



PASISI NO. 8

COWEMA STUDIO ARCHITECT

## **THE PASISI**

HARMONIZING MODERN ARCHITECTURE  
WITH LOCAL WISDOM IN BALI

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1A | Water Temple, Bali

## INTRODUCTION

Bali has long been a favored tourist destination for both domestic and international travelers. In 2022, the island welcomed 2.16 million international tourists, with the number surging to 5.27 million in 2023. Similarly, domestic tourism made a significant impact, with 3.9 million visitors recorded in 2022 and an impressive increase to 9.87 million in 2023. This influx underscores Bali's enduring appeal as a hub for culture, natural beauty, and architectural marvels.

This publication delves into the macro and micro challenges addressed within The Pasisi villa project. It explores the project's design concept, how traditional Balinese architecture responds to contemporary demands, and its cultural integration. By examining The Pasisi, especially No. 8, we aim to illuminate how innovative design can harmoniously blend with Bali's rich heritage and vibrant culture, creating a dialogue between the past and present that defines modern tropical architecture

**CANGGU: SPATIAL SHIFT**

One area that has experienced significant development in the past decade is Canggu Village in North Kuta, Badung. Once primarily agricultural land, Canggu has transformed into a hub for tourism accommodations and urban activities. This transformation is reflected in the reduction of rice fields, decreasing from 281 hectares in 2009 to 243 hectares in 2018. Canggu attracts visitors due to its natural beauty and quieter beaches compared to Kuta or Seminyak, drawing the interest of investors to develop hotels, villas, and other tourism infrastructure. This growth has turned Canggu into a new tourist hub, altering the livelihoods of local communities now reliant on tourism. (Adhinata, B. & Sawitri, M. Y., 2022)



**Legends:**

- Red Boundary Line: Indicates the borders of Canggu.
- Purple Areas: Represent the buildings in Canggu, with an increasing amount of purple each year indicating growth.
- Yellow Lines: Major roads and streets within Canggu.
- Blue Markers: Points of interest such as markets, fitness clubs, and beaches.



3A | Tourists working remotely from Bali

## DIGITAL NOMAD

This demographic shift, characterized by a more diverse population, has occurred due to the influx of newcomers, particularly remote workers and digital nomads from various countries. With the establishment of a solid community, the term 'Tourist Village' has begun to emerge, illustrating how the presence of tourists and new residents dominates life in this village. They do not just stay temporarily but form community networks like digital camps and nomadic academies that support their digital lifestyles. The existence of these communities allows for intense social interaction between new residents and tourists, fostering a range of community activities, including art exhibitions, sports events, yoga workshops, and more. This global community not only adds cultural diversity but also creates new inclusive social spaces, fostering deep cultural exchanges and supporting intercultural interactions. (Prabawati, N. P. D., 2020).

However, the rapid development of tourism in Canggu significantly impacts local social and cultural identity, particularly as architecture begins to reflect the changing landscape and demographics of the area. This transformation has altered the village's character, leading to a striking imbalance between economic needs and the preservation of local traditions. Many residents now rely heavily on the tourism sector, which threatens the sustainability of their cultural practices. The presence of buildings and infrastructure that adopt non-contextual architecture, such as Western-style villas and modern cafes, obscures the local characteristics of Canggu. Internationally designed structures and services tailored to foreign tourist preferences are becoming increasingly dominant, further diminishing the presence of traditional Balinese architecture that once defined this area. This shift has the potential to alter local cultural values and gradually transform the village's identity into something less authentic



4A | A Sacred Balinese Ritual

## BALINESE CULTURAL VALUES

In response to these changes, some local communities are starting to exhibit resistance in an effort to preserve Balinese cultural values. They strive to protect their identity and cultural heritage from the forces of globalization brought on by tourism. Various communities are working to maintain local events and traditions, such as religious ceremonies and the wearing of traditional attire at specific events. This resistance aims to ensure that the changes occurring do not entirely erase the local identity of Canggu (Ivan, F. A., Wijaya, N. M. S., & Widyatmaja, I. G. N., 2024).

