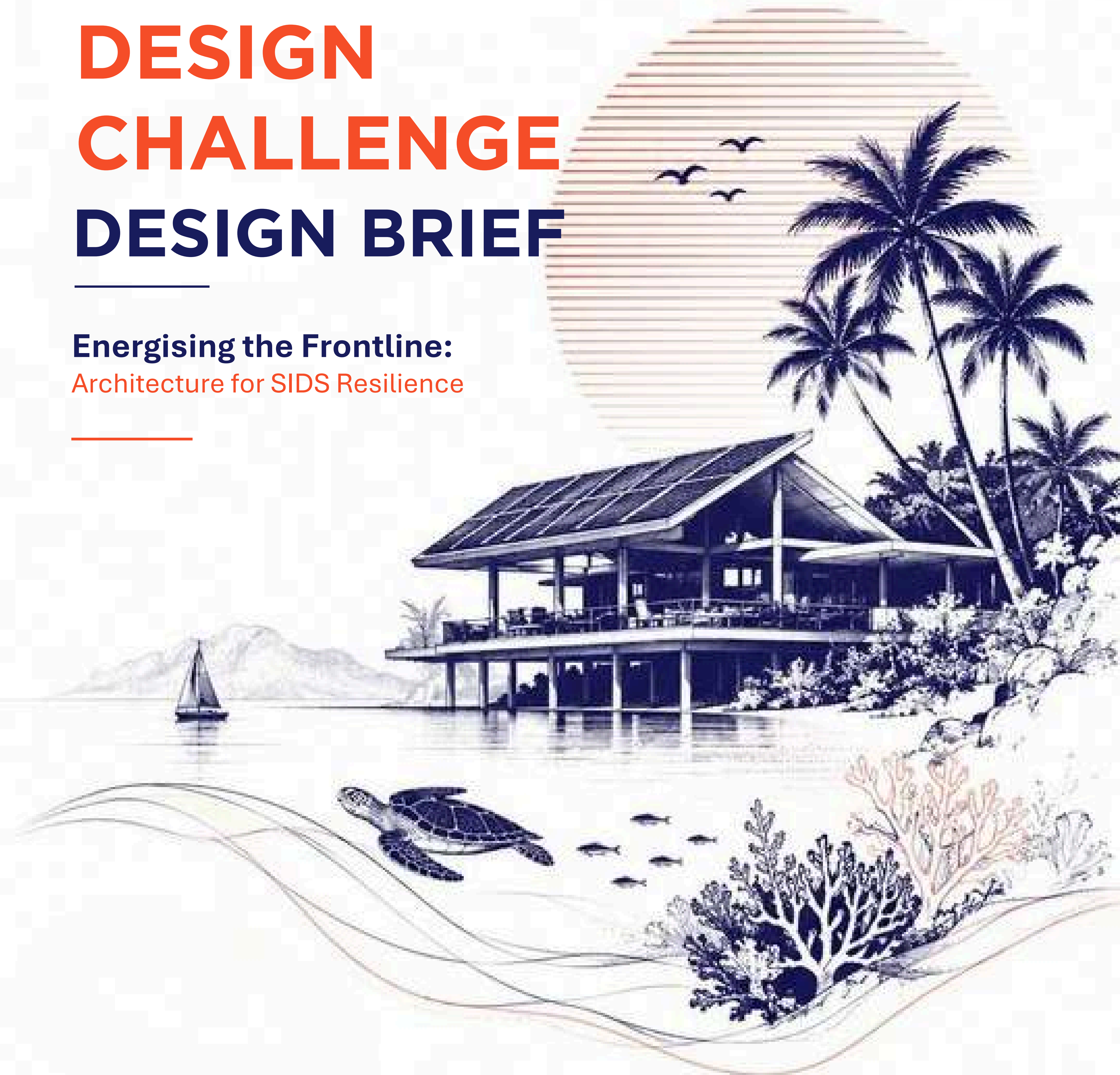


ISA-iSUN DESIGN CHALLENGE DESIGN BRIEF

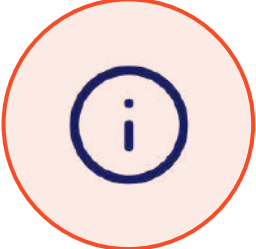
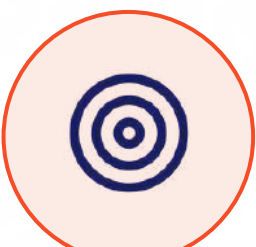
Energising the Frontline:
Architecture for SIDS Resilience



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Contents

Sl. No.	Topic	Go To Page
01	 The ISA-iSUN Design Challenge What is it?	
02	 Design Brief The Challenge	
03	 Design Aim The Objectives	
04	 Site Options Mauritius Maldives Fiji	
05	 Evaluation Parameters & Design Principles	
06	 Participation Guidelines Eligibility & Team Composition	
07	 Assessment Submission Deliverables	
08	 Submission Guidelines Requirements & Upload Process	
09	 Timeline Key Dates	
10	 Competition Governance Terms & Conditions	
11	 Recognition Awards	
12	 Frequently Asked Questions FAQs	

What is it?

