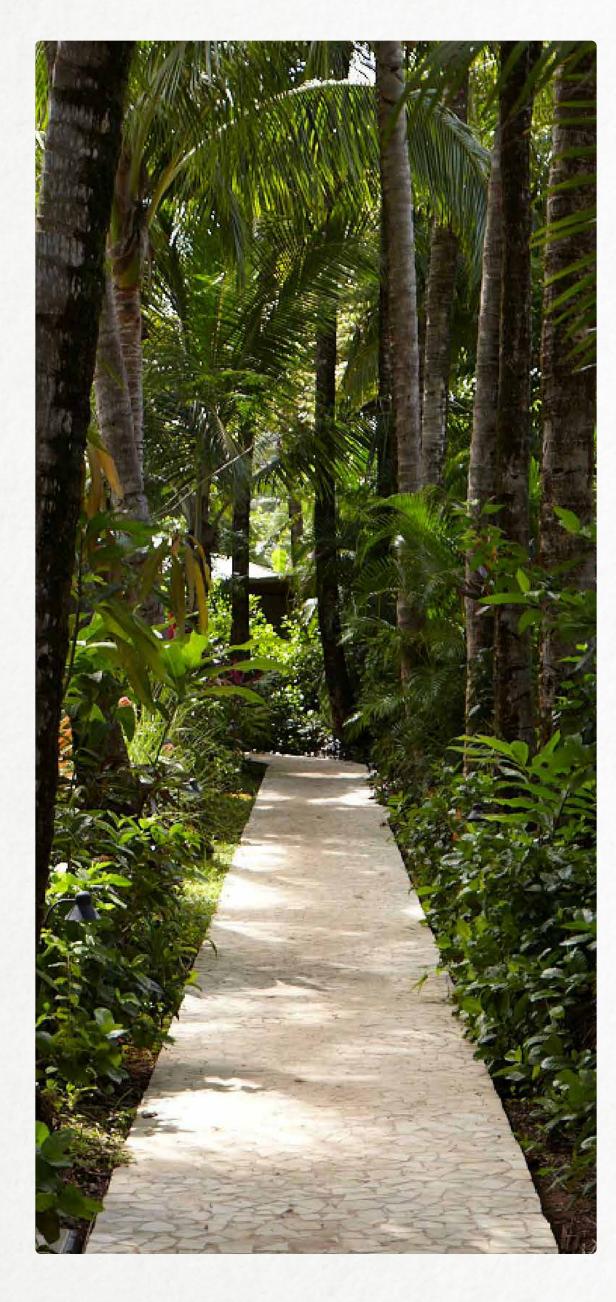














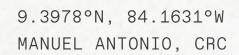


"It is just what the regulars come for. In this unpretentious beachside spot, the lobby at times seems more like a family room. Children hang out while their parents are at the pool or dining on plates like ceviche and Costa Rican casado in the nearby bar and open-air restaurant. A lush, tropical garden connects the hotel lobby to the nearby bungalows serving as home to howler monkeys, hummingbirds and other wildlife and the hotel's yoga center, day spa and juice bar."

A BuzzFeed Founder's Costa Rican Hideaway
THE NEW YORK TIMES, MARCH 2016



### Arenas del Mar.





SCALE

4 hectares

SCOPE

Masterplanning + Full Service Landscape Architecture

CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 832 mm May—October: 2911 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY

2.5 °C

YEAR OF COMPLETION
November 2017



MANUEL ANTONIO, PUNTARENAS. COSTA PICA.

NATURE-BASED HOSPITALITY



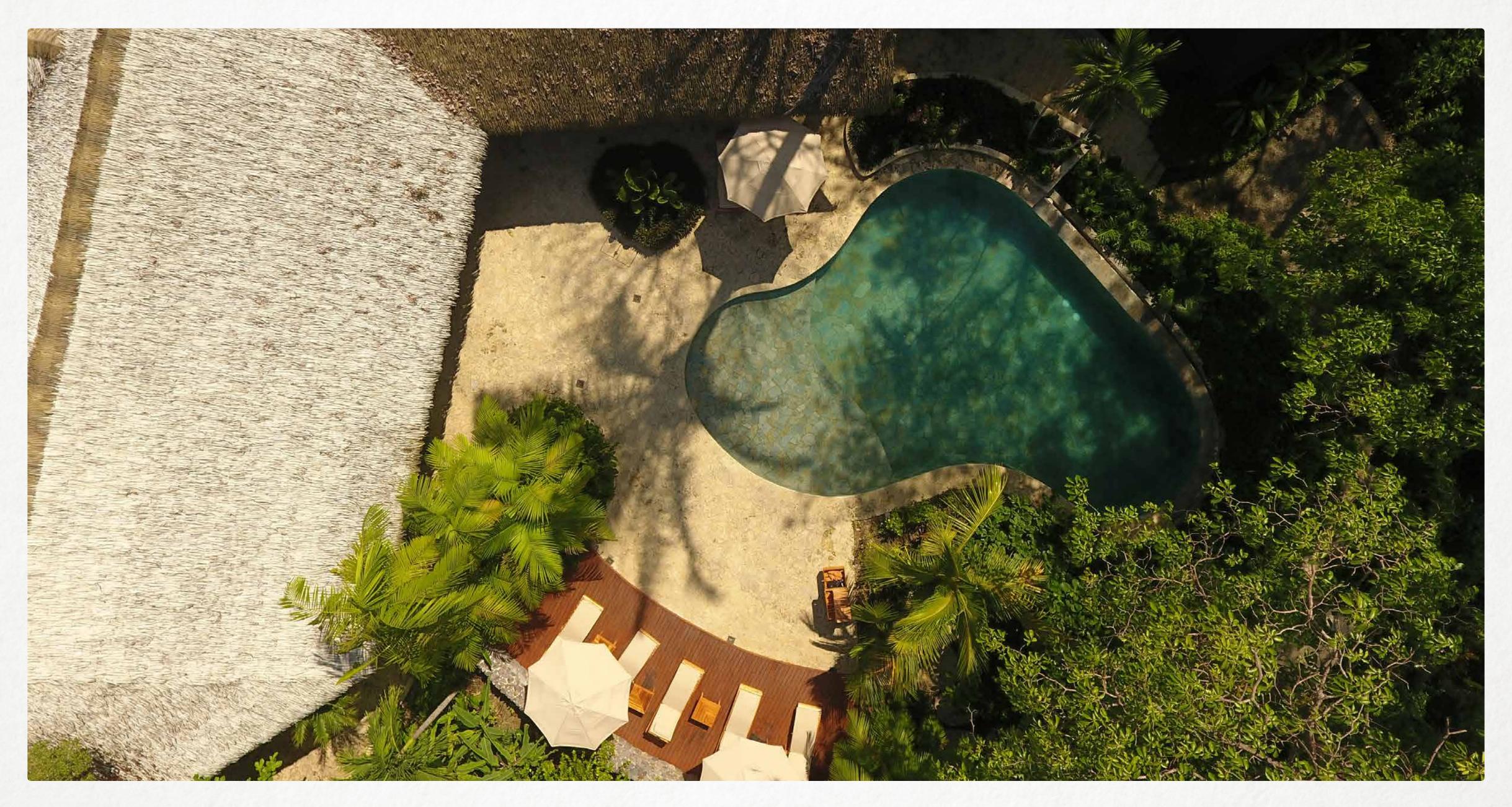


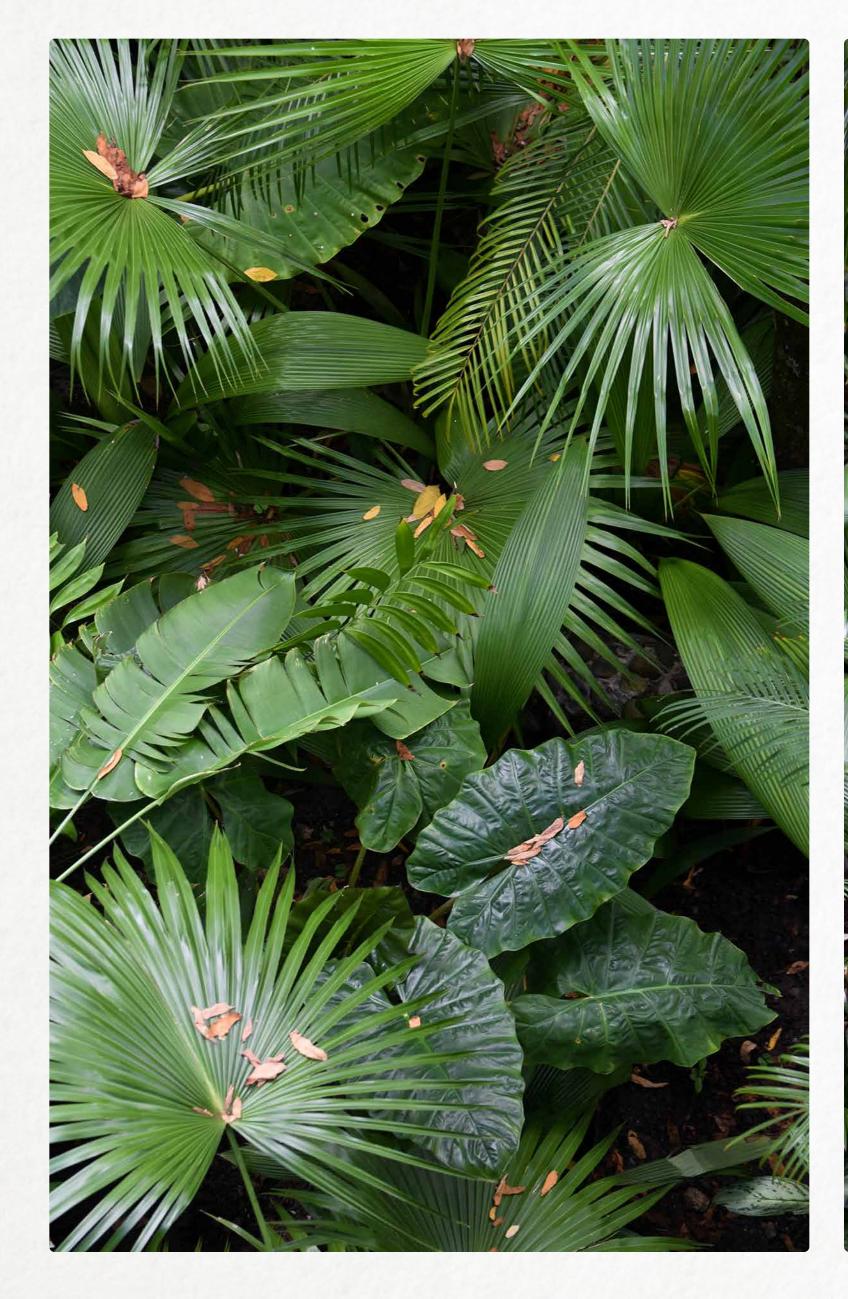
VIDA was engaged in 2017 to facilitate a two-day masterplanning VIDA SESSION with the owners, key decisions-makers, operational managers and project management team for Arenas Del Mar. The award-winning beachfront hotel is located in Manuel Antonio, one of Costa Rica's most visited tourist destinations and features unmatched views to the nearby national park and beautiful beaches.

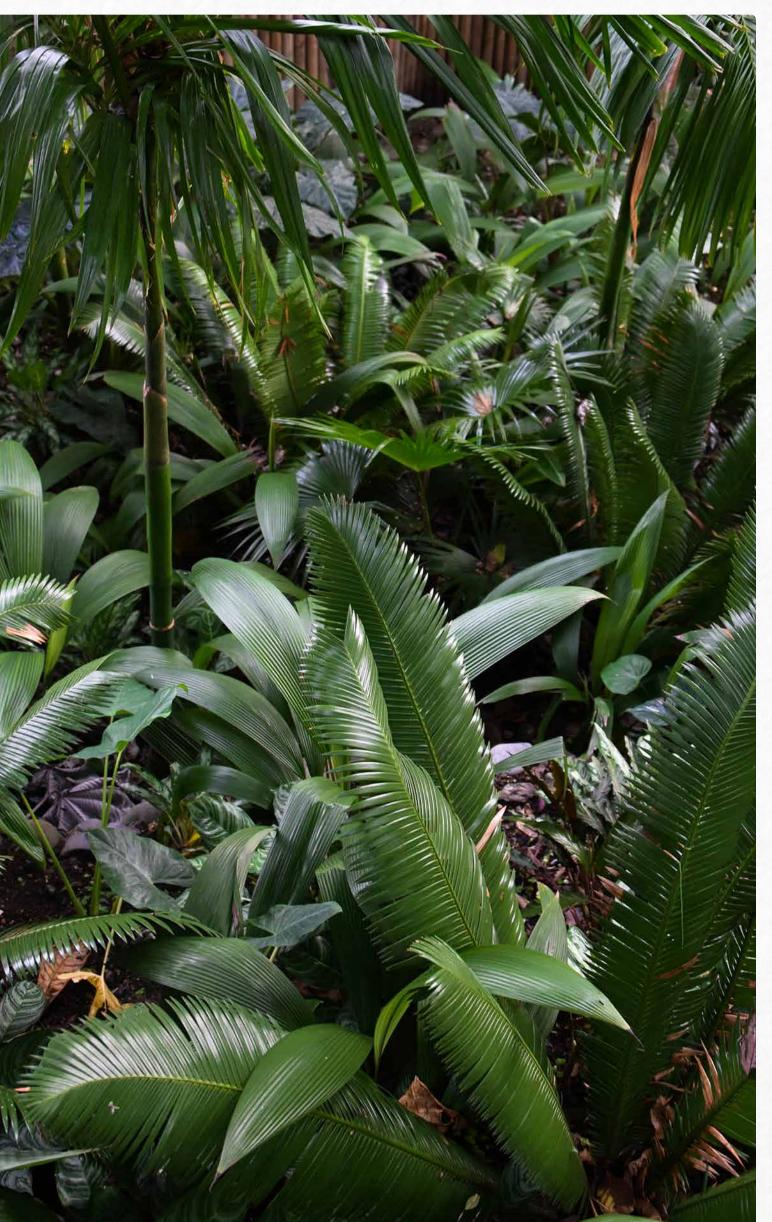
Following several intense working sessions combined with tours around the site and existing facilities, the team began to articulate an improvement strategy for the project building on the strengths of the property and adding value to underutilised and/or underperforming areas of the property.

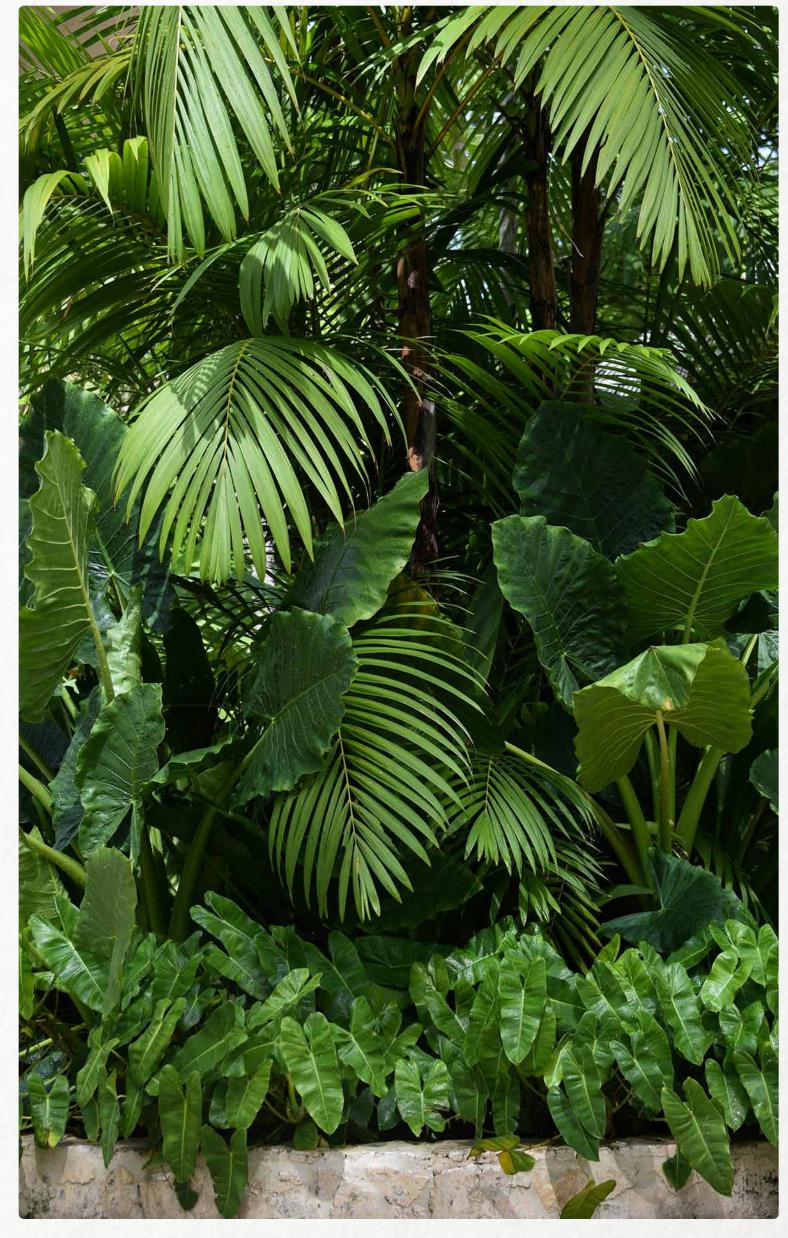
With a clear vision and phasing strategy in place, the team embarked on an ambitious plan to renovate the Mirador pool area, convert the existing pool to an infinity edge, move the resort bar and reconfigure the arrival and check-in process. On top of the already challenging design program and existing infrastructure, buildings and trees the first phase of the project was to be delivered in six short weeks. VIDA is currently working with the client team on the next phase of work, the beachside Playitas area of the hotel.

We use cutting-edge design, land analysis and documentation technologies - but, at VIDA, great designs start with pen and paper. We still find the traditional art of drawing invaluable for communicating ideas, solving design problems and creating beautiful, one-off detailing.





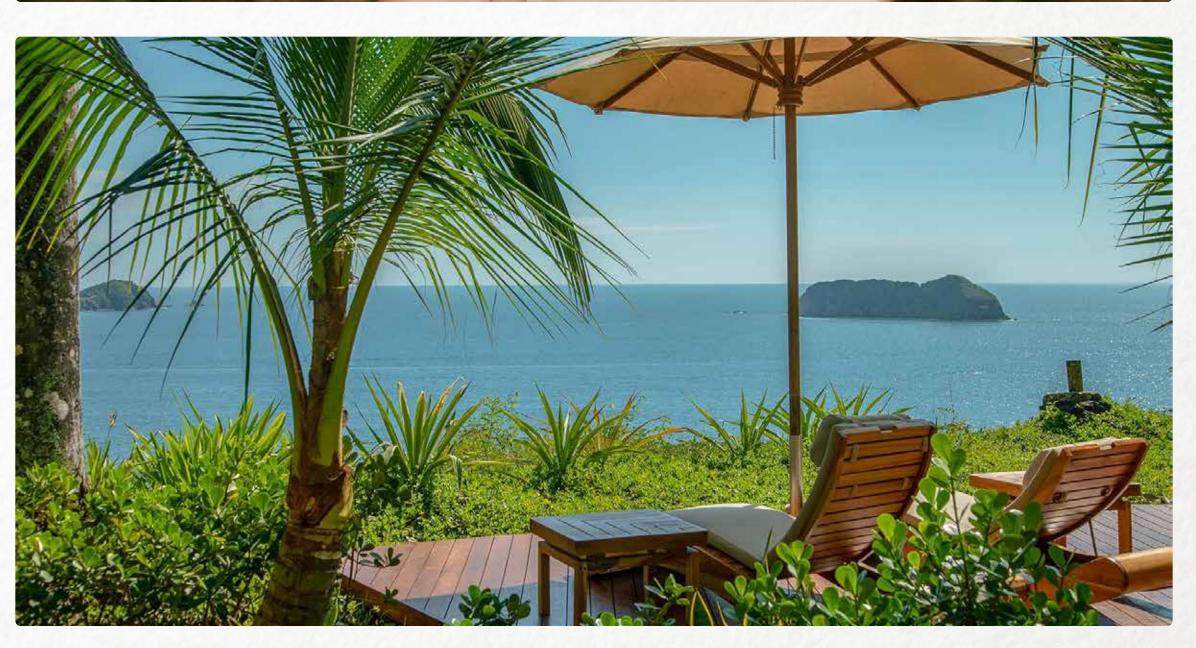














"Beyond the economic and operational benefits, the renovations and improvements give the project an entirely different feeling. The new environments invite the guests to connect to their context, enriching their stay."

Alfonso Santamaría GENERAL MANAGER



# Kokoro Springs.

38.858670°N, 122.673829°W NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, USA



SCALE

128 hectares

SCOPE

Masterplanning + Full Service Landscape Architecture

CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 653 mm May—October: 73 mm

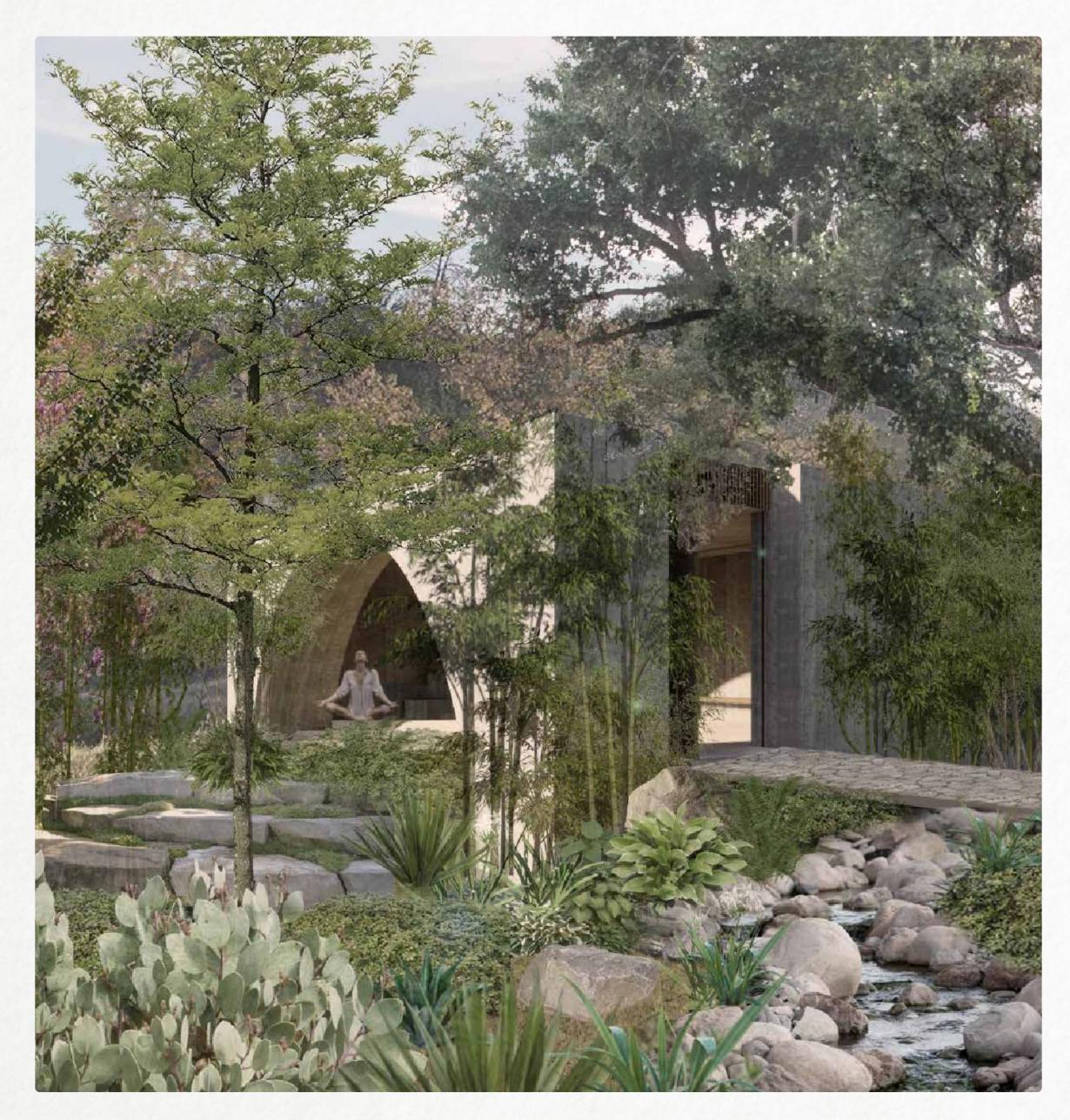
AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY 21 °C

YEAR OF COMPLETION
In Progress



LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.





VIDA was approached by Sandstone Developments in 2018 to co-develop and design a 318 acre property in Northern California. The site has a long history operating as a hot springs resort since the late 1800s. The former development of Avalon Springs was devastated by the 2015 Valley Fire, leaving an empty canvas for VIDA's preliminary masterplan.

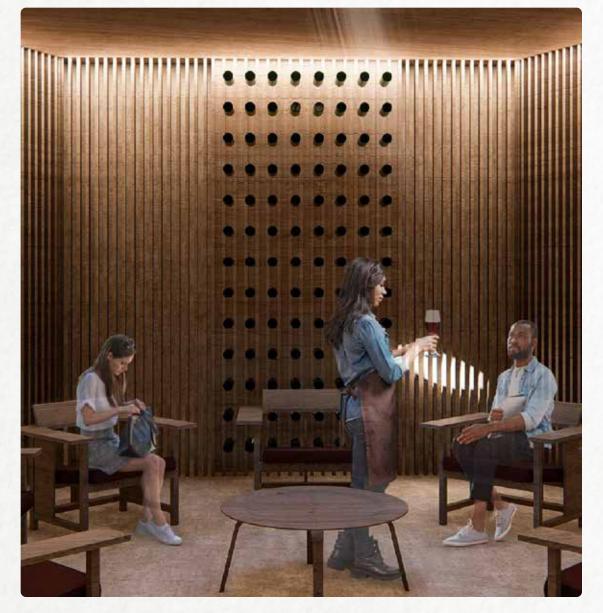
The project consists of 20 prefabricated cabins, 20 luxury tents, a wellness centre and spa based around a proposed lake, a core area for workshops and events, as well as a lounge, dining room and terraces, all accessed by a bridge, crossing over the ephemeral stream. A glasshouse and multi-functional area is proposed to showcase the growth and production of cannabis at a boutique scale. There will be a number of trails and private decks and lookouts for guests to explore, while allowing only electric vehicles and pedestrian movement throughout the property.

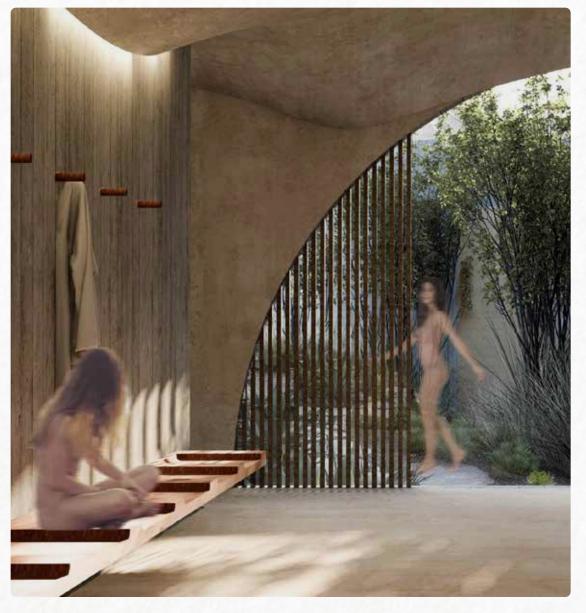
The concept of the spa experience is based on a curated Japanese Onsen inspired setting, and allow for a sense of self-discovery.

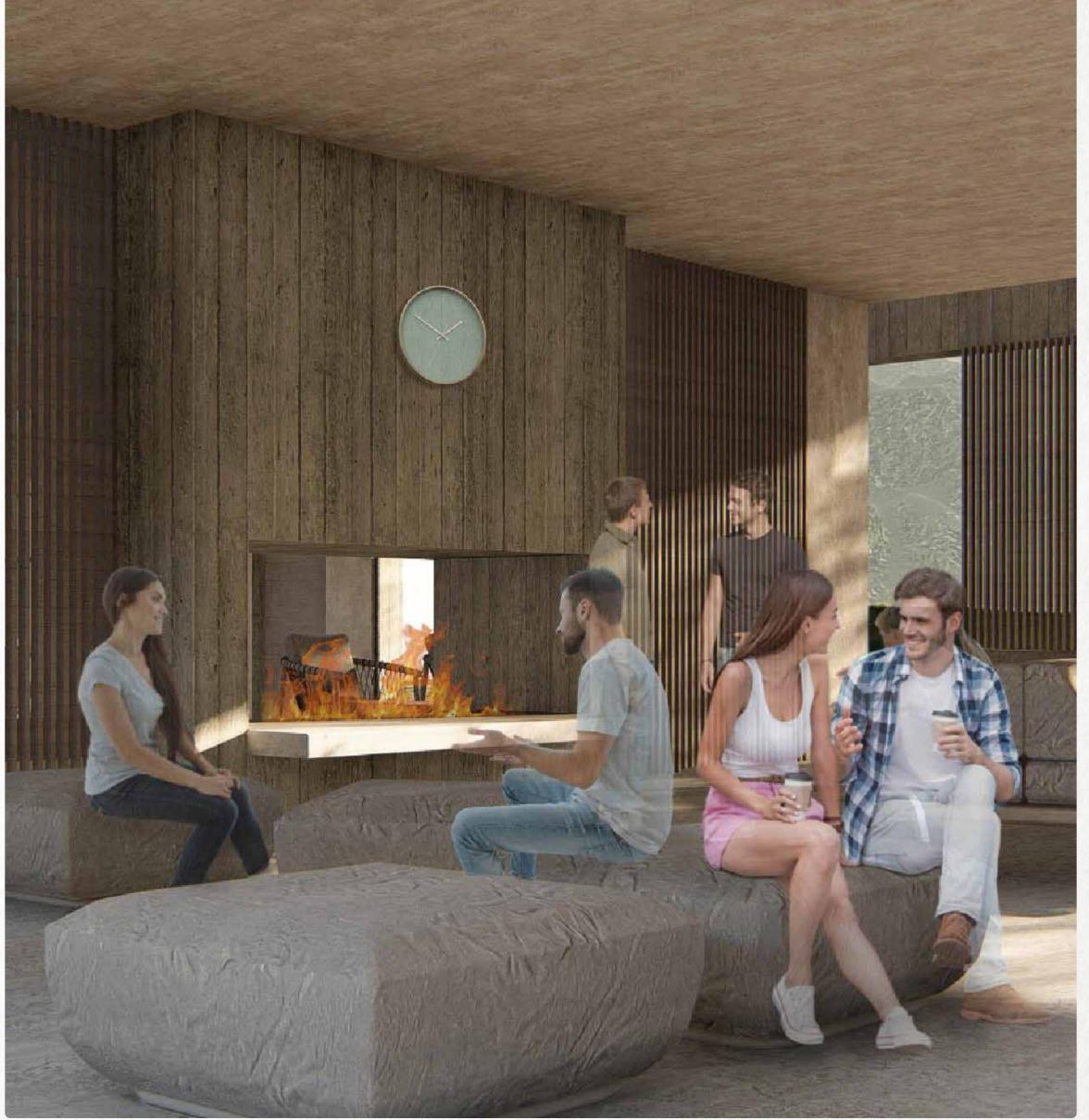
Located only 1.5 hours from Sacramento and 2.5 hours from San Francisco, the project is an opportunity to re-envision and resurrect a historic property. Kokoro Springs will offer guests and locals an experience that offers a balanced environment to embrace community and togetherness with plenty of opportunity for privacy and solitude.



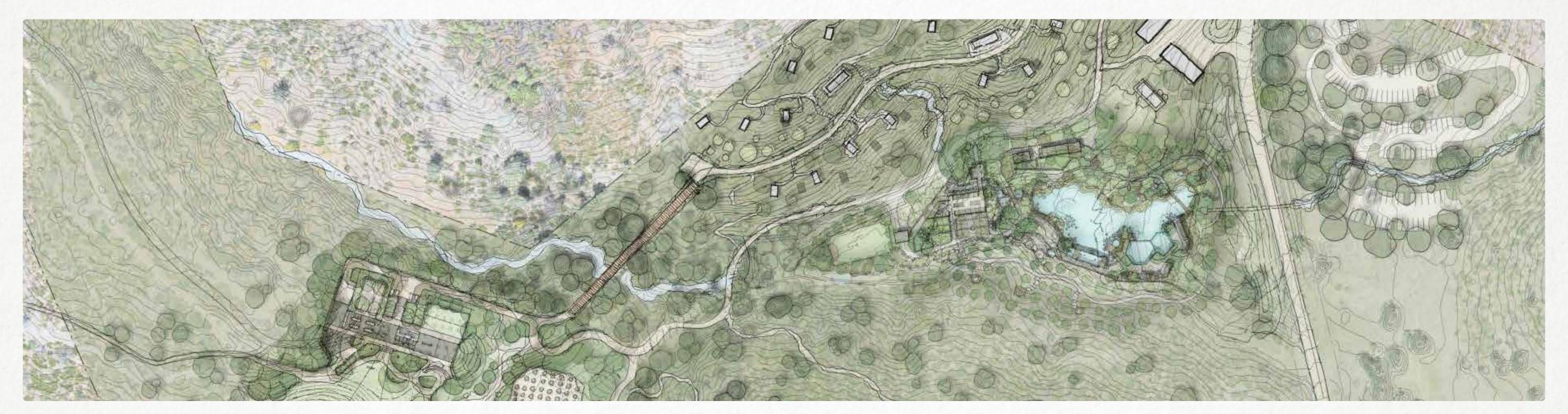






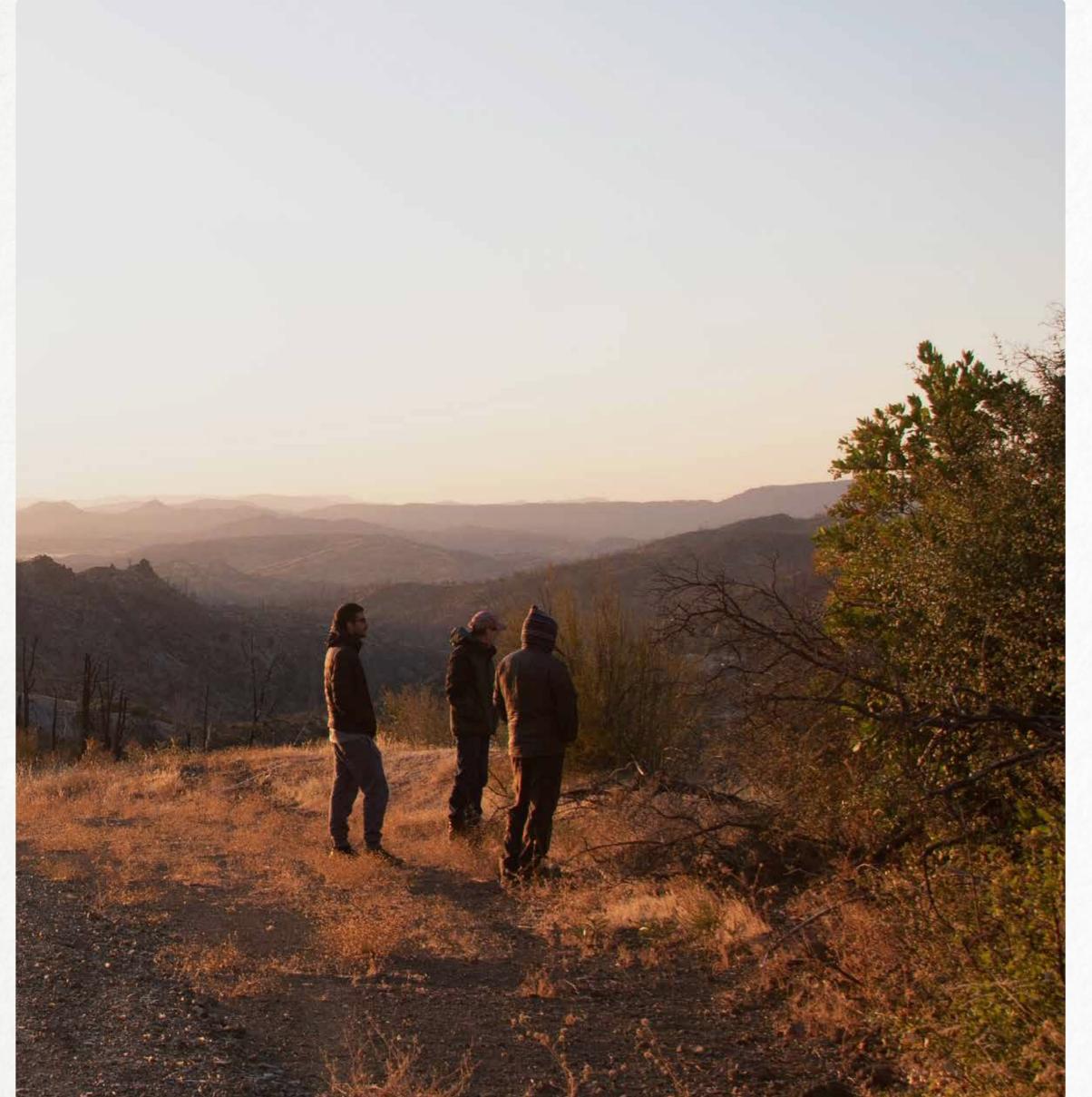




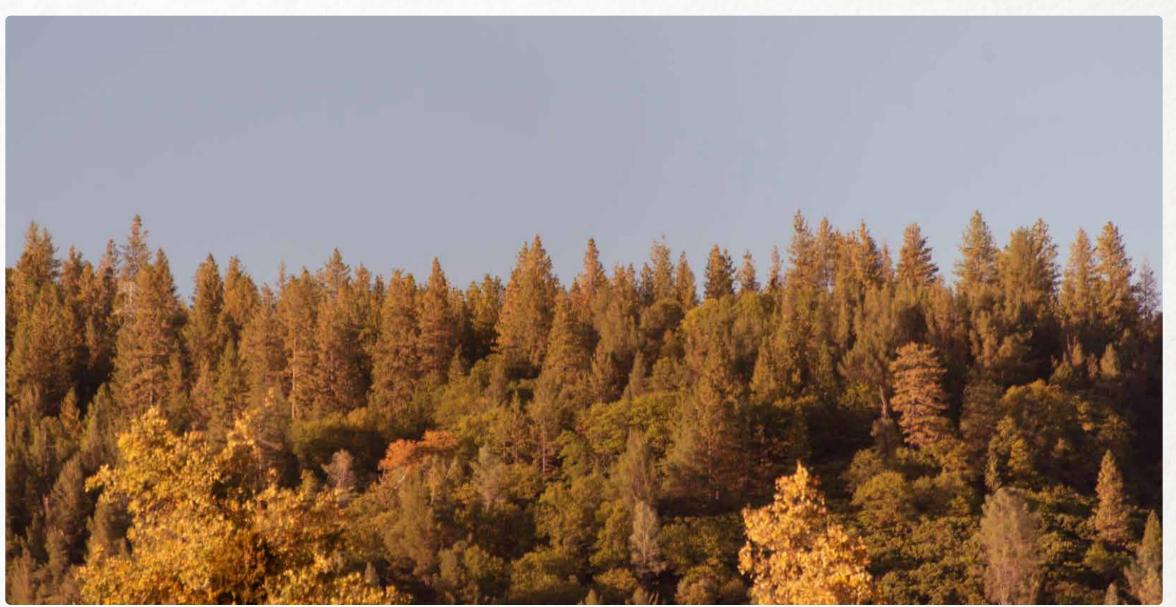














#### Nantipa.

9.6359°N, 85.1607°W SANTA TERESA, CRC



SCALE

1.6 hectares

SCOPE

Full Service Landscape Architecture

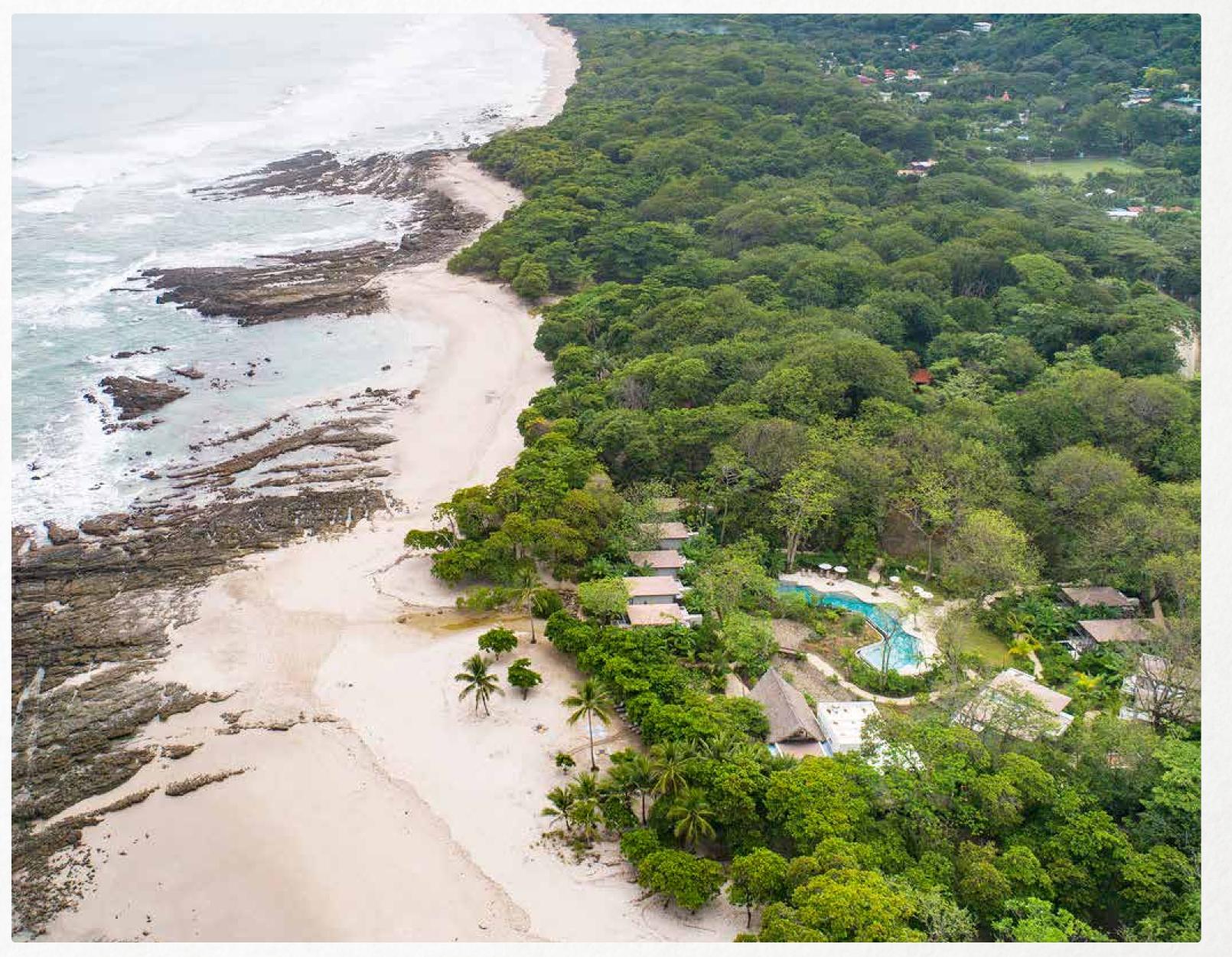
CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 312 mm May—October: 2275 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY

2.6 °C

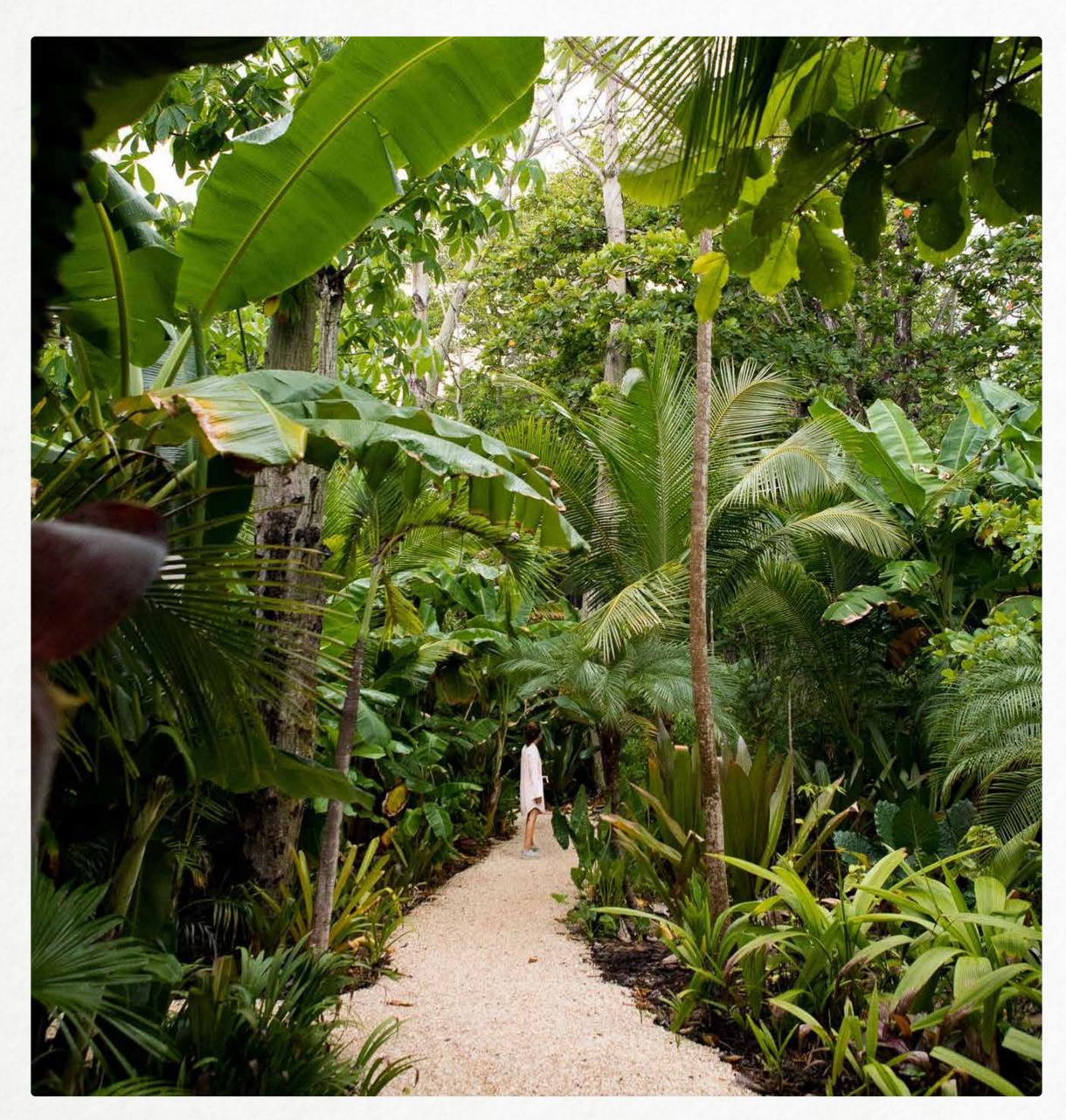
YEAR OF COMPLETION December 2018



SANTA TERESA, PUNTARENAS. COSTA PICA.