In the face of globalization and the rapid influx of foreign influences, Balinese culture remains steadfast as a defining element of life in Canggu. The local community continues to adhere to deeply rooted traditions and values, resisting cultural homogenization brought about by tourism. Ceremonial practices, such as Galungan and Kuningan celebrations, temple anniversaries, and Nyepi (Day of Silence), are still widely observed. These events not only reinforce spiritual and cultural connections but also serve as a reminder of Bali's unique identity amidst global changes. The resilience of these traditions demonstrates the community's unwavering commitment to preserving their cultural heritage.

One of the most visible forms of cultural preservation is the consistent use of traditional Balinese attire during religious ceremonies and formal events. Locals often wear intricate kebaya for women and udeng paired with kamen for men, symbolizing respect for tradition and the sacredness of the occasion. By maintaining these practices, the Balinese people assert their cultural identity, showing that their way of life remains vibrant and unaltered by the influx of foreign cultures. This visible commitment to tradition acts as a powerful statement against the erosion of local values.

The Balinese language, too, plays a significant role in cultural preservation. Despite the increasing prevalence of English and Bahasa Indonesia due to tourism and national integration, many families in Canggu continue to speak Balinese at home and teach it to their children. Schools and community groups have initiated programs to ensure that the younger generation remains proficient in the language. This effort underscores the importance of linguistic identity as a cornerstone of cultural resilience.

Furthermore, local festivals and art forms, such as traditional dances, gamelan performances, and storytelling, remain integral to Balinese life. These cultural expressions are not only preserved but also adapted to engage modern audiences, ensuring their relevance and accessibility. Events like local dance competitions and art workshops, often supported by community organizations, showcase the richness of Balinese culture and encourage both locals and visitors to appreciate its depth and diversity.

THE QUESTION ARISES:

**CAN ARCHITECTURE PLAY A ROLE IN PRESERVING THIS ESSENCE OF  
CULTURAL IDENTITY?**





## THE ANSWER

The answer is clear, cultural identity can indeed be safeguarded within architecture, even as Canggu's landscape evolves. Stepping back, we see that Bali has long embedded its cultural values into its construction practices, as regulated under Peraturan Daerah Provinsi Bali Nomor 5 Tahun 2005. This regulation encourages the use of traditional architectural elements that honor Bali's heritage, such as the use of principles of *Hulu-teben* or *Tri Hita Karana*. These principles emphasize harmony between humans, nature, and the divine, serving as a guide for the island's construction practices.

This architectural approach, enriched by rituals and ceremonies associated with construction, has been a hallmark of Balinese design for centuries. As the region embraces modernization, the importance of these ceremonial practices remains a powerful reminder that cultural identity can endure alongside architectural evolution.

In fact, when we examine Bali's local architecture, we find elements such as sloped roofs, elevated structures, and breathable walls, all thoughtfully designed to reflect the island's values and adapt to its tropical environment. These simple dwellings, constructed from natural materials (Kirk, D. M., 2015). It seamlessly blends local elements, showcasing a commitment to sustainability and cultural identity. One such example is the Balinese *Lumbung*, a traditional rice barn, which reflects both functionality and cultural symbolism in its design.

The use of traditional materials is a defining characteristic of Balinese architecture, deeply intertwined with the island's tropical environment and cultural values. Traditional rice barns are composed of a series of small structures, each serving a specific function, and are often built using locally sourced, natural materials. Wooden pillars raised on masonry bases form the primary structural elements, supporting roofs made of radiating beamwork. These roofs are traditionally covered with materials such as *alang-alang* grass thatch, bamboo, or clay tiles, and are often adorned with terracotta finials, which serve as ornamental and symbolic features.

The construction process reflects simplicity and craftsmanship, relying on basic tools such as hammers, chisels, saws, and planes. Buildings are typically assembled with minimal use of nails, showcasing the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Balinese builders. Walls are crafted from materials like brick, tuff stone, or other forms of masonry, while posts and beams bear the load of the roof, allowing for open, breathable interiors that suit the tropical climate.

Historically, *alang-alang* grass thatch, sometimes up to 45 cm (18 inches) thick, was highly durable and could last up to 50 years. However, the scarcity of high-quality *alang-alang* has led to a gradual shift toward ceramic tiled roofs, which offer greater fire resistance and durability. Despite this adaptation, the aesthetic and functional principles of traditional Balinese architecture remain deeply rooted in the island's identity, maintaining a harmonious balance between sustainability, cultural preservation, and practical needs.

