

# Rainforest Retreat

*Text by Alison Pace  
Images by Iker Zuñiga*





Serenity, seclusion and spectacular design come together in the three-bedroom Bali home of retired building professional Rod Williams and his wife Carolyn. Realised by Caceres + Tous Studio, the property overlooks jungle and river in the sleepy village of Buwit, just north of Canggu on Bali’s west coast.

The 375-square-metre modern-tropical abode sits on two adjacent plots of land. The home, which has a somewhat Brutalist feel, took two years to complete, and was intended as the last home the couple would build. Privacy, practicality and comfort were key factors in the initial brief.

‘One of the things we had to consider was ease of access, which is why the main floor plan is all on one level,’ explains Chile-born architect Nicolás Cáceres. The entrance is via a stately 12.5-metre-long colonnade, and screened by tropical foliage, the lava stone-tiled pool runs along one side, while the first guest bedroom lies behind crisp white breeze blocks on the other — a nod to the Palm Springs aesthetic the owners love so much.

Tucked away at the end of the walkway is the doorway to the main living quarters. Inside, nature and architecture come together to grand effect. Sunlight and jungle shine through a striking structural feature dubbed ‘the periscope’. Slicing a rectangular void in the facade, the segment slopes upward towards a five-metre-high glass door. Behind, a staircase leads down to the second guest bedroom. This segment brings the magnificence of the rainforest closer, but aesthetically pleasing as it is, it’s a deeply functional feature too. It connects to the lower-floor guest bedroom via stairs, and more significantly, it forms a central hallway that separates the public and private spaces, thus fulfilling the couple’s desire for their own private module.

Equally important was the request for interiors that were both beautiful to look at and low maintenance. ‘I know it’s unrealistic, but we wanted a maintenance-free home,’ says Rod. So, sleek terrazzo floors and Kerobakan stone walls provide a durable and easy to clean backdrop for the couple’s beloved collection of mid-century furnishings.

The open layout feels airy and spacious, with oversized windows bringing in abundant light. A central point between the living room and swimming pool, the kitchen and dining area is outfitted with jet-black

benchtops and custom timber furnishings. A long horizontal window frames a strip of jungle, providing a lush view from the sink.

Living spaces are kept comfortably cool thanks to centralised air conditioning, which flows out from discreet slits in the teak-panelled ceilings. Outside, the elevated terrace looks out over an expansive garden. It’s one of three terraces, with the pool deck at the rear of the house positioned to catch the afternoon sun.

Also on the main level is the light-filled main bedroom. Sliding doors open onto a private terrace, and a roomy ensuite is made to feel even more spacious with a river-view window wall. Like the rest of the home, it’s all about clean, functional forms in a space that fully embraces its tropical surrounds.

Previous page  
Overlooking a jungle and a river in the Balinese village of Buwit, this contemporary three-bedroom home was realised by local firm Caceres + Tous Studio and designed to embrace its tropical surroundings

This page  
Slicing the facade of the house, an imposing structural feature separates the public and private spaces while subtly bringing views of the landscape closer







In the living room, the low-slung built-in sofa and mid-century armchairs upholstered in muted pastel tones create a cosy seating area, while an arched Twiggy Wood floor lamp by Marc Sadler for Foscarini adds understated elegance