VIDA was engaged in mid 2011 to plan a boutique hotel for the client's beachfront property in the emerging resort town of Santa Teresa (which little did we know at the time would several years later become home to VIDA's Beach Studio and Matt and Ana's home).

VIDA led the team through a masterplanning process that resulted in the creation of a phased masterplan and implementation strategy that includes 28 rooms and 8 serviced villas, areas of preservation and common areas including a resort style swimming pool and beachfront restaurant. Through several renditions VIDA, worked with the client and our friends at Garnier Architects to create a development pattern that could be integrated between the existing trees, the required stormwater retention basins and swales while respecting and enhancing a section of protected forest. Following several years of permitting and due-diligence (and quite a few changes to the design) the project moved to construction in January of 2018 and opened in December 2018.

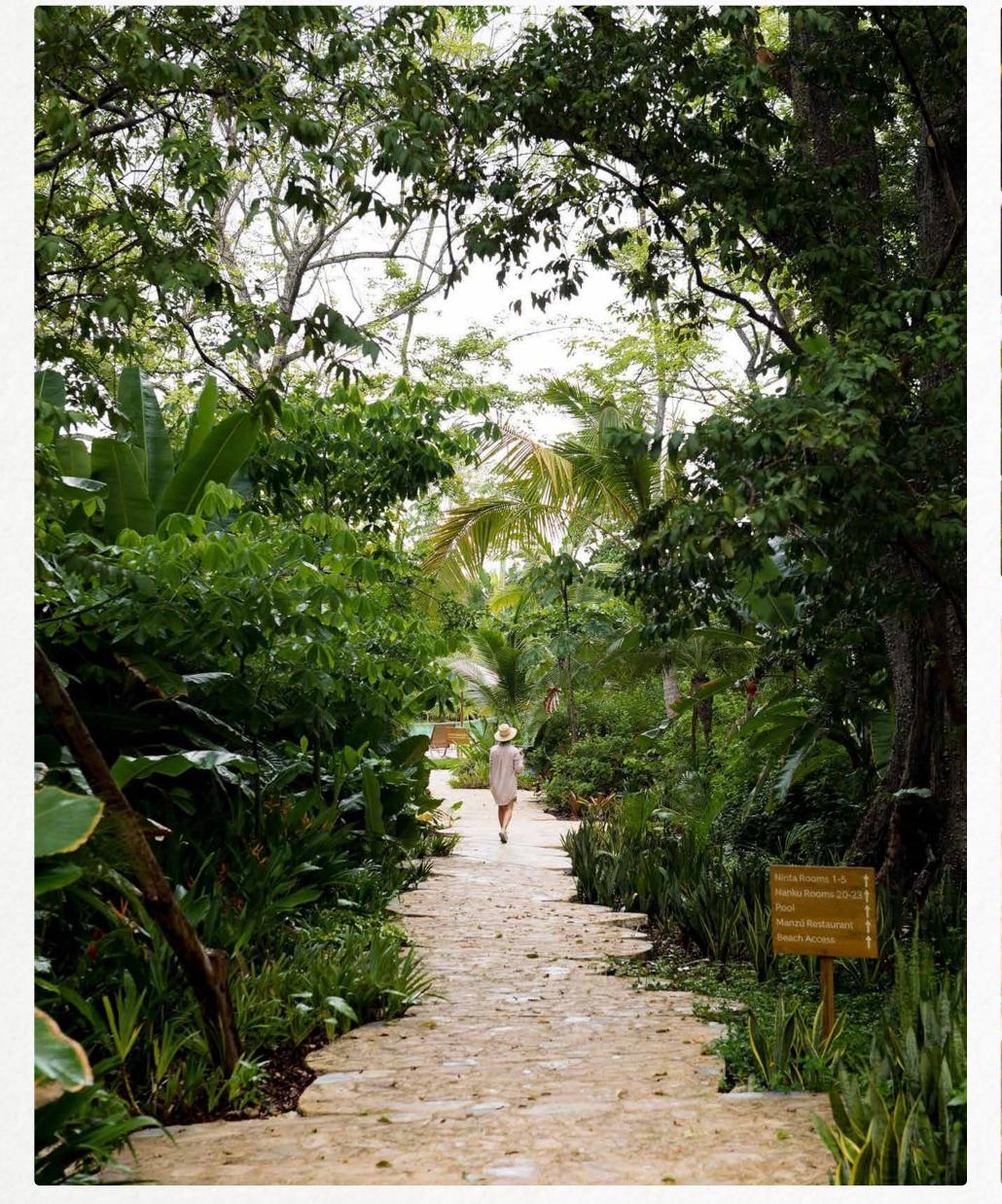
In a place with a tropical climate like Santa Teresa, the best place to be is at the beach or in the pool. The irregular curved pool at the centre of the property with views to the ocean is a favourite of guests.



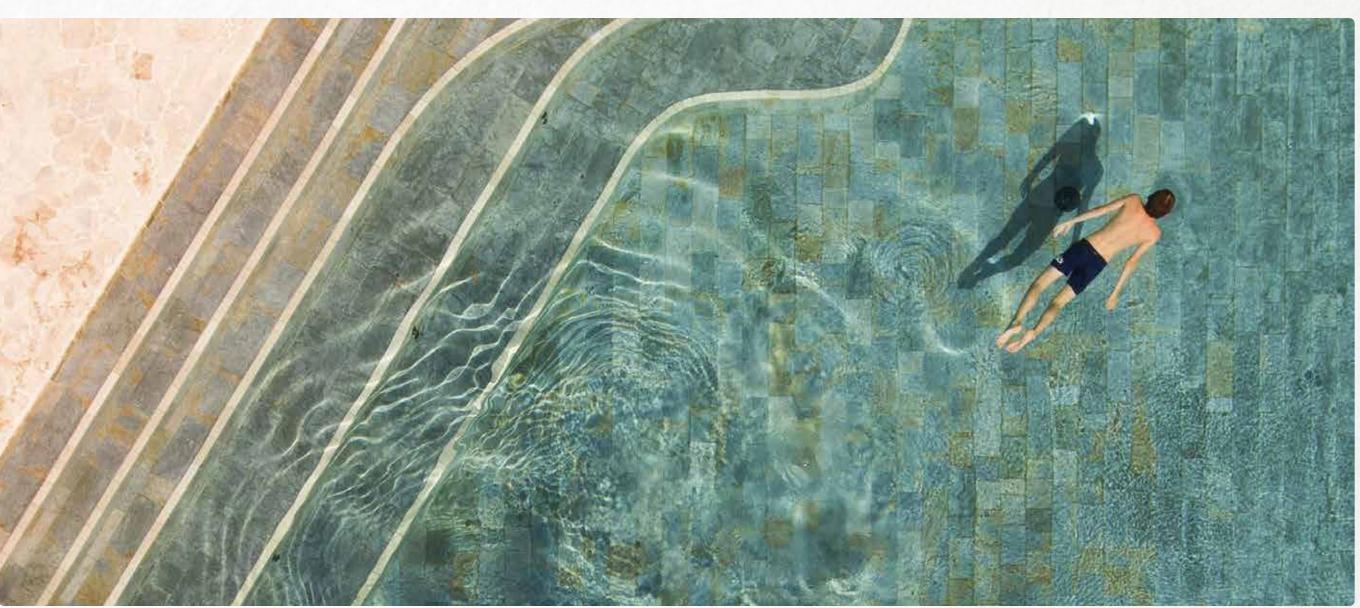


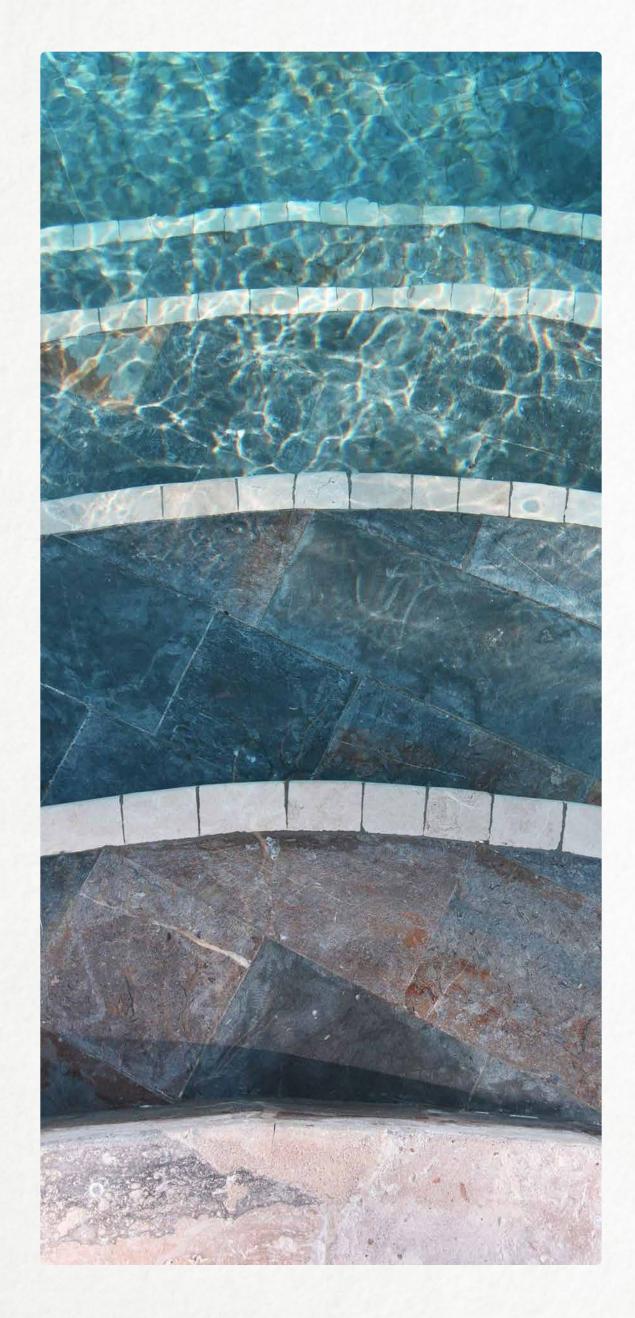




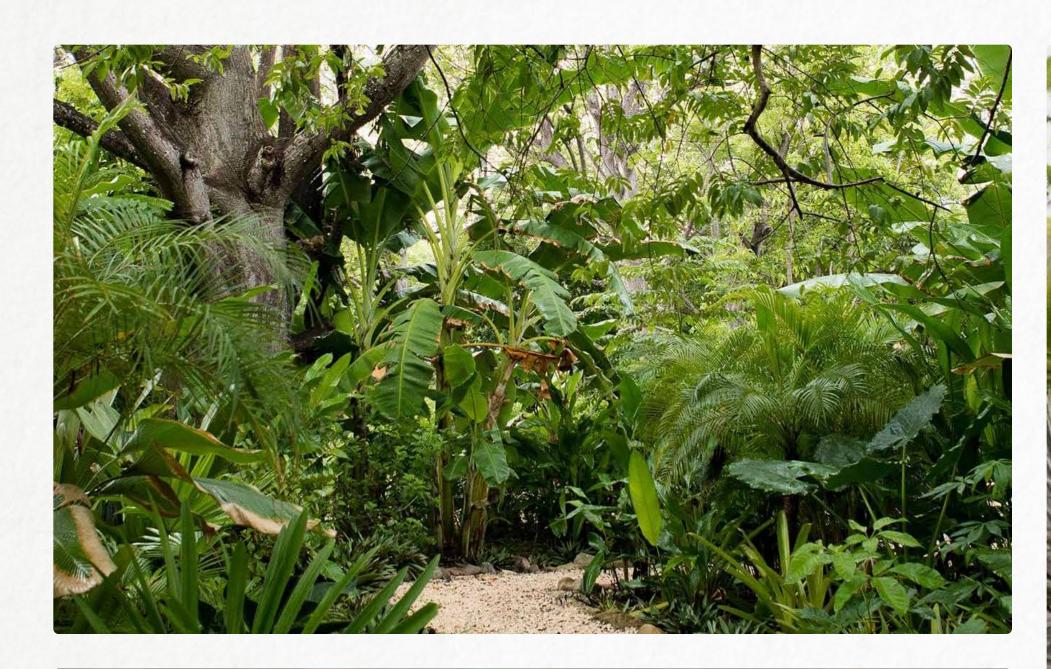






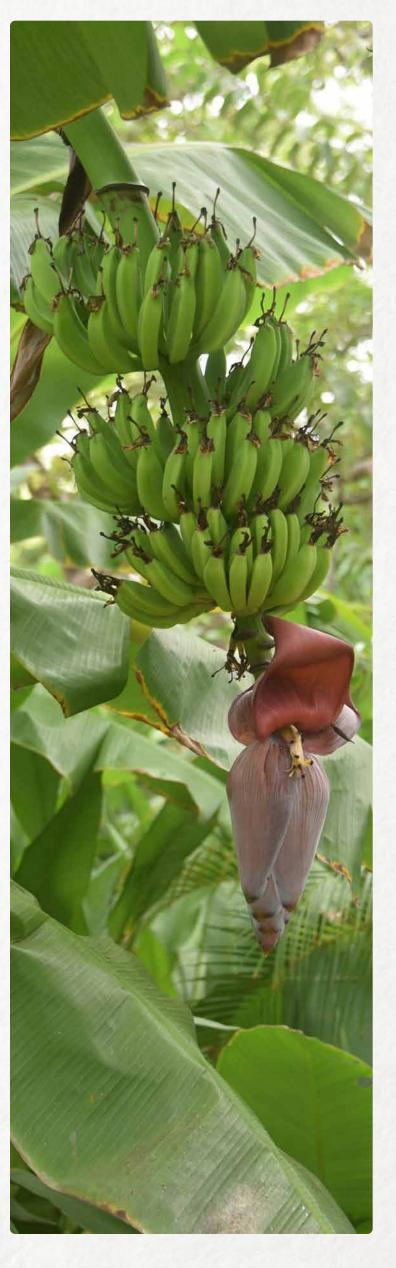


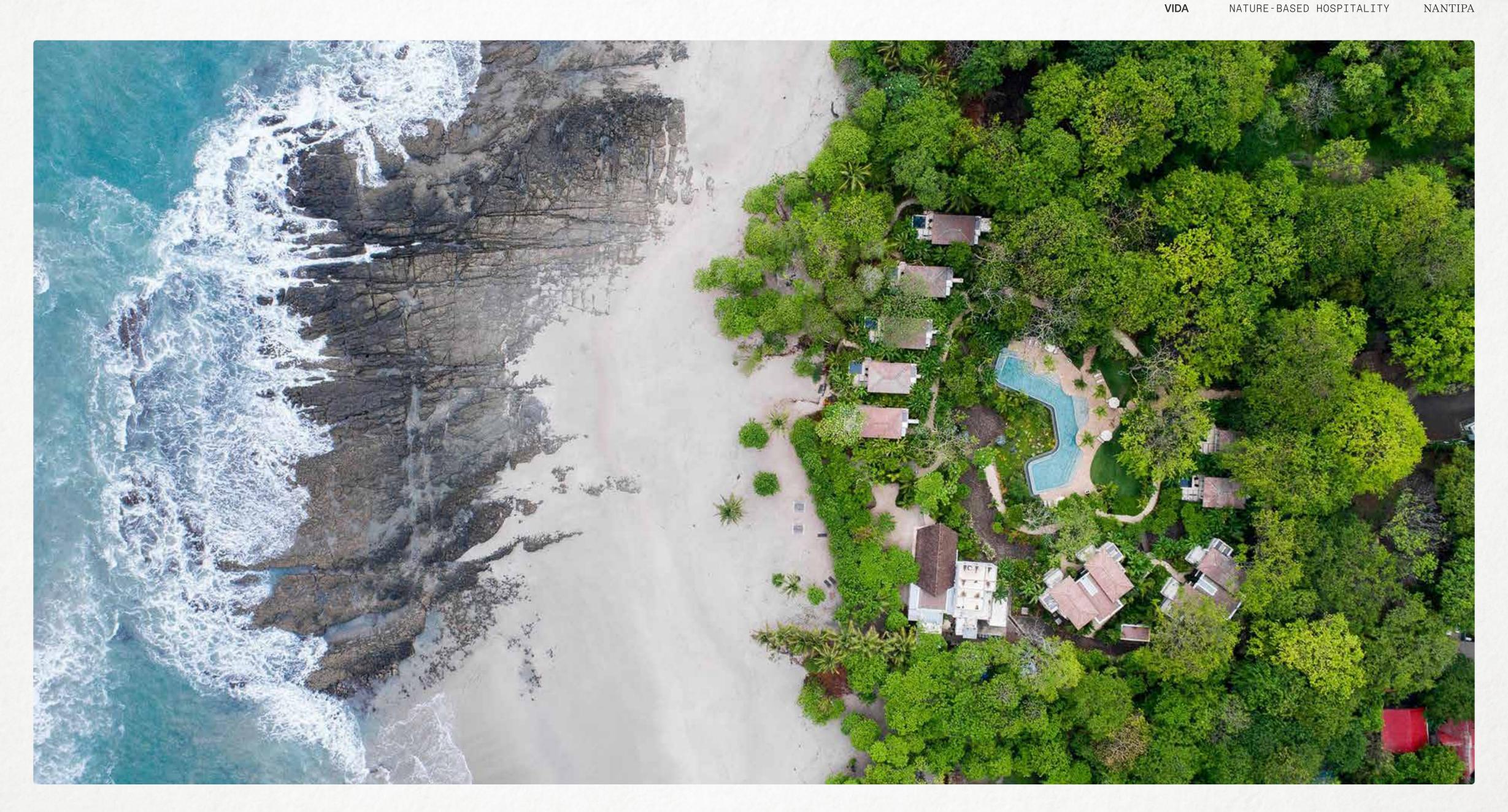


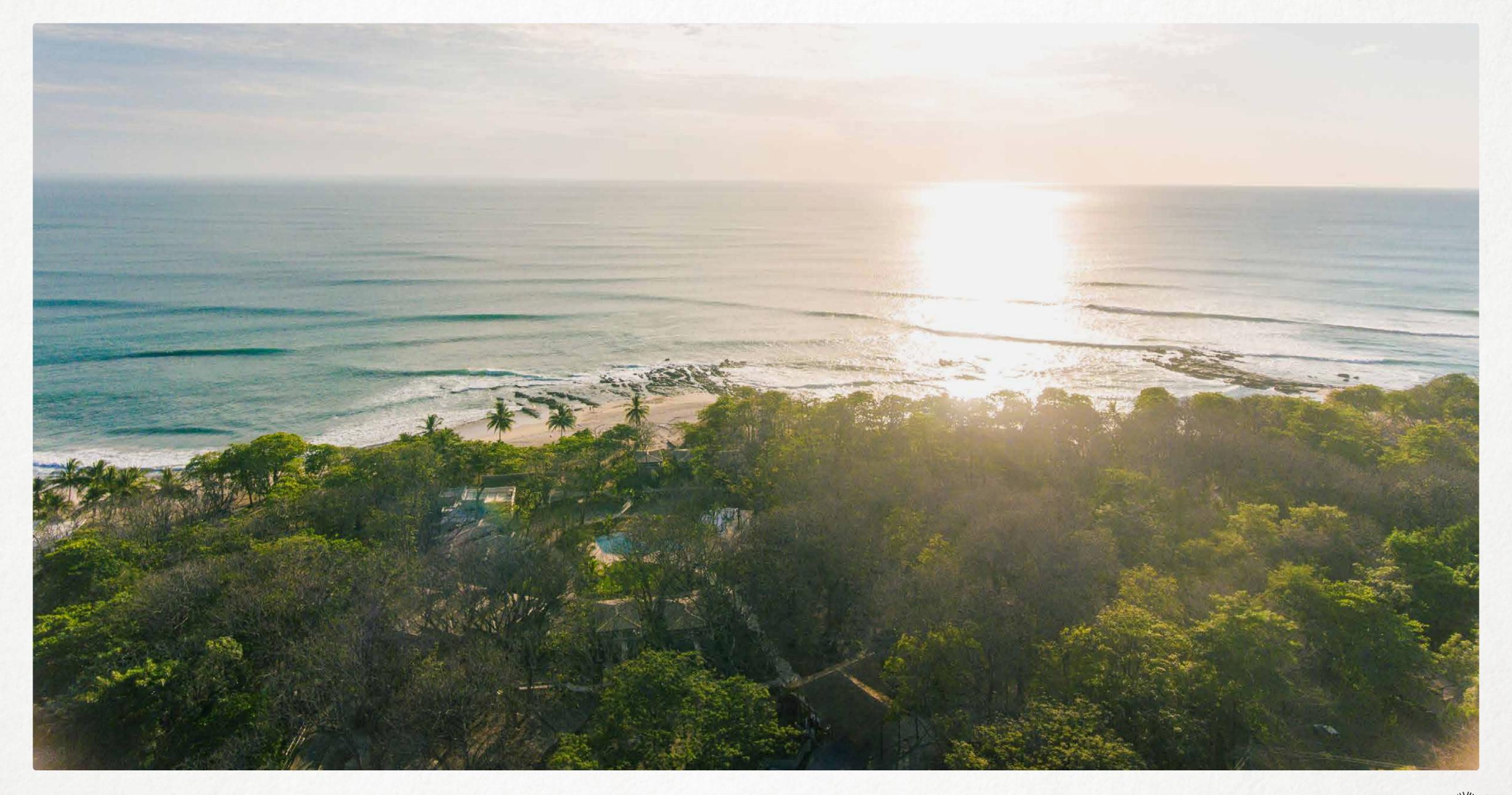














## Nayara Tented Camp.

10.503599°N, 84.686950°W ARENAL, CRC



SCALE

8 hectares

SCOPE

Masterplanning + Full Service Landscape Architecture

CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 916 mm May—October: 2062 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY

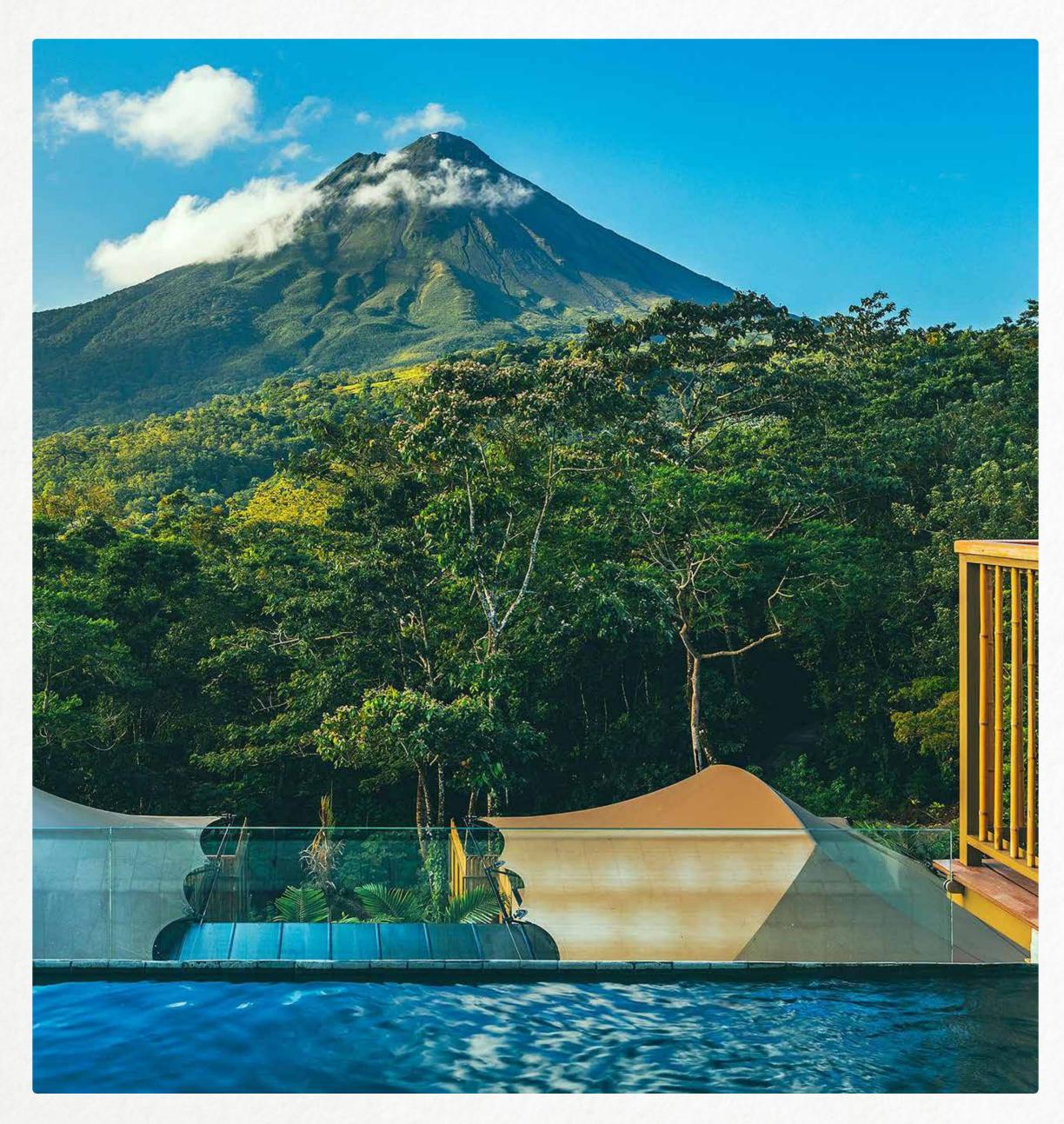
2.6°C

YEAR OF COMPLETION 2020



ARENAL. COSTA PICA. \_



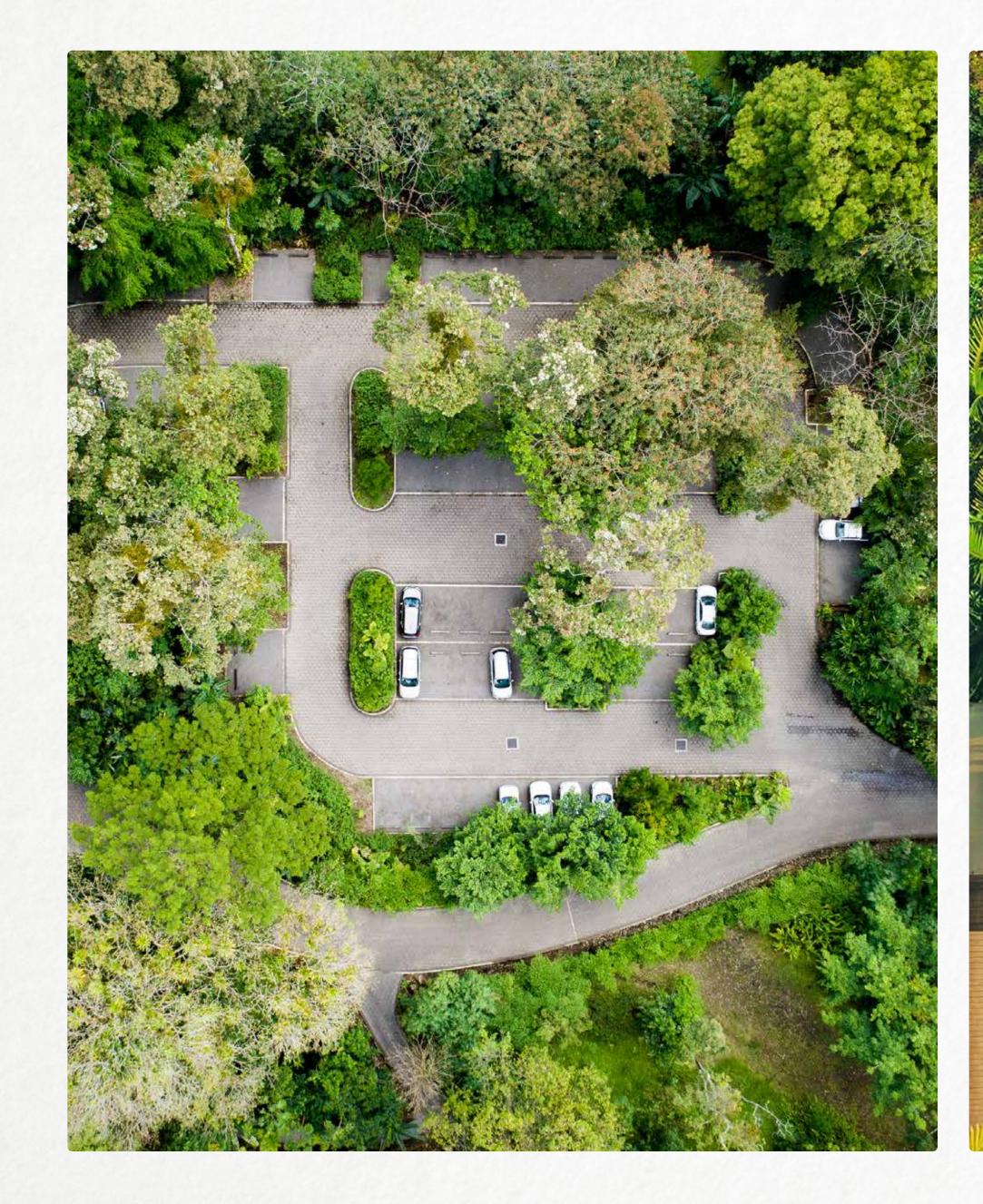


VIDA was engaged in January 2019 to work with an established team to revise and refine a Masterplan for a tented camp at Nayara Resorts in the popular destination of Arenal, Costa Rica.

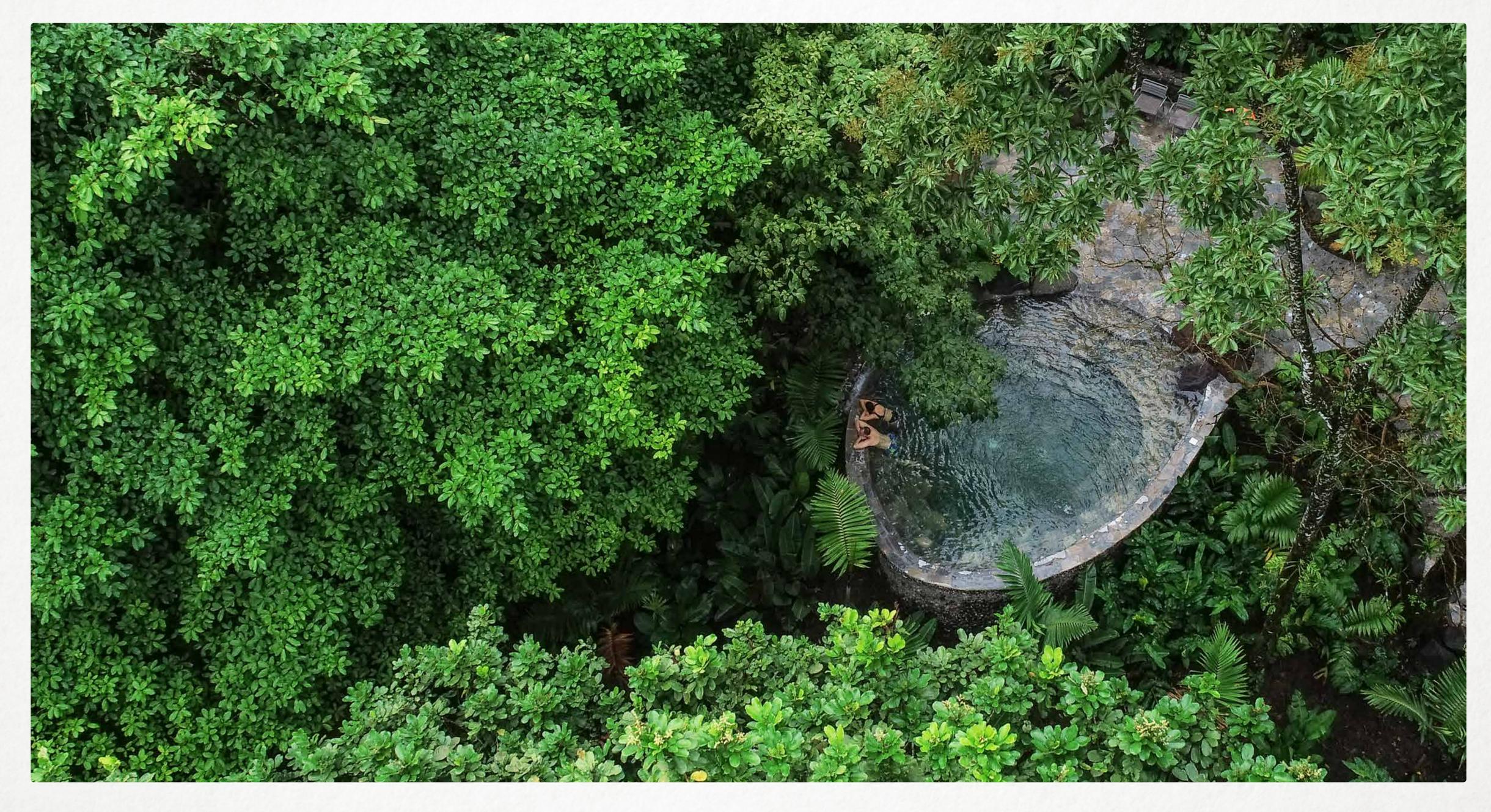
The local architects, C2 Architects and Luxury Frontiers of South Africa/USA had developed an overall masterplan and while the clients were sure they had a winning concept they knew through prior experience with VIDA that the overall vision could be stronger.

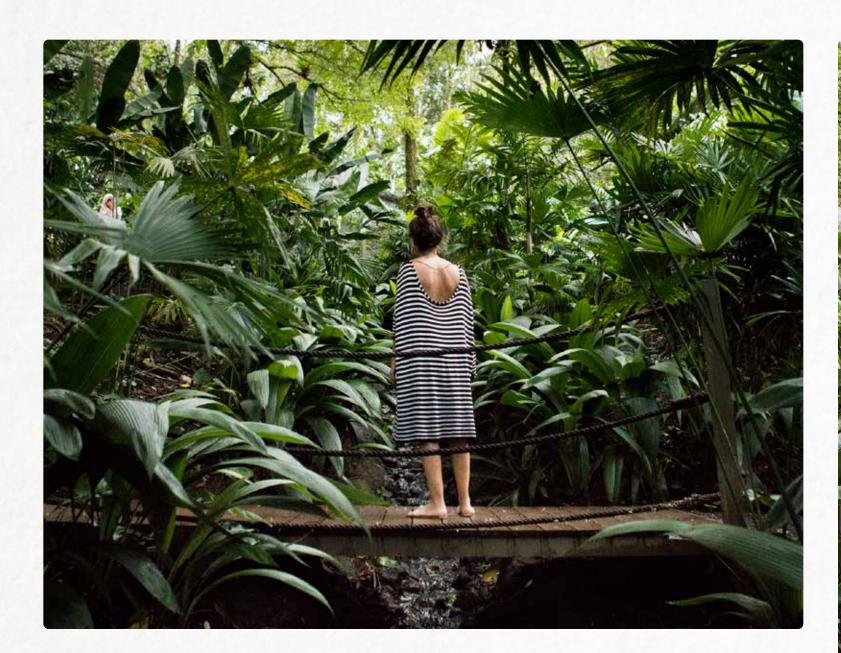
To kick off the process, VIDA facilitated several working sessions with the clients and team through a 2 day VIDA SESSION on site. The team collaborated to improve the circulation, re-thinking the arrival experience around existing trees, siting and programming the main arrival building to take advantage of the views and topography, developing a concept for a series of terraced thermal pools while establishing an overall landscape and conservation strategy which included a sanctuary planted with over 6 ha of predominantly native species to favour the healthy population of sloths and other fauna by creating biological corridors as well as providing shade and privacy.

The first phase of the project opened in December 2019 and has received a lot of media attention and extremely positive feedback from guests. VIDA will continue to be involved in delivering the remaining phase of the project.

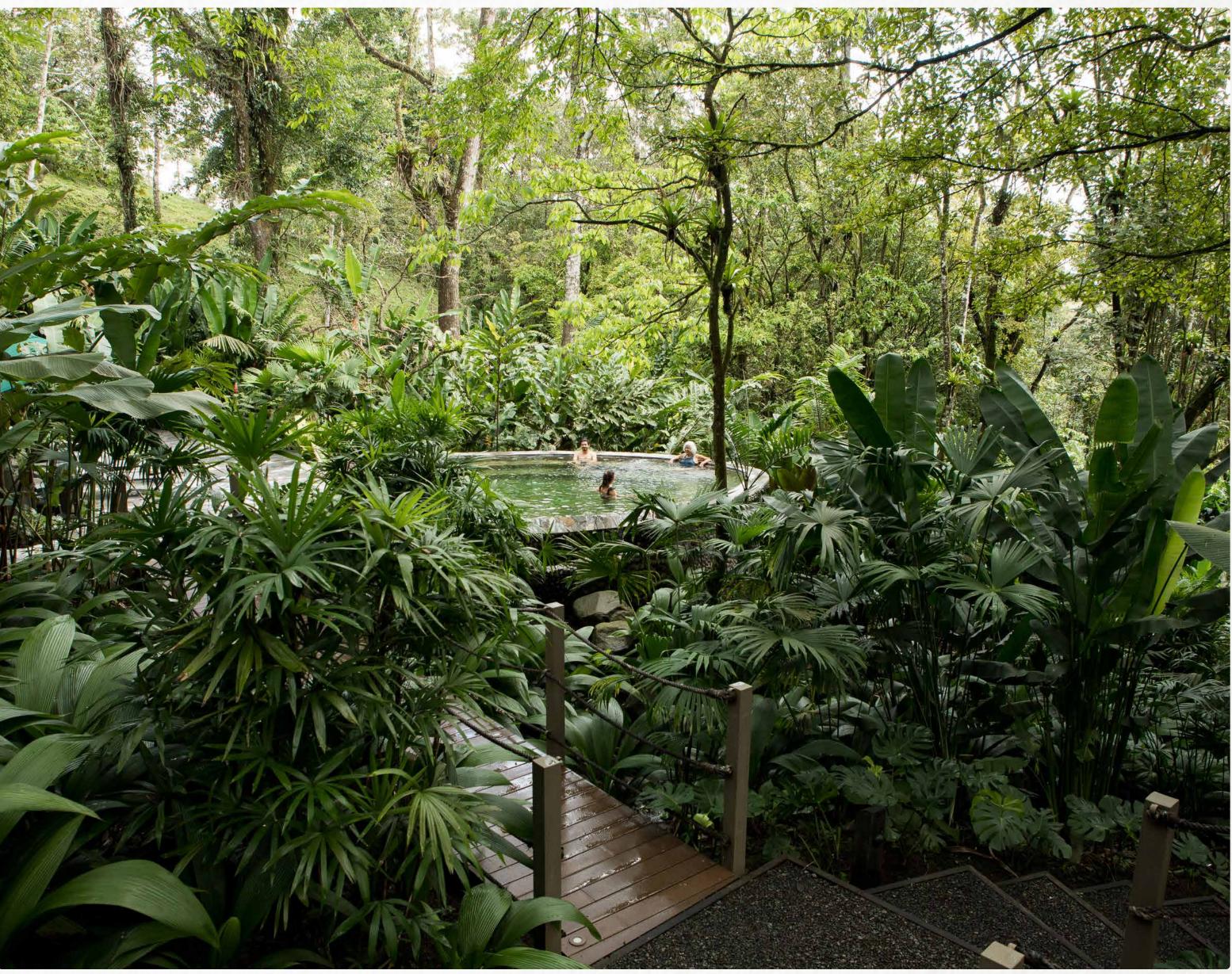




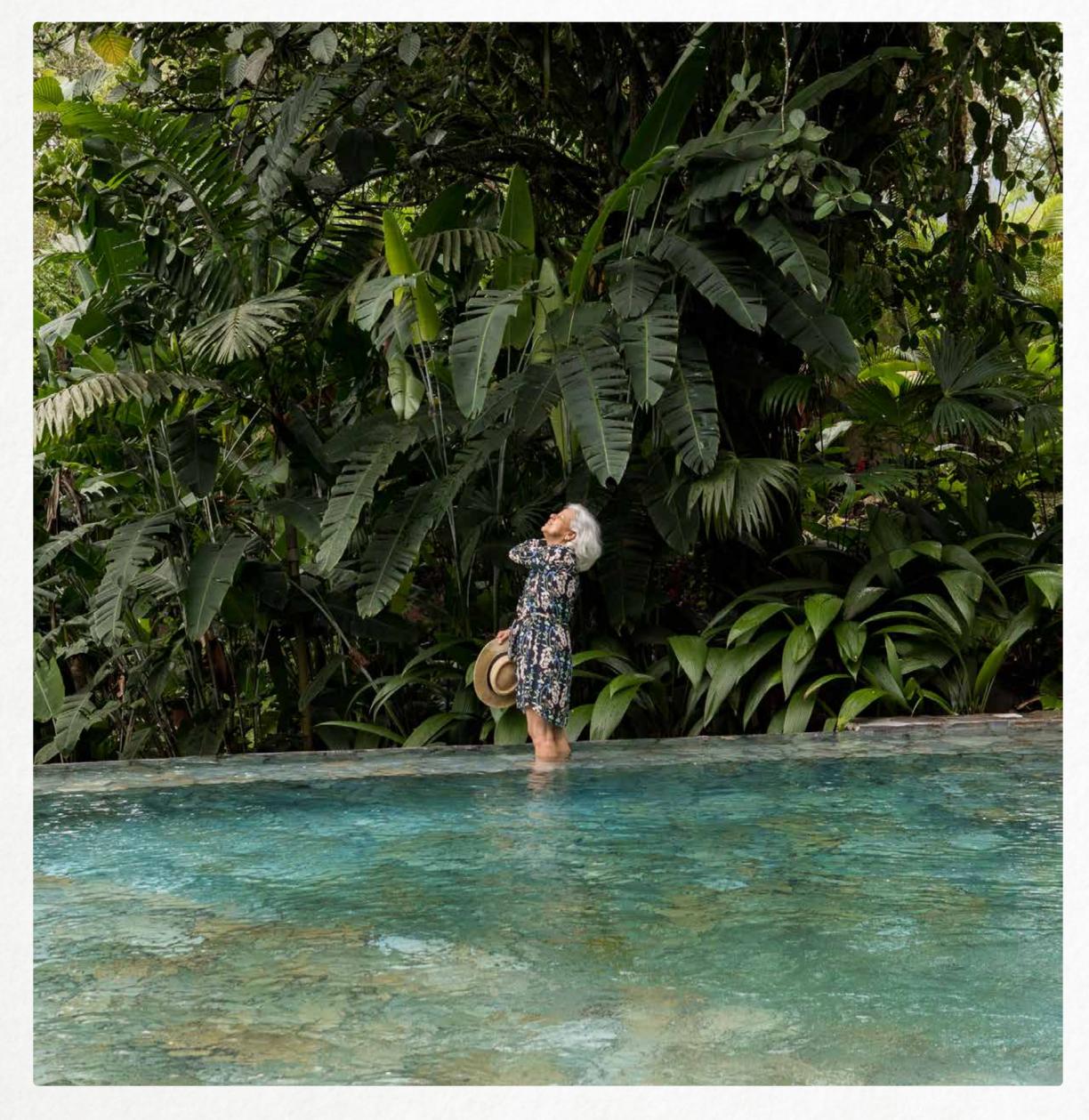




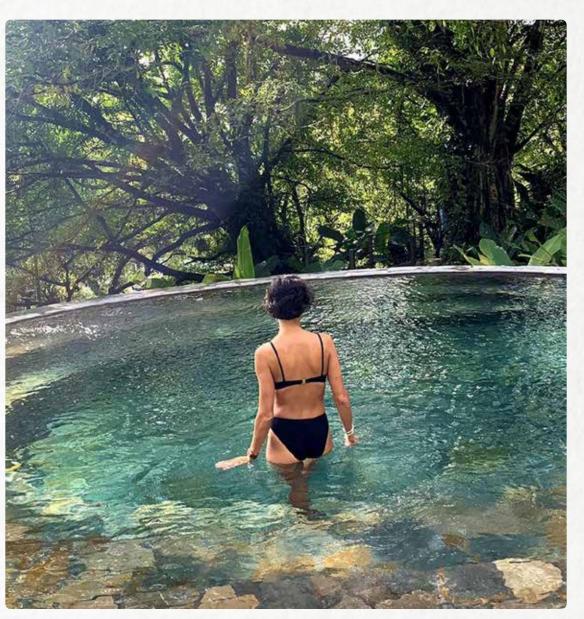
























### Isla Palenque.

8.1795°N, 82.2534°W CHIRIQUÍ, PTY



SCALE

160 hectares

SCOPE

Masterplanning + Full Service Landscape Architecture

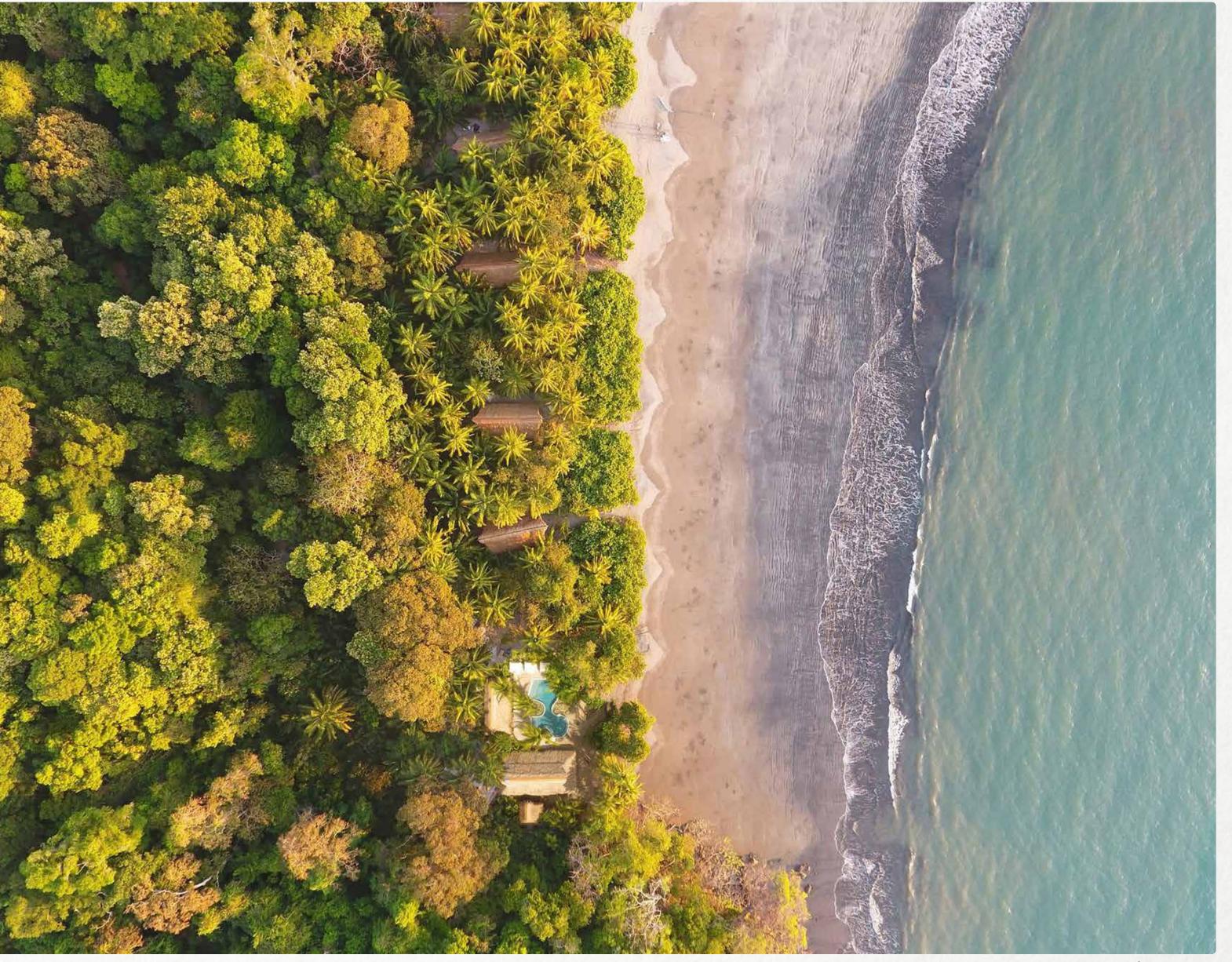
CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 422 mm May—October: 1790 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY

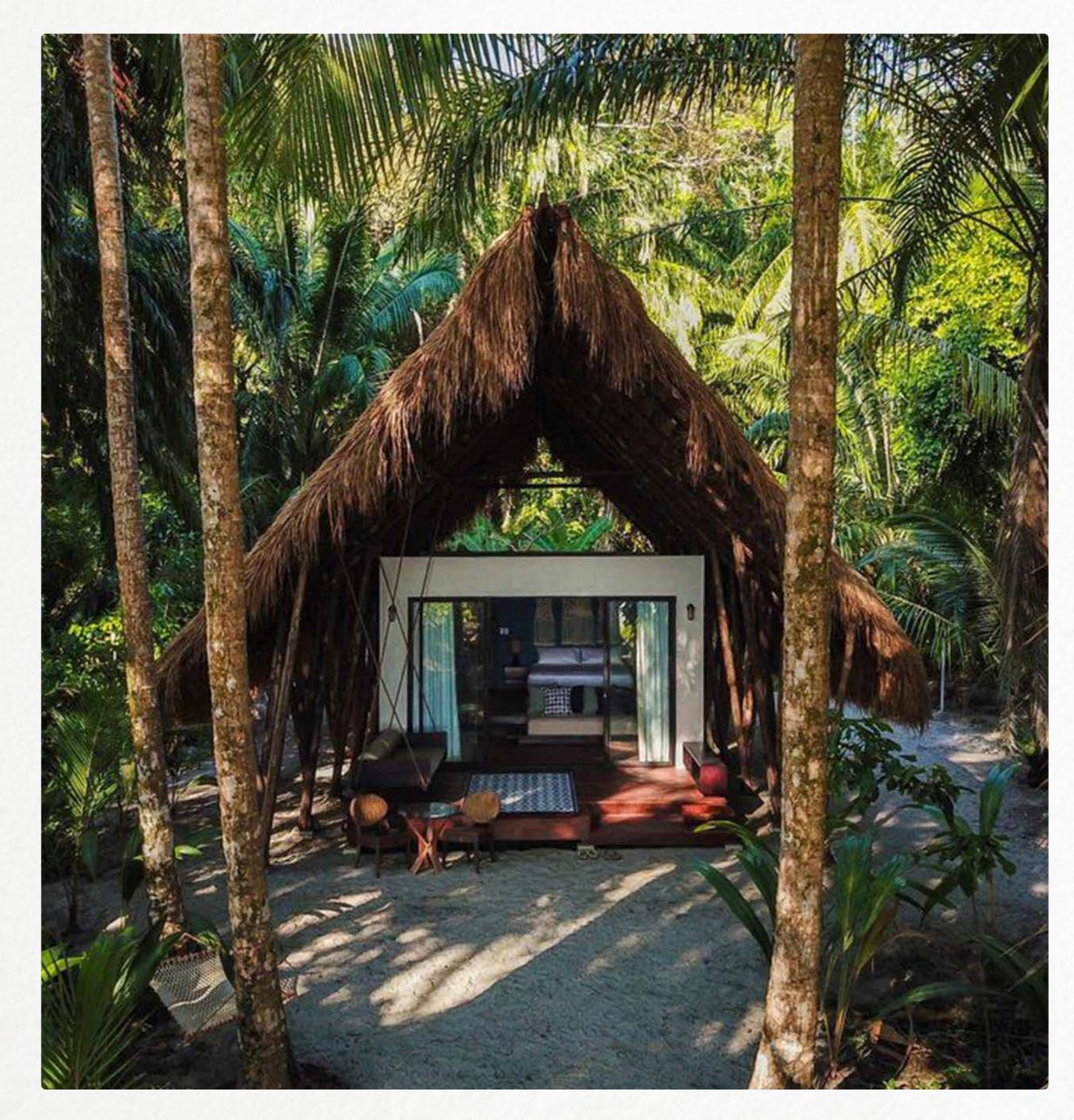
3.0°C

YEAR OF COMPLETION 2018



GULF OF CHIPIQUI. PANAMÁ.





In early 2017, *VIDA* flew to the Resort at *Isla Palenque* on the Pacific Coast of Panamá to run a design workshop with the resort ownership, Cayuga Collection and Sphera.

VIDA led the team through a three-day masterplanning workshop where they identified the elements of the existing operations that were working well and where there was room for improvement and expansion to make the most of the spectacular natural setting. The team developed a strategy to upgrade the existing lodging, add an additional 8 beachfront 'barefoot luxury' units and improve the common areas located in an idyllic beachfront setting to include a new pool, lounge areas and expanded food service.

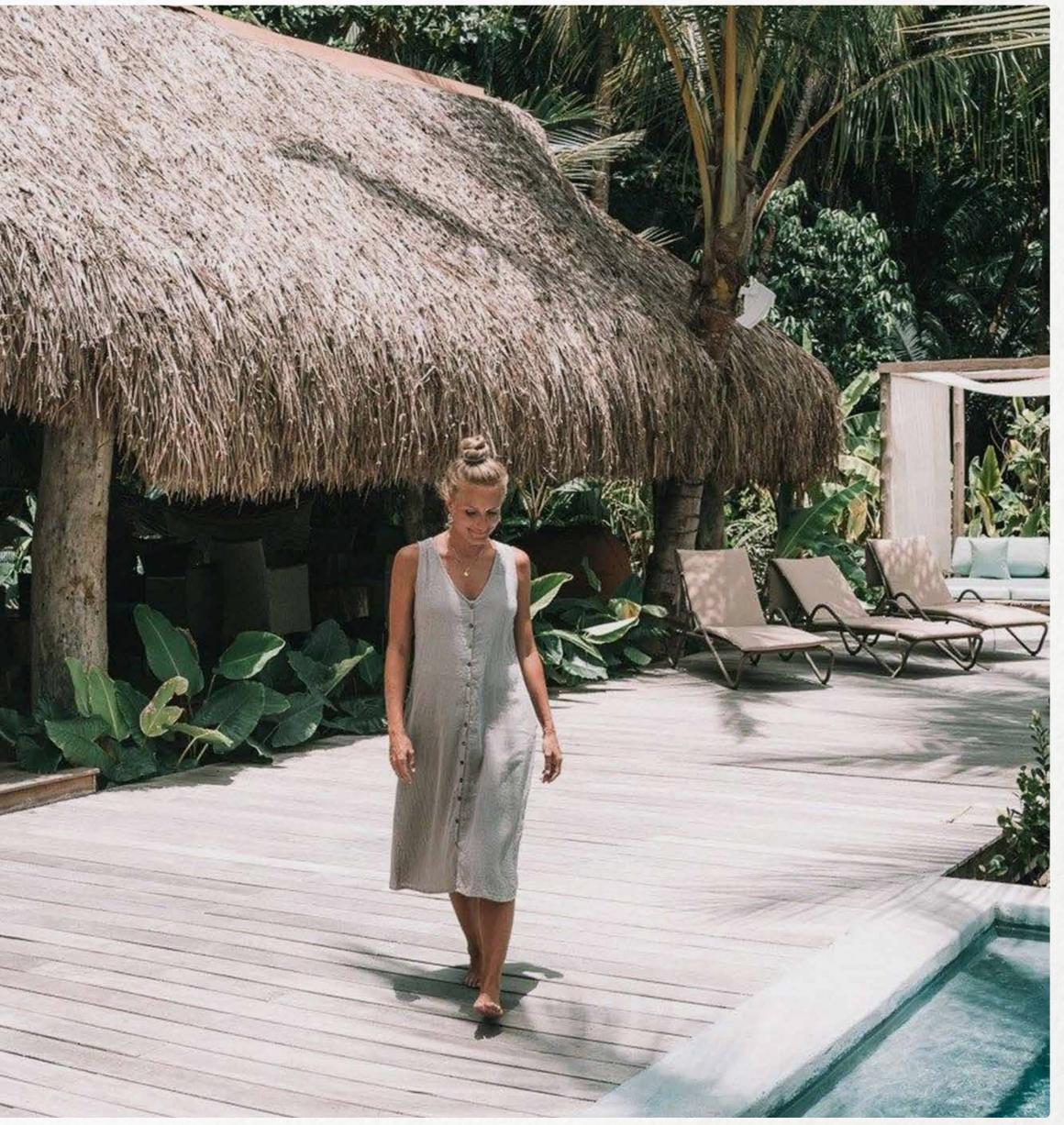
The 160 Ha private island is covered with pristine forests, lagoons, mangroves and beach ecosystems. Despite being only 5 miles from the mainland of Panamá, arriving by boat and meandering through the island channels evokes a feeling of ultimate privacy and exclusivity. *Isla Palenque* offers guests a rich nature-based experience with secluded beaches, forests teeming with nature and beachfront villas appointed with everything you need and nothing that you don't.









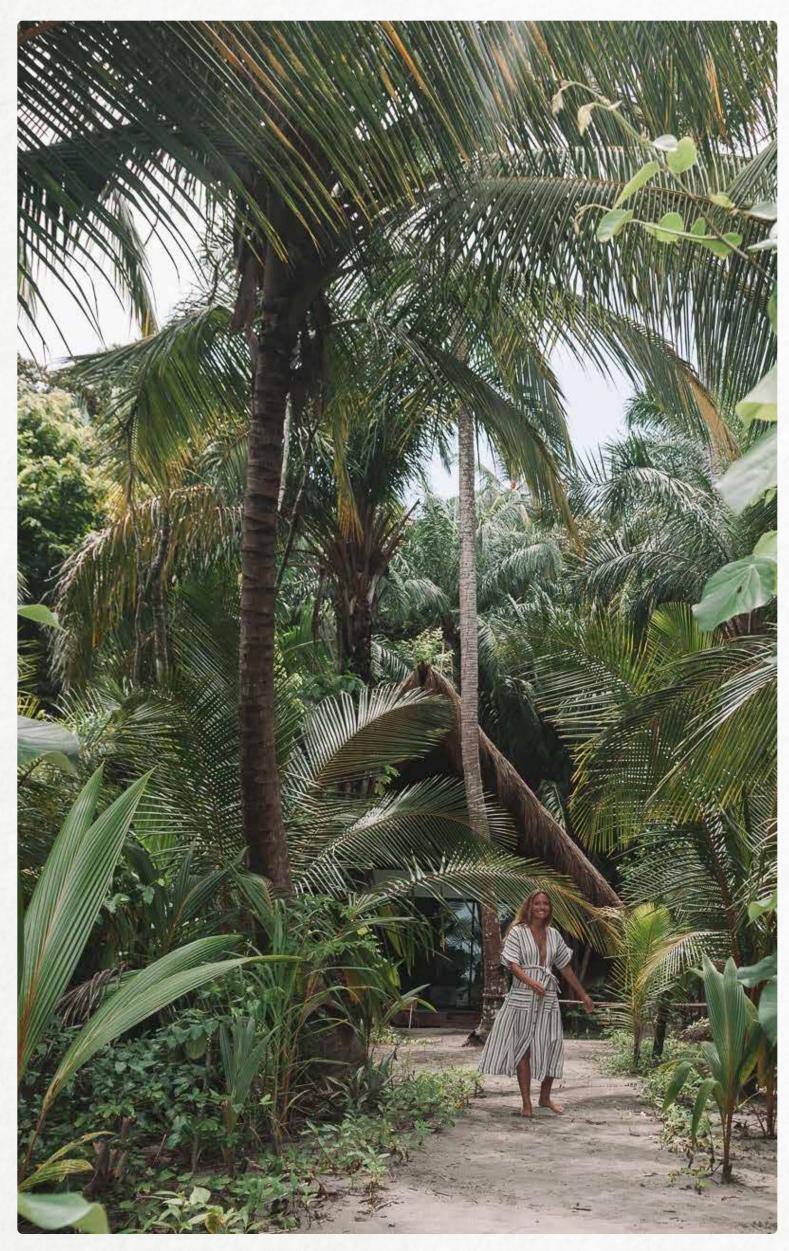




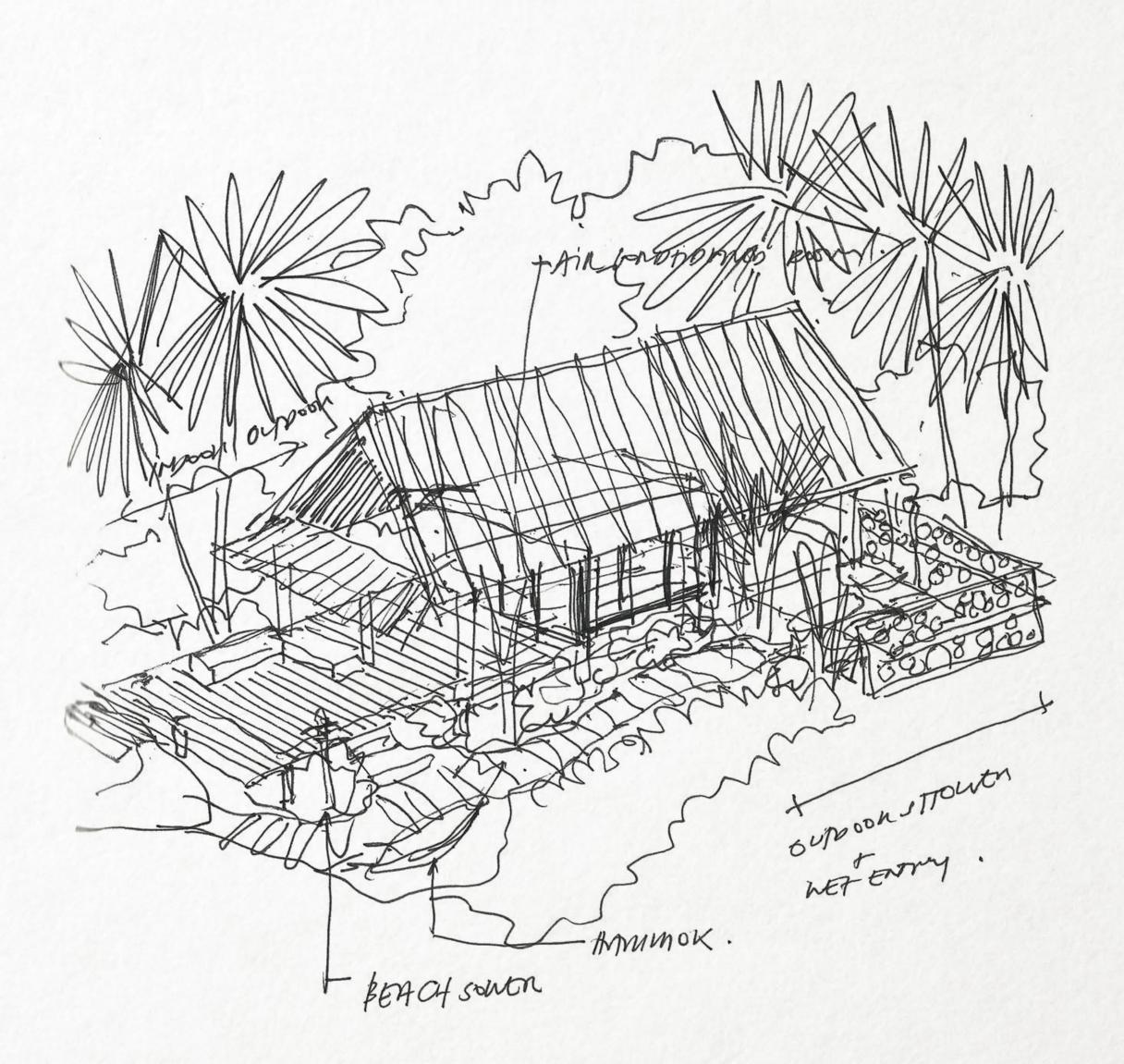


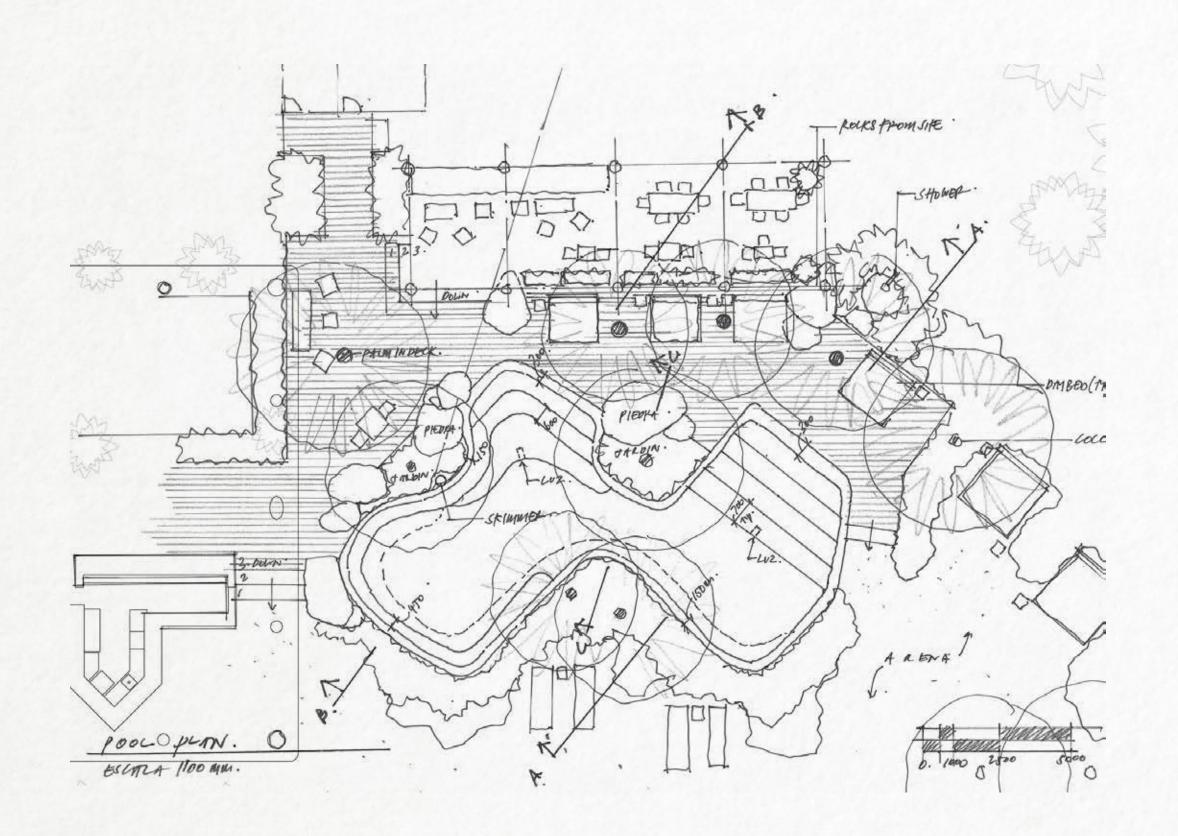


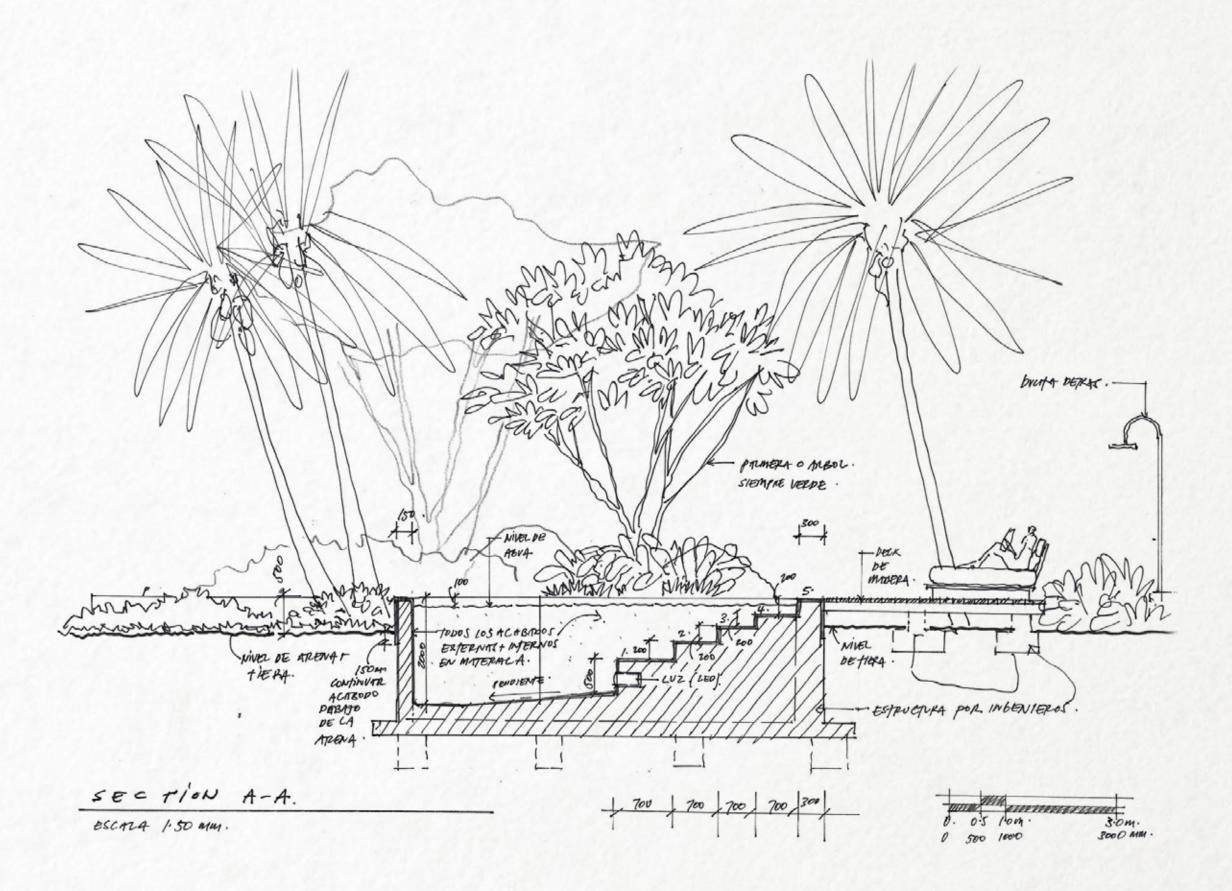




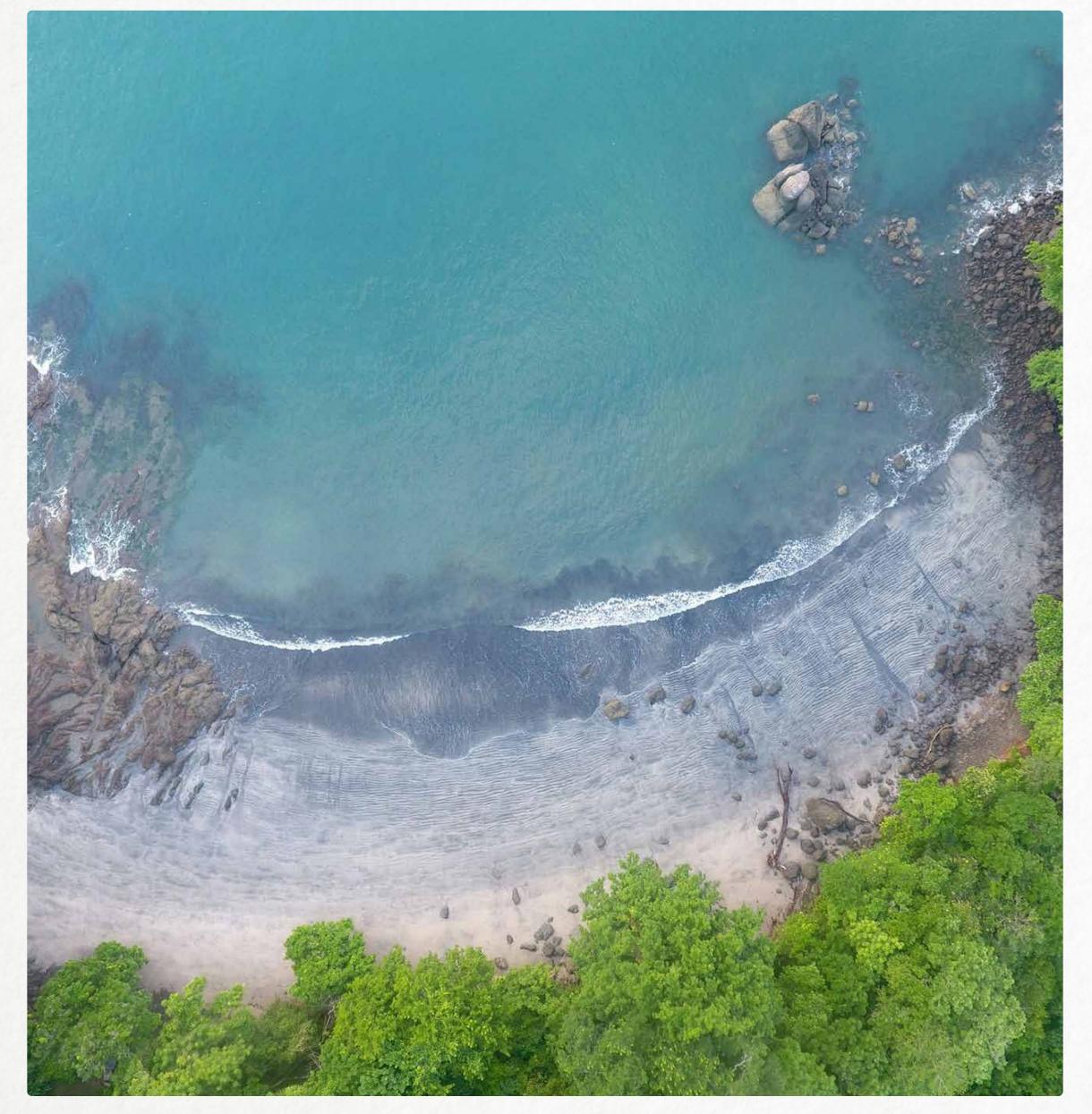
@hippieinheelsblog

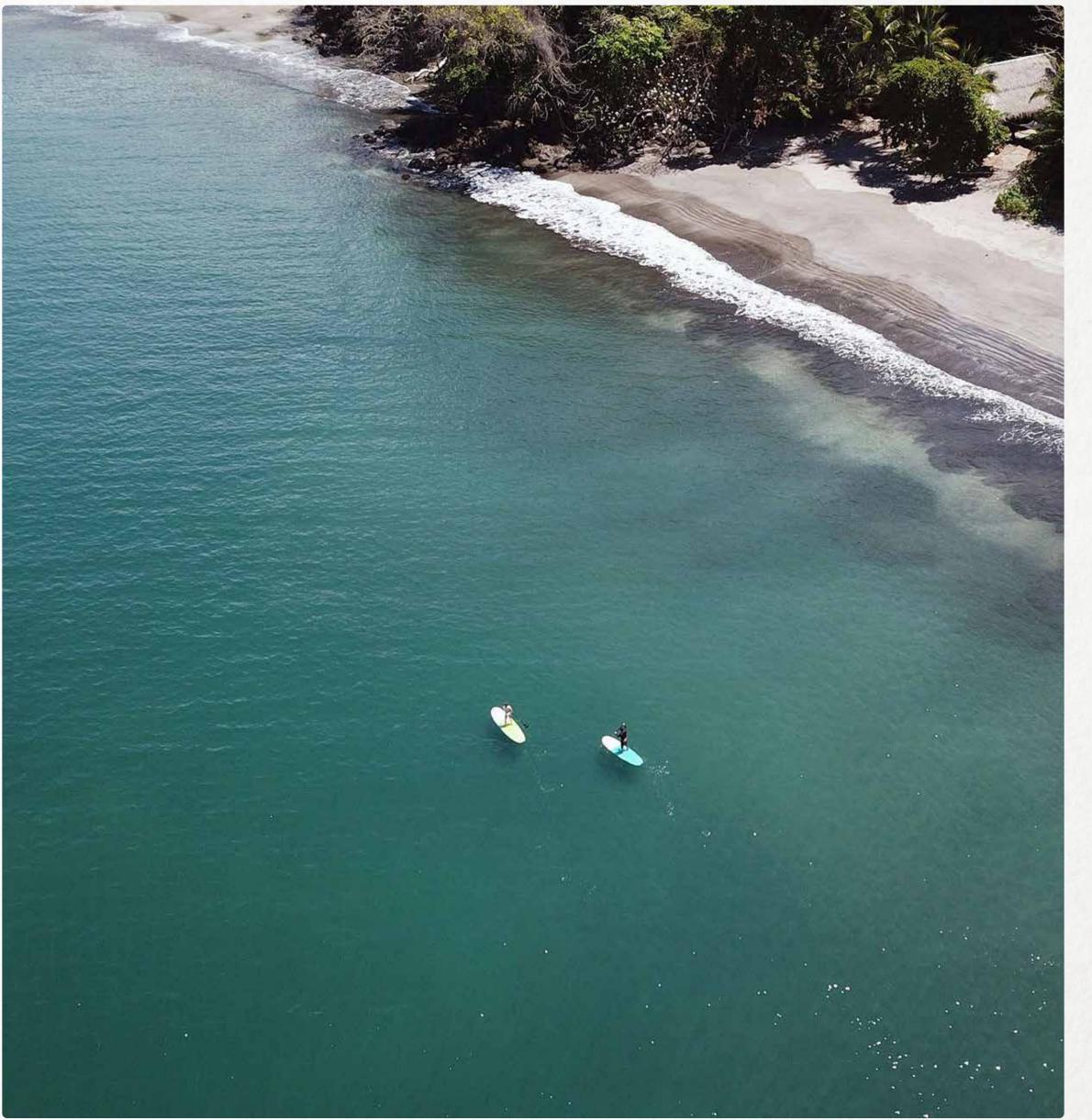














### Lapa Ríos Ecolodge.

8.4002°N, 83.2850°W OSA PENÍNSULA, CRC



SCALE

4 hectares

SCOPE

Masterplanning + Full Service Landscape Architecture

CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 832 mm May—October: 2911 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY

 $2.5^{\circ}C$ 

YEAR OF COMPLETION

Ongoing



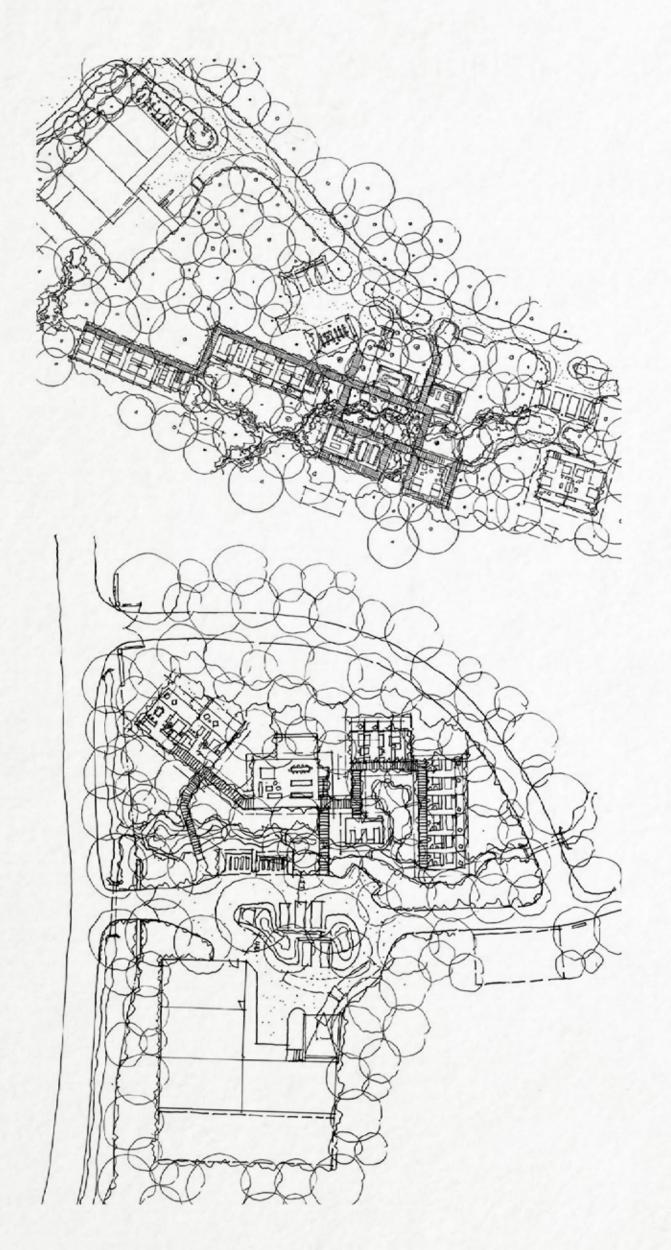
OSA PENÍNSULA, PUNTARENAS. COSTA PICA.



VIDA was first engaged in early 2010 to collaborate on a Sustainable Masterplan with Hitesh Mehta. Lapa Ríos is world renowned for their protection of the rainforest and its social programs, guided nature tours, local employment policies have led to an extensive list of awards, including being listed in 2017 as a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World.

Between 2014 and 2019 before the property changed ownership, *VIDA* was engaged by Cayuga Collection, a luxury sustainable hospitality brand, to design and oversee the ongoing improvements and expansion of *Lapa Ríos*. These projects included the design and planning of two additional villas, developing a masterplan for the lodge core to expand the food & beverage offering and create value adding external spaces for guests, as well as the planning and design of employee housing, service facilities and administration offices.

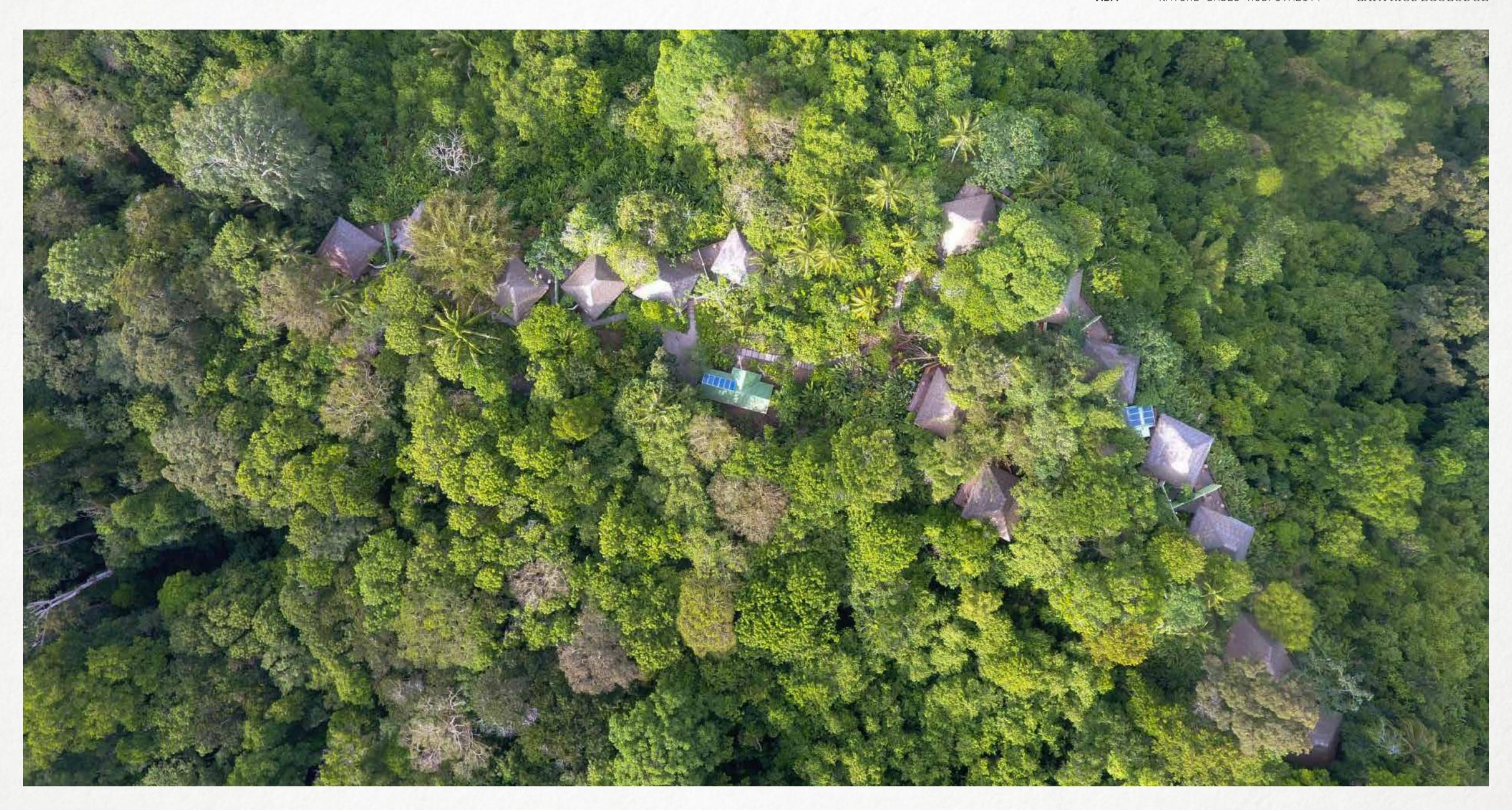
The goal of the masterplan was to ensure *Lapa Ríos* maintains its position as a leader in ecotourism and nature-based travel. In the years since the lodge's inception, traveller's expectations have changed – the ecotourism market has diversified and expanded and the quality of the guest experience has moved to a more luxury focused product as the knowledge base and the systems available for designing in environmentally sensitive areas have evolved.





