

MY BALI

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I came to Bali 18 years ago and have been working here as interior decorator ever since. Before it was difficult to find things, there wasn't much on offer, there wasn't so much temptation with the consumer society, and life was calmer. Since then I really feel the island has become a metropolis; it has changed from a rural countryside to a full blown town.

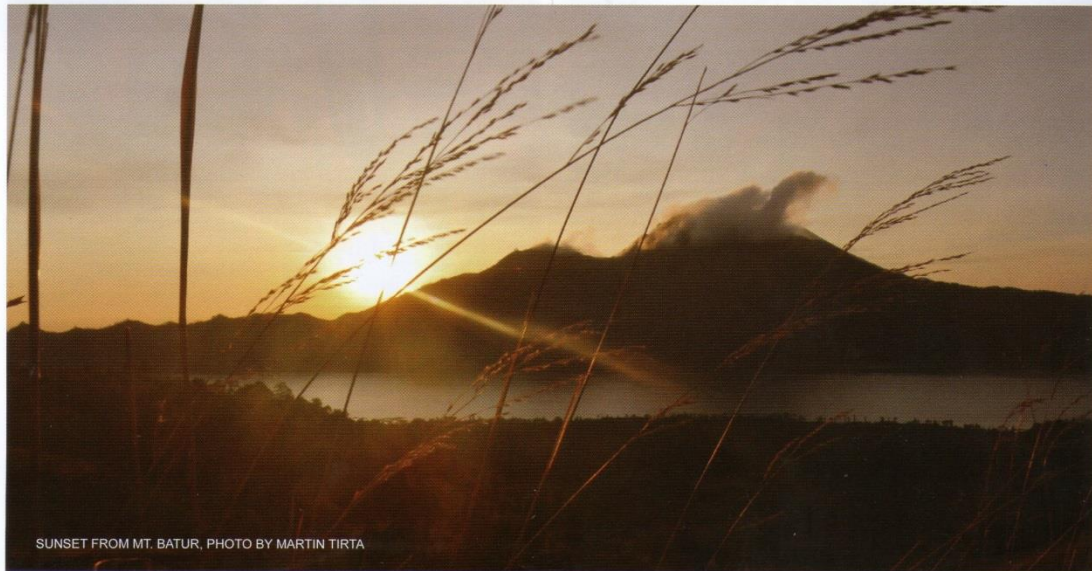
Now we are attracted by all the wonders that Bali has to offer; restaurants, luxury or high class hotels, sunset cocktails. But the change is not all negative, as what we may have lost in tranquility we have gained in ease and comfort for our lifestyle in a certain sense.

As an interior decorator I've been drawn by the colours, the culture, arts and crafts of the island and the entire archipelago. Discovering the richness of materials, atmospheres, the quality and diversity of the work and objects here has been a source of inspiration. Entwined with my Moroccan origins, it has defined my style. The sarongs and batiks really inspired me to start creating my own home linen and textiles for my own rooms in Villa Balquise and then the Shahinaz Collection, and so on (The Shaba, Baliq, Bistrot and design projects for clients).

Before work I love to take long walks on the beach early in the morning, have a massage, and enjoy the sunset. When it comes to eating out, my favourite dining spot is Mama San; I simply adore their food. I also really like to lunch at Petitenget. And of course I also love eating in my restaurants, Baliq and Bistrot.

Lastly, I would suggest to everyone who wants to make the most of their Bali experience to get lost in the countryside. You only have to drive 10 minutes out of the city to get a closer look at Balinese lifestyle in the villages, (Kampung) and take in the beautiful nature (rice fields, volcanoes). THE BEST WAY TO DO IT IS TO LOSE YOUR WAY!

Zohra Boukhari is an interior decorator and designer. **NOW!**



SUNSET FROM MT. BATUR, PHOTO BY MARTIN TIRTA