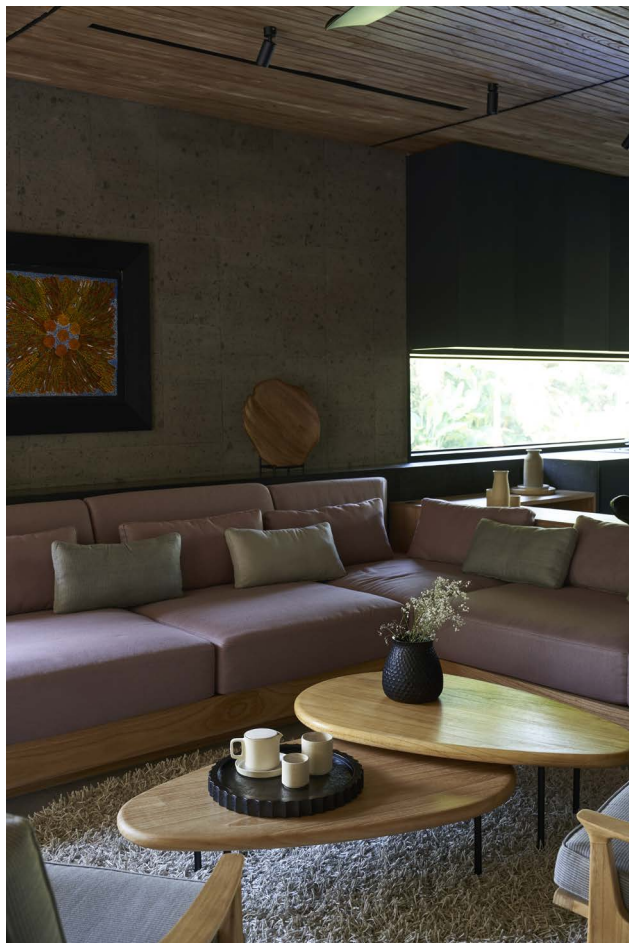
Positioned on the western side of the property, the swimming pool is connected to the kitchen via a covered terrace framed by lush greenery designed by landscape studio Florian Wild





The kitchen connects the living room with the pool and terrace. A linear pendant lamp crafted from burnt *bangkirai* wood hangs over the dining table