The **ISA-iSUN Design Challenge** is a **global design challenge** focusing on **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** where **architecture and engineering institutes worldwide** are invited to participate in designing a **climate-resilient resort**, bringing **together architecture and solar technology**, in select SIDS nations.

This Challenge is hosted by **The International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, powered by **ISA Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF)** and the **Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)**, executed by **GRIHA Council**, with the support of **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** and the **Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)**.

SIDS are selected as the context for this design challenge because:

Solar-rich, fuel-scarce

1



SIDS rely heavily on **imported fossil fuels** for their energy needs, making them vulnerable to **rising fuel prices** and limiting energy independence. At the same time, these islands have **abundant, year-round solar energy potential**. This gap between dependence on imported fuels and abundant solar potential is the key opportunity this challenge seeks to address.

National commitments



2

Nations have set ambitious **renewable-energy targets** and **emissions-reduction commitments** under their respective **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**. A replicable, solar-embedded resort model gives this national ambition a **visible, exportable building-scale expression**.

Land is a constraint



3

As small and densely developed islands, SIDS have **limited land**, especially along the coast. This calls for **careful planning and efficient use of space** while protecting fragile coastal ecosystems. Designs should respond to the site, use land efficiently, and minimise permanent impact on the **natural environment**.

Resilience is survival



4

Cyclones, storm surges, coastal erosion and flooding make **resilience** essential to everyday life in SIDS. These islands already face significant challenges, and increasing climate risks can push survival to its limits. Infrastructure must therefore be designed to **withstand climate events**, keep essential functions and power running, and help communities **endure, recover and adapt**.

The Tourism–Climate Paradox

Tourism is amongst the largest contributors to **SIDS economies**, while also one of the most energy-intensive consumers. This makes the sector an ideal test ground where **scalable, solar-embedded, resilient design** can:

- provide thermal comfort while cutting operational costs as against conventional buildings,
- strengthen the destination's climate credentials, and
- generate a template other SIDS can adopt

The Challenge

“ Design a **scalable, modular, solar-embedded resort** tailored to the geographic, climatic and infrastructural constraints of the selected SIDS context, enabling **renewable-energy integration** and **enhancing energy self-sufficiency**, while treating the coastal site as a **scarce, sensitive and vulnerable** landscape.

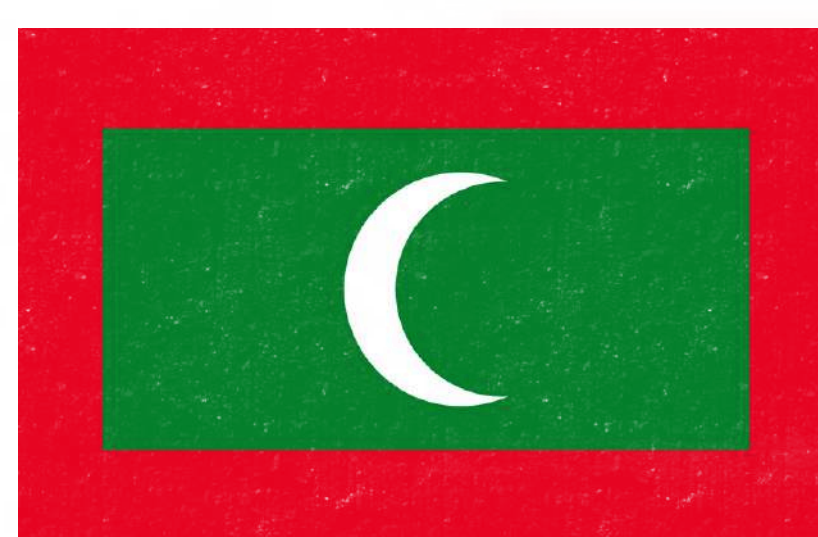
Three SIDS nations have been selected, with sites across these nations forming the contexts for the competition.