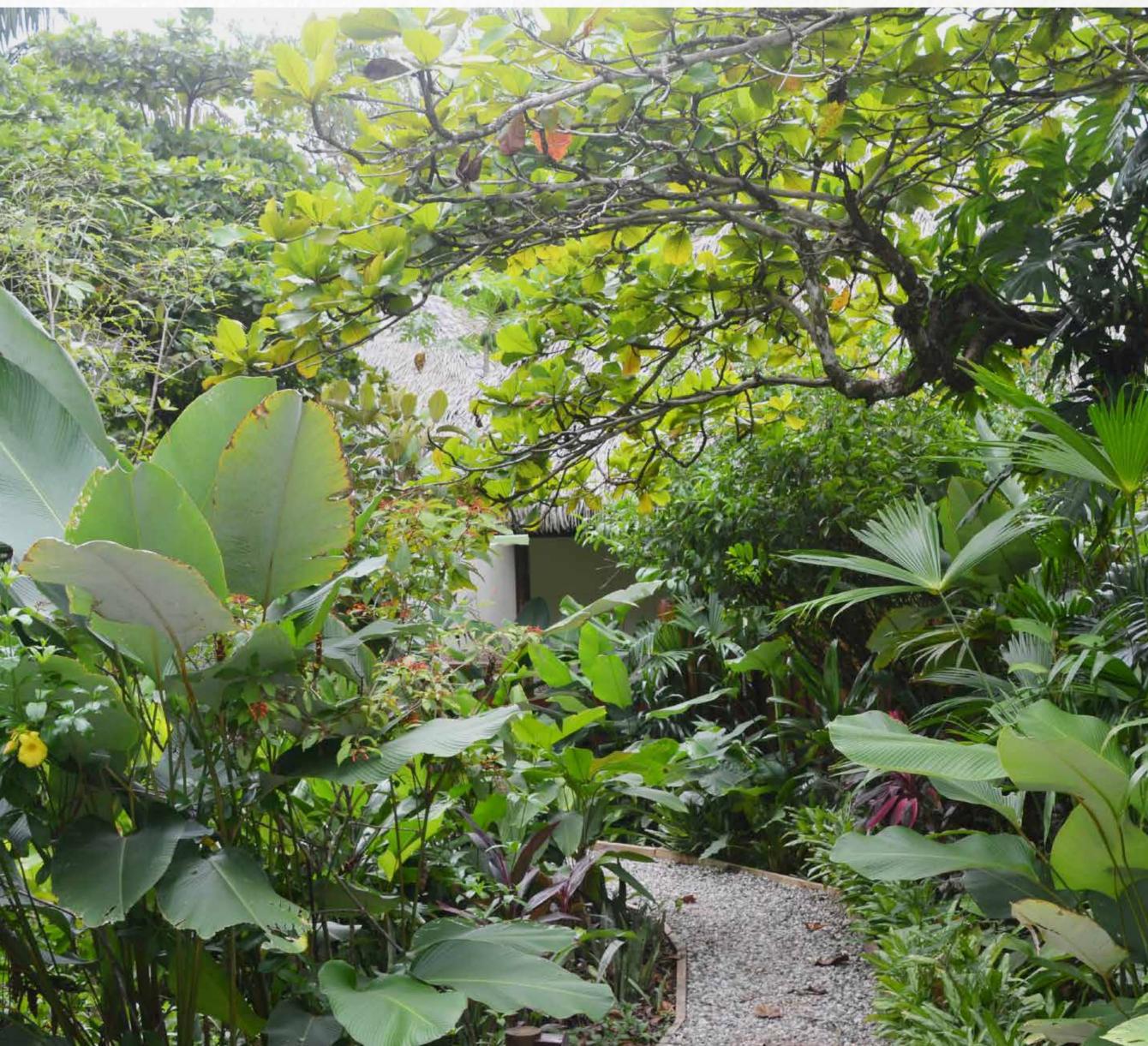




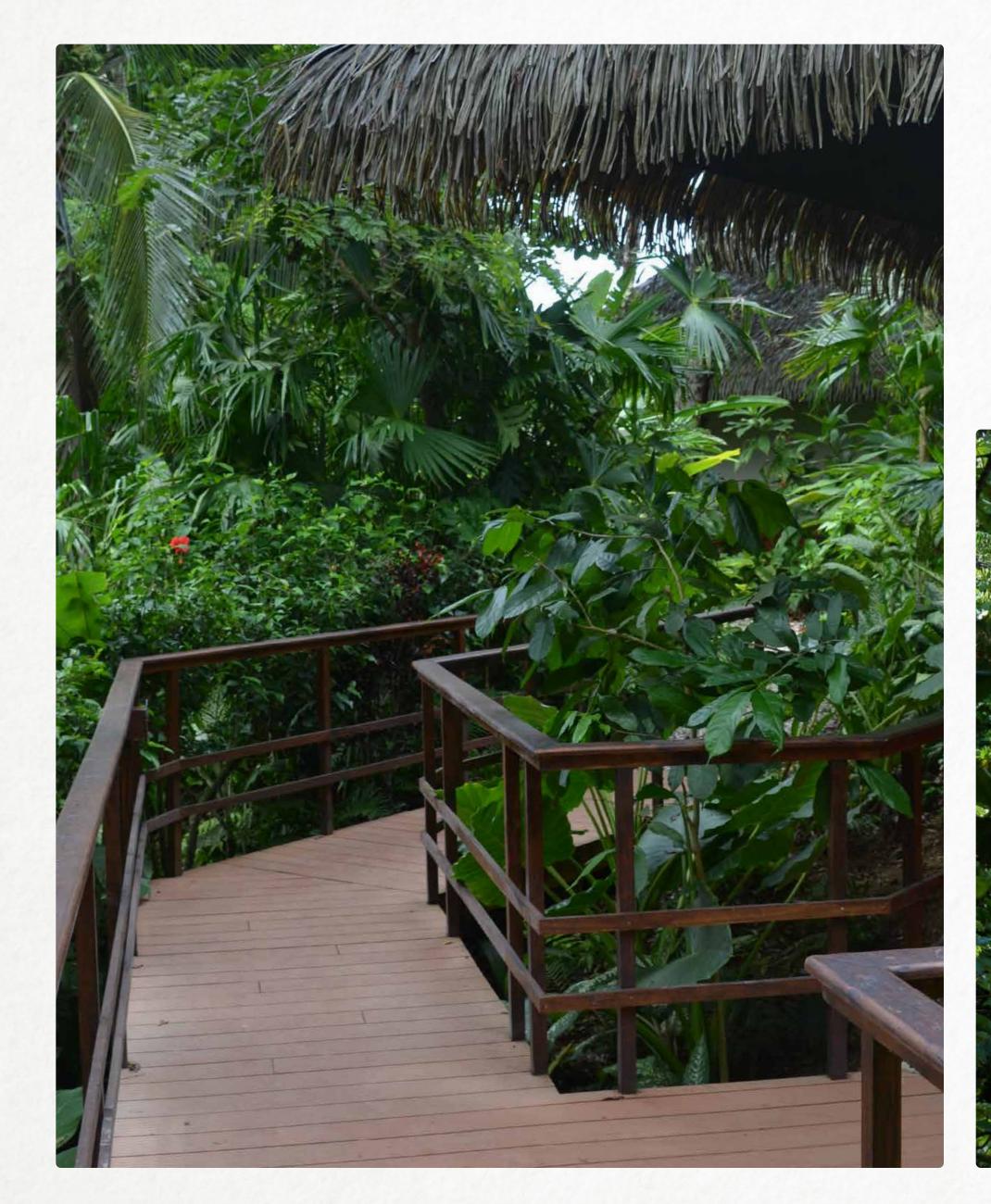


















"It would be hard to find a more authentic rain forest experience than this. You awaken to the sounds of the jungle, watch scarlet macaws glide by from your private outdoor shower, and set off into the trees to explore with local guides whose knowledge of the area's ecosystems runs deep. And yet the experience is relaxing too, there are secluded beaches at the end of many a jungle path, delightful meals served al fresco, and a luxurious bungalow awaiting you at the end of the day."

National Geographic UNIQUE LODGES OF THE WORLD



#### Dorado Beach Hotel, Ritz-Carlton Reserve.

18.4588°N, 66.2677°W DORADO, PRI





SCALE

Confidential

SCOPE

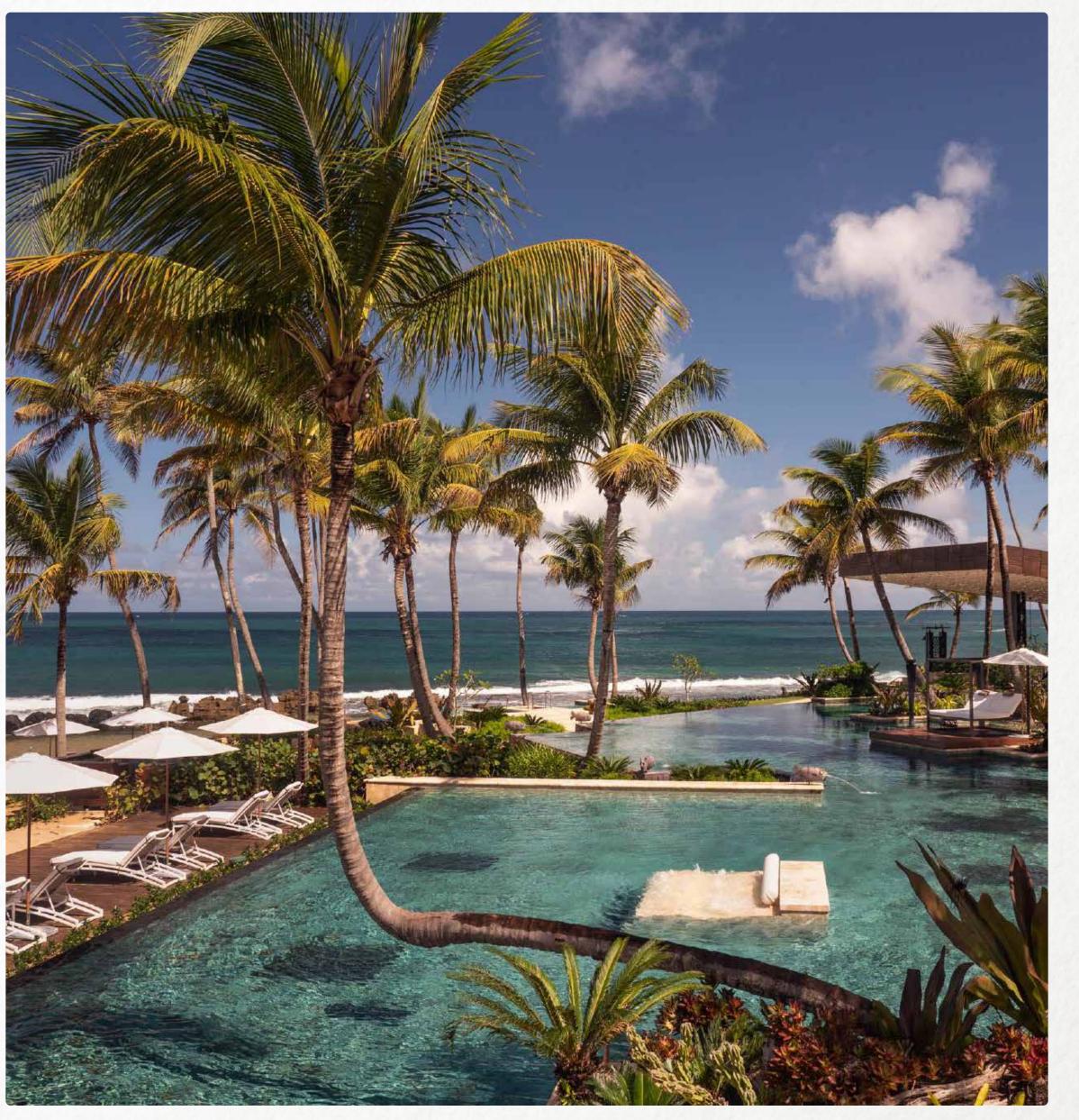
Landscape Architecture (Planting Design + Installation Oversight)

CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 687 mm May—October: 996 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY

 $3.3^{\circ}C$ 



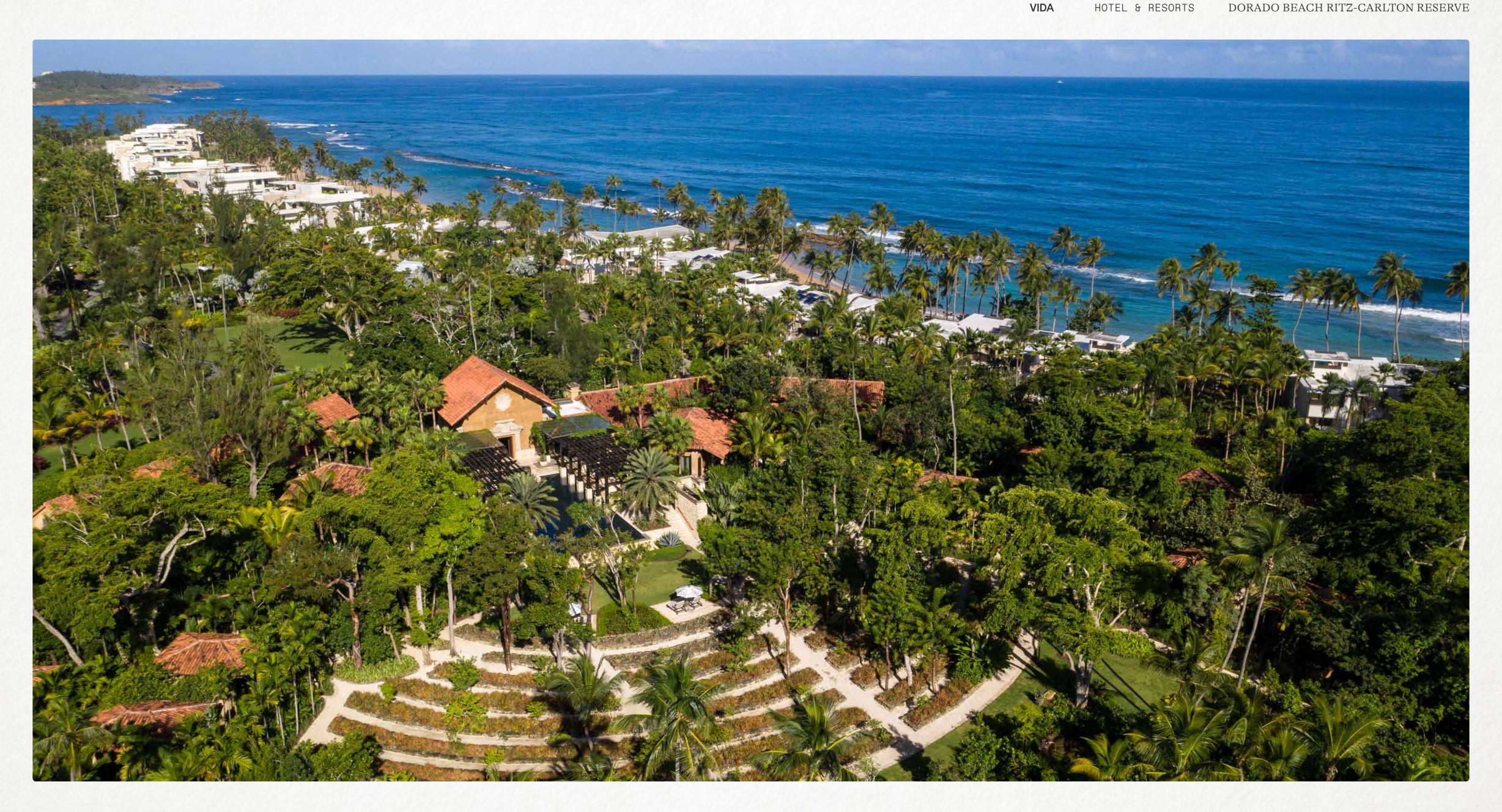
DORADO. PUERTO RICO. -2



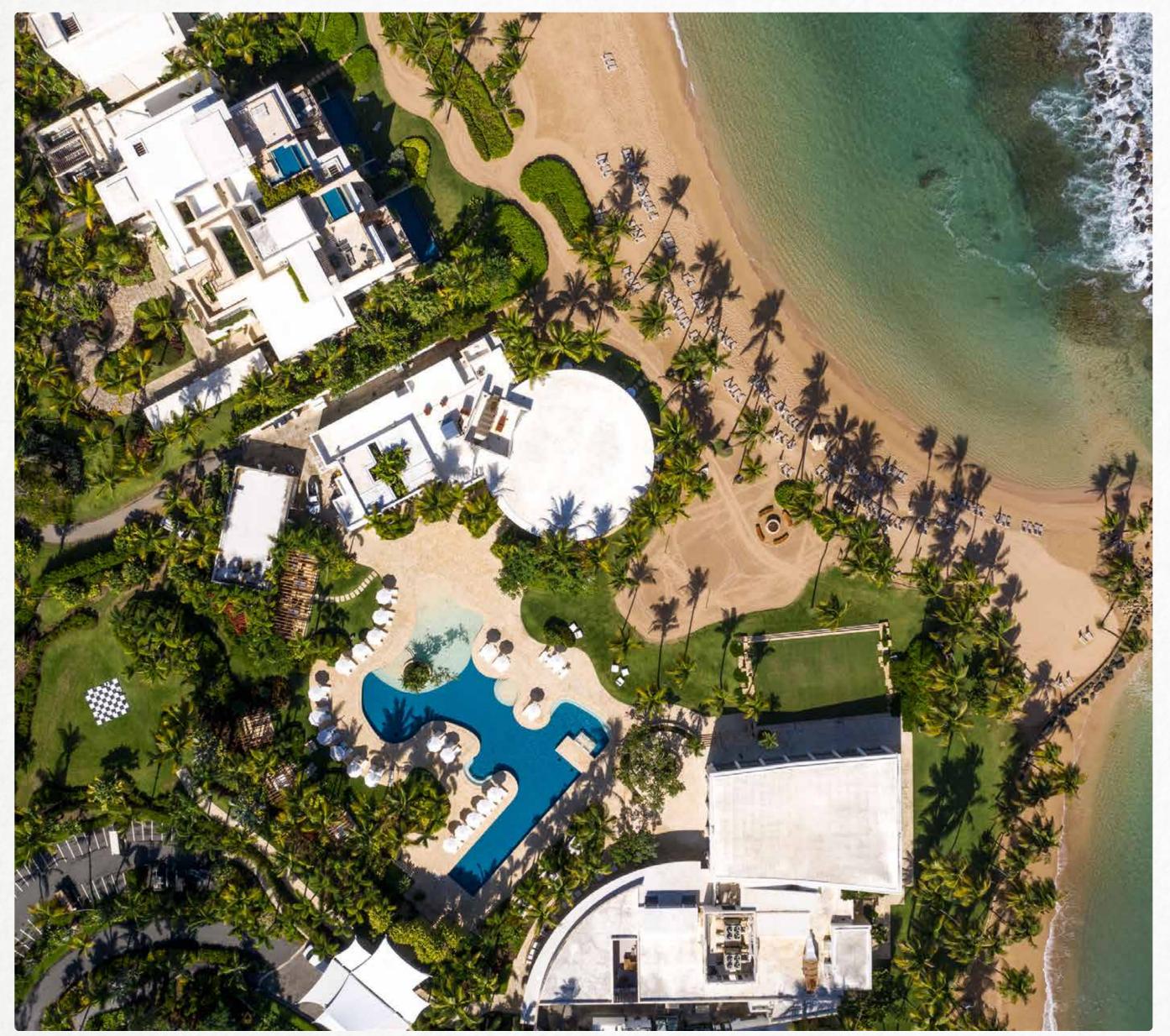
Following the disaster left by Hurricane María, *VIDA* was invited to work with the *Dorado Beach* development team on the reimagination and landscaping of the *Ritz-Carlton Reserve*, *Dorado Beach Hotel*, Puerto Rico. The 1400 acre resort community was founded by Laurence S. Rockefeller in the 1950s and went on to become one of the premier hotels and resort communities of the Caribbean and a playground for Hollywood royalty and the international jet set.

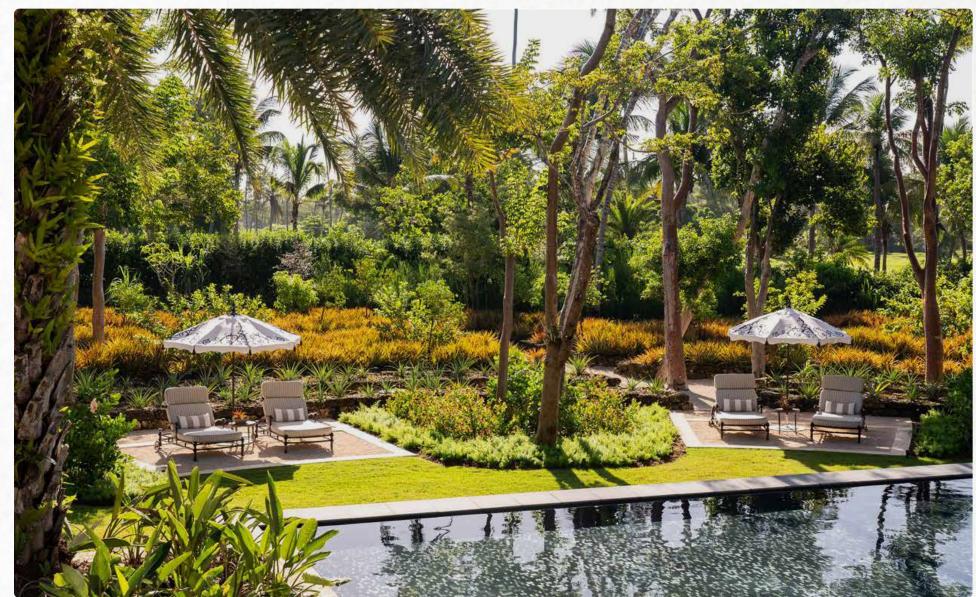
Working with a very tight time frame and some heavy expectations, *VIDA* worked with the onsite team through several working sessions to create a landscaping strategy that could be sourced and installed in the time frame (no easy feat). Through site visits, plant sourcing trips to Florida and beyond, sketches, diagrams and phone calls, the team were able to deliver and the guest response has been fantastic.

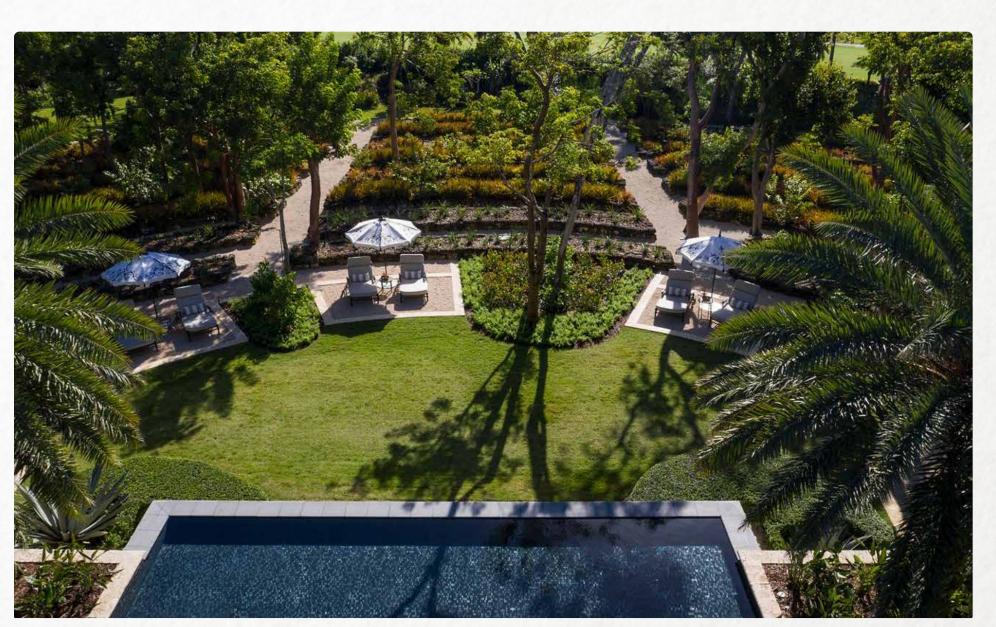
We hope that *Dorado Beach* with its reimagined landscape can continue to be one of the most highly prized properties in the Caribbean for many years to come.



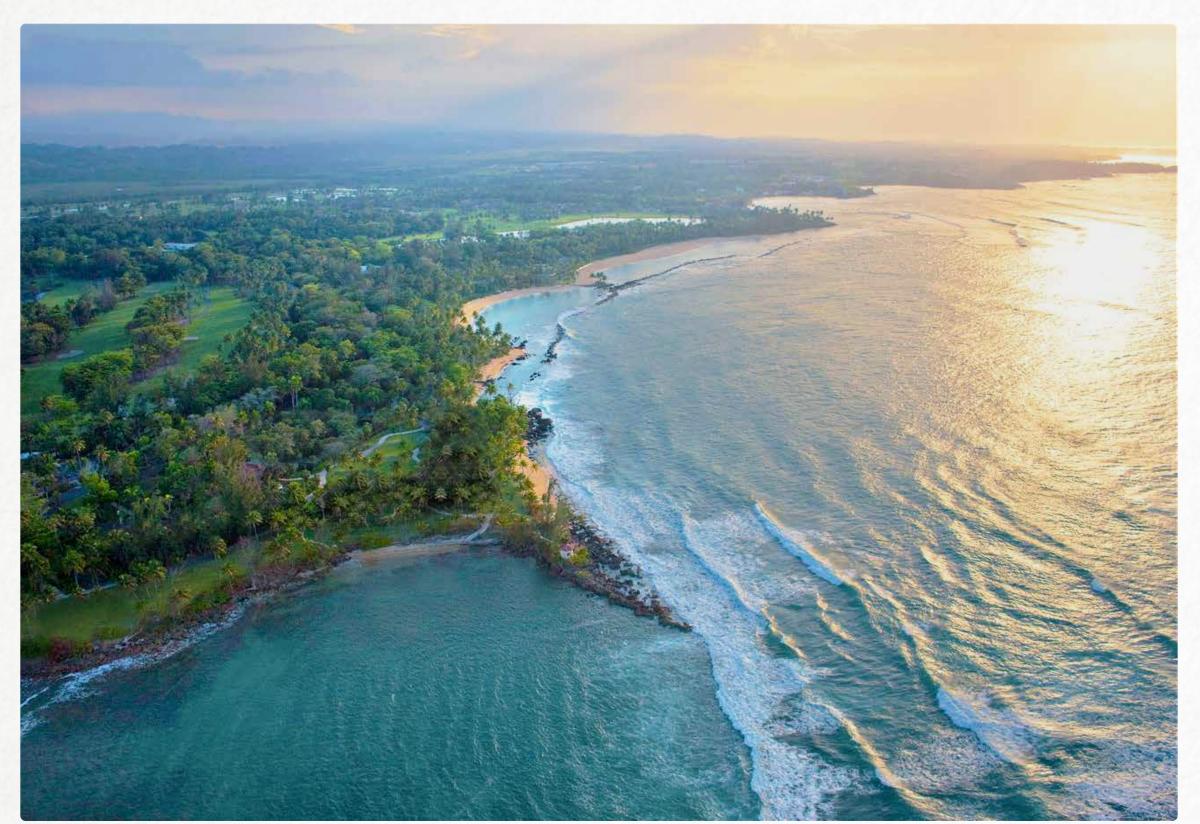














"The landscaping has been incredible. You, Bobby and team have done a truly remarkable job. We are thrilled with the results. Guest feedback has been incredible."

Marta Molina-Seal PRINCIPAL HOTEL INVESTMENTS AT CPG REAL ESTATE



COMMUNITIES

# Grand Bois Community.

4.7047°S, 55.4859°E MAHE, SYC



SCALE

190 hectares

SCOPE

Masterplanning + Project Visioning

CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 1572 mm May—October: 698 mm

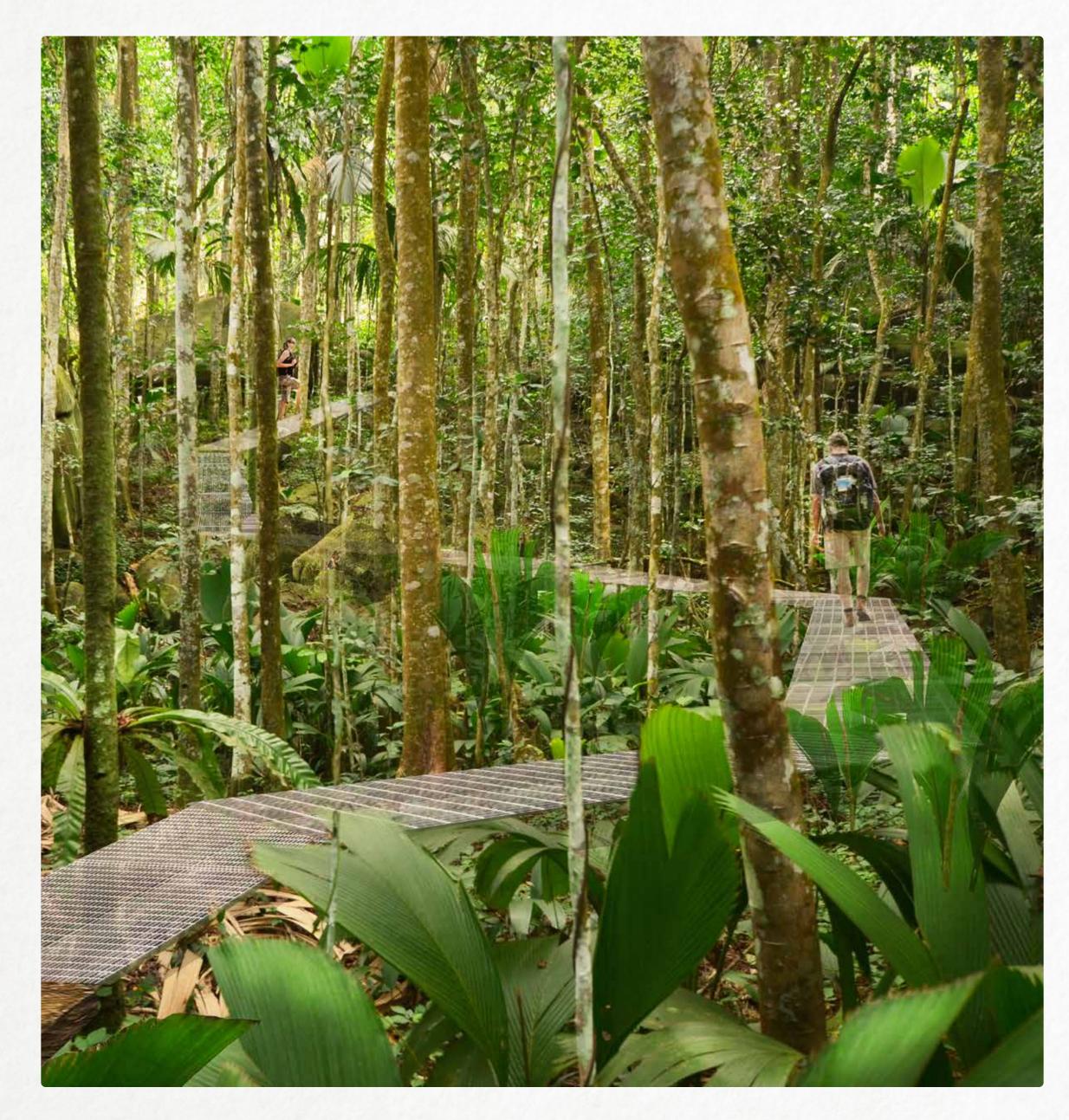
AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY

1.9°C

YEAR OF COMPLETION

Ongoing

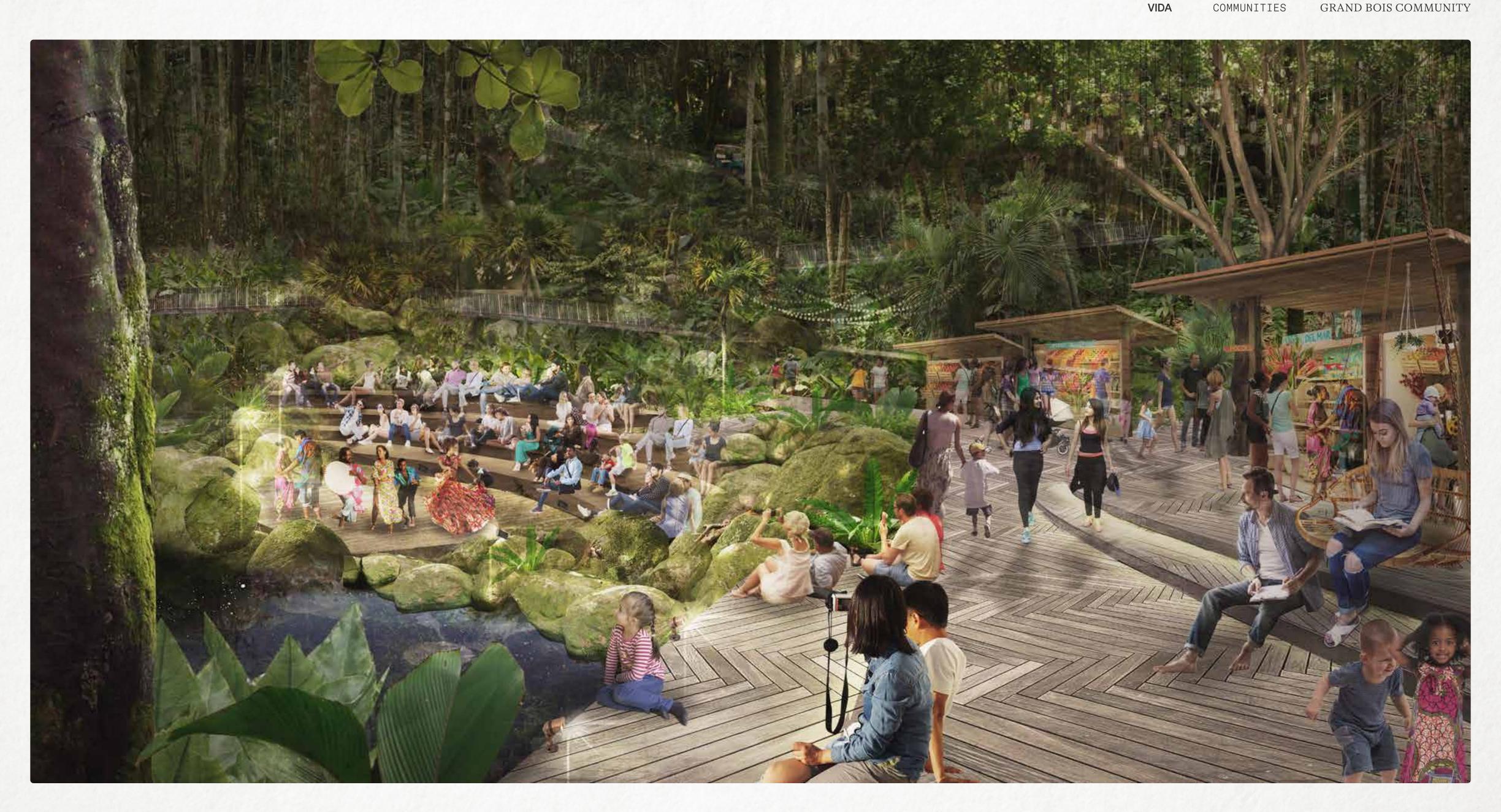


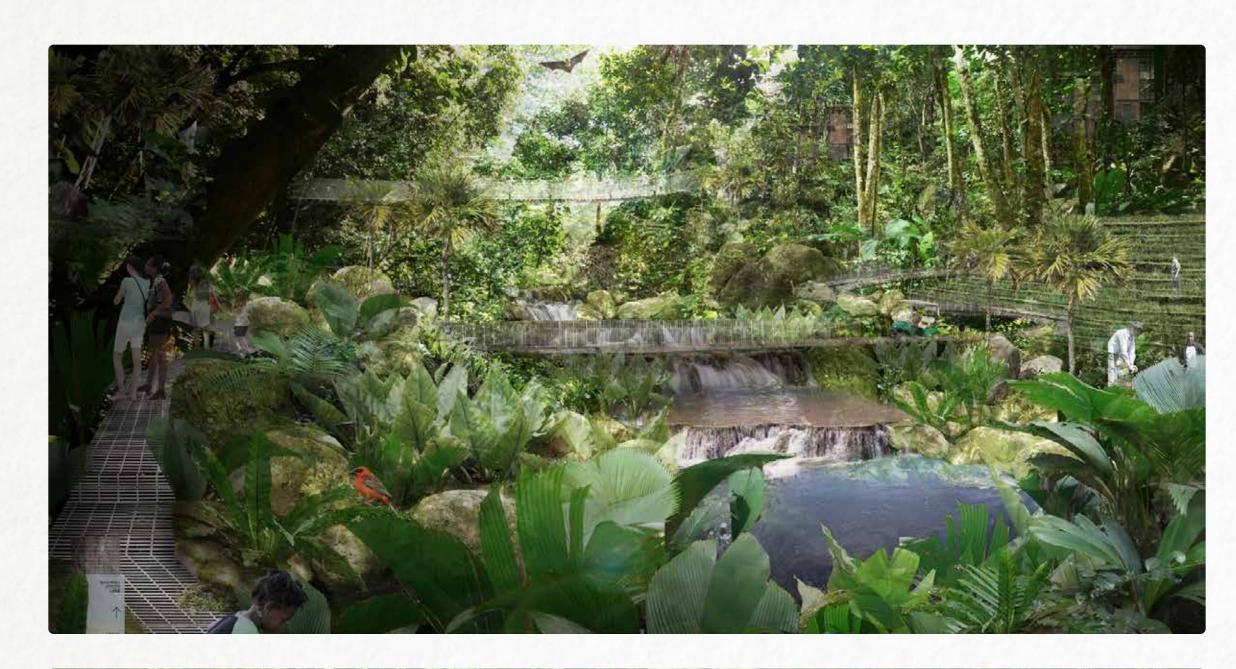


VIDA was approached in late 2016 to assist an international team with the masterplanning of a low impact community deep in the mountainous forests on the island of Mahe, Seychelles. Applying our proven masterplanning methodology and drawing on extensive experience working in rugged terrain, and ecologically sensitive tropical environments, VIDA led a masterplanning workshop with the key decision makers and consultants to gain a thorough understanding of the property and the opportunities and constraints of the challenging property.

In the lead up to the workshop, *VIDA's* team carried out extensive research and analysis with the goal of building a deeper understanding of the factors that have shaped Indian Island nation.

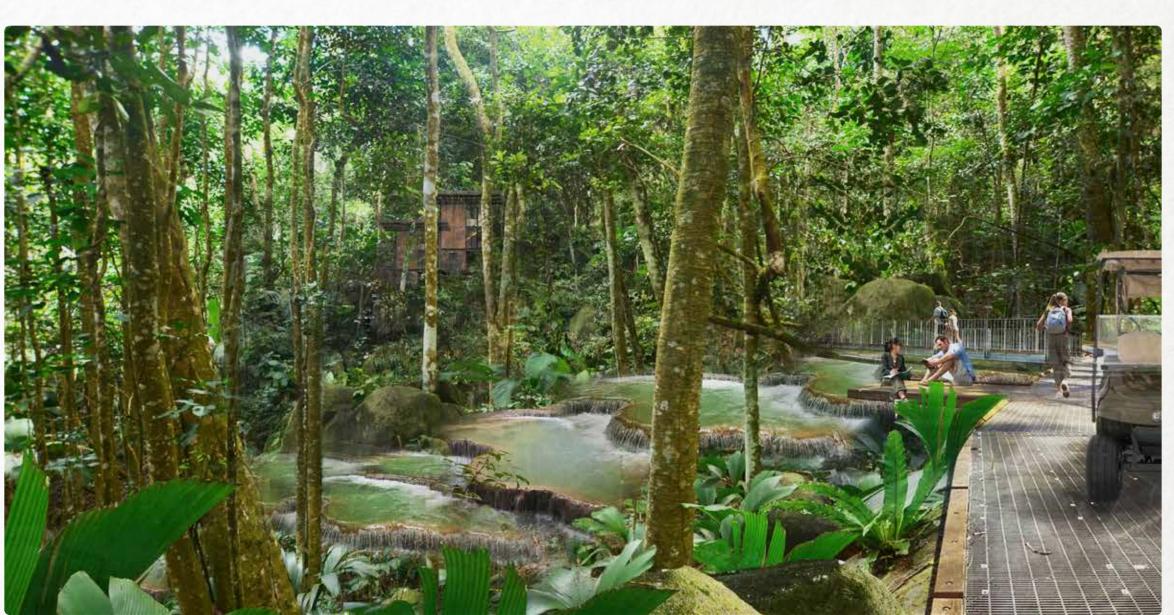
The project seeks to liaise with existing partners, and aid rather than replicate and create boundaries between it and the existing Seychellois community members. Developing partnerships using amenities developed onsite will assist with educational programs in the broader community.



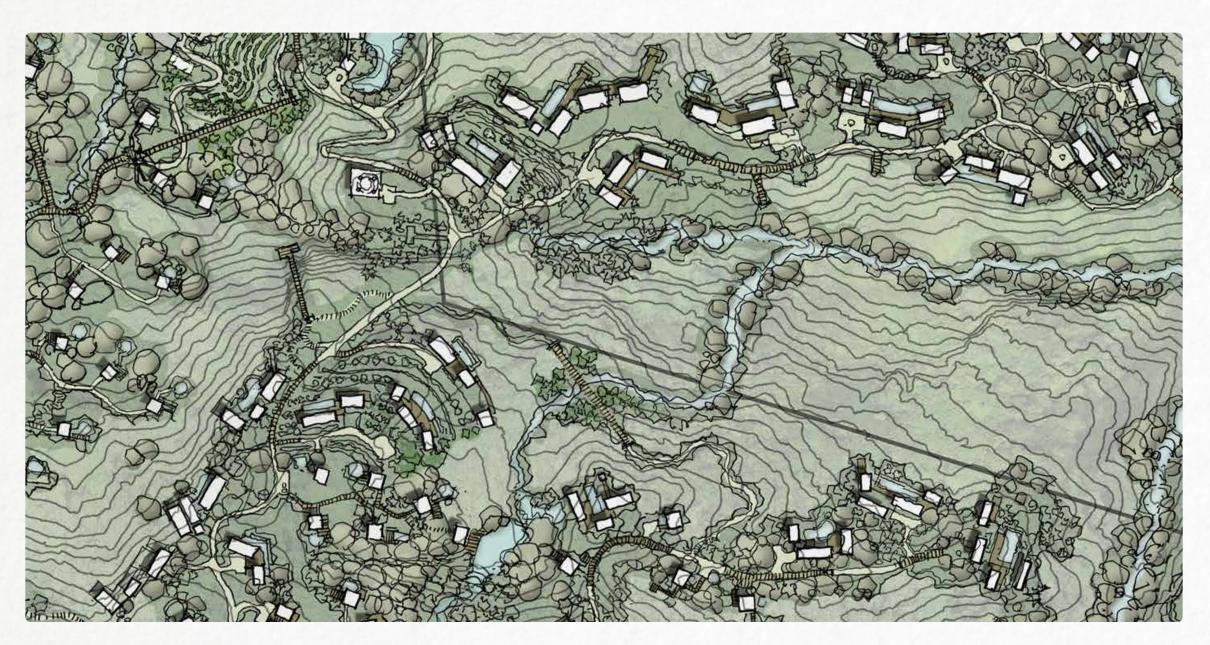














"VIDA which is an internationally recognised company from Costa Rica is planning the ecologically-minded project which was developed by UAE village. The plan started when a group of individuals organised a meeting with the public as part of the scoping exercise for the Environment Impact Assessment. The low-impact designs will include the use of elevated boardwalks instead of roads, Other facilities to be put in place will be ziplining, canopy walks, viewing platforms and other tree top adventures. The project which will be built on 1.8 million square metres with only 6% being used for the project while 94 percent will be given back to nature."