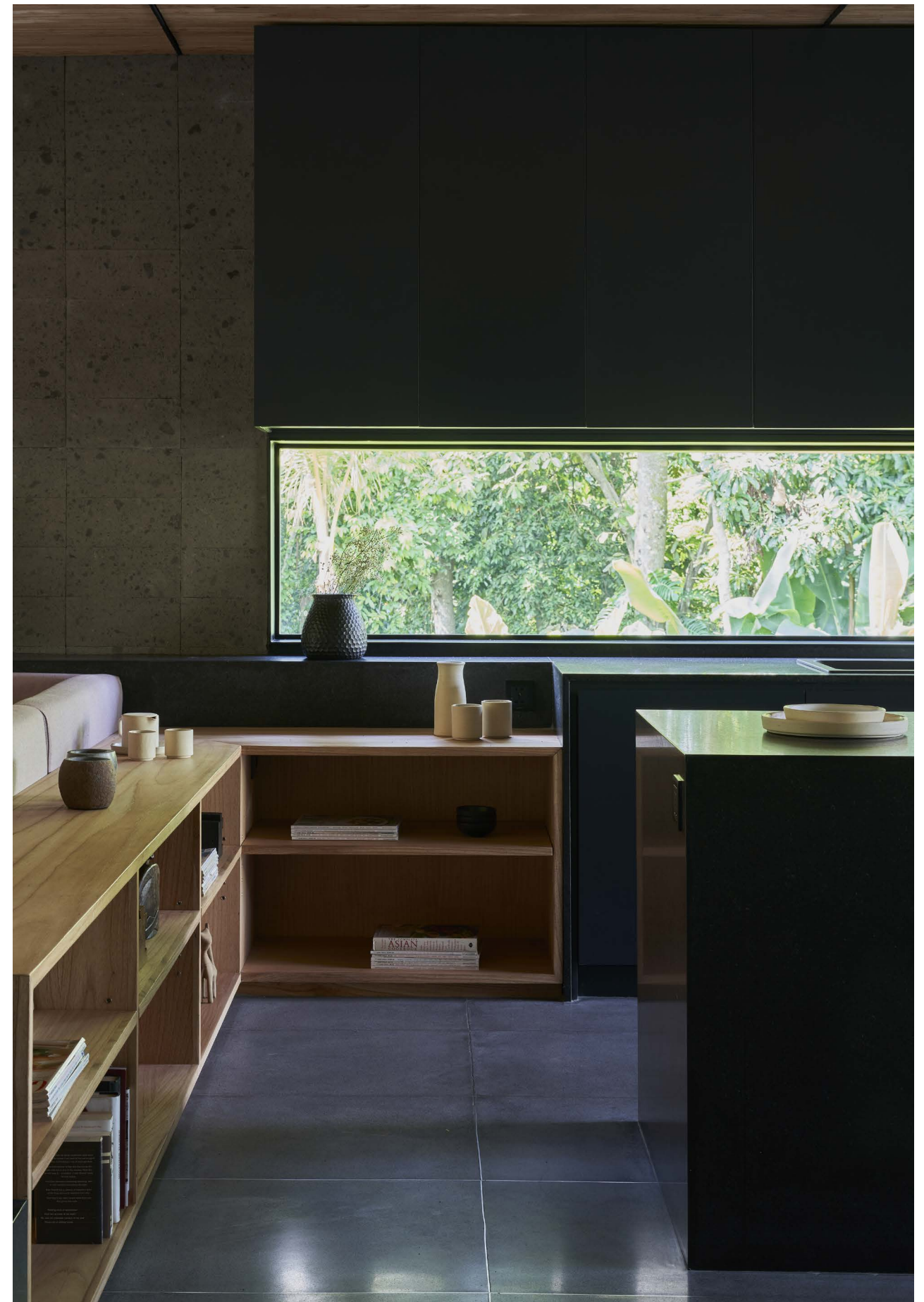


#### This page

In the living room, original mid-century coffee tables belonging to the owners were combined with the custom sofa and a textured carpet

#### Facing page

A horizontal window in the kitchen draws in views of the jungle





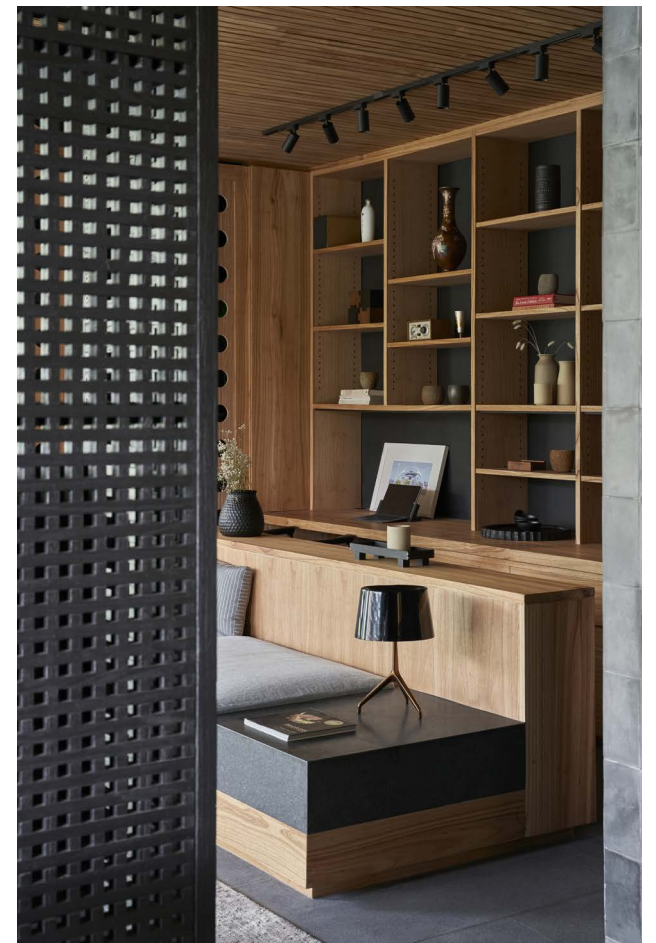


#### Facing page

Throughout the living area, warm-toned natural wood ceilings balance the dark-hued floor and handcrafted cement wall cladding

#### This page

Designed for the owners to work from home and relax in the afternoons, the studio and TV room features a delicate black wooden screen crafted by carpenters





In the main bedroom, the jungle becomes part of the interiors thanks to a wooden terrace connecting the space to the landscape, and a large window in the ensuite