SITE
OPTION **01**



MAURITIUS

SITE
OPTION **02**



MALDIVES

SITE
OPTION **03**



FIJI

Institutions may make their submissions for one or more of the SIDS site options. (Refer to Participation Guidelines)

The **overarching design ask is common across all three**; just the site-specific premise, client and spatial requirements differ per option. The site-specific design briefs for each of the three options are provided on the following pages.

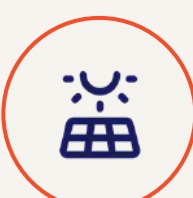
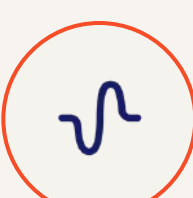
The Objectives

PRIMARY AIM

Enabling Readiness through Solar Embedded Architecture

A winning proposal should go beyond simply adding solar panels to a resort. It should **integrate architecture and energy systems** as one cohesive design approach, creating a solution that can be **adapted, scaled and replicated across SIDS** with varying island sizes, contexts and budgets.

SUPPORTING OBJECTIVES

	Scalable	<i>Works across resort sizes, densities and budgets, from boutique to large-scale.</i>
	Replicable	<i>Modular and affordable to repeat; built with locally available skills and supply chains, not a bespoke one-off.</i>
	Solar-embedded, not solar-added	<i>Move beyond rooftop retrofits to Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPVs), solar tiles, solar shading and facade-integrated PV that generate power while serving an architectural purpose, paired with battery storage.</i>
	Passive-first	<i>Orientation, form, shading, natural ventilation and daylighting tuned to a hot, humid, high-sun, trade-wind climate to cut cooling and lighting loads before any generation is counted.</i>
	Resilient	<i>Withstands cyclones, storm surge, flooding and marine erosion; keeps core functions and power running through an event and recovers quickly.</i>
	Locally sourced	<i>Local, low-embodied-carbon materials over imported ones; promote resource-efficiency.</i>
	Capacity-building	<i>A live-site learning experience with knowledge transfer so professionals and communities can design, operate and maintain the solution.</i>

Site Options

SITE OPTION **01**



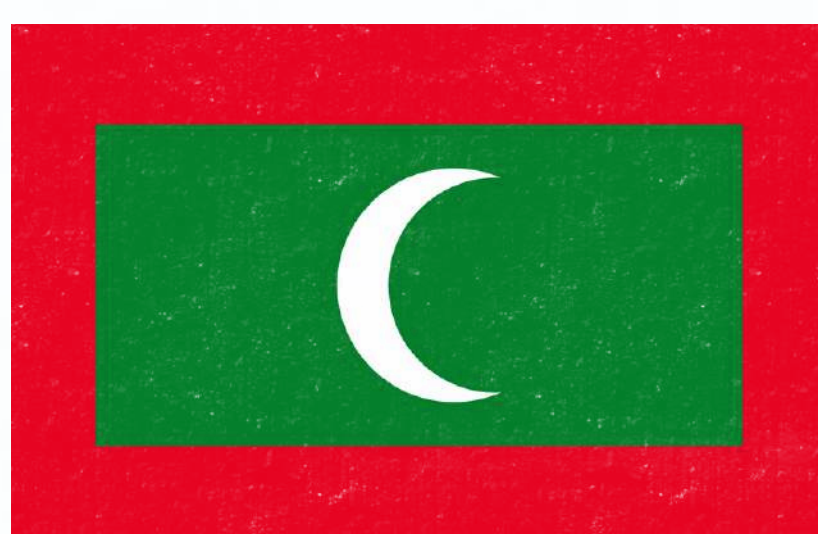
MAURITIUS

Heritage Awali Golf & Spa Resort

Theme: Existing Footprint Transformation

Key Challenge: How can the **existing footprint be transformed** into a more sustainable, resilient and future-ready destination through **solar integration and the reuse of existing materials**, while respecting its history, identity and natural context?

SITE OPTION **02**



MALDIVES

The Solivai Resort

Theme: Coastal Resilience

Key Challenge: How can an ultra-luxury resort on a **low-lying atoll coastline** protect a **fragile lagoon ecosystem** and **build resilience to sea-level rise and coastal erosion**, while using **solar energy and climate-responsive design** to elevate comfort and guest experience?

SITE OPTION **03**



FIJI

Bamboo Mountain Eco-Resort

Theme: Off-grid Resource Self-Sufficiency

Key Challenge: How can an **off-grid resort**, built around **solar energy, water and waste self-sufficiency**, provide comfort, resilience and experiences while operating within the ecological limits of a **remote island environment** shaped by **steep natural contours**?