The integration of nature into Balinese architecture further enhances its unique identity. Traditional structures often feature open-air layouts, large verandas, and wide windows, allowing natural light and airflow to permeate the interiors. Gardens are not merely decorative but serve as extensions of the living space, often featuring small shrines or water features that echo the sacred significance of the environment. This seamless connection between built structures and the surrounding landscape not only reflects the Balinese philosophy of *Tri Hita Karana*—harmony among humans, nature, and the divine—but also creates a serene and inviting atmosphere well-suited to the island's tropical climate. Such integration exemplifies how Balinese architecture prioritizes sustainability while preserving its cultural roots.

**THE PASISI**

M A S T E R P L A N







The Pasisi masterplan divides the area into 13 distinct kavlings, each designed to prioritize privacy, comfort, and a seamless connection to the natural environment.



# OVERVIEW THE PASISI ALL KAYLING



10A | The Pasisi 3D Render



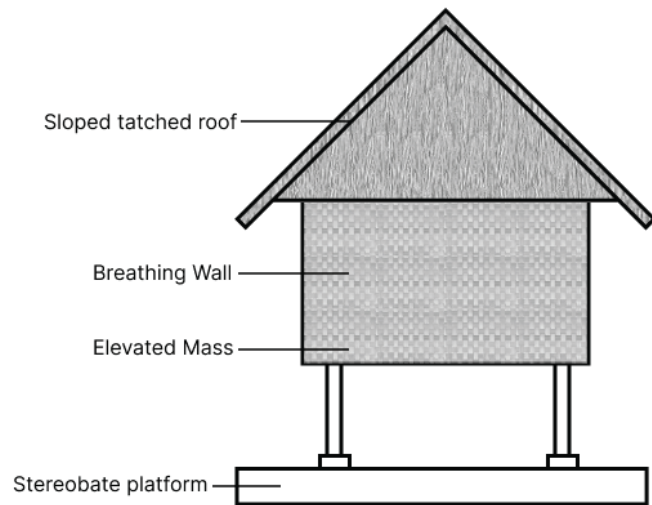
Among these, Kavling No. 8 stands out as a model of thoughtful design within the Pasisi development.



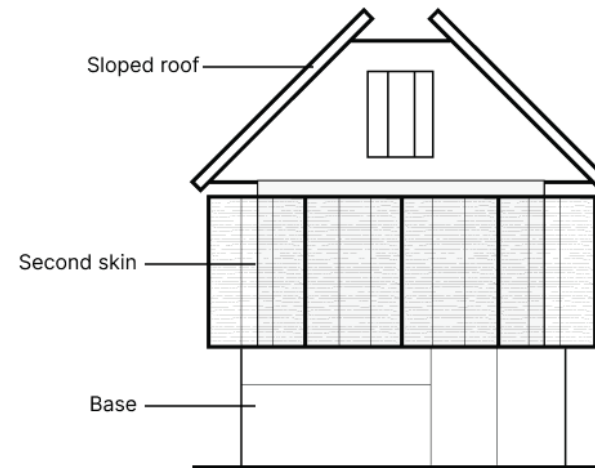
**PASISI NO. 8**

C O N C E P T

## THE BALINESE LUMBUNG PROFILE



## PASISI NO. 8 PROFILE



Pasisi No. 8 Villa is a modern architectural development that seamlessly integrates sustainability, cultural traditions, and climate-responsive design. Located in Batu Mejan, Canggu, this villa complex reflects Bali's enduring cultural resilience while addressing the demands of contemporary living. Rooted in the principles of Balinese architecture, The Pasisi draws inspiration from the traditional \*Lumbung\*, a raised rice barn with sloped roofs and breathable walls, and incorporates the Asta Kosala Kosali guideline, which dictates the orientation of non-sacred buildings toward the sea. This thoughtful combination of tradition and innovation ensures that Bali's cultural authenticity is preserved amidst the region's rapid development, while offering a modern, functional living experience.

The master plan of The Pasisi divides the site into 13 kavlings, each carefully designed to prioritize privacy, comfort, and a harmonious connection with the natural environment. Shared green spaces, communal gardens, and water features link the villas into a cohesive whole, while the strategic orientation of the buildings ensures optimal sunlight exposure and energy efficiency. Pasisi No. 8, in particular, exemplifies this thoughtful design approach, standing out for its integration of private residential areas with communal courtyards. The lush landscaping of native vegetation enhances the tranquil atmosphere and strengthens the connection to Bali's iconic rice fields, creating an environment that feels both serene and deeply rooted in the island's natural beauty.

