



EXOTIC RETREATS

ECO RESORT DESIGN FROM BAREFOOT SOPHISTICATED TO LUXURY PAD

Exotic Retreats brings together 40 remarkable hotels, ecolodges, and resorts from around the world. They sit on the tops of mountains, in the middle of rainforests, on tiny islands surrounded by miles of ocean, in rolling hills, and in desert oases. What makes these retreats different is that they all tread lightly on the earth; they all give more to their local communities than they take, and they all use architecture both as an integral part of their commitment to sustainability, and

as a way of complementing the beauty of their surroundings. In a secluded honeymoon cottage on a rocky outcrop in Lake Malawi, the first thing you see when you wake up is the lapping water of the lake. In a protected area of the Bahamas, relaxing in the comfort of your bungalow's open, wraparound porch, you gaze out on the ocean beyond.

Julia Faiers shows that the desire to protect the environment is a great leveler. She includes hotels designed

by established architectural practices with the highest ethical philosophies, through to self-made architects who wanted to create a building in sympathy with the landscape. These stunning retreats are illustrated with beautiful color photographs, architects' plans, and sketches by hoteliers who took on the job of building themselves.



\$45.00 US / £29.99 UK / \$65.00 CAN





PAKAAS PALAFITAS LODGE

AMAZON BASIN, BRAZIL

The striking circular central lodge features an open-air swimming pool within its circumference. It is based on a traditional raised palafita design, and is built from sustainable materials.



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The resort's 50 cabanas are linked by over 1 mile (2km) of suspended walkways, which limit their impact on the local vegetation.

The swimming pool at the central lodge affords stunning views over the Amazonian tributaries. The resort has a totally recyclable water system, so as not to interfere with river's ecosystem.



Situated at the confluence of two Amazonian tributaries, Pakaas Palafitas Lodge is a rare resort. With one luxurious central lodge and 50 cabanas, it manages to provide accommodation for a significant number of tourists without impacting negatively on its fragile surroundings.

The resort's owners put in a great deal of background research before designing and building the ambitious project. Through visiting accommodation in famous cultural tourist centers in Latin America, including Machu Picchu, they

aimed to discover from ecotourists what makes for a culturally and ecologically rewarding vacation.

Brazilian architect W. Julio Reis was brought in to translate their ideas into a living resort. The center of this is the main lodge, based on a "palafita" design, which Reis describes as "a construction suspended from the ground, normally used by Amazonians to keep the high water levels from entering the house, as well as insects and animals." This building serves as the nucleus of the resort. The 50 cabanas are

linked by suspended walkways that allow guests to explore the jungle without damaging the precious ecosystem.

The resort is involved in an active program including conservation of local flora and fauna, reforestation of native trees such as mahogany and cedar, and the establishment of plots of land in which local communities can grow organic vegetables to supply the resort and neighboring markets. The resort's philosophy is to educate both guests and the local communities about

protecting the biodiversity of this section of the Amazon jungle. Putting their money where "their mouth" is, the owners have introduced a totally recyclable water system at the resort, so as not to interfere with the ecology of the river.