About the Property:



Heritage Awali is a **5-star resort** operated by **ER Hospitality**, the hospitality arm of ER Group, one of Mauritius’ leading diversified conglomerates. ER Group, formed in 2025 through the combination of the ENL and Rogers groups, operates across seven business segments and, through ER Hospitality, manages eight hotels in Mauritius under the Heritage, Veranda and Voilà brands.

The hotel, a **5-star all-inclusive beach resort**, is located on the **south-west coast of Mauritius in Bel Ombre**. It sits within the **2,500-hectare Bel Ombre Estate**, surrounded by tropical vegetation, mountains, nature and the Indian Ocean.

The resort has a distinctive African-inspired design, with warm earth tones, natural materials and thatched-roof elements, reflecting Mauritius' African cultural influences. The atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming rather than overly formal, making it particularly suitable for families, couples and groups.

Heritage Awali lies within the transition zone of the **UNESCO-designated Black River Gorges–Bel Ombre Man and Biosphere Reserve**, and the wider Bel Ombre destination is recognised among Green Destinations' Top 100 Sustainable Tourism Stories. The resort has been Green Key certified since 2017. Its sustainability programme, aligned with the group's Now for Tomorrow framework, is structured around five impact zones addressing climate and social outcomes, including shoreline studies, breakwaters and coral reef restoration.

As a beachfront resort, Heritage Awali is particularly exposed to sea-level rise and coastal erosion, making coastal resilience a defining constraint of any proposal. **A major transformation programme is scheduled for 2030, with a feasibility phase beginning in 2027.**

Note: The design proposal may be a complete redevelopment, demolishing all existing structures, or a retention-led approach that preserves and works with them. Both strategies are accepted, and neither is preferred over the other.

PROJECT PARTICULARS

Client	ER Hospitality
Project	Heritage Awali Golf & Spa Resort
Typology	Hospitality
Category	5-star Heritage Beach Resort
Location	Bel Ombre, Mauritius
Site Area	75,085.39 sqm (7.51 ha)

The Design Challenge

The Heritage Awali has undergone various renovations, where the principal refurbishment and enhancement milestones include:

- **2013** - Guest Rooms: Refurbishment of the guest rooms.
- **2014** - Public Areas: Enhancement and refurbishment of public areas.
- **2017** - Public Areas and Coastal Protection: Public-area enhancements, a lagoon beach-protection system.
- **2020** - Beach Protection and renovation of 21 Guest Rooms.
- **2025** - Major Refurbishment Programme: Renovation of 120 guest rooms and renovation of the spa.

What’s Next?

- **Looking Towards 2030: From Renovation to Sustainable Transformation**

Unlike previous targeted refurbishments, sustainability is to play a central role in defining the scope for this renovation. Entrants should move beyond conventional refurbishment to make the property more resilient, resource-efficient and environmentally responsive, while preserving its identity and relationship with its setting.

Key Challenge:

How can the **existing footprint be transformed** into a more sustainable, resilient and future-ready destination through **solar integration and the reuse of existing materials**, while respecting its history, identity and natural context?

KEY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

 Site Planning	<i>responding to the site's gradient from the beachfront up to the road frontage, integrating existing pathways and vegetation while ensuring accessible vertical circulation across the slope.</i>
 Building Fabric	<i>improving thermal performance while retaining the African-inspired architectural character.</i>
 Energy Management	<i>reducing demand and integrating solar energy, building on existing solar investments.</i>
 Infrastructure and Services	<i>modernising building systems and back-of-house infrastructure.</i>
 Coastal Resilience	<i>as a beachfront resort exposed to sea-level rise and erosion, responding to shoreline protection, breakwaters and coral reef restoration.</i>
 Landscape and Biodiversity	<i>strengthening the relationship with the surrounding Bel Ombre landscape and biosphere reserve.</i>
 Operational Efficiency	<i>managing water and waste, and engaging low-impact operational practices.</i>
 Guest Experience	<i>enhancing comfort, wellness and connection to nature without compromising the relaxed, all-inclusive experience.</i>

Spatial Requirements

Component	Requirement / Notes
Accommodation	
Guest rooms	140 keys total, to be retained and upgraded, or reprovided
Accommodation blocks	7 low-rise blocks (13-28 rooms each)
Beach villa	1 standalone premium beachfront unit
Room typologies	Family, couple and group configurations
Dining and Food & Beverage	
Restaurants	Several outlets serving Mauritian and international cuisine
Bars / lounges	Supporting the premium all-inclusive experience
Back-of-house kitchens	Central and satellite kitchens, service and storage
Wellness and Spa	
Heritage Wellness & Spa	3,000 sqm
Treatment rooms	Multiple treatment suites
Hydrothermal facilities	Hammams, sauna, vitality and chill pools
Swimming Pools and Leisure	
Swimming pools	Several pools, including an adults-only pool
Beachfront / lagoon	White-sand beach and turquoise lagoon frontage
Water-sports facilities	Kayaking, snorkelling, windsurfing, glass-bottom boat
Family and Children's Facilities	
Baby Club	For ages 0-3 years
Children's activity areas	Family-friendly play and activity facilities

Spatial Requirements (Contd.)