A defining feature of The Pasisi is its use of a "Second Skin" design inspired by the traditional "Breathing Wall" of the \*Lumbung\*. This architectural element enhances passive cooling by promoting natural ventilation, regulating indoor temperatures, and reducing the need for energy-intensive systems. The elevated foundations protect against tropical rains and flooding, while high ceilings and strategically placed windows ensure cross-breezes, creating a comfortable living environment year-round. By employing local materials and skilled artisans, The Pasisi not only fosters sustainability but also preserves and celebrates traditional craftsmanship, strengthening community ties.

Through its harmonious design, The Pasisi serves as a testament to Bali's cultural and environmental resilience. It reflects the island's ability to adapt and thrive in the face of modernization while maintaining its identity as a deeply religious and mystical place. As Canggu continues to evolve under the influence of tourism and globalization, projects like The Pasisi ensure that tradition and modernity coexist, paving the way for a sustainable and culturally respectful future. By balancing private comfort with communal interaction, and modern innovation with time-honored practices, The Pasisi sets a benchmark for future developments in Bali.

**PASISI NO. 8**

3 D V I S U A L







14A | Living Room Pasisi No. 8



15A | Master Bedroom Pasisi No. 8





16A | Dining Room Pasisi No. 8

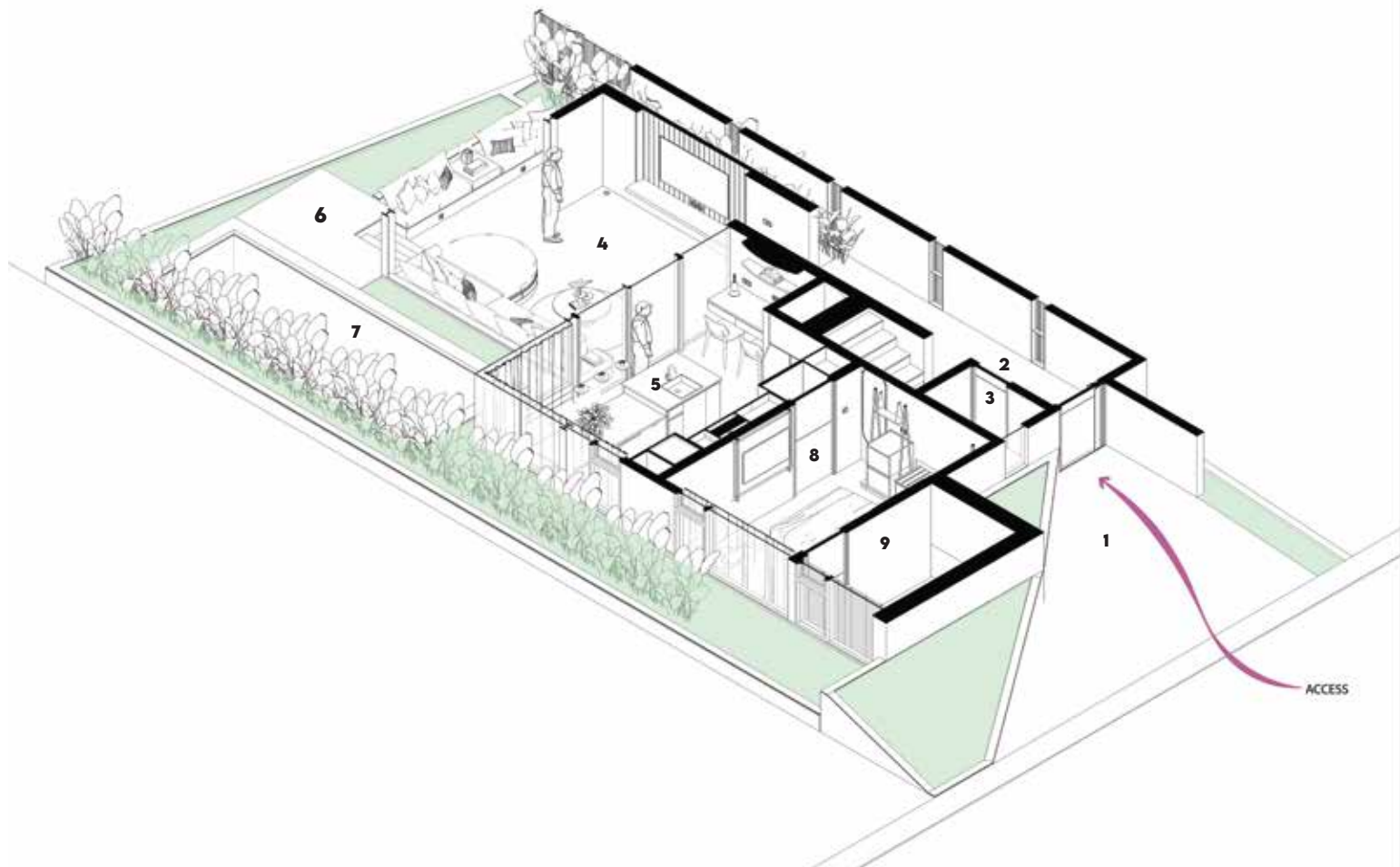


17A | Pool Pasisi No. 8

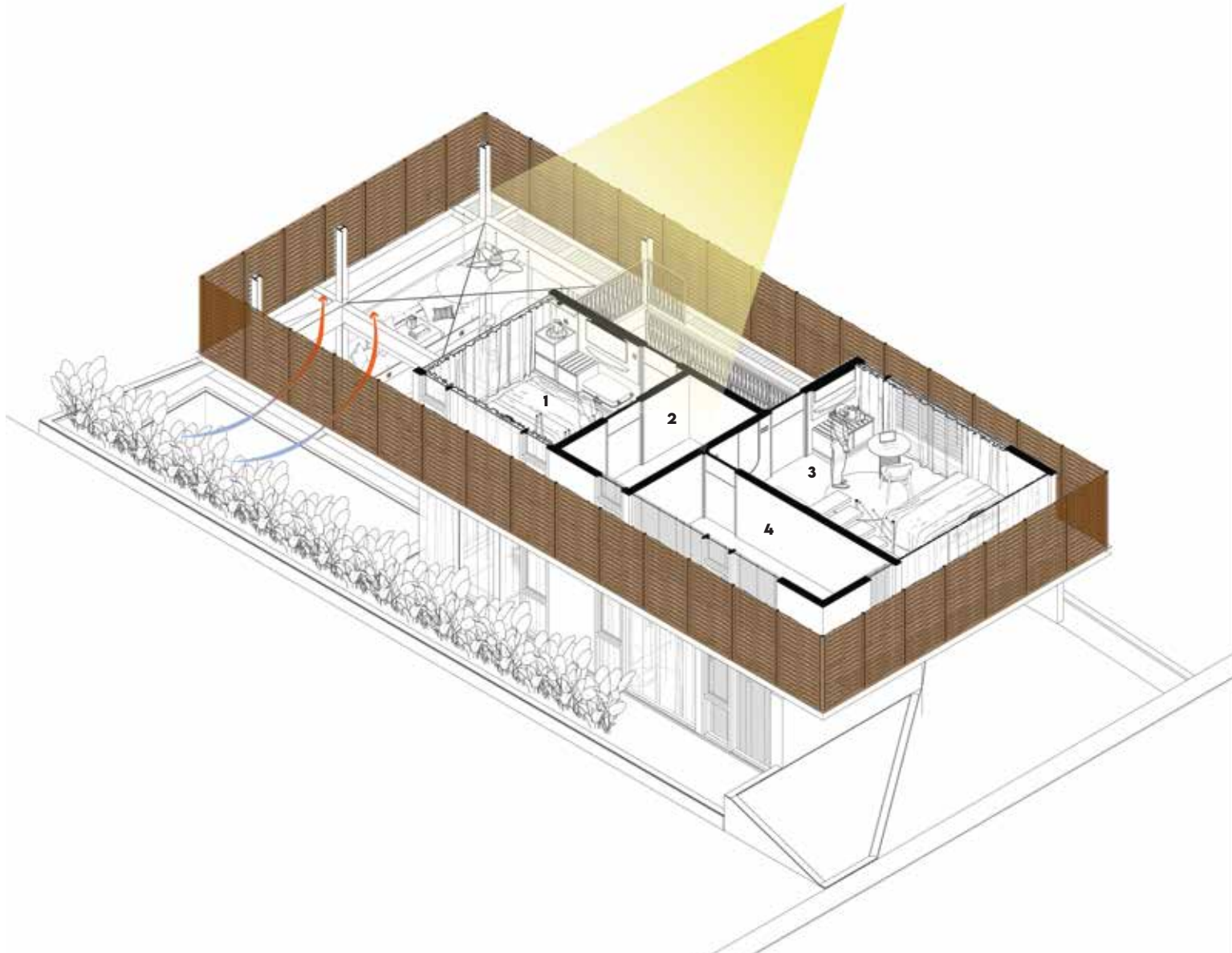
**PASISI NO. 8**

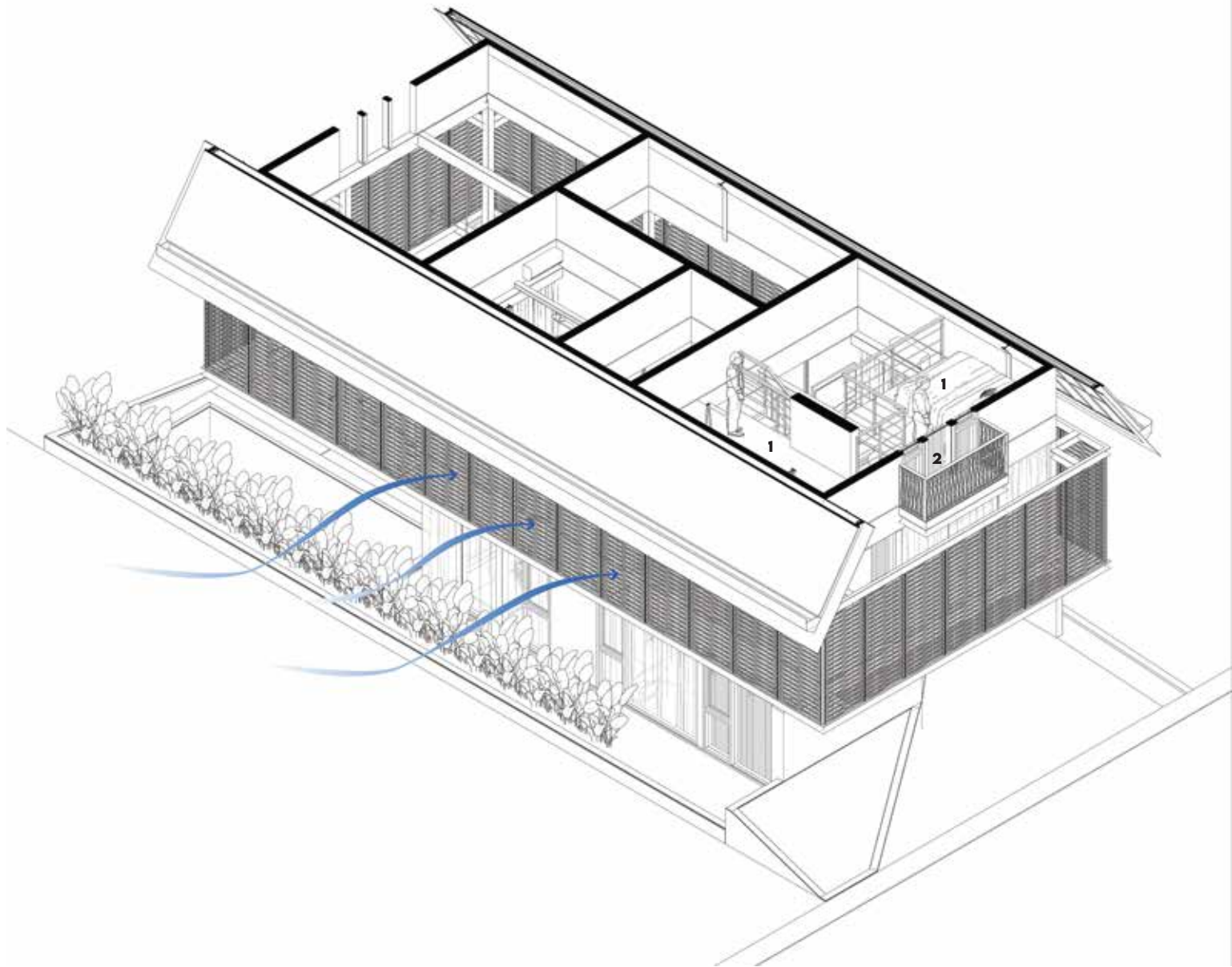
L A Y O U T

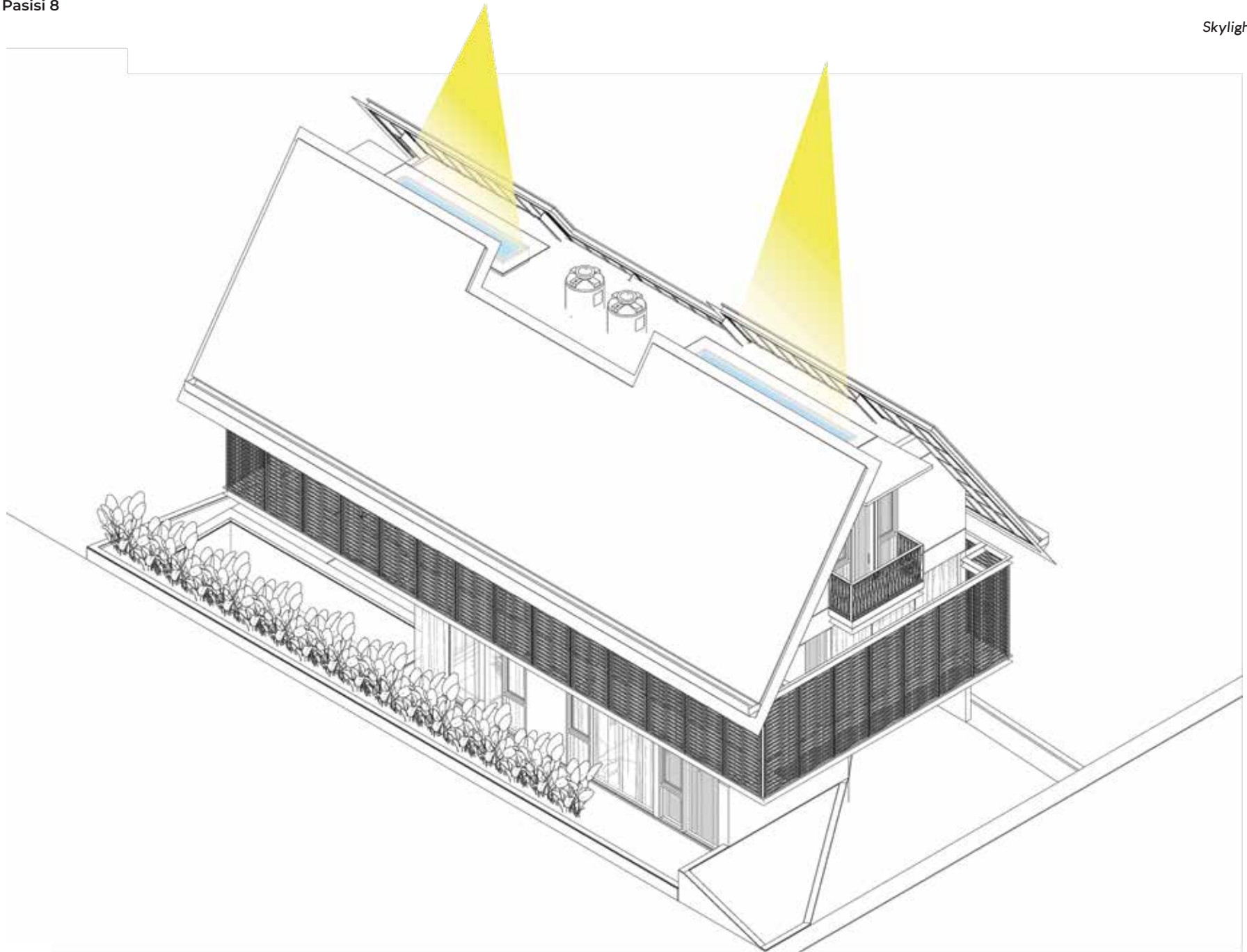
- 1. Carport
- 2. Entrance
- 3. Powder Room
- 4. Living Room
- 5. Dining Room
- 6. Pool Deck
- 7. Pool
- 8. Bedroom #1
- 9. Bathroom #1



- Upper Floor:
1. Bedroom #2
  2. Bathroom #2
  3. Bedroom #3
  4. Bathroom #3







**PASISI NO. 8**

AT INDOONESIAN ARCHITECTS WEEK KUALA LUMPUR 2024







19A | IAWKL 2024's Banner

## EXPLORING THE 'EQUATOR': CONTEXTUAL DESIGN IN TROPICAL ARCHITECTURE

Pasisi No. 8 is a villa located in Bali, Indonesia. Being situated in an equatorial region, Pasisi No. 8 faced several challenges during its design process.

