



## REDEFINING *Tropical Elegance*

*Studio des Iles is a boutique architecture and interior design studio based in Mauritius. Julia Millen spoke to founder Jean-Marc Tang about their holistic approach to design*

### Tell us about Studio des Iles

Drawing on extensive global experience in luxury hospitality, our ethos is to bring a fresh and distinctive vision to the region. We strive to bring tropical design to life - crafting environments where harmony, comfort, and elegance coexist. Whether in private or shared spaces, our work is expressed through thoughtfully imagined rooms, carefully framed views, curated atmospheres, and bespoke furniture pieces.

### How does the natural landscape of Mauritius shape your work?

We draw inspiration from the island's natural beauty in every space we design. The ever-present tropical light, lush vegetation, stunning lagoons, and striking local topography deeply inform our creative approach. These elements guide

us in shaping forms and volumes, selecting materials, curating colour palettes, and orchestrating the interplay of light and shadow. In doing so, we allow the natural environment to influence not only the aesthetics, but also the atmosphere - creating spaces that evolve in mood and experience throughout the day. In our recent project in Belle Mare, renowned for its pristine white sand beaches, we incorporated locally recycled sand as the base material for a series of bespoke bedroom furniture pieces. The result was a warm, tactile finish that subtly evokes the shoreline - bringing the memory of the beach indoors.

### What does Studio des Iles do differently?

Having travelled extensively around the world, we are driven to define what true luxury living means within



this exceptional tropical environment. In an increasingly globalised world, there's a growing desire for experiences that feel both elevated and deeply rooted in place. Our approach to design is guided by storytelling. We draw inspiration from vernacular architecture and actively collaborate with local artists and artisans, allowing tradition and craftsmanship to inform contemporary expression. Through this dialogue, we reinterpret heritage, modernise design, and foster innovation. The Barachois House is a compelling example of this philosophy. Conceived as a reimagined Creole home, it embraces a refined tropical minimalism where architecture and landscape hold equal importance. Lush tropical gardens are thoughtfully integrated with vernacular-inspired forms, creating a seamless connection between built and natural environments. Locally sourced materials work in harmony with palm trees and mangroves to frame views of the sea beyond. Inside, bespoke furniture pieces crafted locally bring together tradition and modernity, resulting in a space that is both timeless and distinctly Mauritian.

#### What exciting projects are you currently working on?

While Mauritius is often imagined as a land of white-sand beaches, its landscape is remarkably diverse. The Treehouse in Chamarel is a testament to the island's dramatic mountainous beauty. Nestled within a verdant



forest, the home hovers gently above the treetops, opening onto sweeping views of the valley and beyond. Clad in wood and thoughtfully composed, this cabin embraces its natural surroundings - creating immersive, ever-changing perspectives that draw the landscape into everyday living. At Studio des Iles, we envision spaces that inspire and transform the everyday into something meaningful. Each project is an exploration of place, experience, and emotion. [www.studiodesiles.com](http://www.studiodesiles.com)