Component	Requirement / Notes
Golf and Outdoor Recreation	
Golf access	Heritage Golf Club
Nature and outdoor	Access to Bel Ombre landscape and nature reserve
Public Areas and Support Infrastructure	
Reception / public spaces	Lobby, circulation and shared guest areas
Coastal protection works	Breakwaters and lagoon beach-protection system
Renewable energy	Solar power infrastructure
Building systems / MEP	Water, energy, waste and back-of-house services
Landscape / biodiversity	Tropical planting integrated with biosphere zone

Mauritius

Heritage Awali Golf & Spa Resort

ABOUT THE SITE



Heritage Awali Golf & Spa Resort

Note: Conceptual rendered image for presentation purpose only. The AutoCAD file is available on the website for download.

About the Property:

The Solivai Resort is envisioned as an **ultra-luxury, next-generation lifestyle resort** set within a pristine coastal landscape of the Maldives. Conceived as a model for regenerative and climate-responsive hospitality, the resort demonstrates how architecture, landscape, solar energy, water systems and guest experience can be seamlessly integrated from the earliest stages of planning.

Located on a **2.90 hectare coastal island in the Maldives**, the property provides a beachfront view towards the Indian Ocean. The site is imagined as a relatively secluded coastal retreat, offering privacy while maintaining direct visual and physical connections to the sea.

The property is characterised by a tropical coastal landscape, with **mature trees, dense vegetation, open grassed areas and naturally occurring vegetation**. Existing vegetation should be retained wherever feasible, with the masterplan working around significant vegetation and natural landscape features rather than clearing the site.

The beachfront property transitions into a wider coastal landscape, creating opportunities for relaxation areas, beach activities, outdoor dining and intimate guest experiences. The relationship between the built environment, landscape and shoreline should be carefully considered to preserve the natural character of the coastal setting.

The property should be conceived not simply as a collection of buildings, but as a living coastal ecosystem, where architecture and natural systems work together to create a resilient and immersive hospitality experience.

PROJECT PARTICULARS

Client	Thila Hospitality Group
Project	The Solivai Resort
Typology	Hospitality
Category	Ultra-Luxury Lifestyle Beach Resort
Location	Maldives
Site Area	29,029.87 sqm (2.90 ha)

The Design Challenge

Design a next-generation ultra-luxury lifestyle resort in the Maldives that seamlessly integrates renewable energy, with a particular emphasis on solar technologies, into its architecture, landscape and infrastructure from the earliest stages of planning and design.

The design should demonstrate how an ultra-luxury hospitality destination can be climate-responsive, resource-efficient, resilient and deeply connected to its tropical coastal setting. Participants are encouraged to integrate passive environmental strategies with solar-energy systems, alongside innovative approaches to water management, biodiversity, landscape and low-impact mobility.

Key Challenge:

How can an ultra-luxury resort on a **low-lying atoll coastline** protect a **fragile lagoon ecosystem** and **build resilience to sea-level rise and coastal erosion**, while using **solar energy and climate-responsive design** to elevate comfort and guest experience?

KEY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS



Site Planning

a low-density villa masterplan responding to coastal topography, existing vegetation and ocean views while minimising site disturbance.



Building Fabric

maximising natural ventilation, daylight and thermal comfort, expressed through Maldivian materials and craftsmanship.



Energy Management

integrating solar generation and storage into the architecture and landscape without compromising the ultra-luxury character.



Coastal Resilience

responding to sea-level rise, erosion, storms and salt exposure along the coastal frontage.



Landscape and Biodiversity

retaining native vegetation and mature trees, protecting the fragile tropical ecosystem rather than clearing the site.



Operational Efficiency

rainwater harvesting, wastewater reuse, natural drainage, waste management and low-impact mobility.