Gambeta News
OCTOBER 2017



9.6514°N, 85.1749°W SANTA TERESA, CRC



SCALE

0.5 hectares

SCOPE

Full Service Landscape Architecture

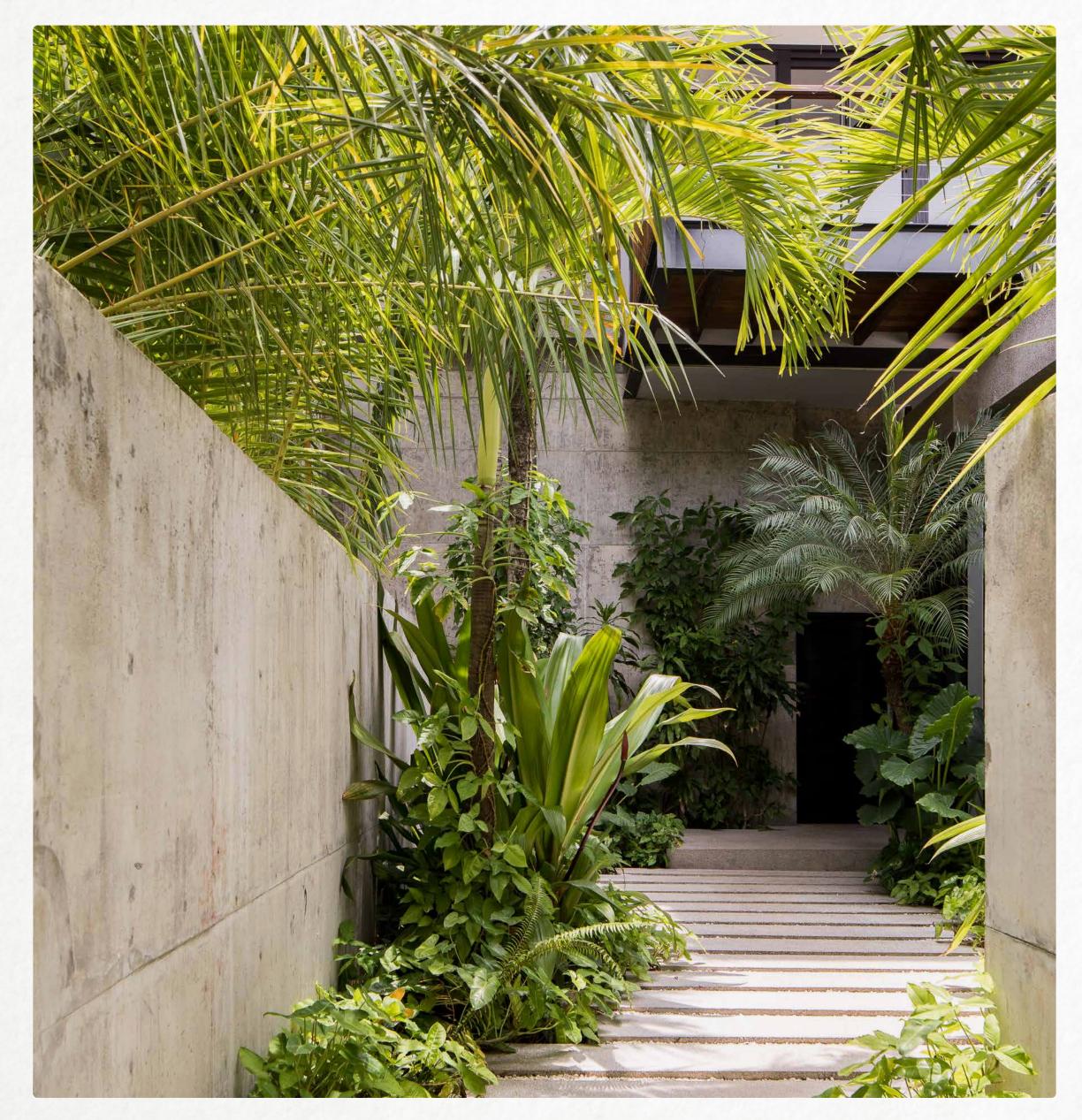
CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 312 mm May—October: 2275 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY 2.6°C



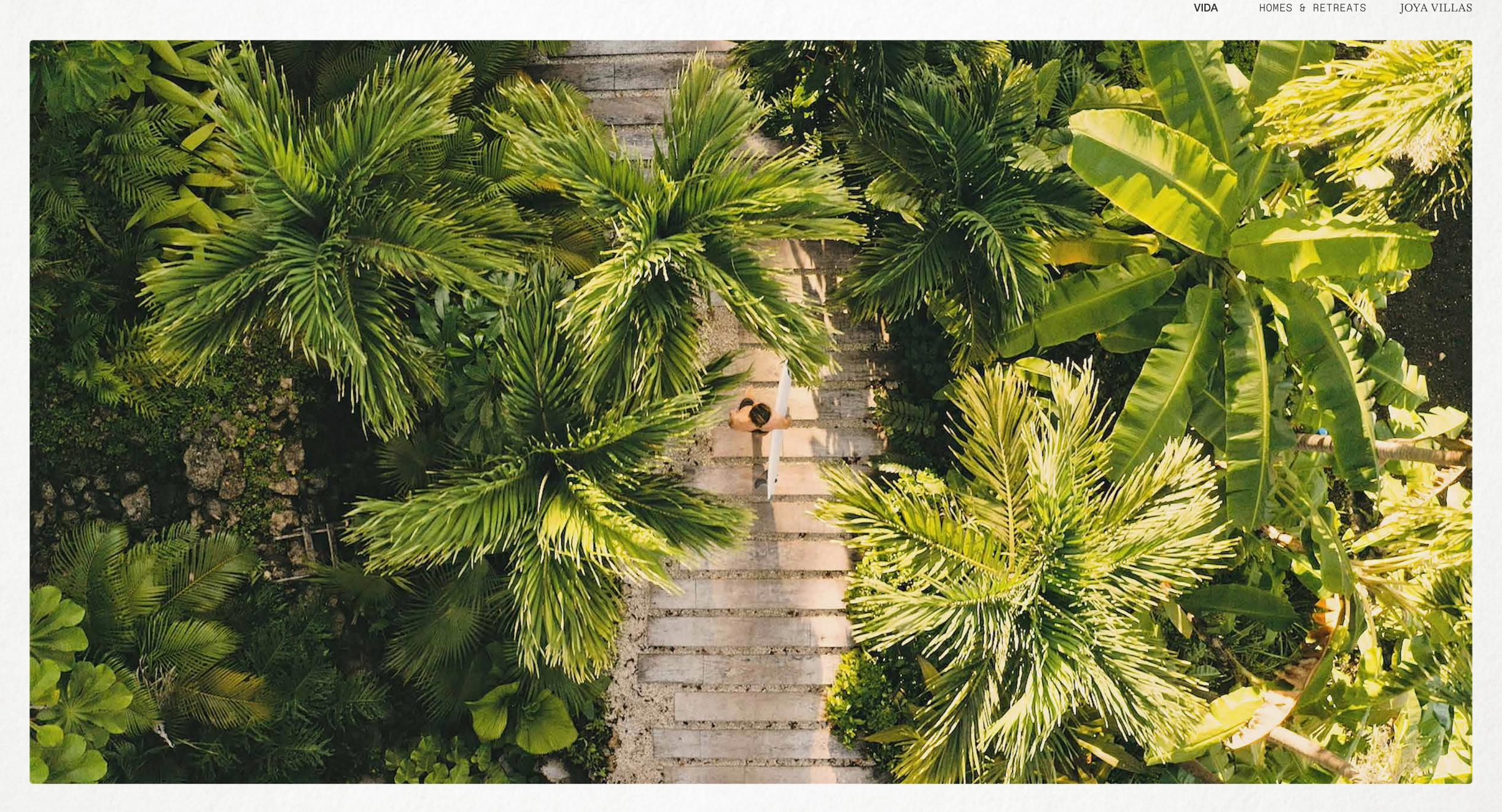
SANTA TERESA. COSTA PICA.

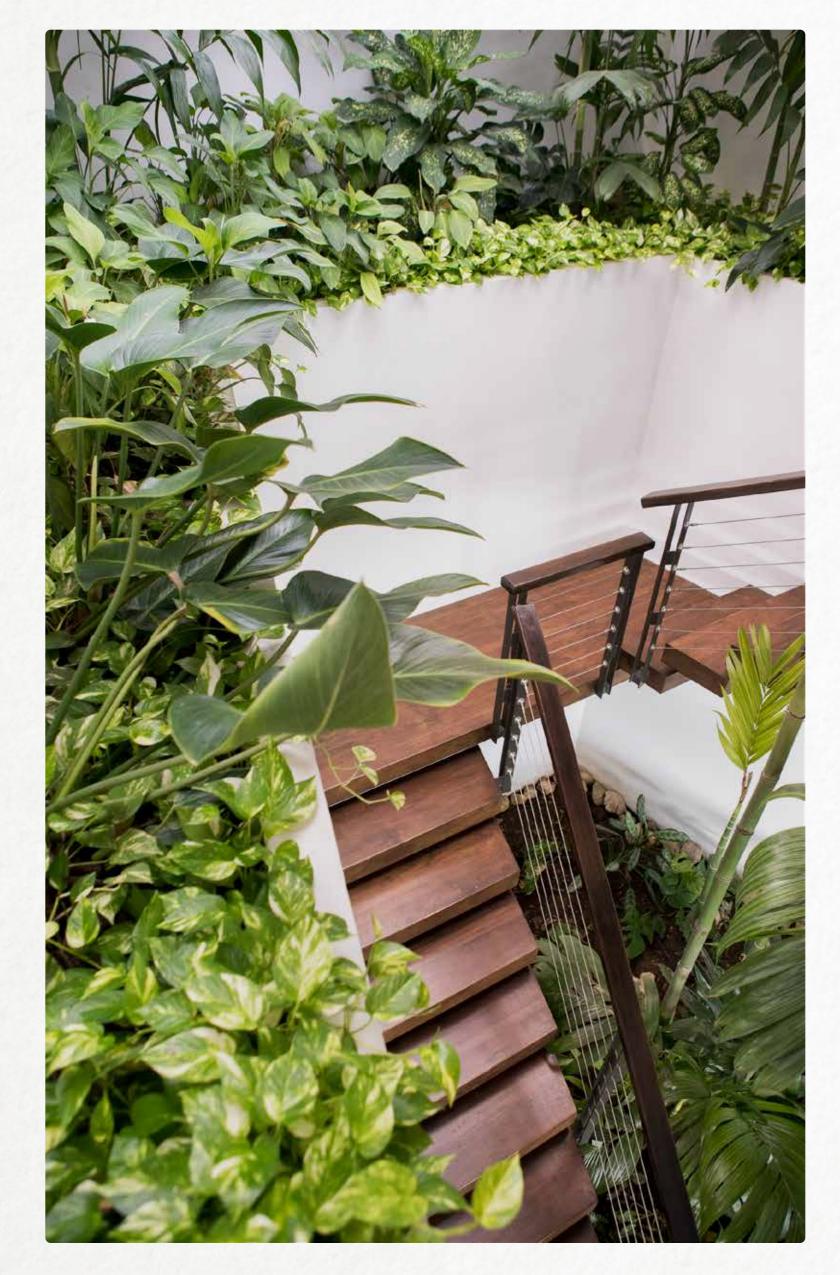


With construction already underway, *VIDA* was engaged to work with the client and Studio Saxe on two contemporary villas in Santa Teresa. The villas are located a short walk to one of the town's main surf breaks. Working with the contractor Dante Medri, our team played catch-up to tackle the complex drainage, grading, stability, circulation and parking requirements for the very steep property.

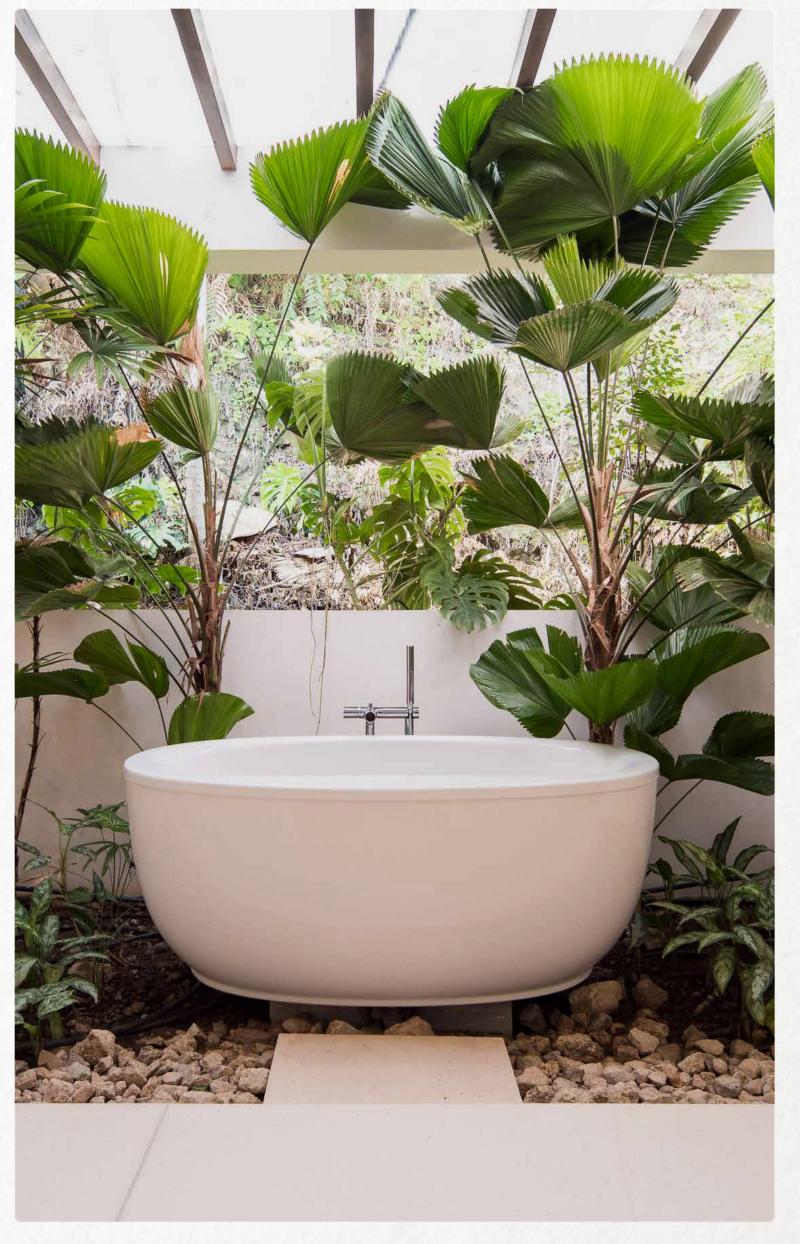
The results of the client's Bali inspired vision are internal spaces that integrate seamlessly with the surrounding landscape. Landscape and site planning played a key role in creating a sense of arrival and privacy between the two villas. Shower gardens, internal courtyards and pockets of interior planting are strategically placed throughout the interiors. One of the highlights of the property are the entrances, which feature a combination of trees and palms, large leafed shrubs and boulders combined with a rhythmic pavement that conveys a sense of design while maintaining that jungle feeling that is key to a memorable experience in Costa Rica.

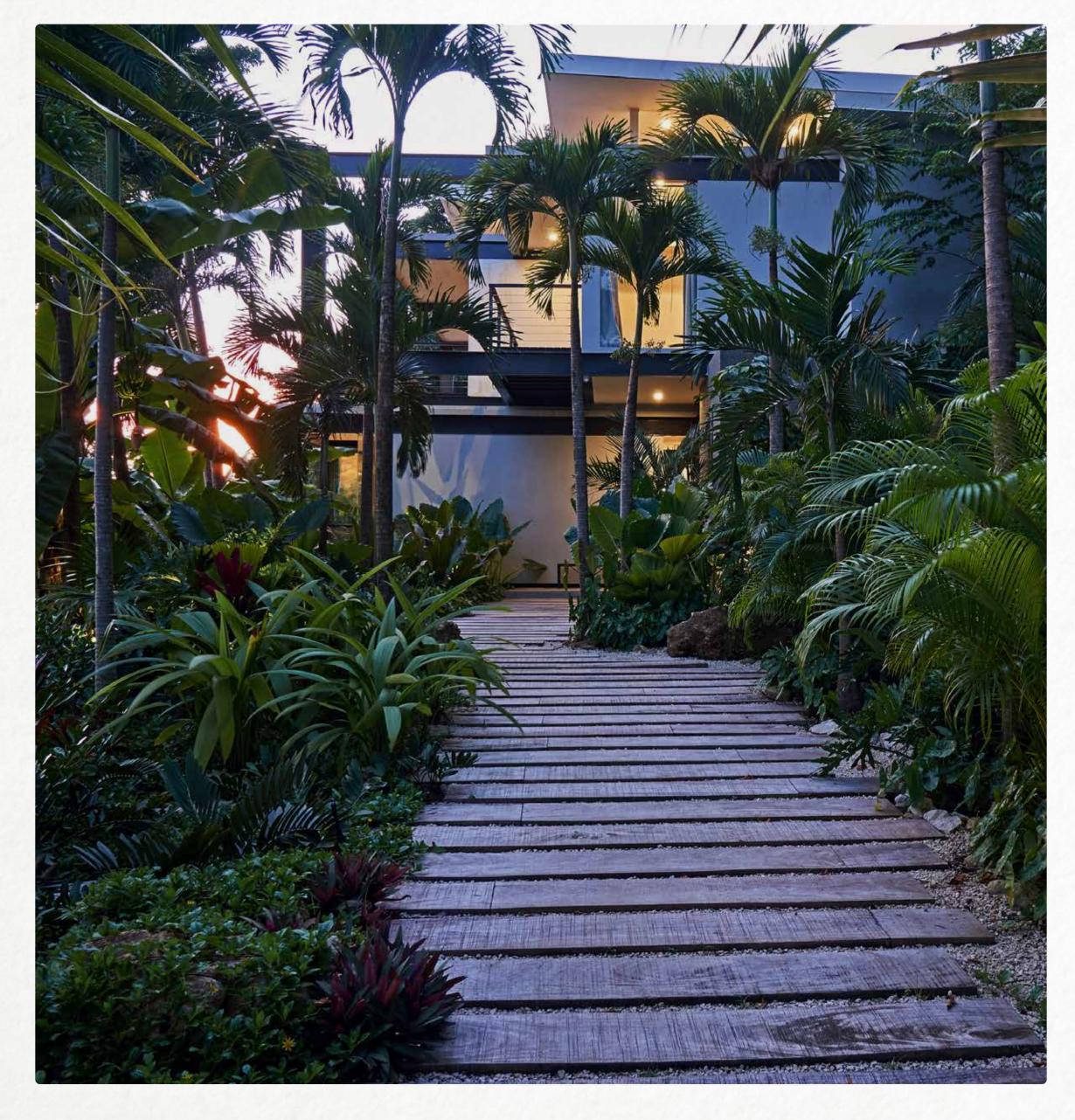
Although the design and planting palette is consistent throughout the property, the play on distribution and orientation of space gives the landscapes for the two villas Casa Bri-Bri and Casa Maleku, distinctively different feelings.

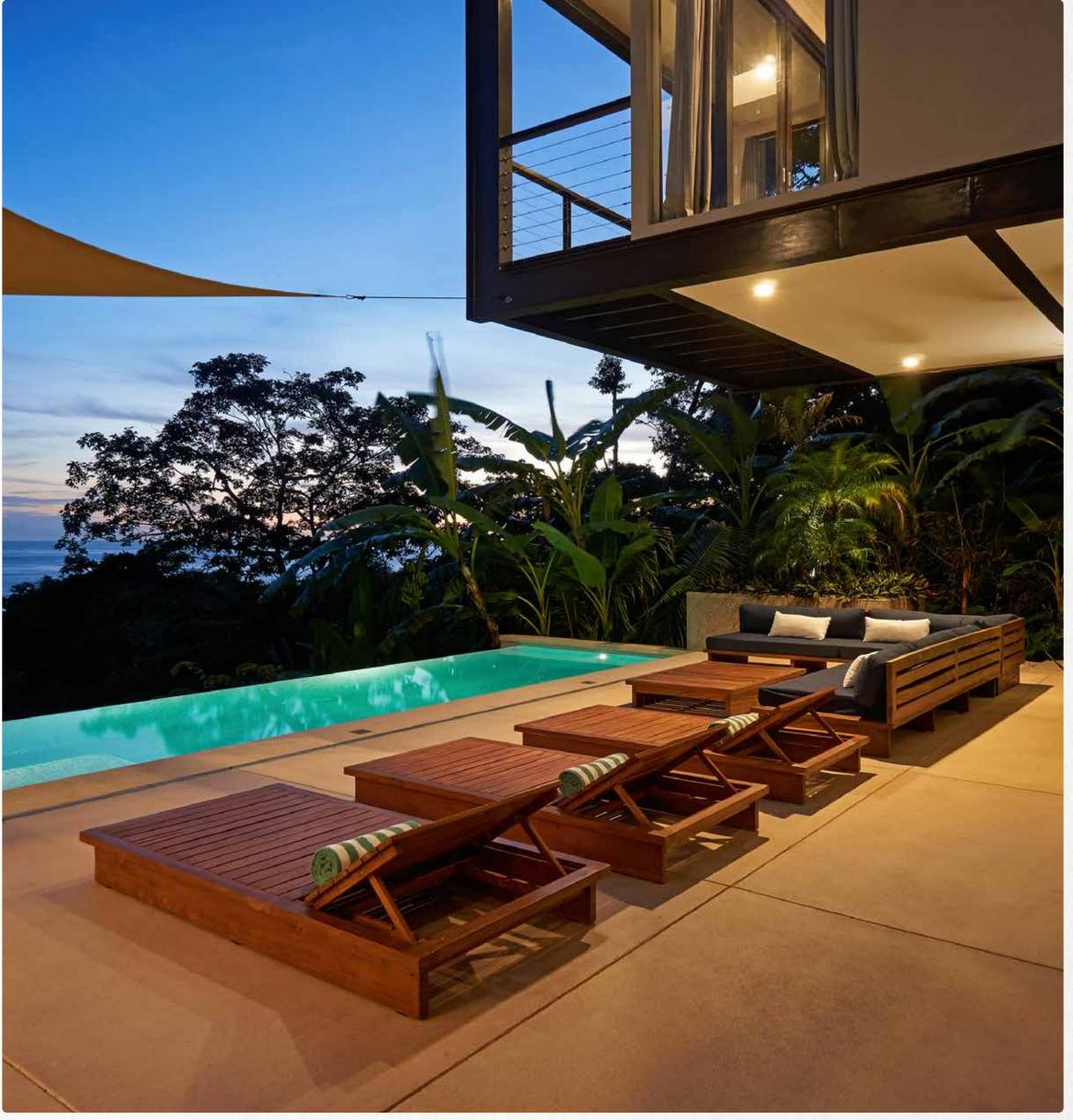


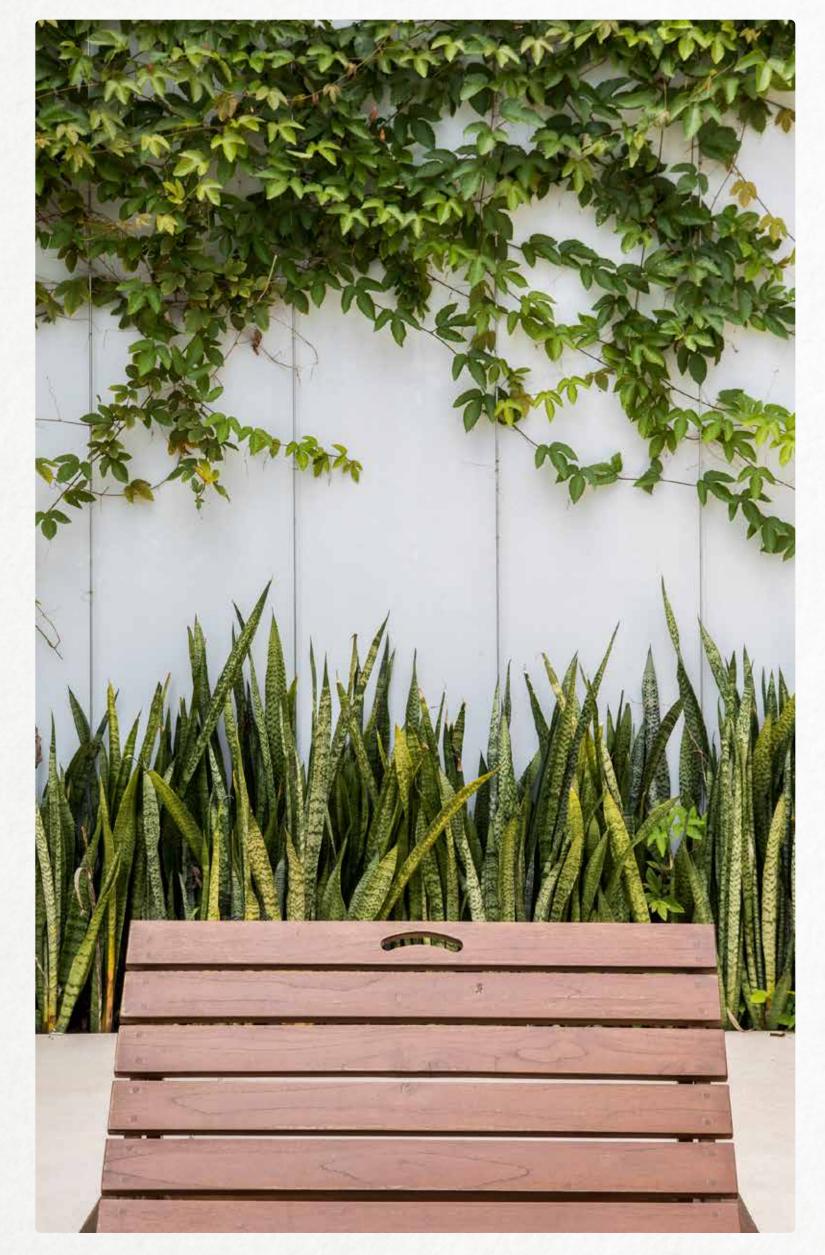


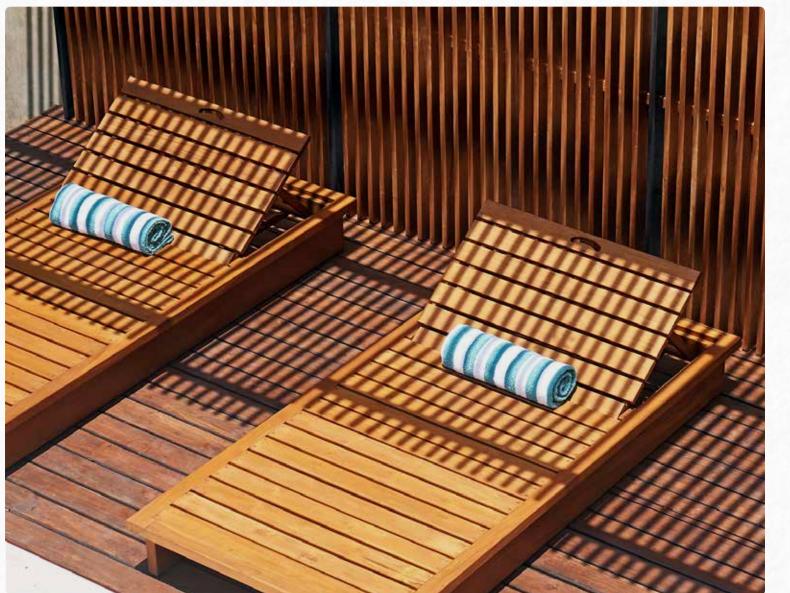




















### 27 Frangipani Retreat.



SCALE

1 hectare

SCOPE

Landscape Architecture

CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 312 mm May—October: 2275 mm

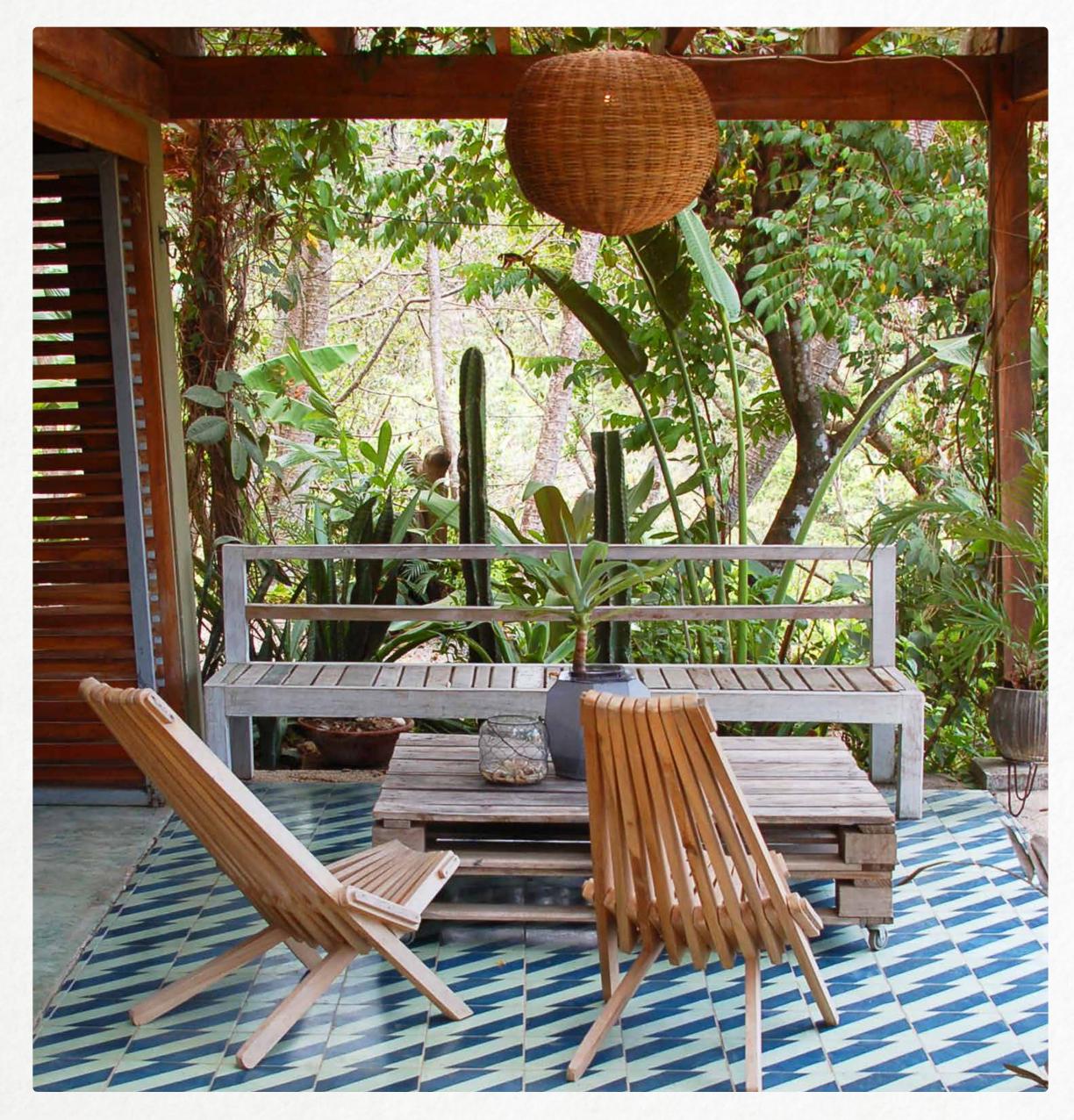
AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY

2.6°C





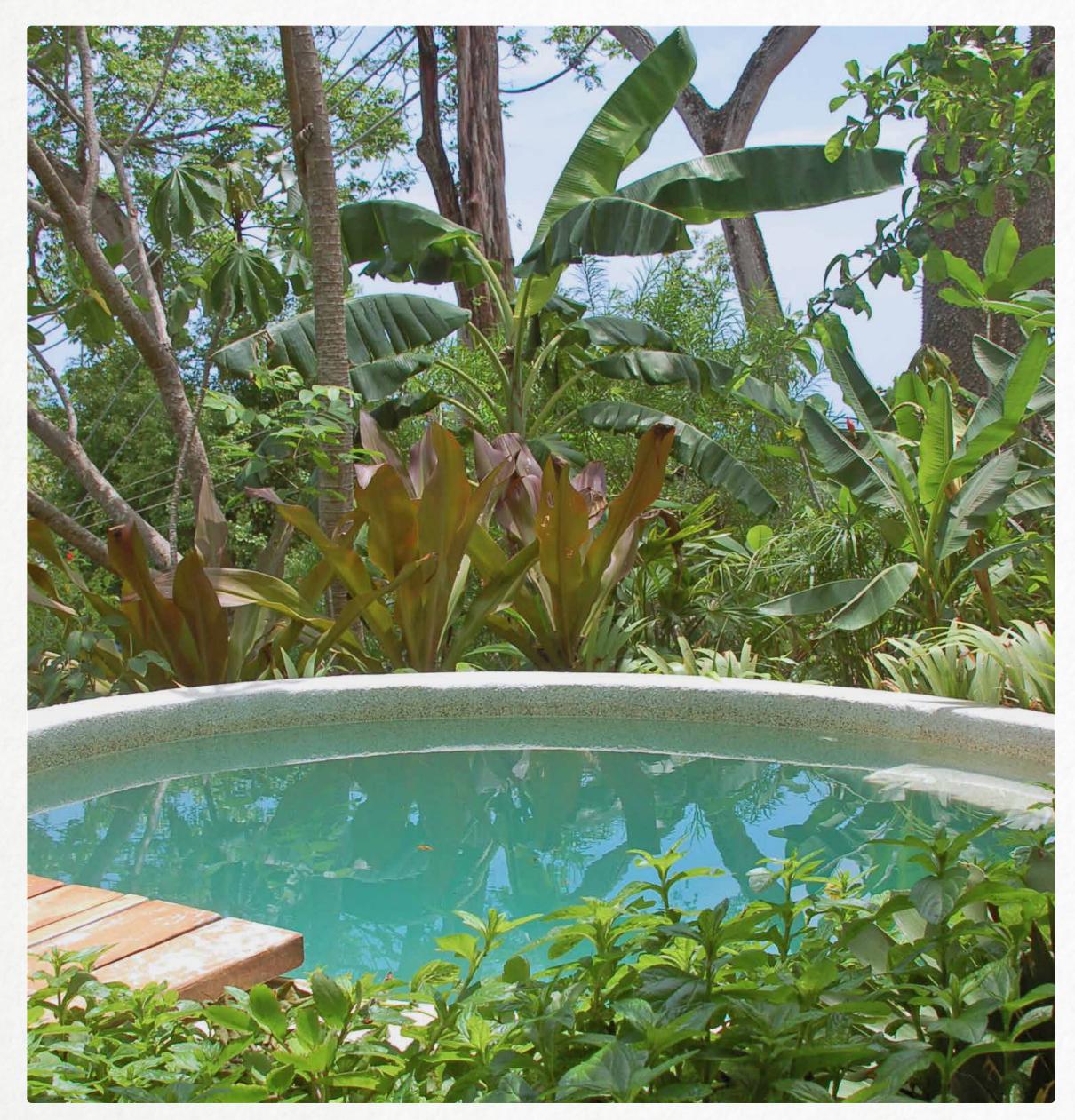
MAL PAÍS. COSTA PICA.



Back in 2013, Matt and Ana fell in love with an unfinished home in Malpaís and to the surprise and concern of family and friends had purchased the property within days. Like most things the couple do, the renovation followed quickly and intensively working with a local contractor on the addition of the plunge pool, terraces, concertina screen doors, additional bathrooms and lower level pergolas designed to grow flowing vines to protect the house from the western sun in the dry season.

To accommodate their frequent visits by family and friends they also designed a stand-alone 25 m<sup>2</sup> cabin with mezzanine on an underutilised corner of the property built by local craftsman and contractor Dante Medri.

27 Frangipani with its ocean views and forest teeming with birds and monkeys is where the couple recharge, work on their never-ending list of DIY renovations and improvements as well as plan their next creative pursuit or adventure. When they are not visiting, the property hosts Airbnb guests looking for their ideal jungle escape on Costa Rica's Nicoya Peninsula.





"We were totally unprepared for the uniqueness of this amazing property.

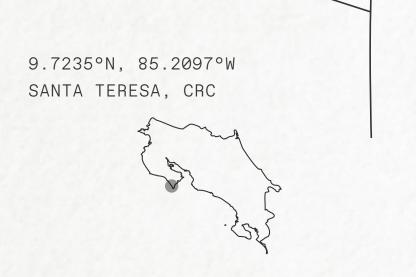
To say we were speechless is an understatement. The photos are incredible but you must experience this for yourself! The house, cabin and gardens are flawlessly designed to the very highest specs and integrate beautifully into the lush surrounding forests."

Guest Review AIRBNB



HOMES & RETREATS

### Sirenas House.



SCALE

1 hectare

SCOPE

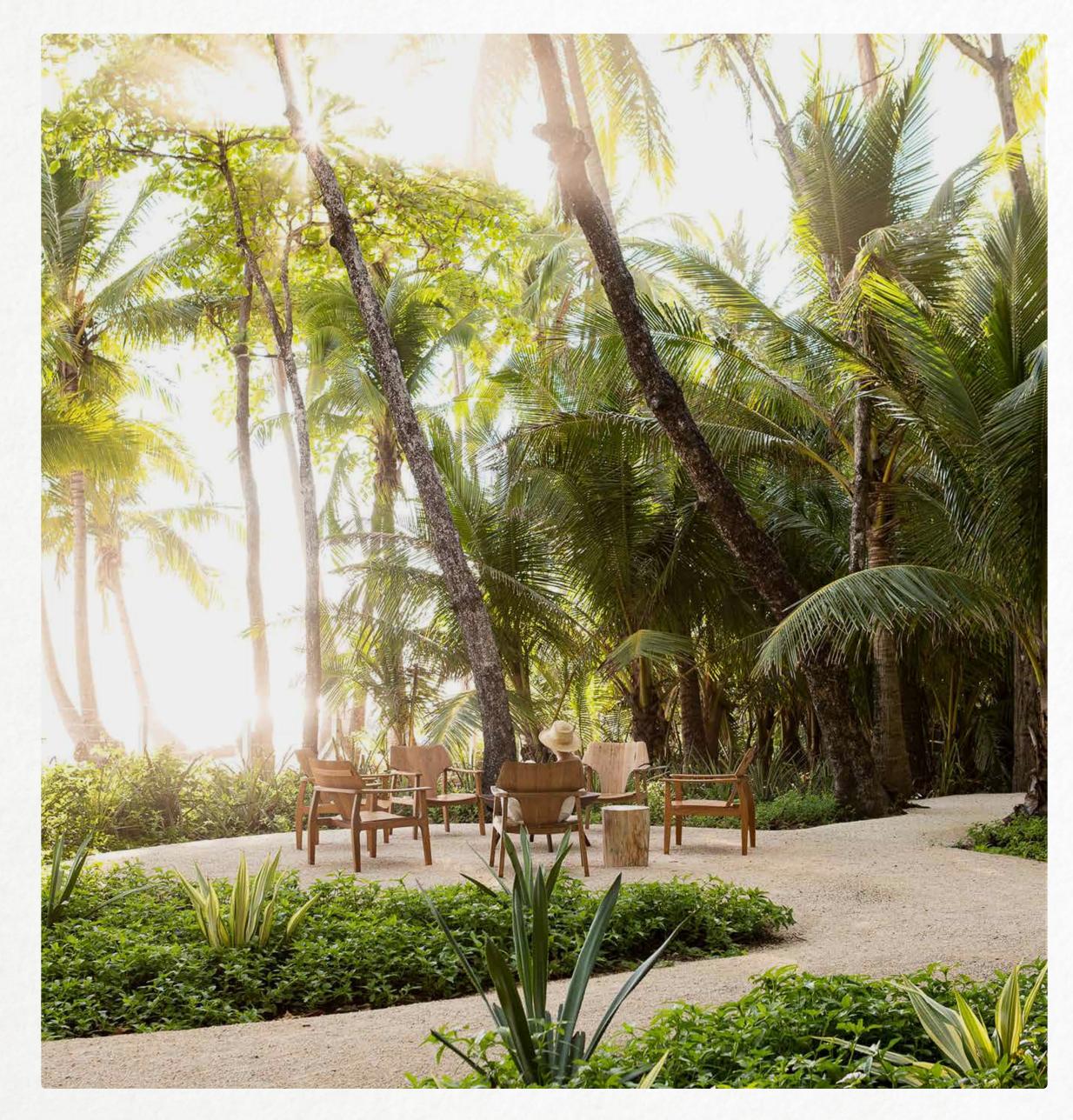
Landscape Architecture

CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 312 mm May—October: 2275 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY 2.6°C

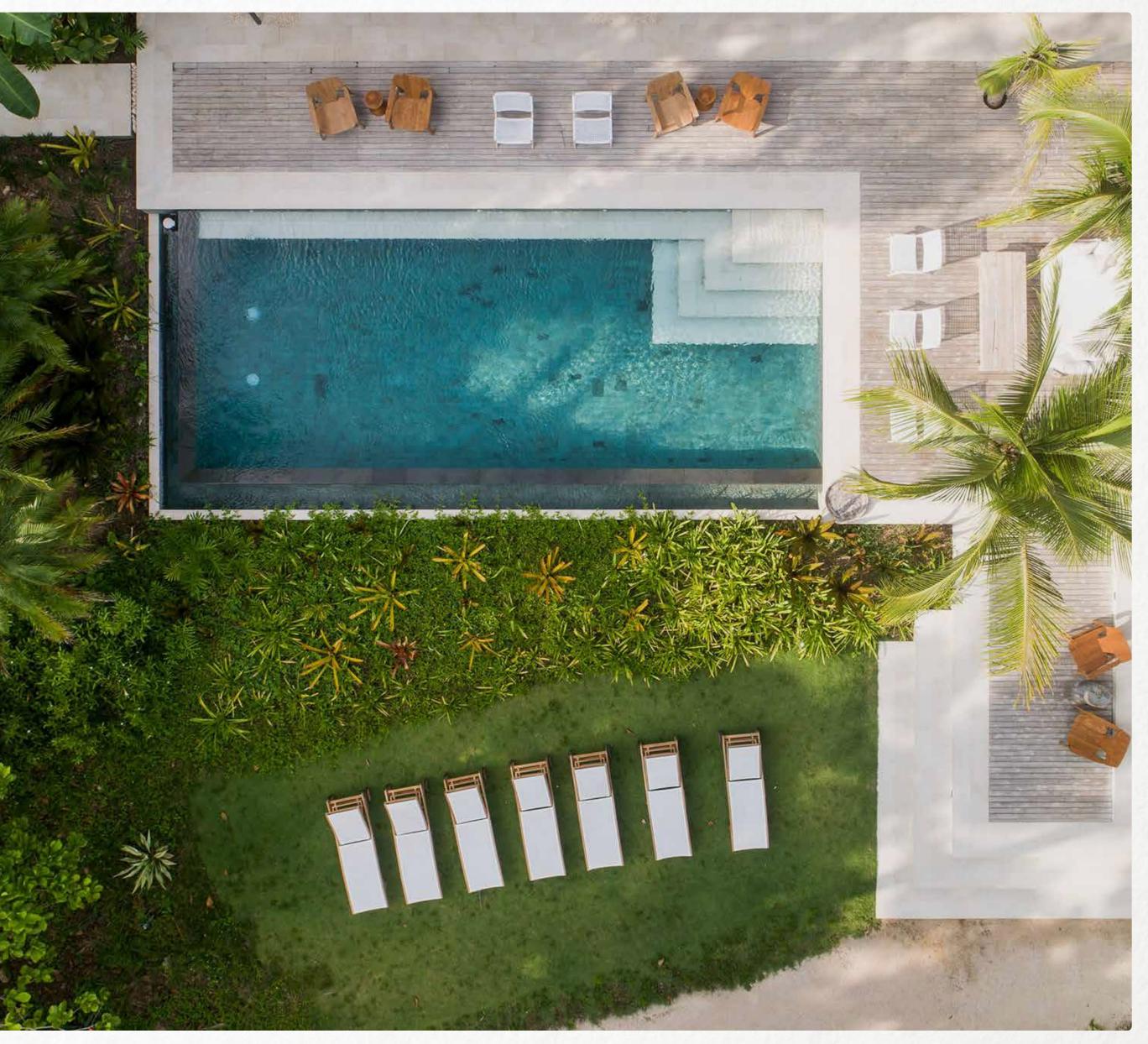


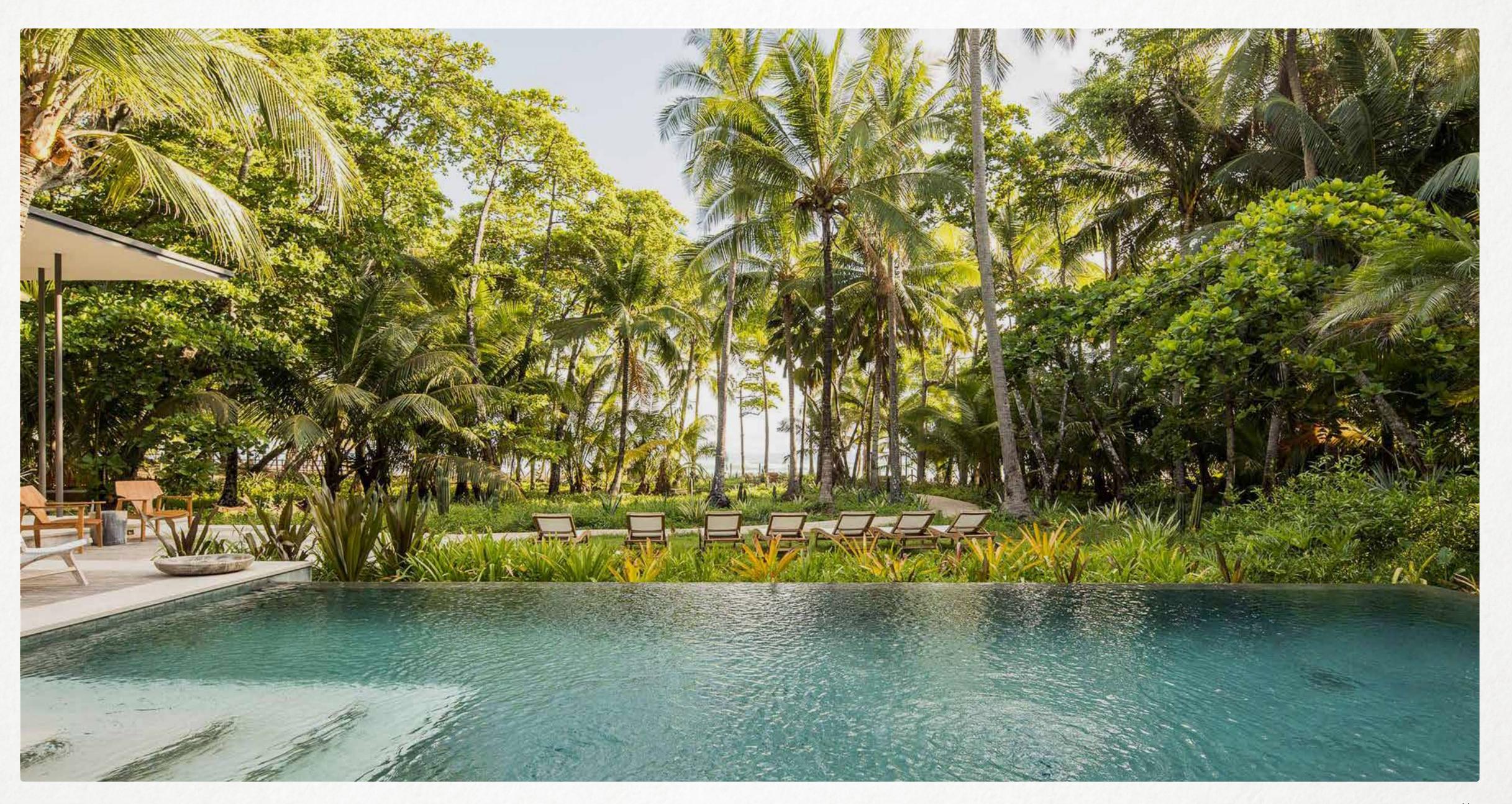


VIDA was engaged by Debbie & Jeff Gorski in 2016 to design their dream vacation retreat in the Idyllic beach town of Santa Teresa. Working with Studio Saxe on the site planning of the home, VIDA has worked to create a place that maintains the tree canopy and works to interconnect fragmented green spaces. The landscape design works to reinforce the natural circulation through the site with minimal interventions that celebrate the simplicity and natural beauty of the coastal dry forest providing the things that you need to enjoy life at the beach and avoiding the things that you don't.