One major challenge was the high rainfall. The design response included creating a pitched roof with a 55-degree slope, utilizing water-resistant materials for outdoor areas such as steel, wood, and natural stone, and providing biopores and a drainage system to prevent water pooling.

The tropical climate's heat and humidity also influenced the design. Cross-ventilation was integrated into every room, while shutters encircling the building and canopies over balconies and corridors offered protection from the sun.

Local culture significantly impacted the villa's design. The Tri Angga concept was implemented by clearly delineating the head, body, and foot of the structure. The building's orientation faces the sea, adhering to local regulations, and its height is limited to under 15 meters as required.

## SYNAESTHESIA IN DESIGN: ENHANCING SENSORY CONNECTIONS TO CONTEXT

The sensory approach in Pasisi No. 8 emphasizes functionality, drama, and aesthetics. This was achieved by leveraging natural elements, such as effects from natural lighting, the ambiance created by surrounding flora and fauna, and the dynamic impact of wind flowing through the building's gaps. These elements were designed to evoke emotions and enhance intimacy for the occupants.

Architectural details and patterns create reflective effects of light and shadows, stirring emotional responses. The combination of artificial lighting and textured materials like natural stone, wood, and woven rattan provides varied visual and tactile sensations, fostering a warm atmosphere.

An aromatic experience is also crafted through garden designs and the use of natural fragrances from plants surrounding the building. The gardens are intended to harmonize with nature, promoting a sense of peace and serenity within the spaces.



20A | Pasisi No. 8's Mockup

## **SPATIAL CONCEPTS THAT SHAPE THE DESIGN PROCESS**

The spatial concepts in Pasisi No. 8 begin with the building's orientation toward the southwest, facing the nearest sea, which aligns with the Asta Kosala Kosali principle, placing non-sacred buildings toward the sea.

The villa incorporates the idea of transitional spaces, as seen in the corridor height transitions that showcase the lounge as the main area. Hierarchical spatial design is demonstrated by making the lounge semi-outdoor, with a high ceiling surrounded by greenery.

The spatial relationships are evident in how private spaces (bedrooms) connect to communal spaces (lounge, kitchen, and corridors). To enhance spatial experiences, the villa features abundant openings to bring in natural light while maintaining comfort through shutters.

## **HARMONIZING MODERN ARCHITECTURE WITH LOCAL TRADITIONS**

Pasisi No. 8 integrates modern architecture with local traditions through several aspects. Materials such as natural stone and wood are used to showcase local essence, while steel and concrete are applied structurally. Glass walls create integration and harmony between indoor and outdoor spaces, which is essential in Balinese architecture.

Traditional woven patterns on the shutters pay homage to local culture while blending with wooden frames and steel structures, reflecting modern architectural elements.

Skylights, large windows, and transparent walls maximize natural light, while overhangs and shading devices control heat. Cross-ventilation systems maintain a cool indoor environment without excessive reliance on artificial cooling.



21A | Pasisi No. 8's Mockup

## INNOVATIVE TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL CONCEPTS ALIGNED WITH THE CURATORIAL THEME

Material selection reflects a balance between human character, spatial design, and nature, where every material embodies a character that harmonizes with its surroundings. This idea is realized through the technical and material development suited for a tropical equatorial climate.

Pasisi No. 8 showcases local craftsmanship and materials in its architecture. Wooden and bamboo shutters serve as natural harmonizing elements. Rattan ceilings, combined with wooden furniture, create warmth in architectural spaces.

For exterior elements, the use of shingle roofs paired with steel structures and heat insulators enhances thermal and acoustic performance. Parasitic stone walls minimize heat transmission indoors, offering a cooling effect and interesting textures that stimulate human senses holistically.

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DIGITAL BOOK

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