Luxury & Guest Experience

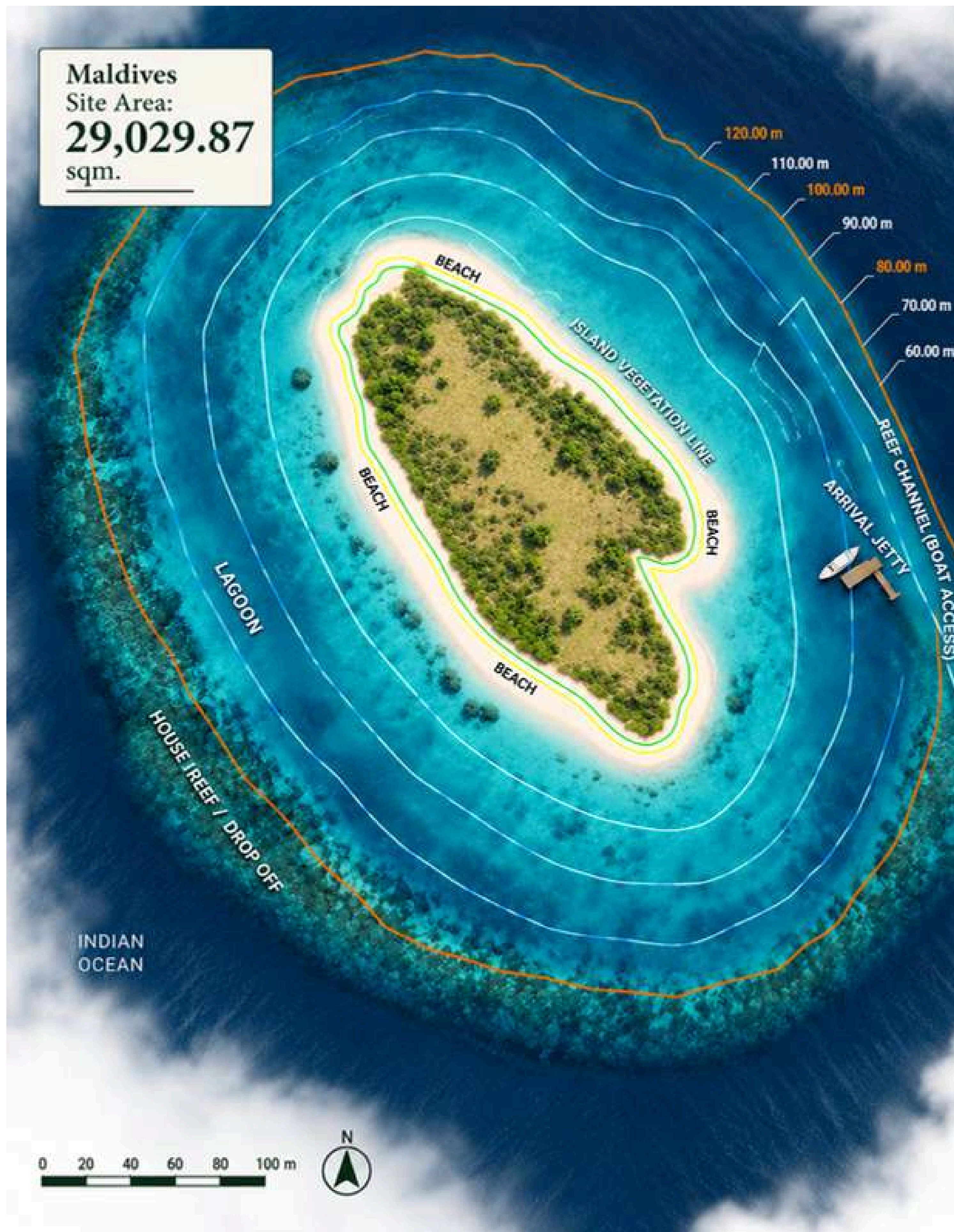
enhancing wellness, comfort, privacy and connection to nature without compromising environmental performance.

Spatial Requirements

Component	Requirement / Notes
Accommodation	
Total keys	16 villas (low-density, villa-only, no multi-key blocks)
Overwater villas	4 units (1-bedroom, private plunge pool and direct lagoon access)
Beachfront pool villas	6 units (2-bedroom, private pool, direct beach frontage)
Garden villas	4 units (1-bedroom, garden-view positioning)
Family villas	2 units (2-3 bedroom, connecting configuration)
Dining and Food & Beverage	
Signature restaurant	Several outlets serving Maldivian cuisine
Bars / lounges	Supporting the premium all-inclusive experience
Back-of-house kitchens	Central and satellite kitchens, service and storage
Wellness and Spa	
Spa	Treatment villas/pavilions
Wellness facilities	Yoga pavilion, meditation deck, steam/sauna, cold plunge
Fitness centre	Open-air or semi-enclosed gym with ocean outlook
Family and Children's Facilities	
Baby Club	For ages 0-3 years
Children's activity areas	Family-friendly play and activity facilities

Spatial Requirements (Contd.)