The entry was designed to cross a natural drainage system that was celebrated in the design with the residents entering through a tunnel of planting across a timber bridge into a landscaped courtyard. Key to the design is the infinity edge pool that was sited in an area with natural sun-light and with a commanding view to the stunning beach and afternoon sunsets. The landscape design is a striking combination of adapted exotics and native plant material building on the years of experience that VIDA has working in the dry-tropics of Costa Rica.



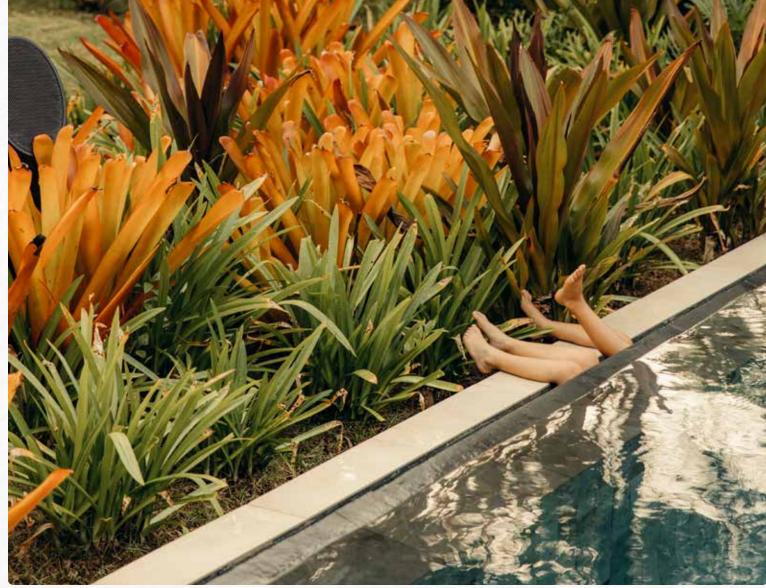


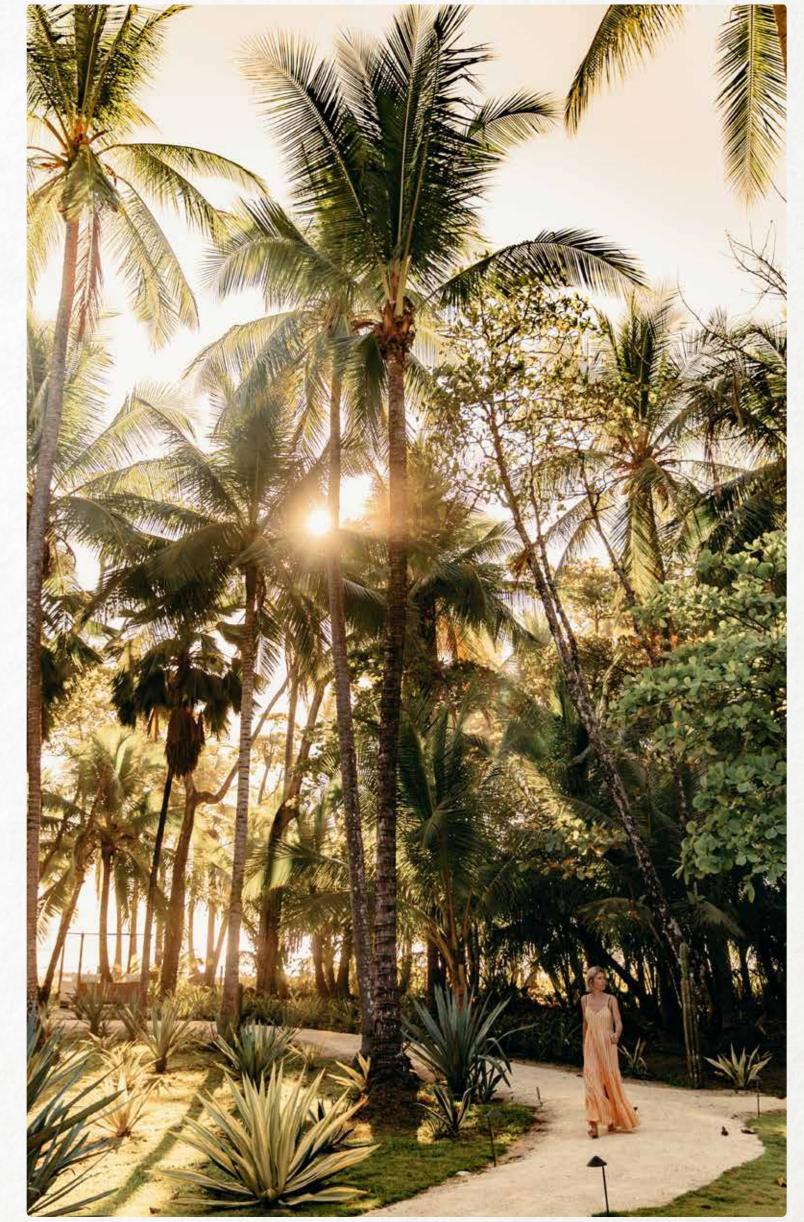




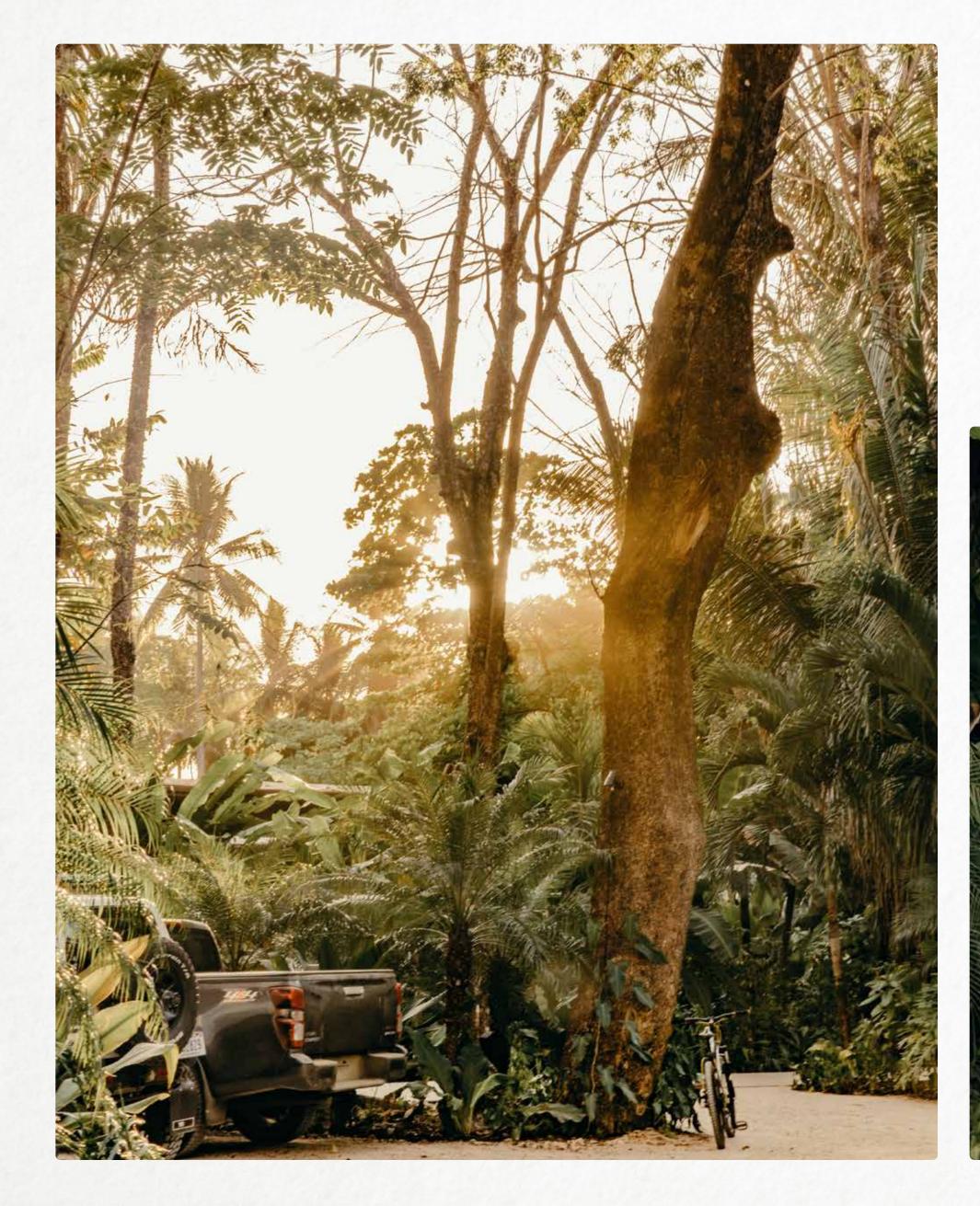


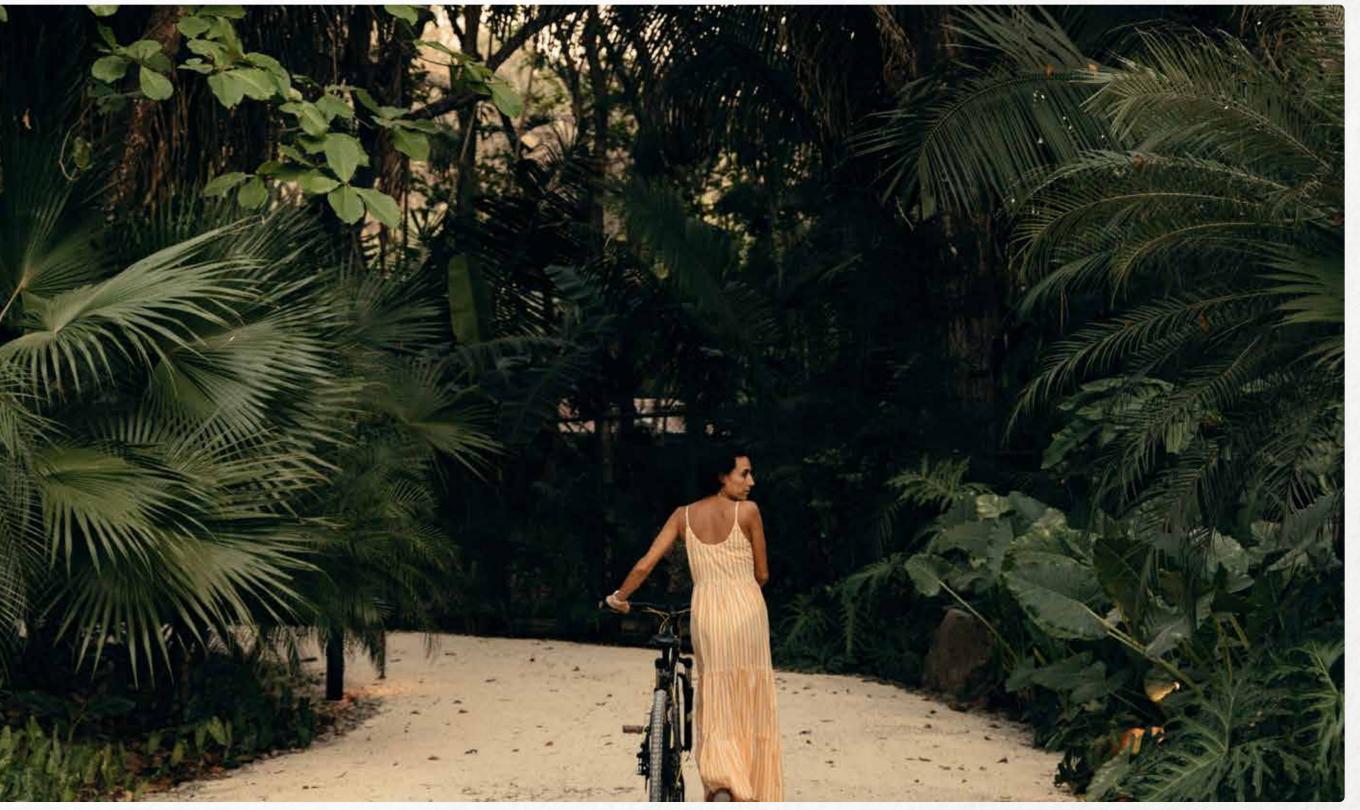














9.7235°N, 85.2097°W NOSARA, CRC



SCALE

1 hectare

SCOPE

Architecture & Landscape Architecture

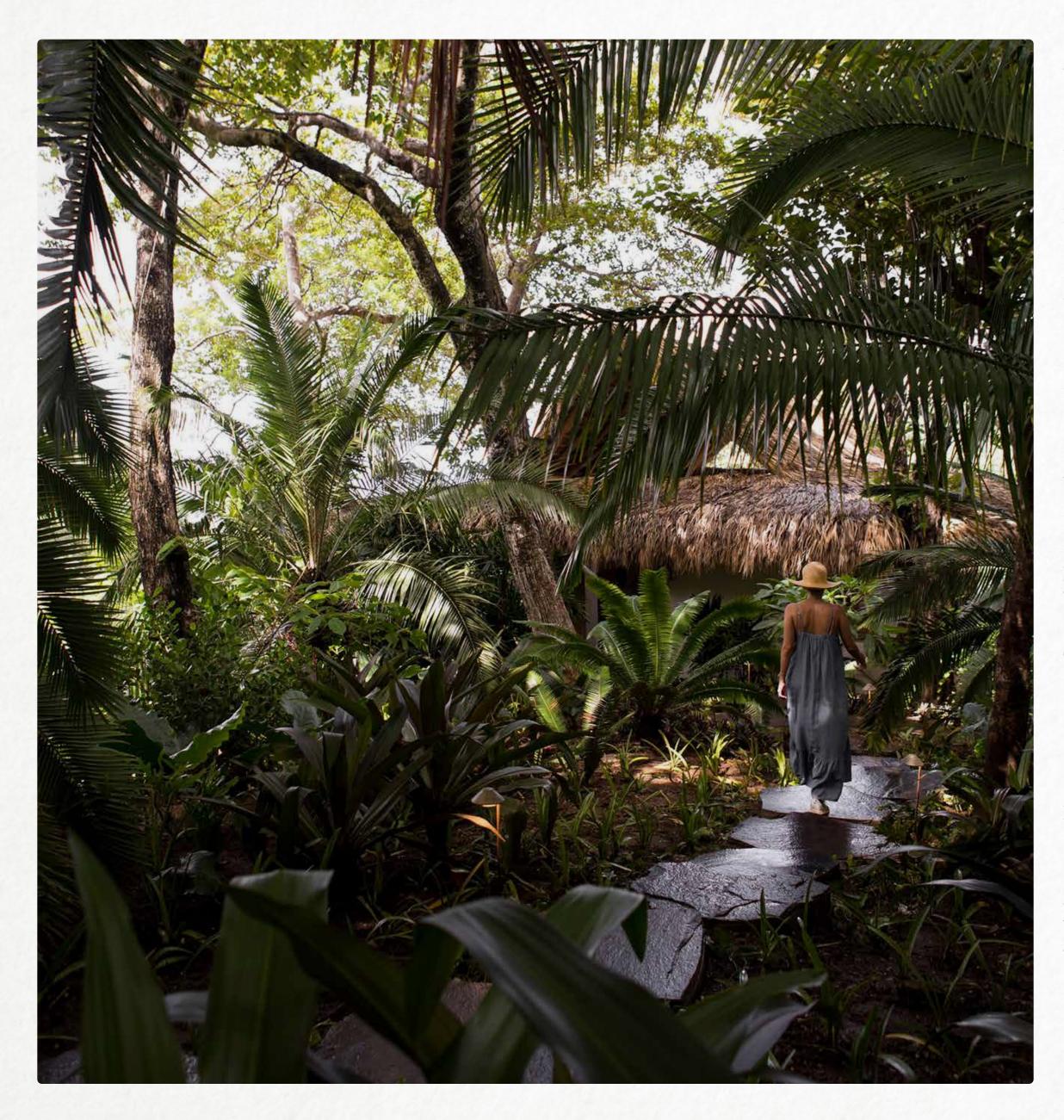
CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 191 mm May—October: 1737 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY  $2.7^{\circ}C$ 



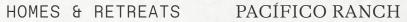




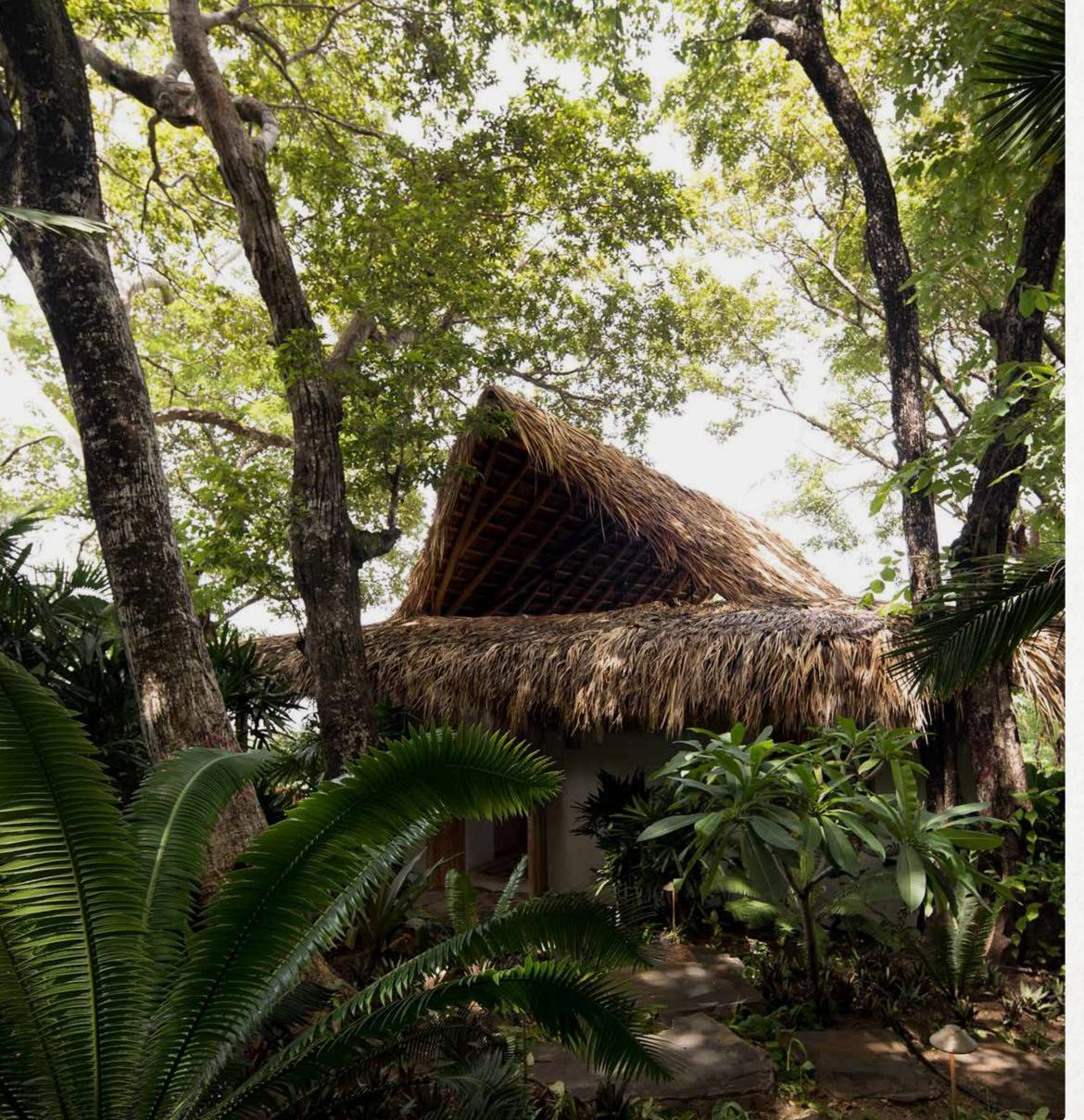
A project's success can be defined in many ways. But at VIDA, successful projects happen where people and the natural environment happily co-exist. We believe in projects that protect and respect the natural systems, create connections between people and their surroundings and create spaces to make lasting memories. While no project is without its challenges, this project in the hills of a Costa Rican Pacific beach town has ticked all of the boxes. The highlights include a 'rancho', infinity edge pool and a suspension bridge linking the new entertaining area with the main residence. The importance of the indoor-outdoor relationship in contemporary architecture is not a new concept. But when the 'outdoors' is a vibrant tropical forest with an ocean and sunset view in the distance, the need for the outdoor spaces to be functionally and contextually suitable is almost mandatory. The timeless 'rancho' structure draws on the regional vernacular and uses a weatherproof thatched roof to complement the heavier concrete building mass. Softened by interior and furnishings hand-picked by Nosara Design, the deliberate exposure of the patterned thatch roof is a reminder of the regional culture and the beautiful but often complex forms of nature.

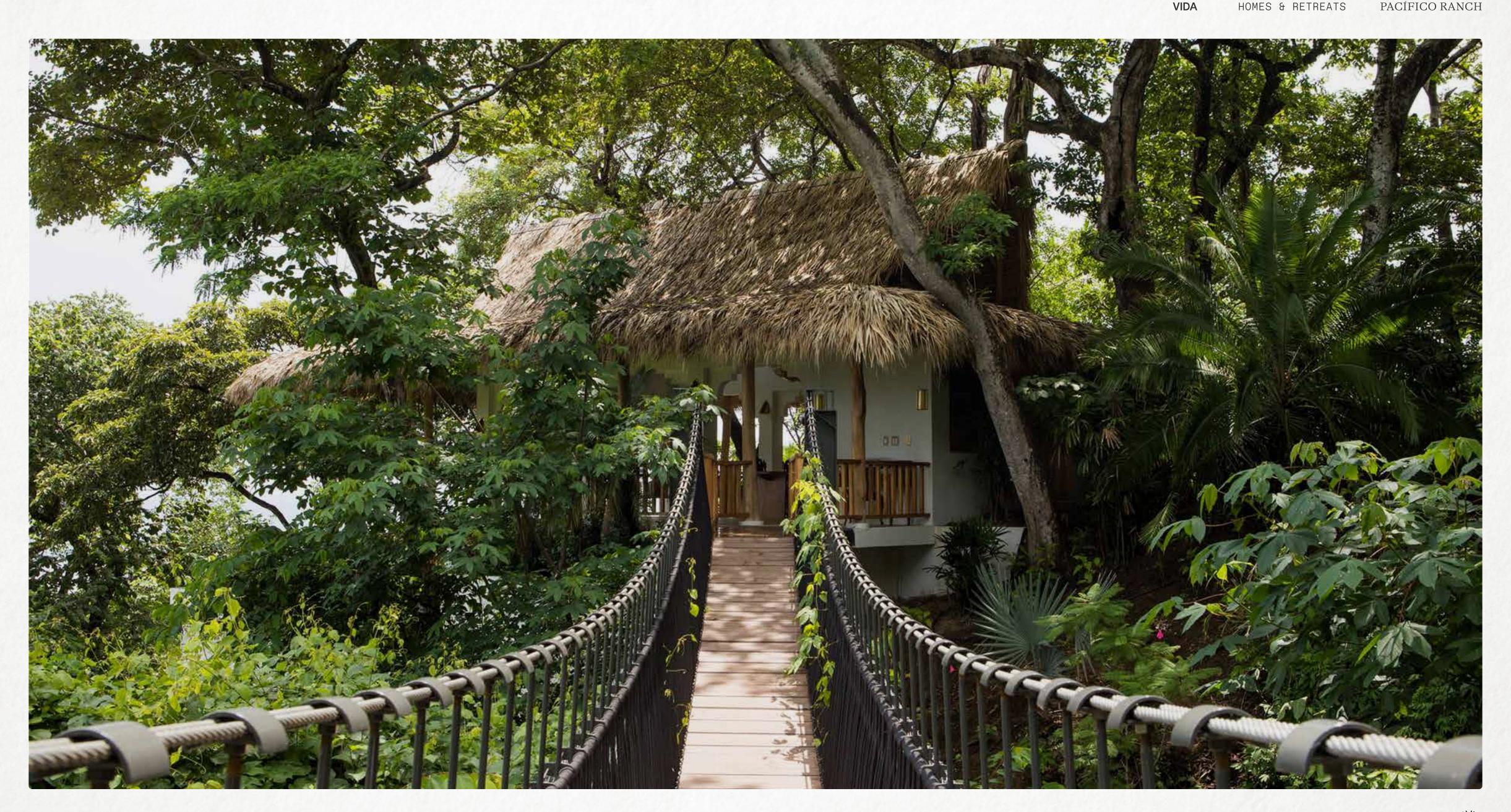
The collaborative was managed by SPHERA Sustainability Consultants, Engineering by S3 with Rodrigo Altmann and Metalfutura leading the construction. A highlight of the project is the 18 meters long suspension bridge which balances safety with a sense of adventure. Not only does the suspension bridge offer another great photo opportunity, it provides a light-weight connection over the natural forest and drainage systems below.

A brief to 'tread lightly' resulted in an instinctive design methodology between the consultants. Strategies included the cantilevering of the building structure and a flexible roof design which resulted in the removal of only two exotic trees; an impressive feat given the forest setting. The outcome is a unique, year-round destination ideal for the site and its context. In a sense, every day now feels like a holiday for the clients; a holiday that's only a short walk across a bridge away.





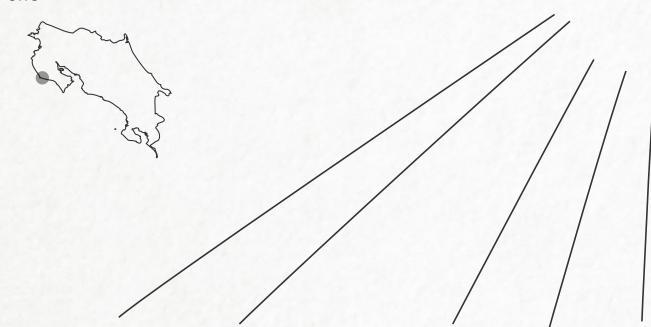






## Atrium & Jungle House.

9.7235°N, 85.2097°W NOSARA, CRC



SCALE

1 hectare

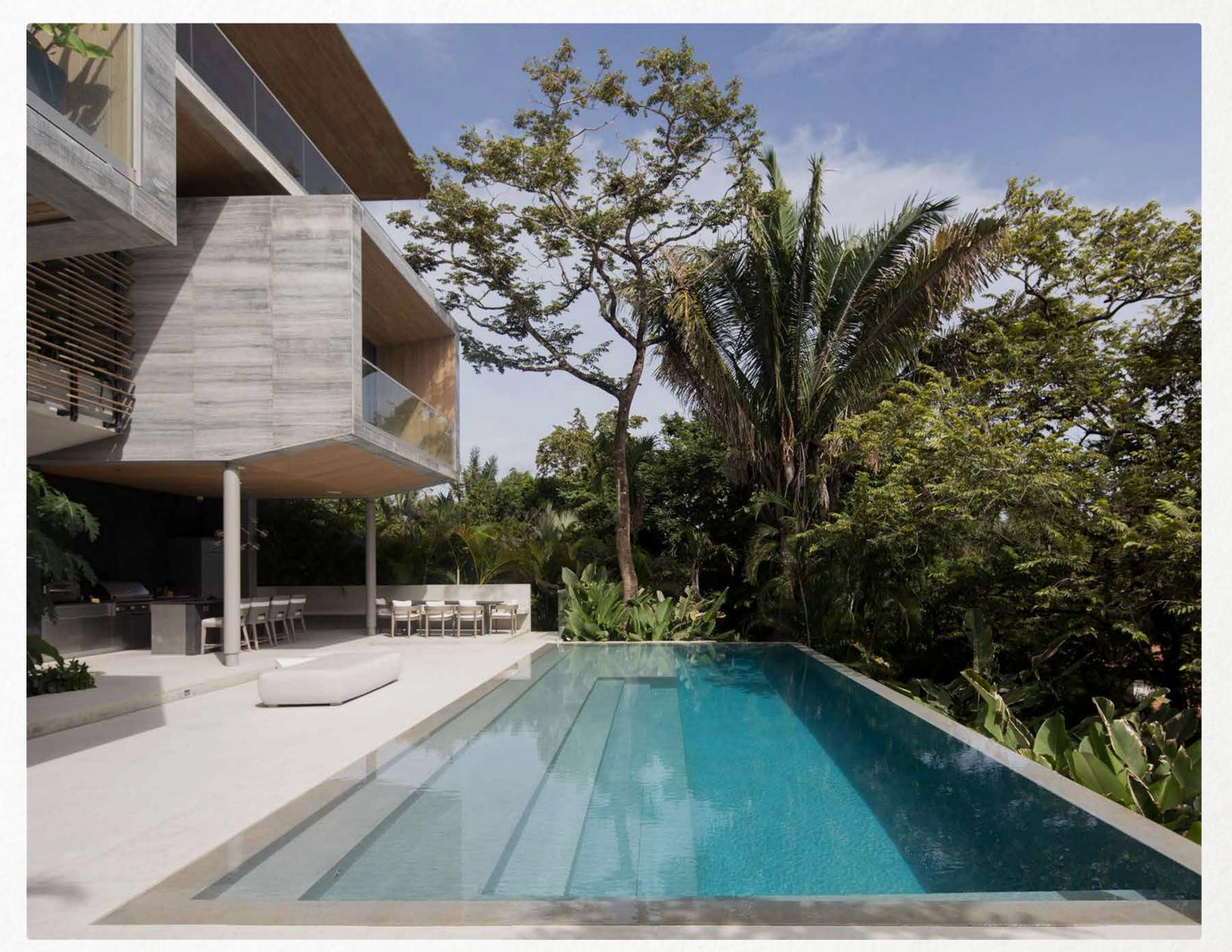
SCOPE

Landscape Architecture

CLIMATE ZONE

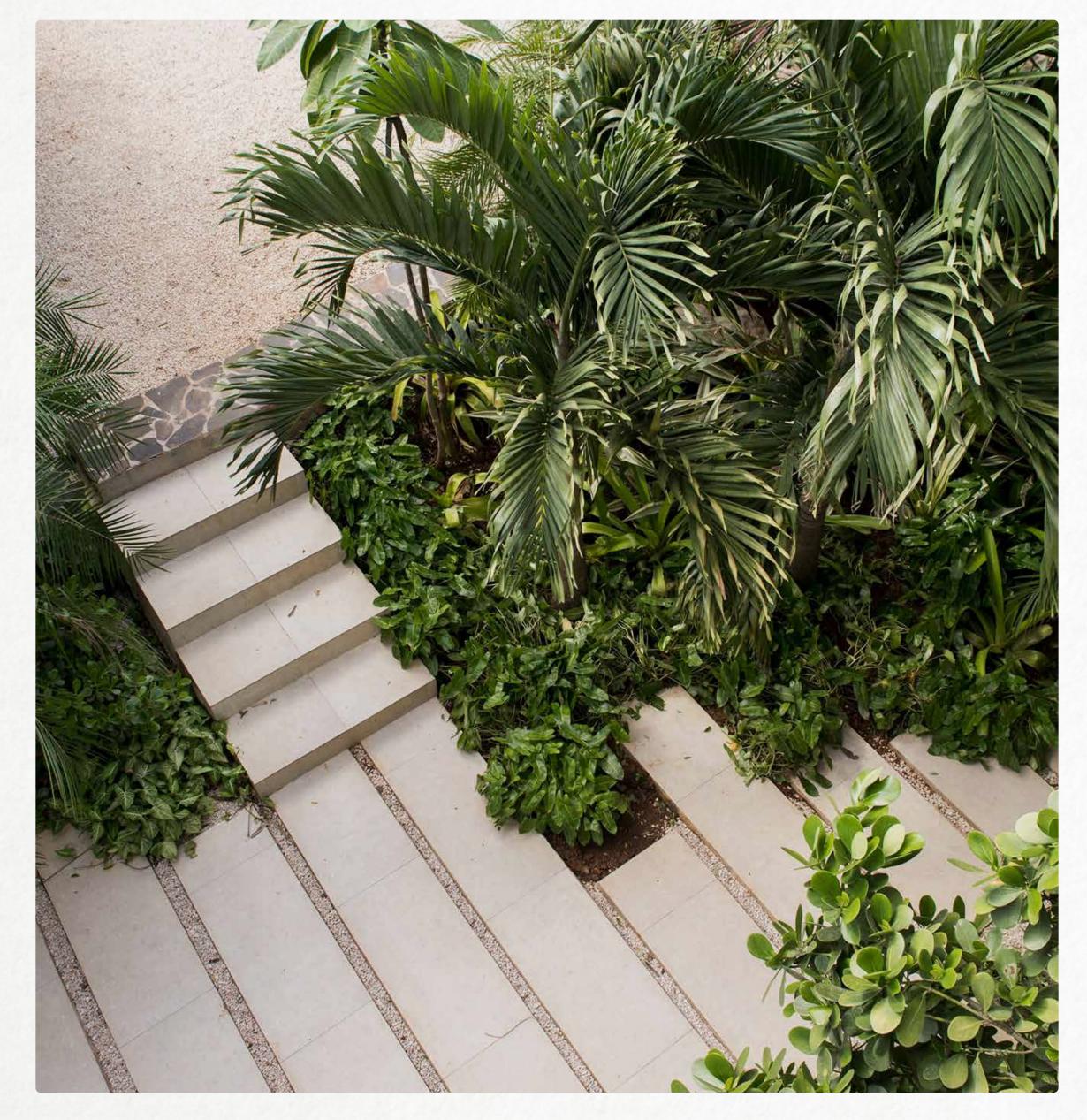
November—April: 191 mm May—October: 1737 mm

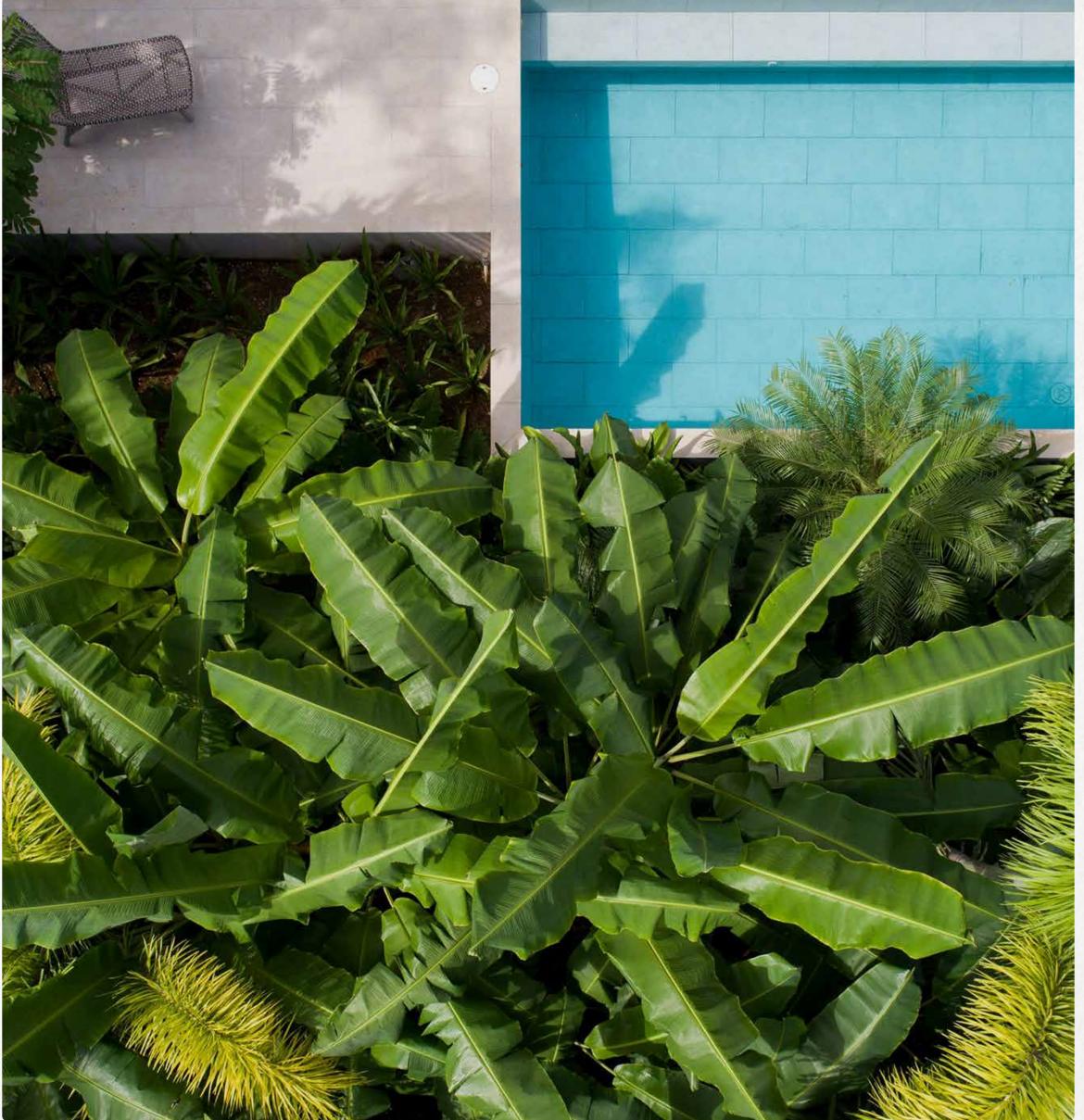
AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY  $2.7^{\circ}C$ 













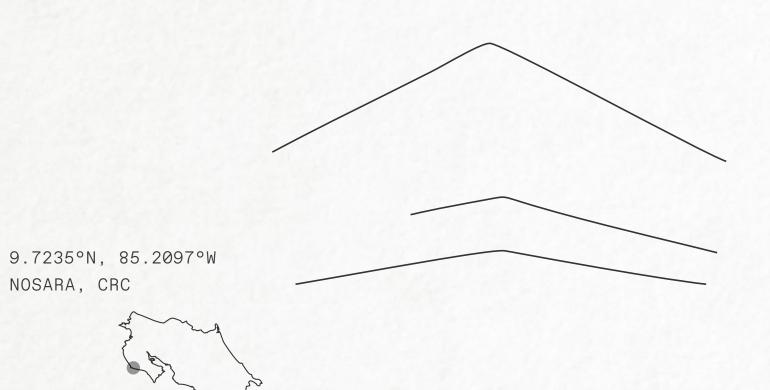






HOMES & RETREATS

### Tres Amores.



SCALE

1 hectare

NOSARA, CRC

SCOPE

Landscape Architecture

CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 191 mm May—October: 1737 mm

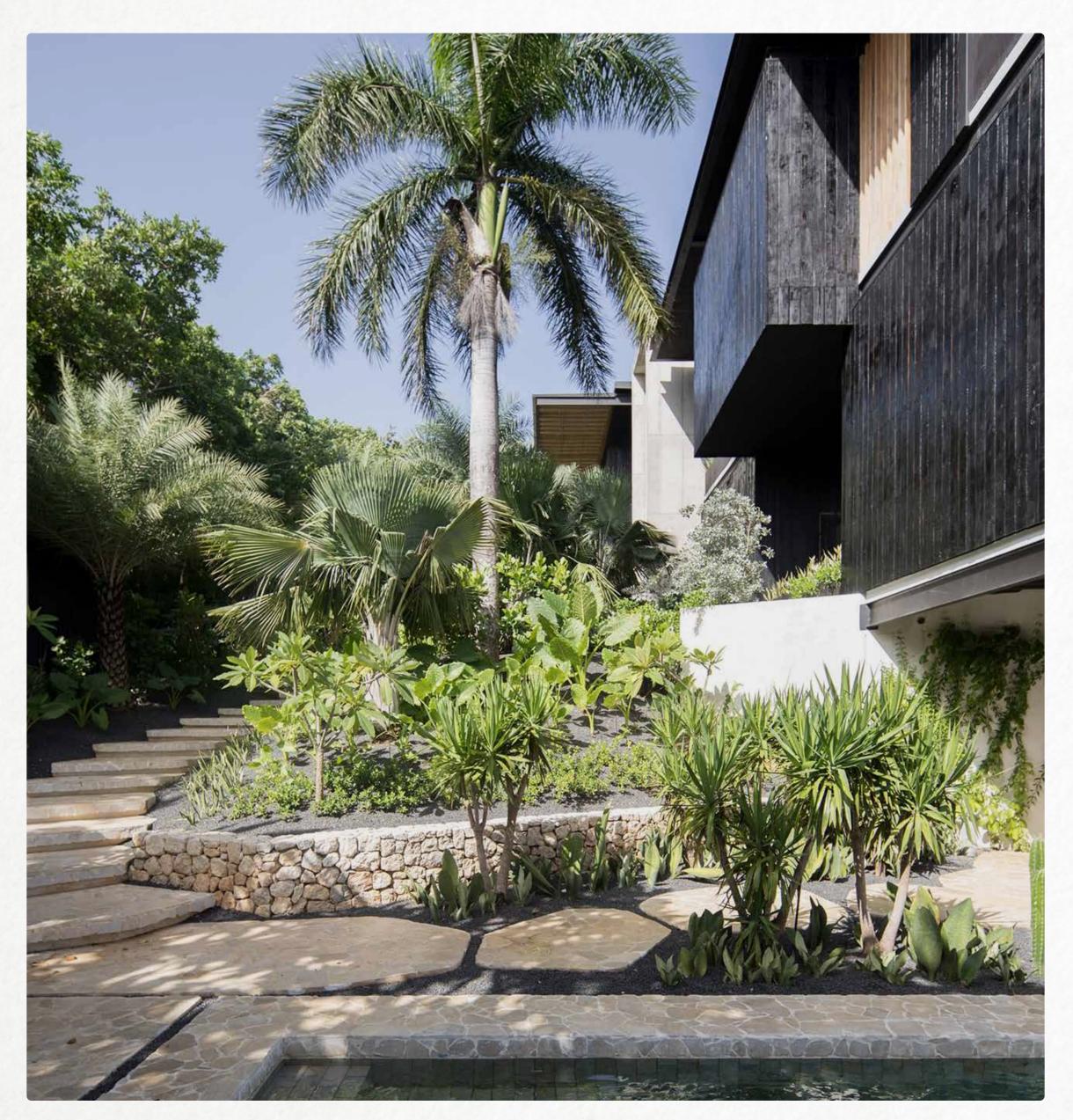
AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY 2.7°C



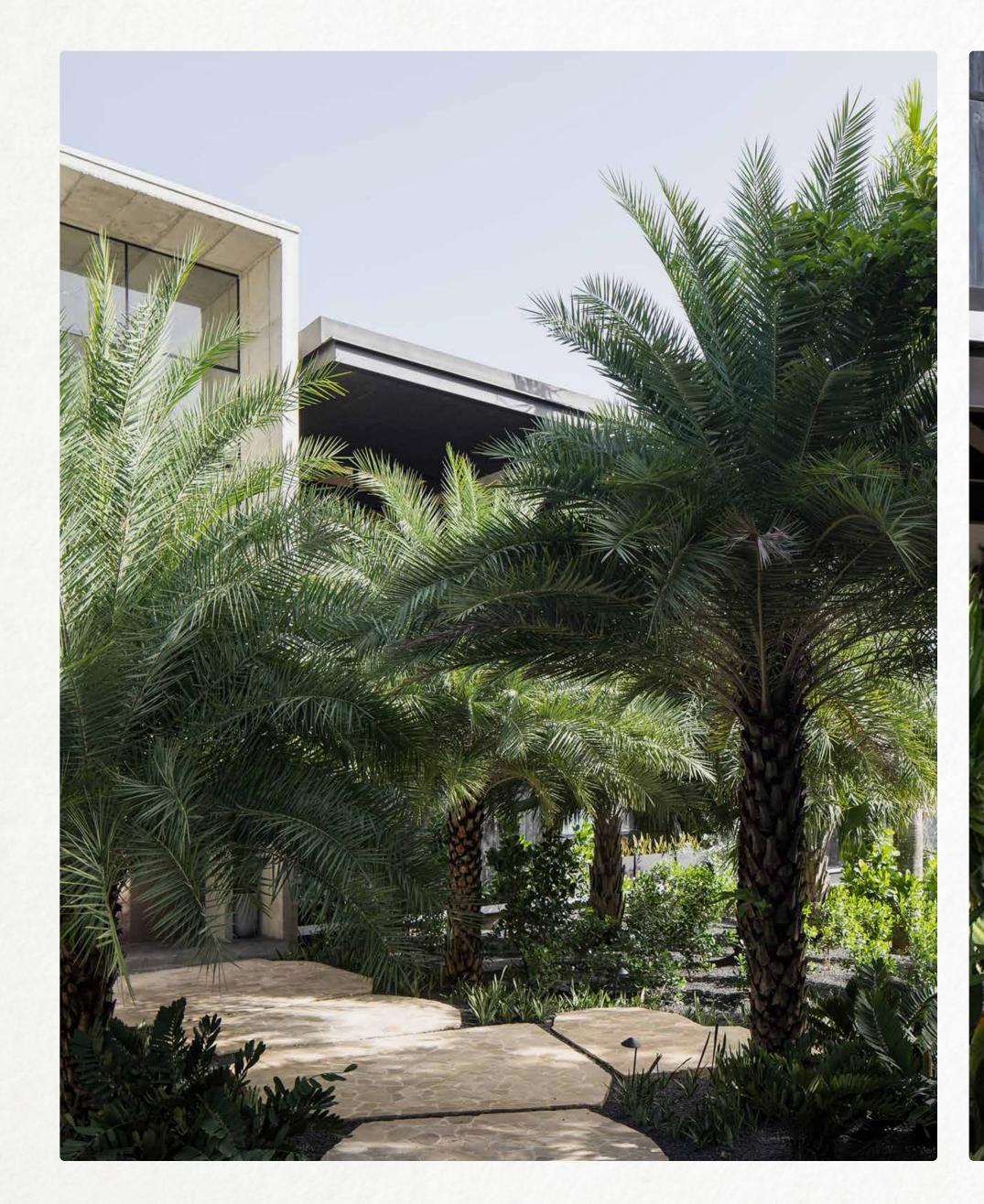




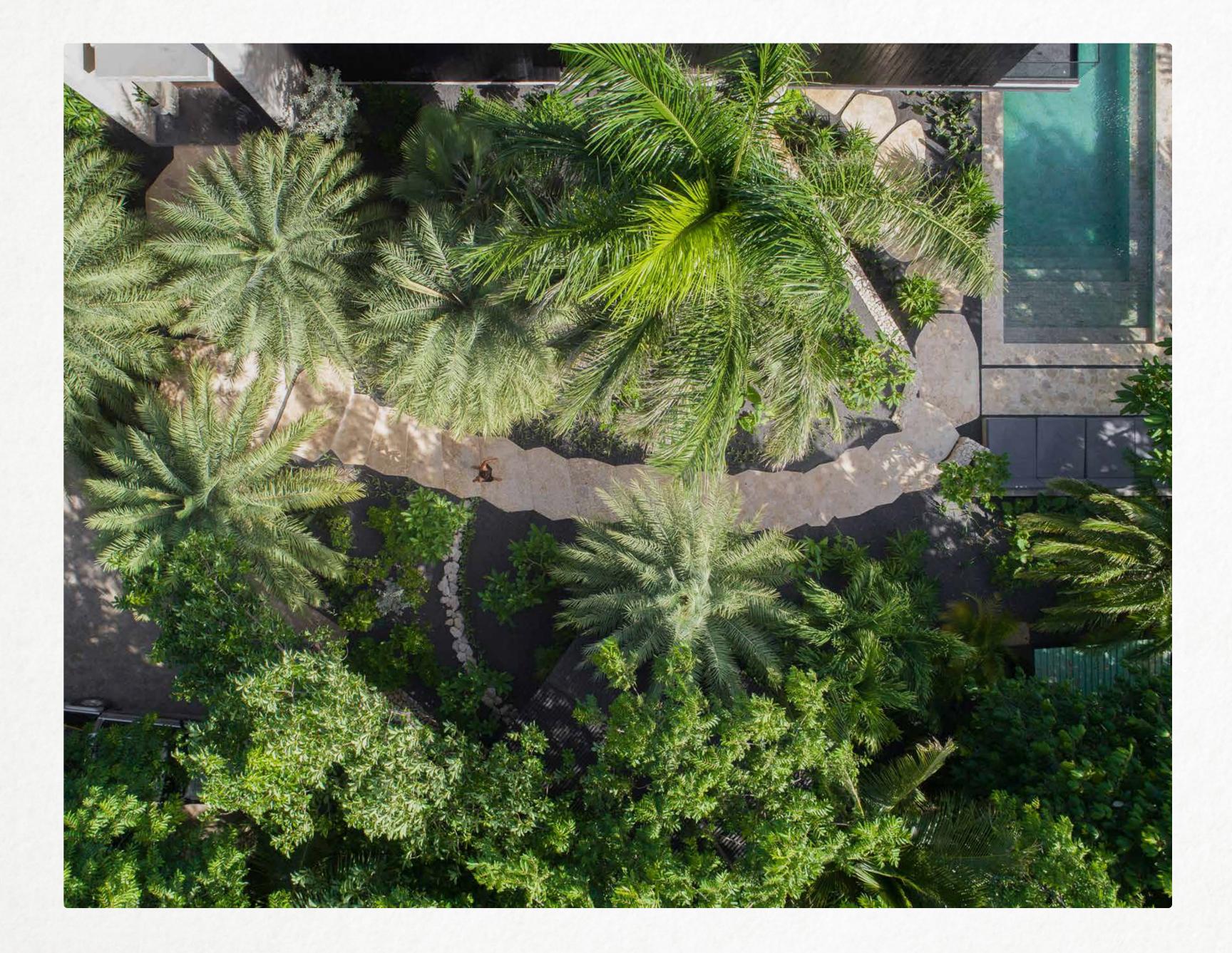
NOSARA. COSTA RICA.