Component	Requirement / Notes
Recreation and Experience	
Arrival experience	Private jetty / seaplane dock and welcome pavilion
Event / wedding lawn	Small flexible outdoor function space (40–60 pax)
Nature trails	Pathways integrated with native coastal vegetation
Public Areas and Support Infrastructure	
Reception / arrival lounge	Compact, low-footprint lobby, villa-based check-in
Back-of-house / staff facilities	Kitchens, laundry, staff housing, storage (screened from guest areas)
Renewable energy	Solar array, battery storage, high renewable-offset target
Building systems / MEP	Water, energy, waste and back-of-house services
Landscape / biodiversity	Native Maldivian coastal planting, mangrove/reef buffer retention



The Solivai Resort

Note: Conceptual rendered image for presentation purpose only. The AutoCAD file is available on the website for download.

Bamboo Mountain Eco-Resort



About the Project:

Nomadic Escapes, the developer, is building a new model of experiential hospitality centred on **off-grid eco resorts** articulated around land regeneration, personal wellbeing and adventure sports. It has multiple properties across various locations, and each destination is intentionally selected for its extraordinary natural beauty and unique guest experiences. Nomadic Escapes is building their **first camp Bamboo Mountain Eco-Resort** at the inland hills above **Coral Coast, Viti Levu, Fiji**, spread over a **site area of 1.27 hectares**. They want to develop a renewable energy infrastructure that can be replicated and adapted to future developments on other Pacific Islands.

With 20 years of experience developing eco-resorts, safari lodges and wellness retreats for leading hospitality brands, Nomadic Escapes has a proven track record backed by elite global accolades. They specialise in lightweight, modular structures particularly using tensile membrane and bamboo architecture. They need a rapidly deployable, scalable, solar energy system that can be discreetly integrated into their designs to provide reliable, year-round clean energy in off-grid locations.

PROJECT PARTICULARS

Client	Nomadic Escapes
Project	Bamboo Mountain Eco-Resort
Typology	Hospitality
Category	Off-Grid Hiking Resort
Location	Inland hills above Coral Coast, Viti Levu, Fiji
Site Area	12,655.93 sqm (1.27 ha)

Bamboo Mountain Eco-Resort

The Design Challenge

Design an **off-grid hiking lodge style resort** that demonstrates how a hospitality destination can function with minimal dependence on external infrastructure.

The proposal should integrate solar energy, water management, waste reduction, passive environmental strategies, and low-impact construction from the earliest stages of planning and design. The design should respond sensitively to the island's forested hillside environment, minimising disturbance to existing tree cover and habitat while creating an immersive experience for hikers and visitors. The project should demonstrate how architecture can become part of the landscape rather than dominate it.

Key Challenge:

How can an **off-grid resort**, built around **solar energy, water and waste self-sufficiency**, provide comfort, resilience and experiences while operating within the ecological limits of a **remote island environment shaped by steep natural contours**?

KEY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS



Site Planning

a compact footprint that works with the island's natural contours and minimises disturbance to the surrounding forest cover.



Building Fabric

lightweight bamboo and tensile membrane structures, prefabricated for rapid assembly and replication at future off-grid sites.



Energy Management

off-grid solar generation and storage sized to meet year-round demand without a grid connection or diesel backup.



Operational Efficiency

low-maintenance, locally sourced systems suited to remote access, with closed-loop water reuse and on-site waste reduction and processing.



Landscape and Biodiversity

operating within the ecological limits of the site, with rewilding, conservation and regenerative planting to restore habitat.



Guest Experience

Comfort, wellness and immersive hiking experiences, with on-site food production and self-sufficiency integrated into the guest experience.

Bamboo Mountain Eco-Resort

Spatial Requirements

Component	Requirement / Notes
Accommodation	
Total keys	24 Tented eco-rooms & 1 Owl House
Type 1 (Leaf Suites)	8 units (65 sqm each)
Type 2 (Urchin)	6 units (18 sqm each)
Type 3 (Loopers)	10 units (43 sqm each)
Owl House	1 building comprising a 5-bedroom private villa, reception, kitchen & restaurant
Dining and Food & Beverage	
Signature restaurant	Several outlets serving Fijian cuisine
Bars / lounges	Supporting the premium all-inclusive experience
Back-of-house kitchens	Central and satellite kitchens, service and storage
Wellness and Spa	
Spa	18 sqm spa lounge
Treatment pavilions	3 naturally ventilated treatment pavilions, 12 sqm each
Sauna	1 wood fired sauna
Yoga and meditation	1 yoga and meditation deck
Swimming Pool	1 unheated plunge pool of approximately 18 sqm with pump and filtration system