Engaged by the clients late in the process, VIDA worked quickly to create a concept to compliment the direction set forward for the architecture by Studio Sax. Architecturally the home has a style drawing on traditional Japanese form and sensibility but with volumes and uses suited to the tropics. Responding to the design of the home, context and climate, VIDA worked to create a unique composition of mid-century tropical forms balanced with concepts of Xero-scaping while using adapted specimen palm species to anchor the home to the site and create a shaded, exploratory pedestrian experience that frames views to the amazing coast lines and elements of the home. The pools and pavements celebrate local craft and locally available limestones and marbles and the planting is a unique combination of adapted exotics, natives from Costa Rica and broader Meso-Americas.









HOMES & RETREATS

### Tree House.

9.7235°N, 85.2097°W SANTA TERESA, CRC



SCALE

1 hectare

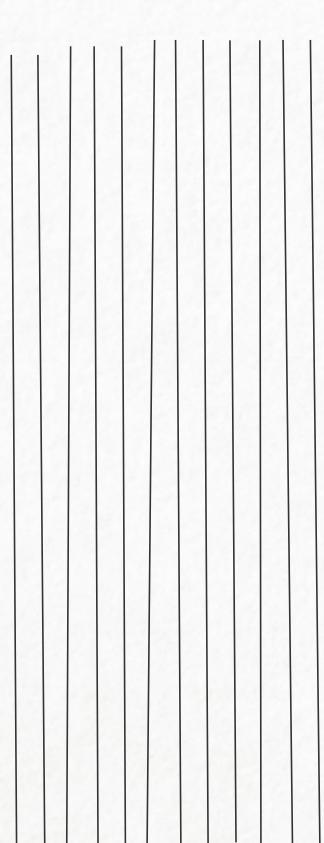
SCOPE

Landscape Architecture

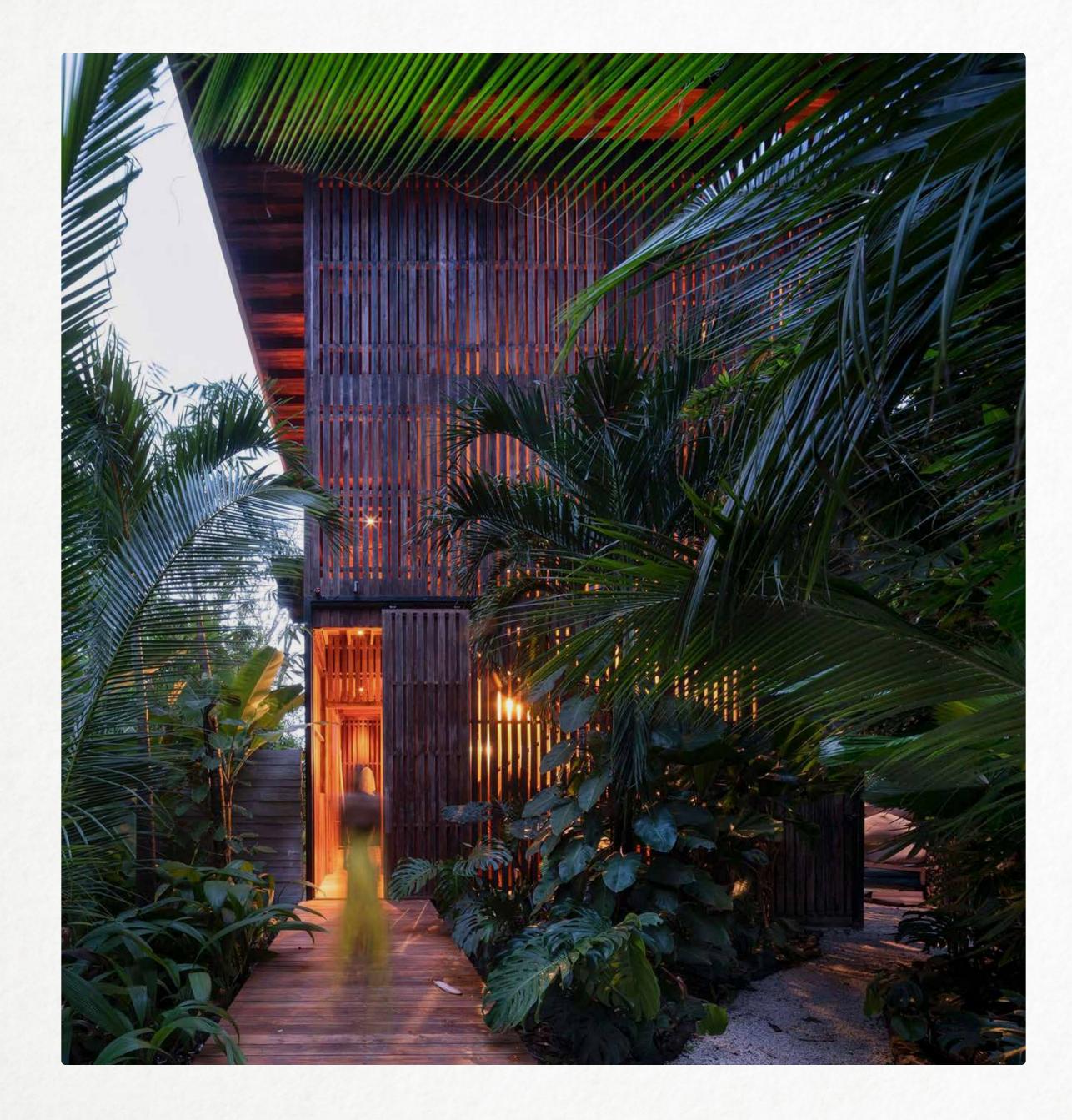
CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 312 mm May—October: 2275 mm

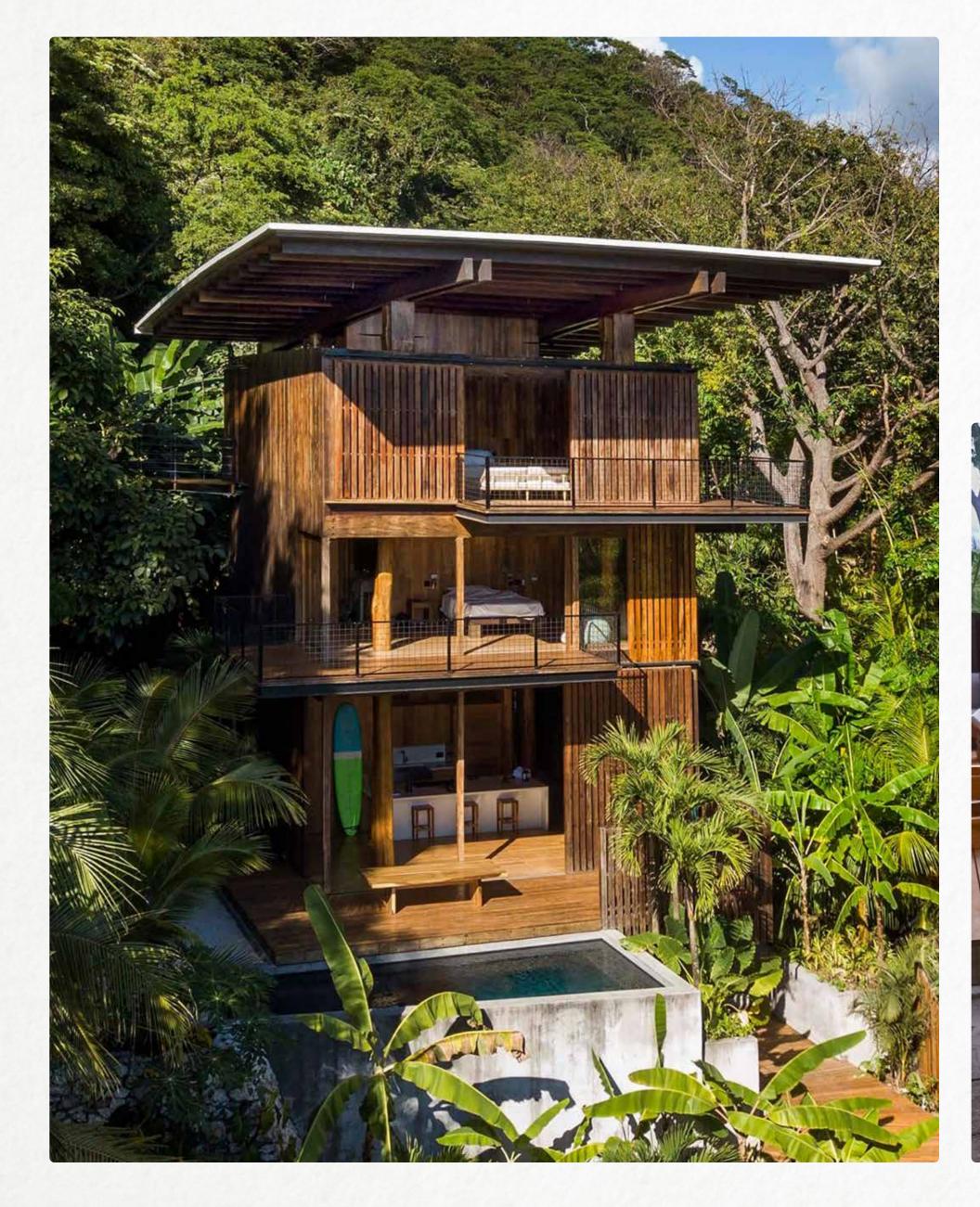
AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY 2.6°C

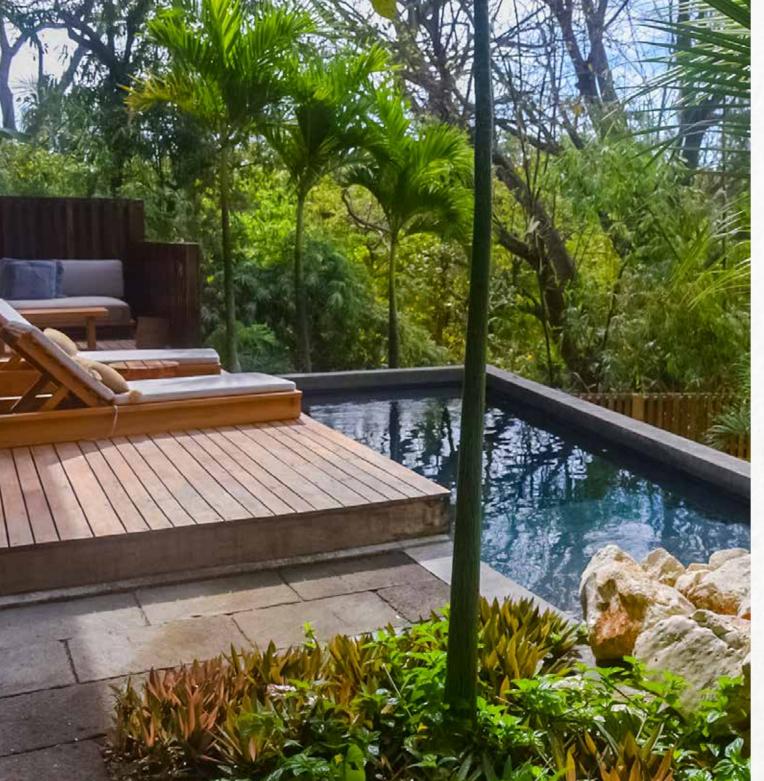


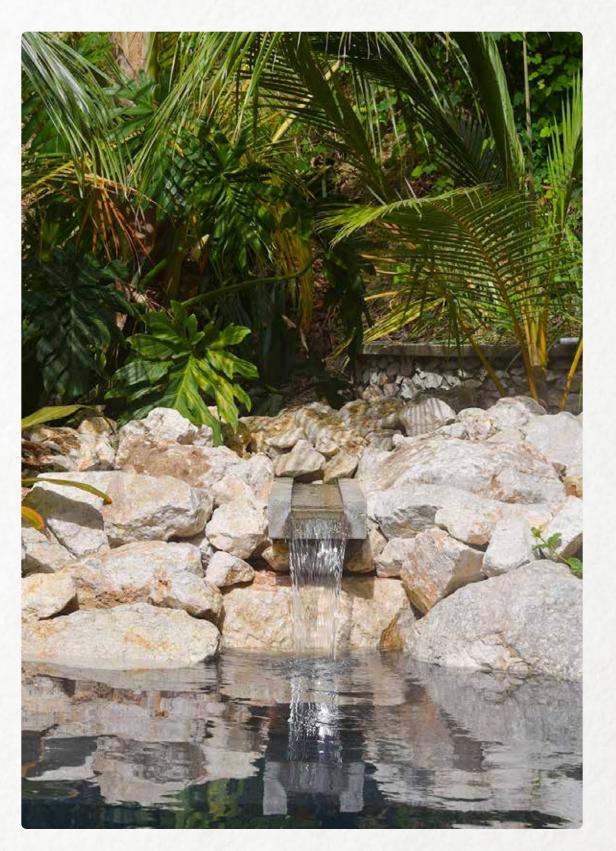














### Casa Serena.

9.7235°N, 85.2097°W NOSARA, CRC



SCALE

1 hectare

SCOPE

Landscape Architecture

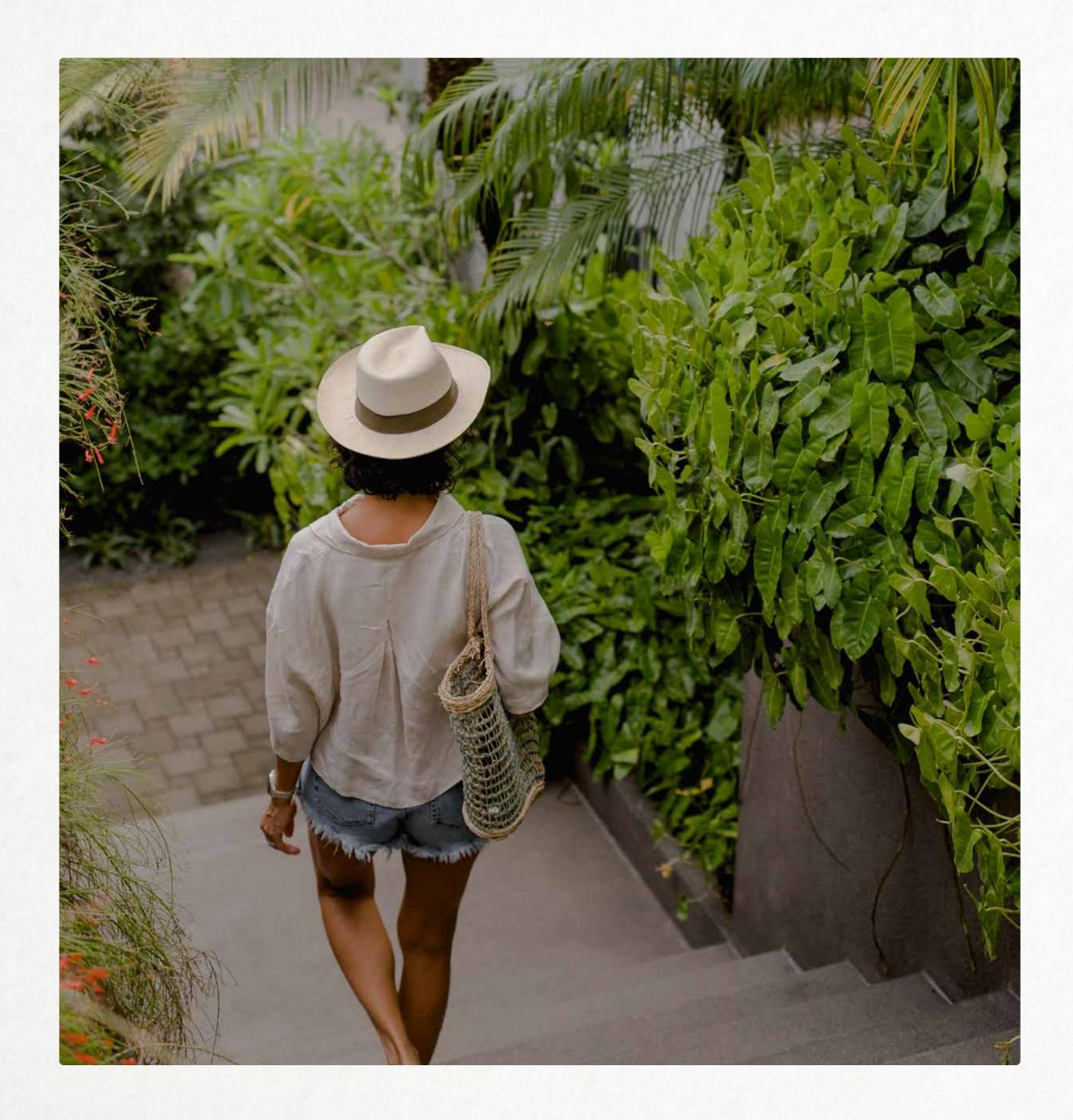
CLIMATE ZONE

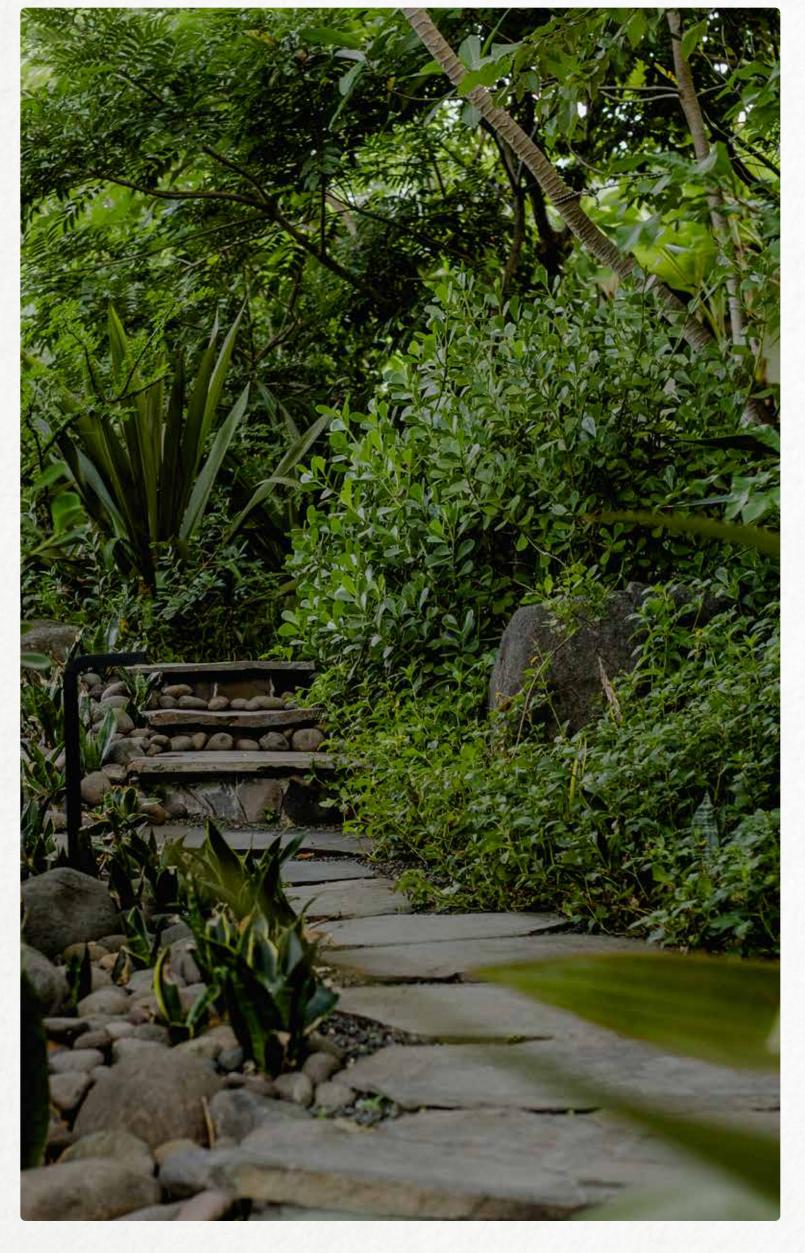
November—April: 191 mm May—October: 1737 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY 2.7°C



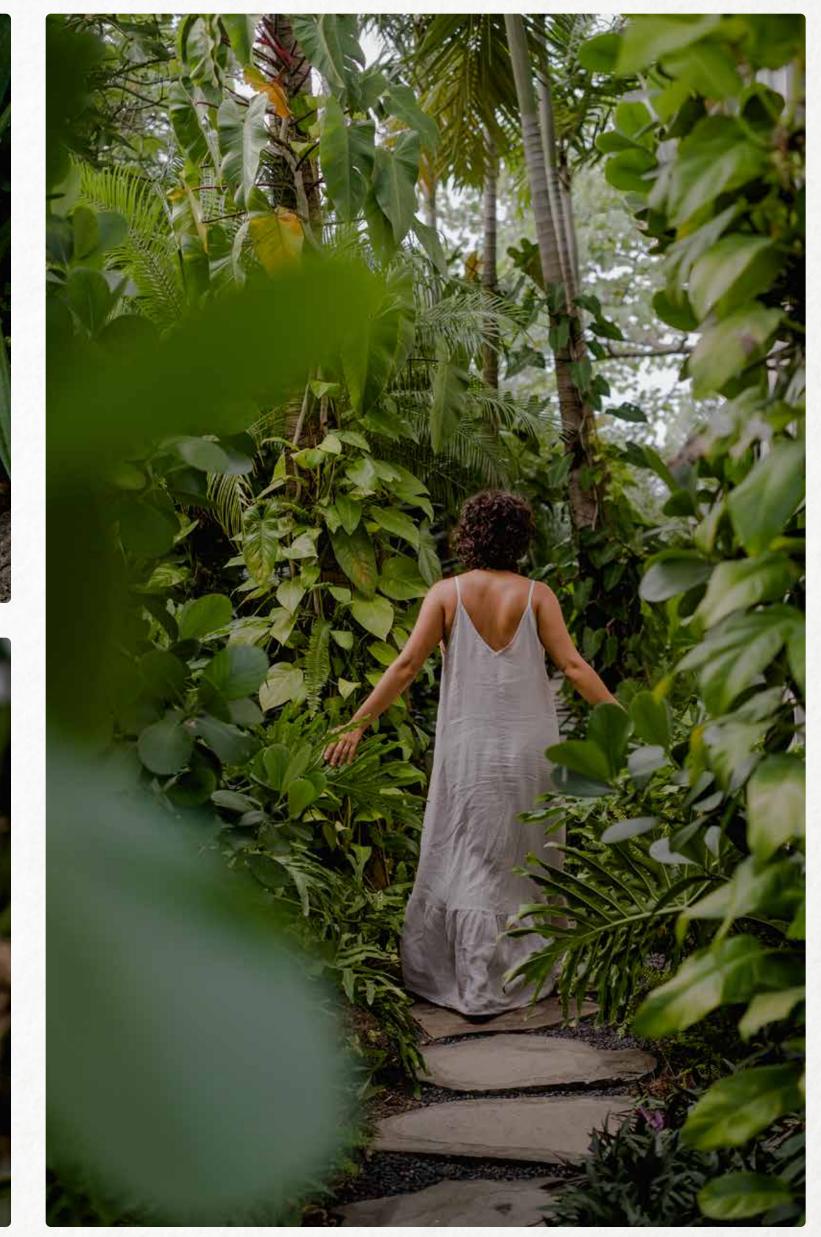
NOSARA. COSTA PICA. -

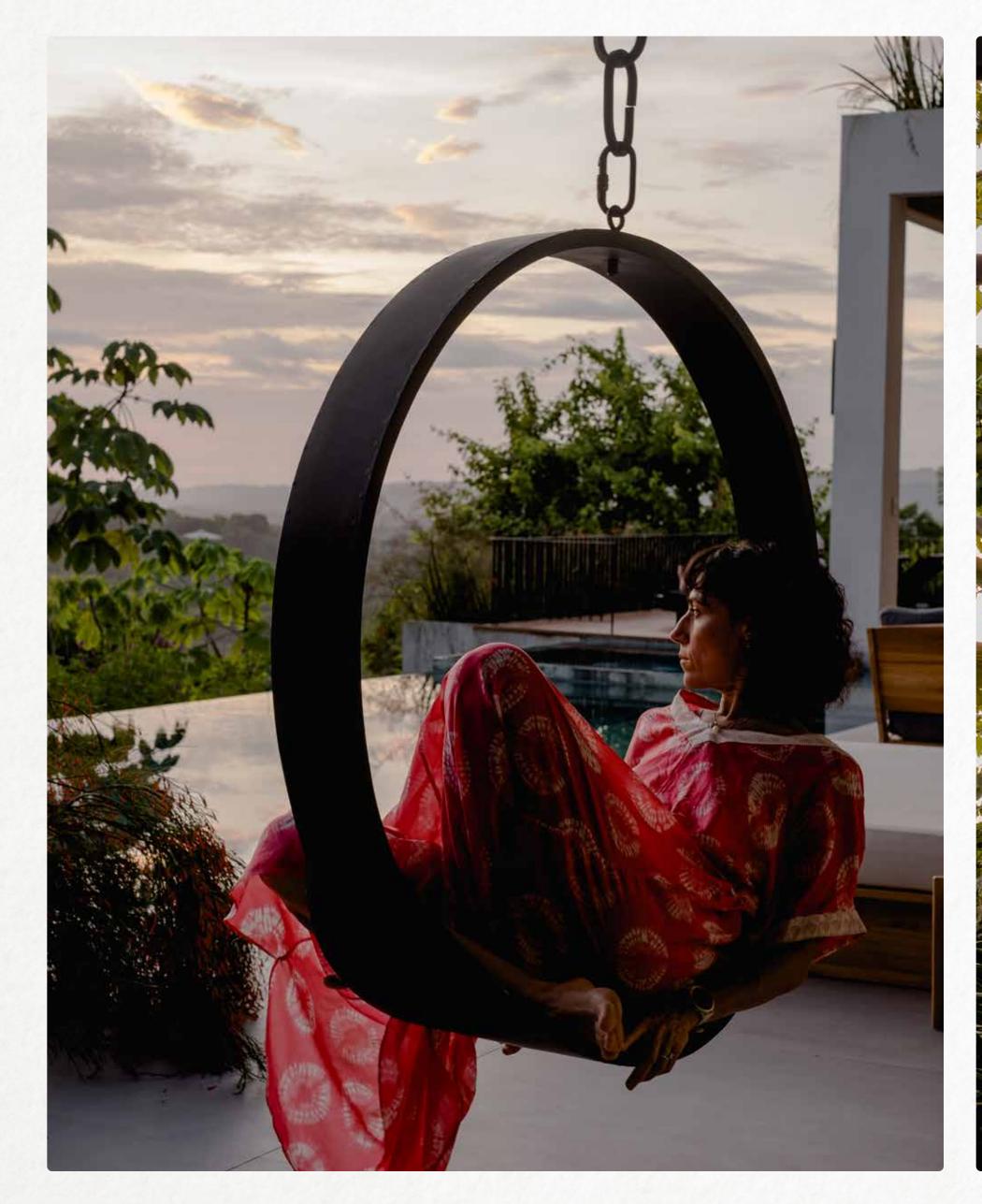














HOMES & RETREATS

### Eleta Residence.

9.7235°N, 85.2097°W VALLE DE ANTÓN, PTY



SCALE

1 hectare

SCOPE

Landscape Architecture

CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 312 mm May—October: 2275 mm

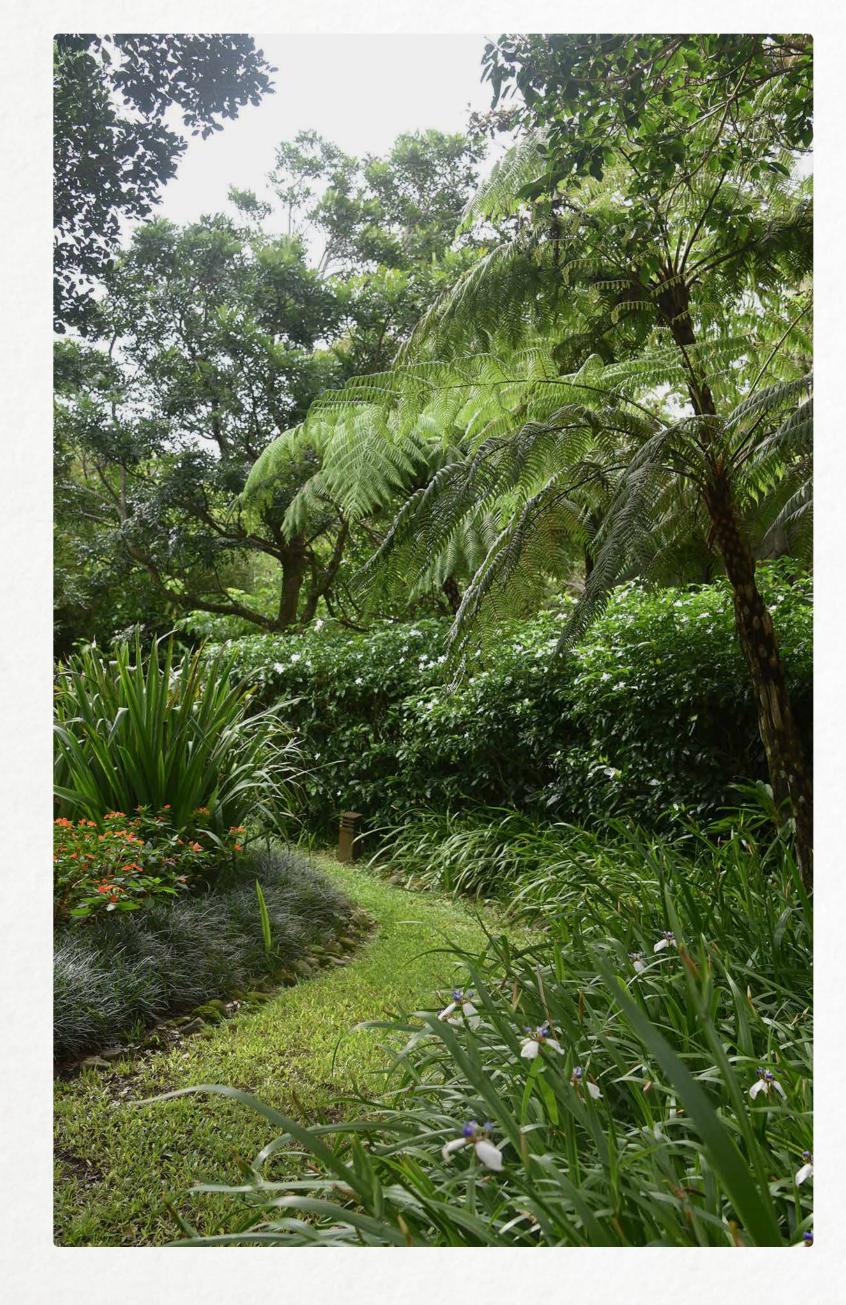
AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY

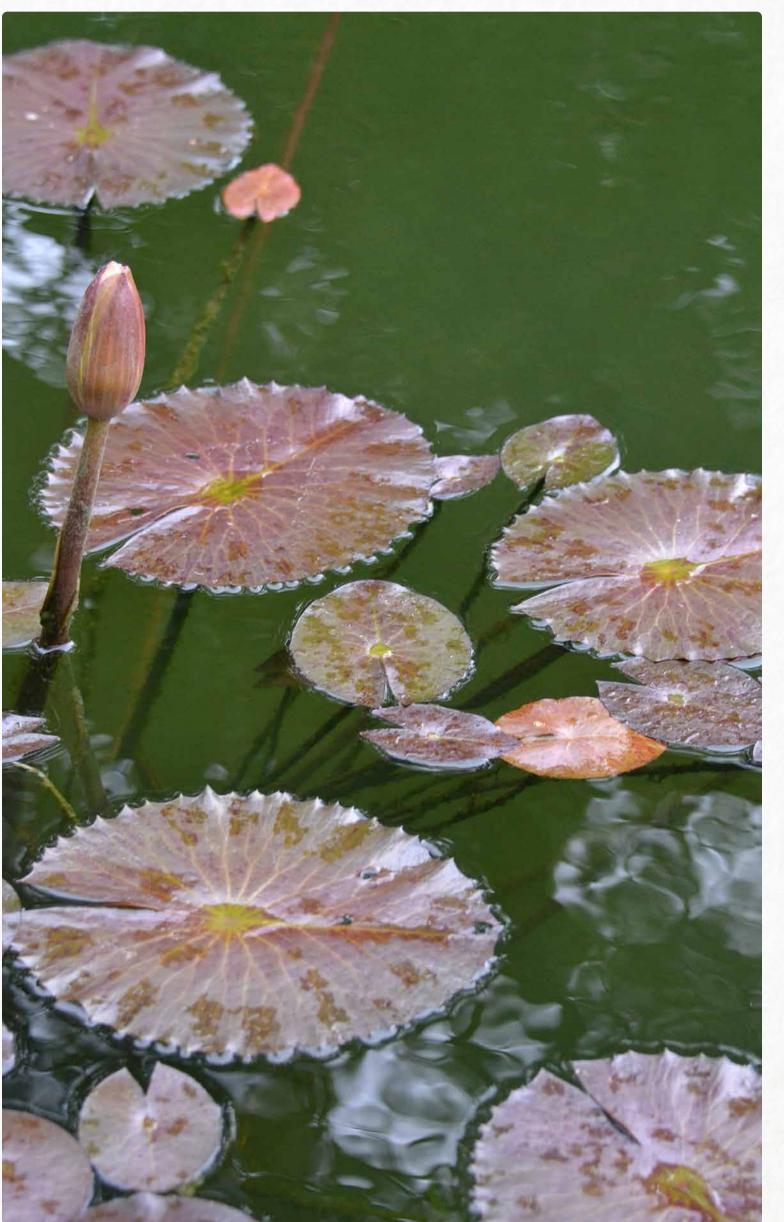
2.6°C

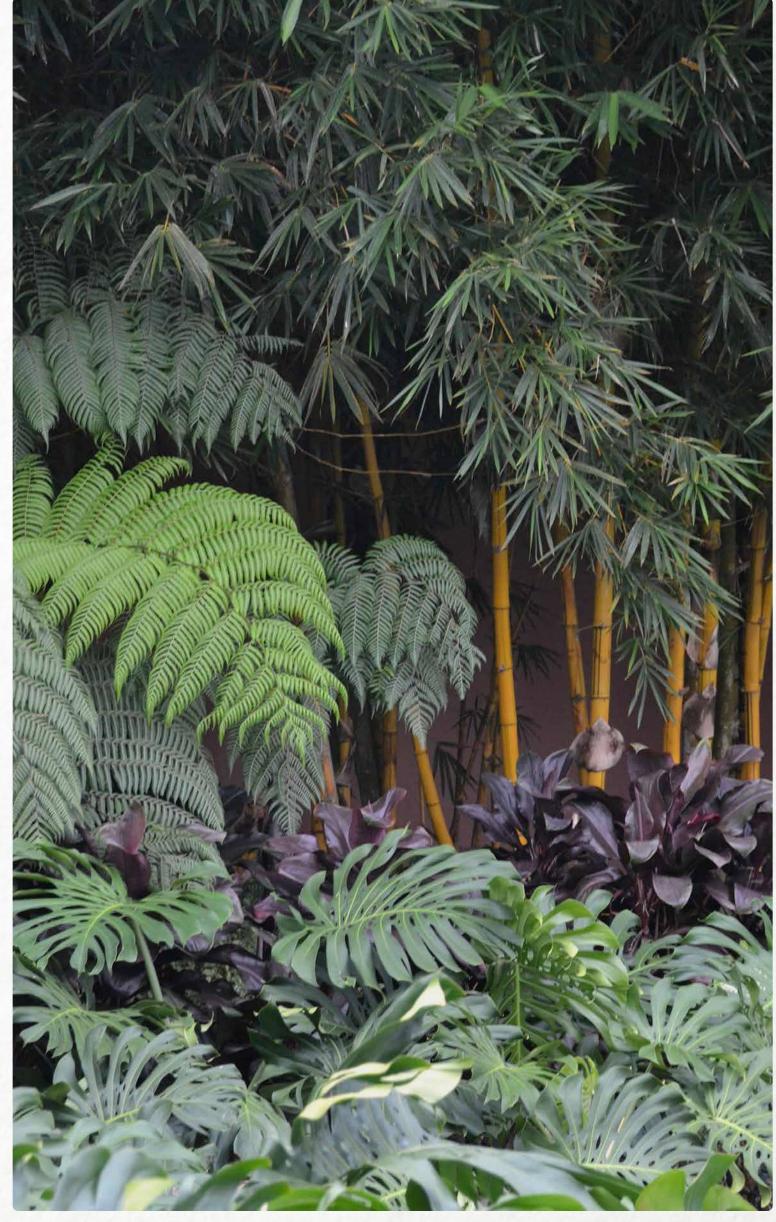


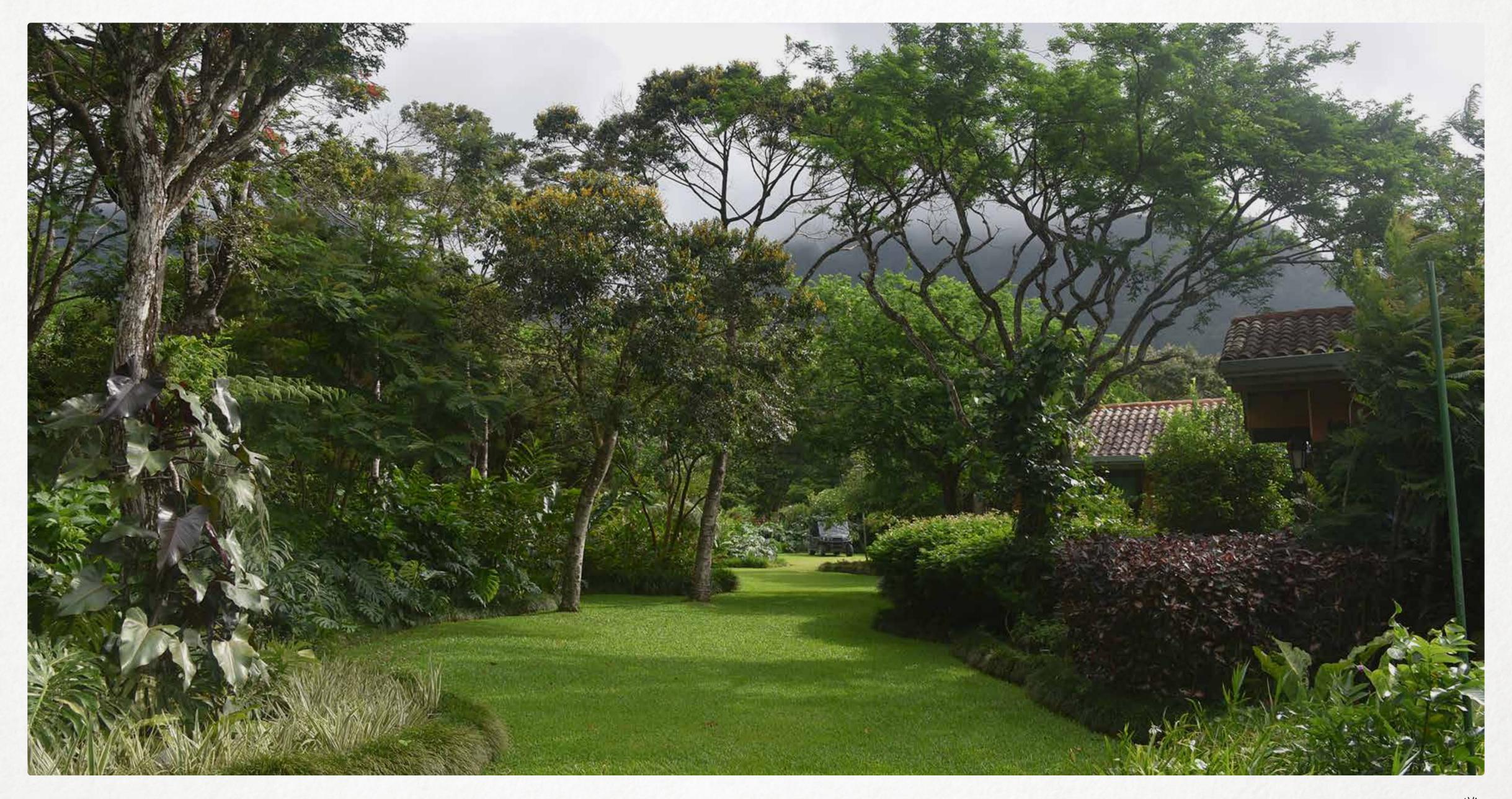
EL VALLE DE ANTON. PANAMÁ.













**VIDA** 

### Tabacon Thermal Resort & Spa.

10.503599°N, 84.686950°W ARENAL, CRC



SCALE

2.5 hectares

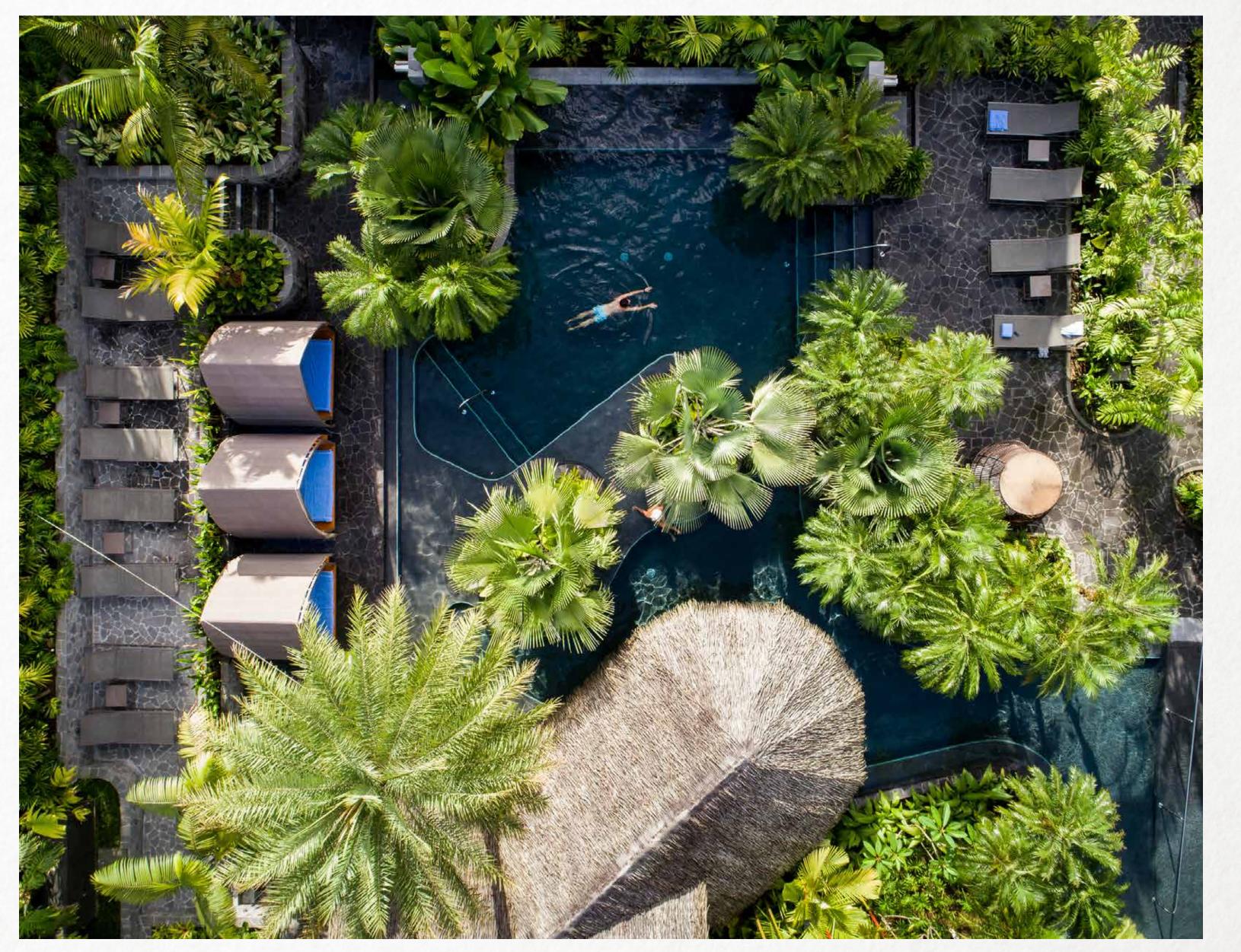
SCOPE

Masterplanning + Full Service Landscape Architecture

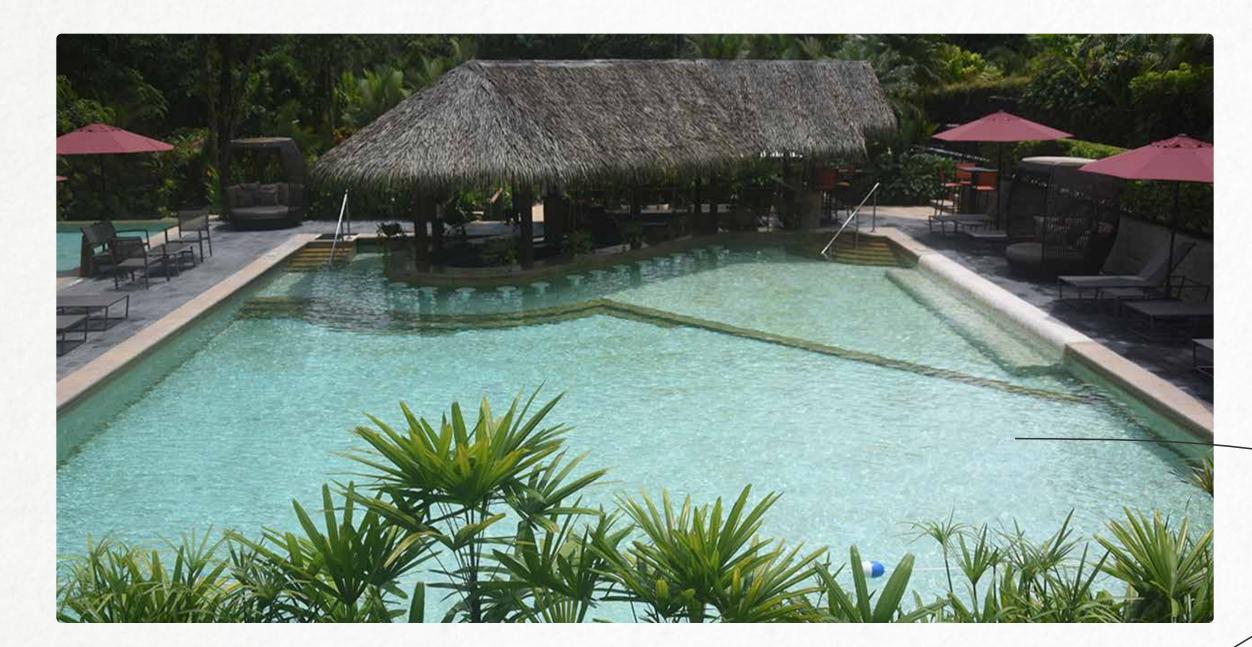
CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 916 mm May—October: 2062 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY 2.6°C



ARENAL. COSTA PICA.





AFTER

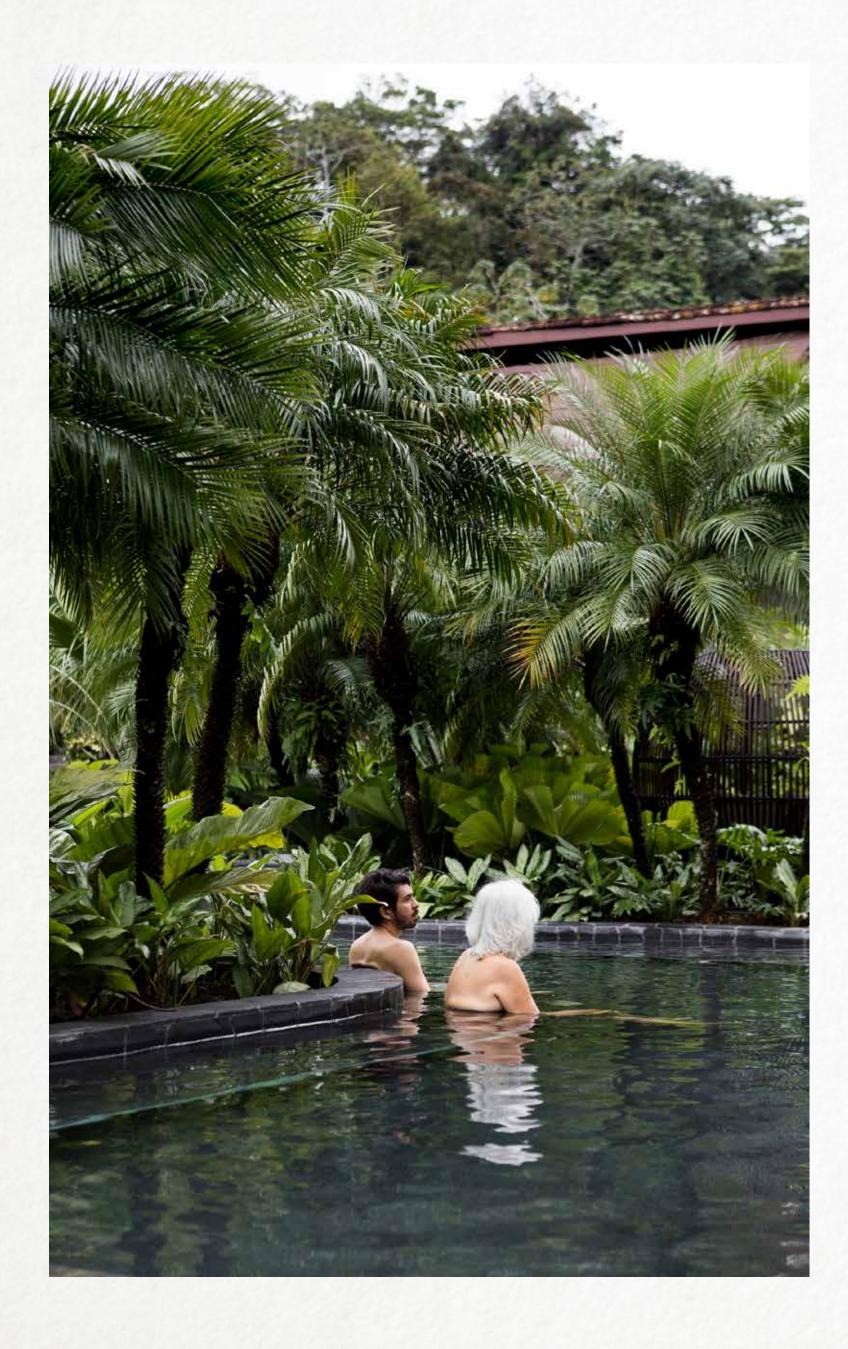


VIDA was engaged by Tabacon to help re-vision the common areas of one of the best known natural hot springs in the region. The first phase, the renovated pool, core amenities and pool bar were planned, designed, and built in 5 months with help of Tabacon's very capable landscape team with the feature palms supplied by Greengo Gardens.

This project is a successful example of a landscape architect led design intervention informed by an overall sustainable tourism Masterplan. The fast-track nature of the project meant that the design not only had to meet the operational, commercial and aesthetic goals of the project but was supported by a highly coordinated and detailed construction set that adapted to the timeframes, budget and material availability in a highly dynamic environment. VIDA's leadership was key in maintaining the vision of the project and achieving a careful balance between the built and natural environment, showcasing the importance of the profession of Landscape Architecture.

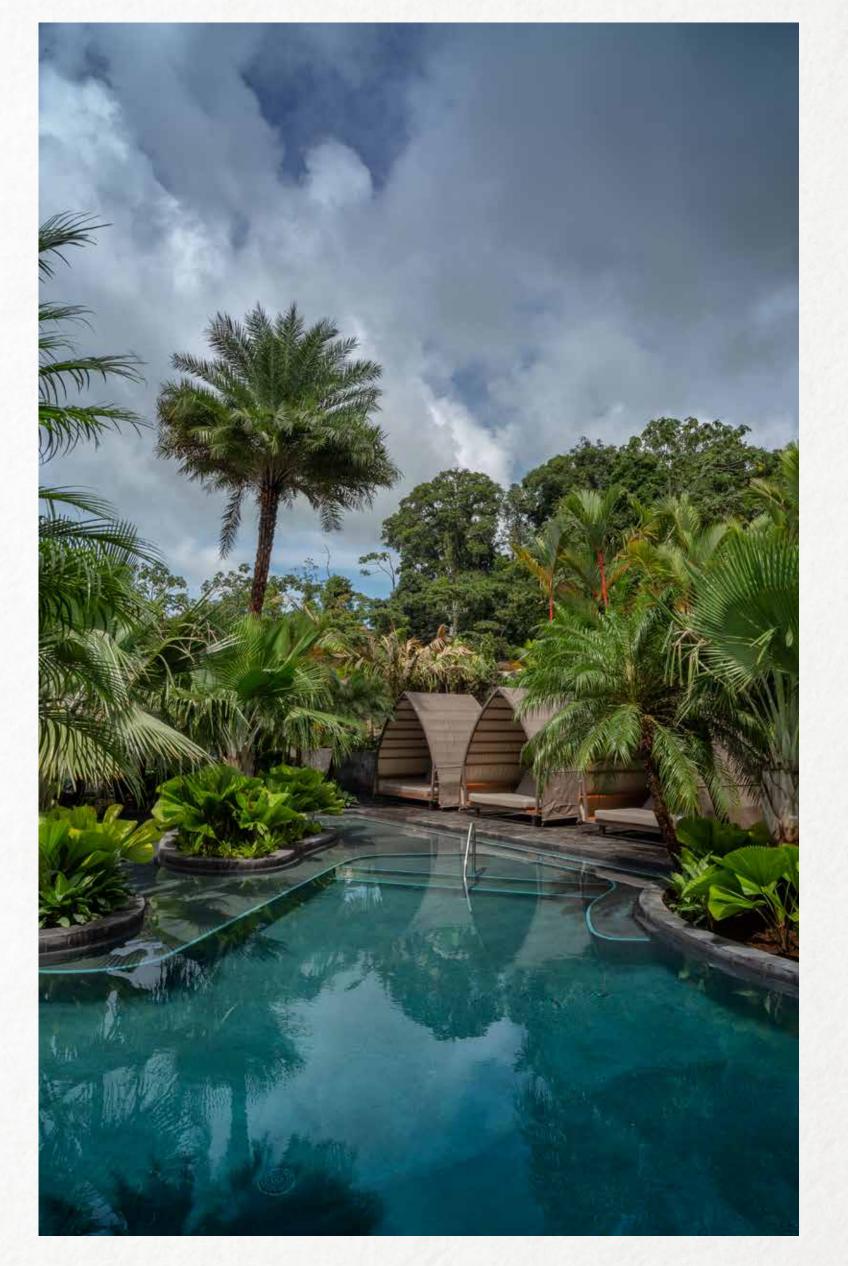
NATURE-BASED HOSPITALITY











RURAL PLANNING

9.7235°N, 85.2097°W NICOYA PENÍNSULA, CRC



SCALE

22 hectares

SCOPE

Masterplanning + Landscape Architecture

CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 312 mm May—October: 2275 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY

2.6°C



NICOYA PENÍNSULA. COSTA PICA.



As part of *VIDA's* ongoing involvement in the 2000+ hectare Hacienda Ario project, *VIDA* was engaged to help guide the Board of Directors in the selection of a suitable property for the *CIRENAS Campus*.

CIRENAS is a nature-based educational organization which brings together local and international students, teachers and researchers. Based on VIDA's site selection recommendations, the team was hired in 2014 to develop a Conceptual Masterplan for the proposed campus. Through the course of several onsite workshops a Masterplan was developed, refined and agreed to. VIDA worked closely with the permaculture designers on the layout of the site to resolve the campus food, energy, waste and dwelling needs. A key component of the Masterplan is an integrated water management system consisting of a series of interconnected swales, retention areas and dams.

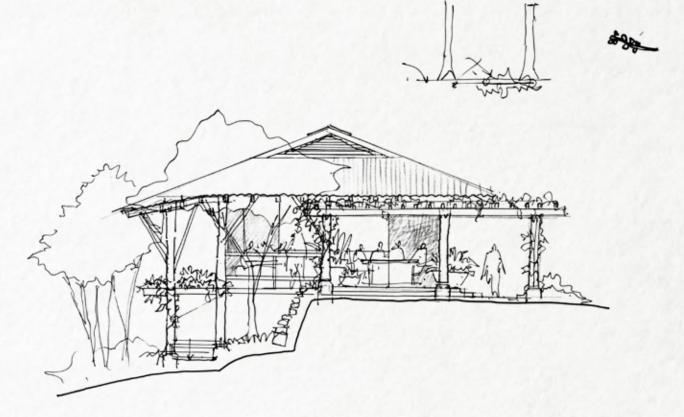
The design of the campus provides a facility which embodies the natural, built and cultural context while providing examples of low-tech, replicable technologies including sustainable shelter design, water harvesting and treatment and land management practices. The campus acts as a working model where students and guests can engage and learn from the working and natural systems involved in the daily operations of the campus.













# El Bosque Comunity.

9.9401°N, 85.6559°W NOSARA, CRC



SCALE

12 hectares

SCOPE

Regional Analysis + Masterplanning + Project Vsioning

CLIMATE ZONE

November—April: 191 mm May—October: 1737 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY 2.7°C

YEAR OF COMPLETION Ongoing



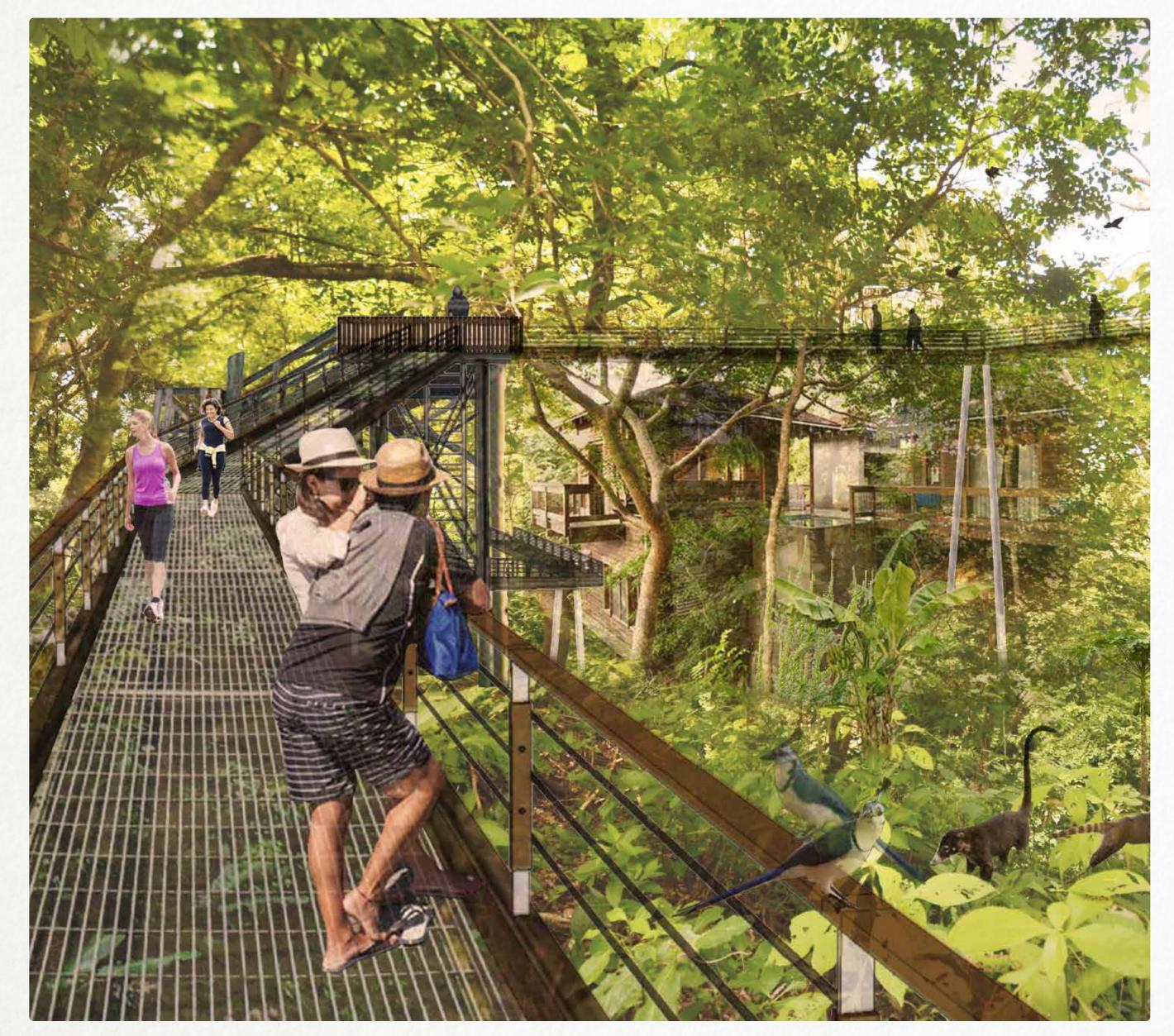
NOSAPA. COSTA P/CA.



VIDA was engaged to masterplan a community when an existing client purchased a 12 ha forested property. The clients saw the opportunity for the property to play a regenerative role in the future growth of the area.

Guided by Josie Plaut from the Institute for the Built Environment at Colorado State University, *VIDA* implemented a research and analysis plan employing biologists, naturalists and social researchers to understand the regenerative opportunities the project might present - including analysis of the local built environment, historical land uses, biological corridors, water sheds and its pollutants, transport, land uses and climate change threats. With a thorough understanding of the site and broader context, *VIDA* developed a masterplan for the nature-based community with the goal of creating harmonious relationships between private spaces for retreat and vibrant, interactive community spaces.

The clients remain enthusiastic about the project and hope that the community will become a reality in the near future.







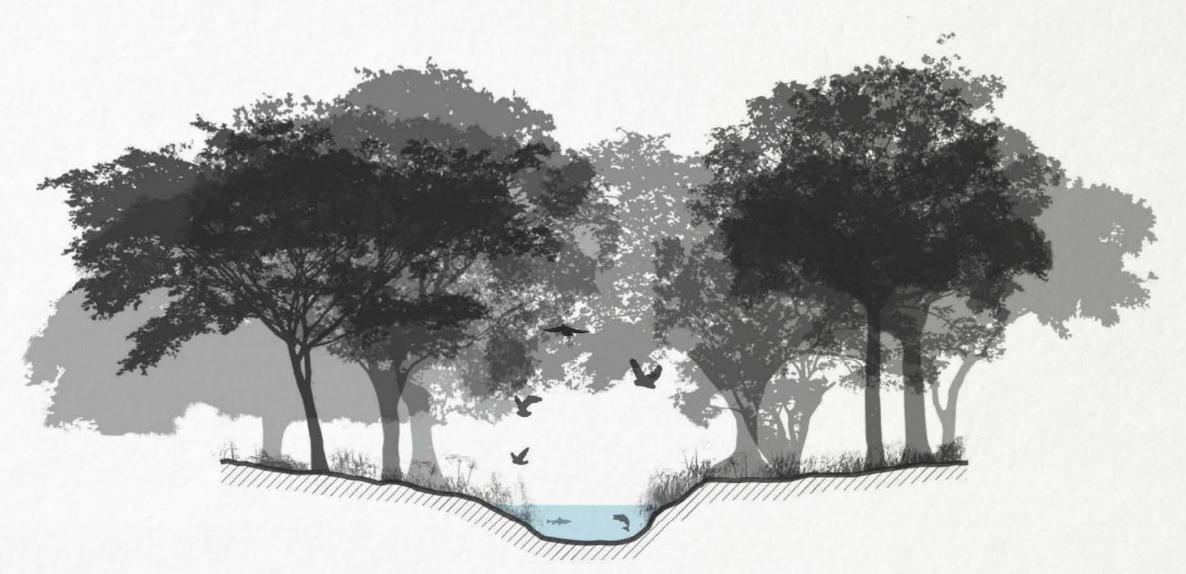
















### Místico Beach Community.

9.5606°N, 84.5597°W PLAYA HERMOSA, CRC



scale
76 hectares

SCOPE

Masterplanning + Project Visioning + Full Service Landscape Architecture

CLIMATE ZONE

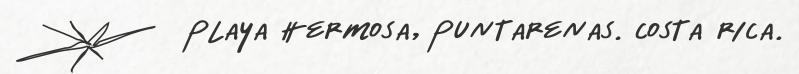
November—April: 445 mm May—October: 2300 mm

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES VARY BY

2.6°C

YEAR OF COMPLETION Phase 1, 2014







*Místico* is located on Costa Rica's Central Pacific Coast in the province of Puntarenas just south of the well-known beach town of Jacó. The project is located between Playa Esterillos and Playa Hermosa, both renowned for their quality surf.

VIDA was engaged by Parq Proyecto Arquitectura to audit an existing Masterplan and provide recommendations for improvements. Following extensive on-site analysis supported by GIS-based land analysis and on-site observations, VIDA concluded that the developer should redirect their efforts and develop an alternative Masterplan that responded better to the inherent site conditions of the property and the region. VIDA's proposal provided a development that was more cost effective to construct, had greater market appeal and respected, and enhanced, the natural assets of the property.

One of the key components that *VIDA* brought to the project was the development of the project core and town center where all recreational and commercial program items are located. This area of the development is orientated around a community soccer field; an important component of local culture and drawing influence from the traditional layouts of early Costa Rican towns.

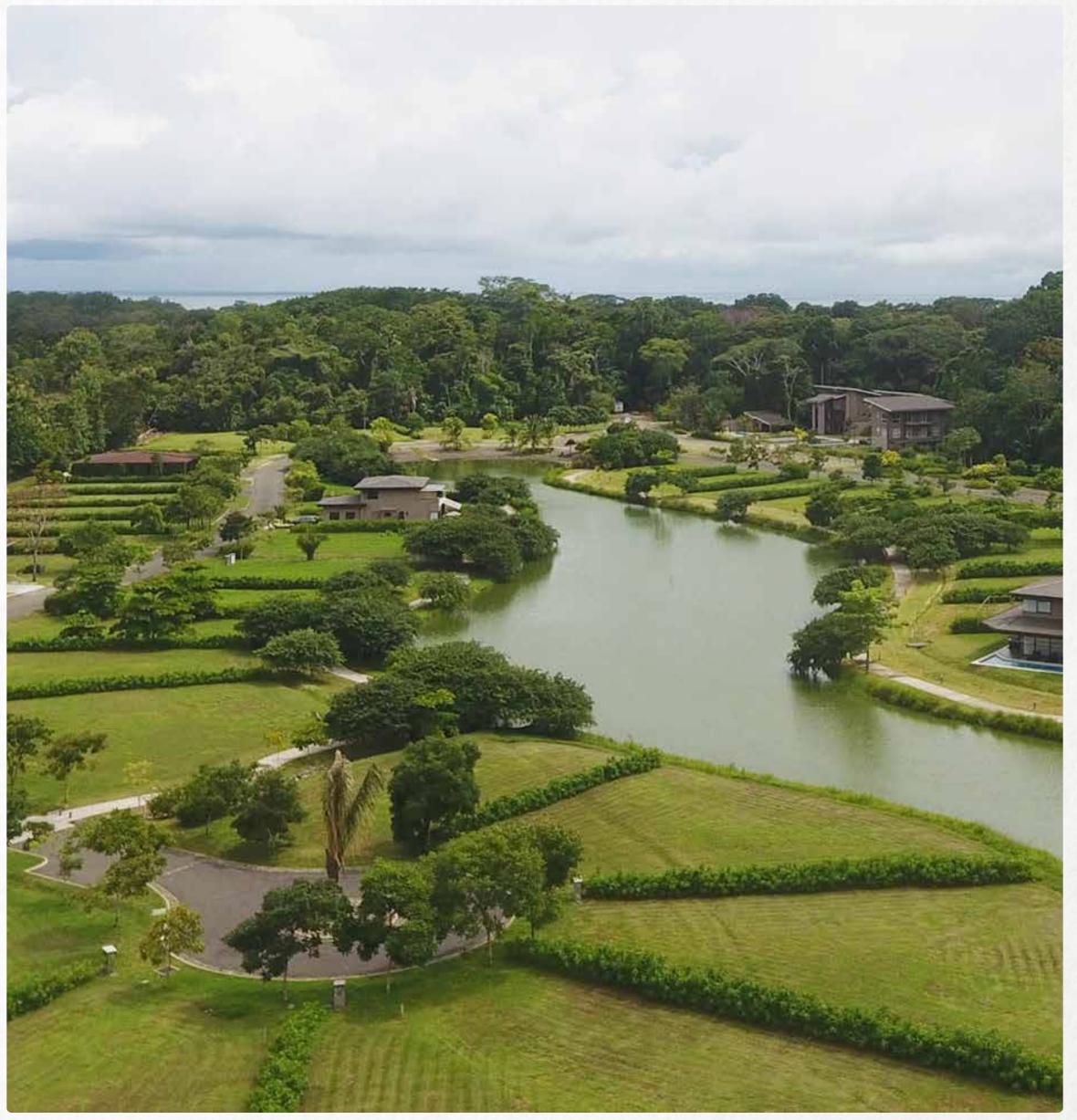




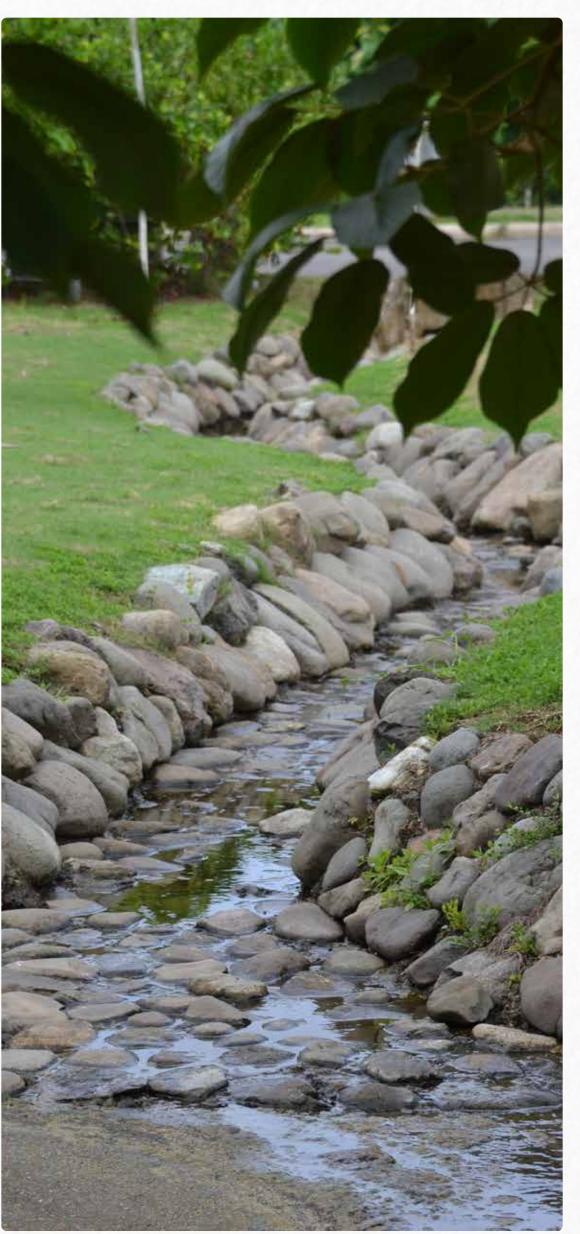












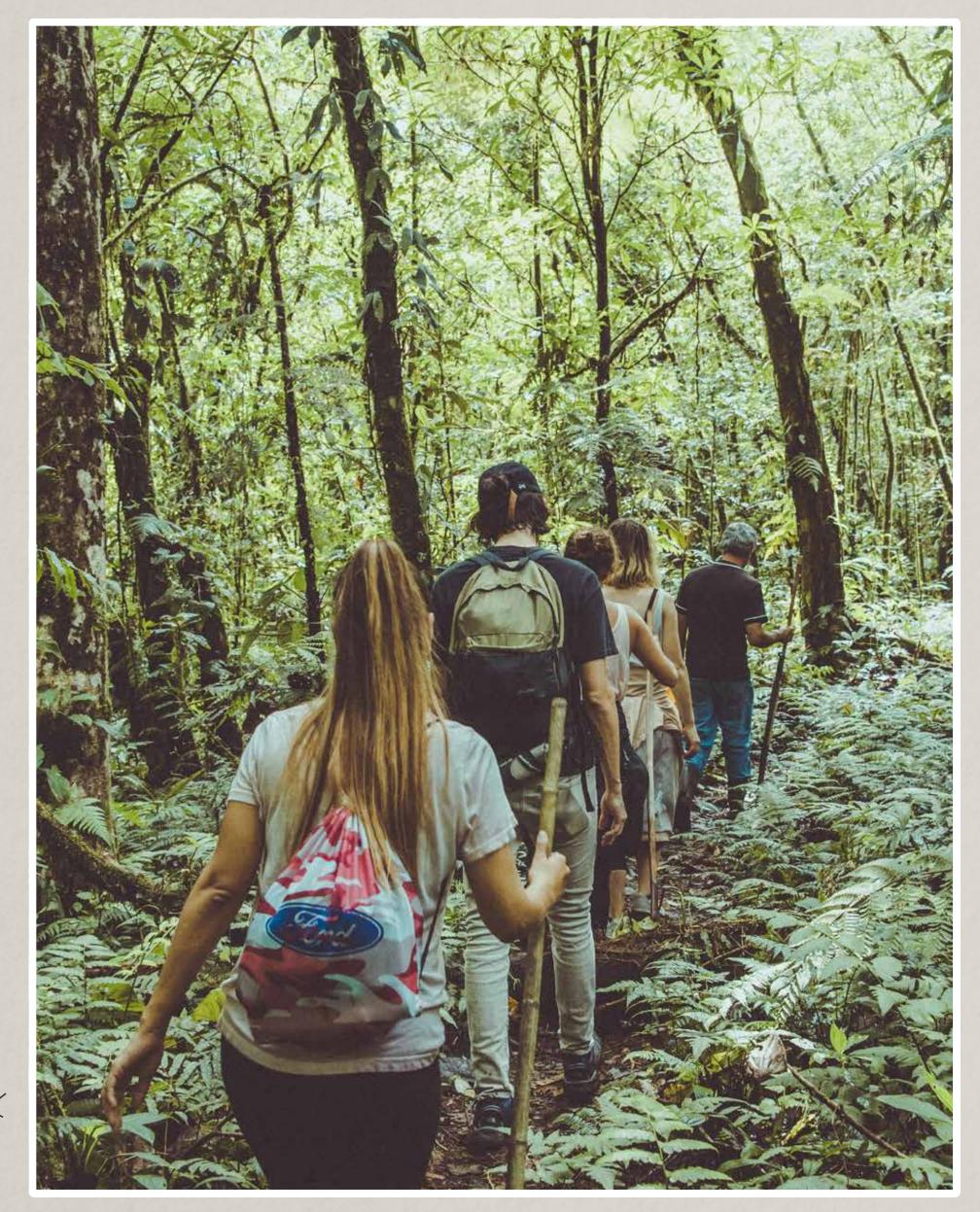


Desarrolladores 506

"After three years of struggling with an engineering firm that did not understand my vision, I came through with VIDA. I have not only had an exceptional professional experience but have made great friends. The outcome has been sensational and now, as a team, we can deliver to our client a project that reaches international standards in terms of sustainable design and profitability."

Daniel Cisneros
PARQ PROYECTO ARQUITECTURA





## This Is OUR TEAM.

We are a small group, but we are big thinkers. One of the key elements that unites us, is our passion for learning; to improve, evolve and grow ideas into action.



#### Matthew Flynn (AUS)

Co-Founder + Design Director

Matthew has twenty years of experience spanning four continents and a dozen countries. He draws on his strong foundation in rural and natural landscapes and his passion to incorporate regional materials and construction methods to deliver original designs for a range of projects. His work focuses on creating land-use solutions that balance creativity, sustainability and profitability – not one over the other, not one without the other. Truth be told, he designs the places he'd like to be if he ever took a break. Prior to VIDA, Matthew was partner at 40NORTH and Managing Director of their expansion into Central America, following five years with EDSA in Beijing and Fort Lauderdale. When he's not working, he can be found surfing, riding his mountain bike, taking photos or spending time with his family.

#### Ana María Pinto (CRC)

Co-Founder + Design Director

Ana is resourceful and creative in the way she renders both her life and her work. She draws inspiration from the natural world, fashion, organic patterns, trends in hospitality, contemporary design and sustainable technologies; each element enriching the team's work - developing a rich visual language for VIDA. Currently, Ana has her hands full as a mum so spends less time in the studio but still manages to hold the team together. Ana completed her studies in Landscape Architecture at Louisiana State University followed by internships in Thailand, Dominican Republic and Miami. As an emerging specialist in the field, Ana was employed with EDSA as a Landscape Architect for projects in Latin America. When she's not managing VIDA's accounts or motherhood, Ana enjoys yoga, travelling, cooking, entertaining, photography and hiking.

#### Chrili Car (AUT)

Senior Landscape Architect

Born in Austria, Chrili has a backgroud in Sociology as well as Architecture before studying Landscape Architecture (phD). Having traveled and worked in Northern Africa opened up his perspective of an alternative way of planning, while he developed a sensitivity for different cultures and realizing his work could have significant life impact on the people using the space. His extensive and significant work has been published in several magazines and galleries. Always ready for an adventure, when the opportunity came to come work in Costa Rica, a place with the same latitude as West Africa, he was ready to contribute to a more established company where he could work with and share his experience. For Chrili the most important part of being a landscape architect is being able to listen- to be a mediator between culture, the land and the needs of each. A true free spirit, when not working, Chrili enjoys cycling, swimming, exploring nature, enjoying tropical fruits, the sun, and planning his next escape.

#### Amanda Vargas Love (CRC)

Senior Associate

Amanda sees her role with VIDA as much more than a job - it's an opportunity to build and understand better the relationships we form with each other, our communities and the natural world. Like all good designers, she is able to draw on her experiences (including the challenges) to arrive at new solutions to old problems. Having lived abroad, Amanda admits returning home to Costa Rica can at times be bittersweet as she works towards offering solutions to reduce and highlight the impact of development on local communities, flora and fauna. When Amanda is not at work or stuck in traffic on her way to the studio she can be found singing, painting and playing with her dogs.

#### Camilla Belli (ARG)

Senior Associate

Born in Italy, Cami moved to Argentina as a child, and grew up on the outskirts of the capital. The child with design coursing through her veins, went on to study Architecture at the University of Buenos Aires and worked in architecture and interior design studios while studying. For Cami, design is the tool she uses to understand human behaviour, and her earliest memories are of drawing. Unsurprisingly, she uses design as a way to give people a better life and to get as close as she can to simplicity. Cami has always been interested in masterplanning, and after spending her summers in Costa Rica decided to call it home (for now). When she isn't in the Santa Teresa studio Cami is up to something else creative, surfing or watching the sunset with friends.



#### Hans Hoepker (CRC)

Senior Associate

Hans is a big fan of space - ephemeral and temporal, intended and unintended. Hans, who studied in the School of Architecture at the University of Costa Rica, uses his architectural practice to design spaces that have the capacity to serve communities; and he's found great satisfaction in working with VIDA on hospitality projects that don't just provide jobs for local trades people and workers, but will create a cycle of employment and education that is planned to ensure year-round work. When he's not deep in space, Hans dabbles in slow, contemplative skill mastery - like origami and juggling - and, as a guitar player and fixture in San Jose's local music scene, Hans also sees an intersection between music and design thinking - and looks for moods and atmospheres in music that he translates into his spatial work.

#### Alejandra Gutiérrez (CRC)

Senior Associate

Alejandra studied architecture at the University of Costa Rica and is currently working on her dissertation. She considers architecture as a practical way to interact and understand reality, and to express connections through the use of space. Alejandra's practice aims to interpret the world through drawing and a conscious process of observation. At VIDA, she enjoys the opportunity to focus more on the landscape rather than the buildings to articulate her commitment to a more balanced future.

### Kate Flynn (AUS)

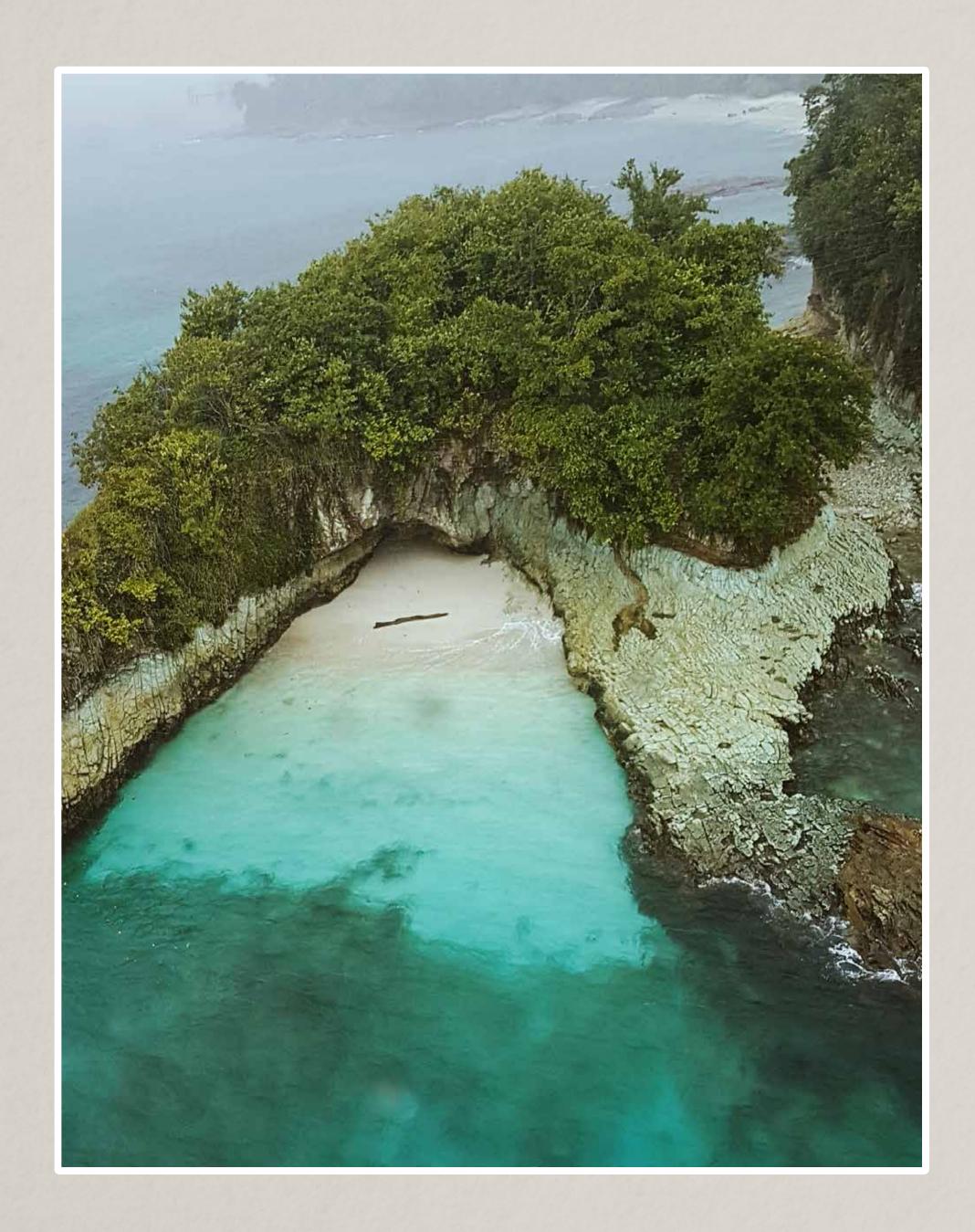
Copywriter

Kate is an award-winning copywriter and learning designer with 20+ years' experience in professional writing. Her role at *VIDA* is to articulate the team's vision; to capture the dedication, skill and hard work, and the shared passion and pragmatism that unites the team's approach and their conviction to good design via good design thinking. When she's not writing for *VIDA*, Kate works for an Australian university. In her down time, she seeks inspiration and equilibrium in nature, tries not to ruin her children's lives and sees beauty in most things.

#### Ana María Blanco (CRC)

Associate

Ana María grew up surrounded by farms, plants, and animals in the northern part of Costa Rica. This taught her a deep sense of appreciation for the land and all that it provides. She completed her degree in architecture from the University of Costa Rica, and specialized in tropical landscapes and new ruralism. Before joining VIDA Ana Maria worked as an architect, furniture designer, and in landscaping for cafes and homes while managing a craft studio and helping out on her family's farm. Now based in Cape Town, she is currently leading VIDA's satellite office, bringing her expertise in indigenous plants, graphics and media, and design of green infrastructure and hospitality experiences. Living in Africa has taught her about the value of cultural landscapes and natural resources, and also the importance of being flexible, brave, and kind. While in South Africa she dedicates her time off to exploring new places, learning pottery, hiking and camping, and swimming in tidal-pools.





NICE TO MEET YOU, WE ARE

## VIDA

#### 

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#### \*\ South Africa's Studio

16 Alma Road Rosebank Cape Town 7700