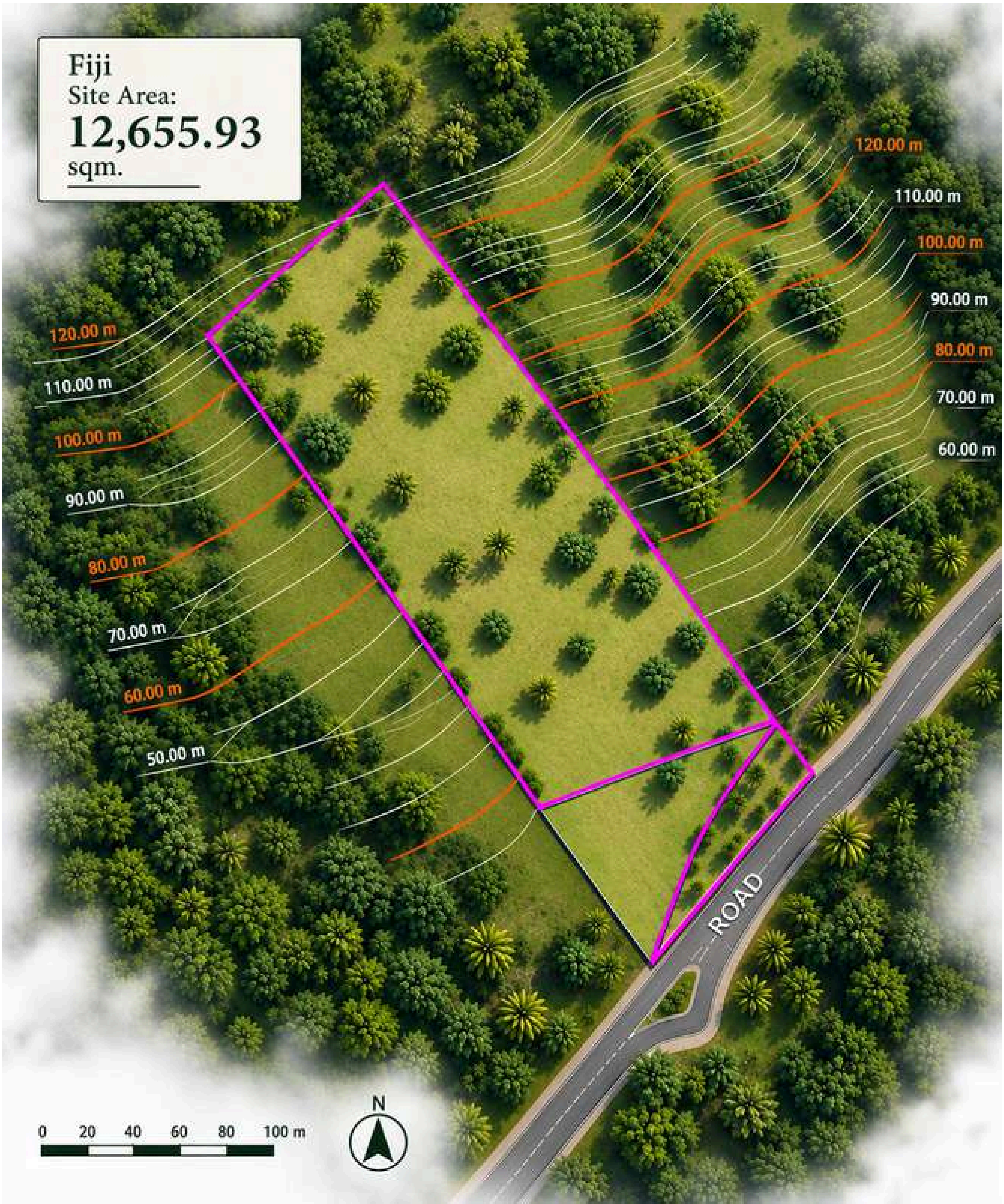
Bamboo Mountain Eco-Resort

Spatial Requirements (Contd.)

Component	Requirement / Notes
Recreation and Experience	
Arrival experience	Welcome pavilion
Hiking gear & equipment room	Dedicated storage and preparation space for hiking equipment, outdoor gear, footwear, and essential trail accessories, with facilities for cleaning, drying, and maintaining equipment
Public Areas and Support Infrastructure	
Reception / arrival lounge	Welcoming arrival space with check-in
Back-of-house / staff facilities	Essential staff accommodation, service areas, storage, kitchen support, and operational spaces for self-sufficient lodge operations
Renewable energy	Solar array, battery storage, high renewable-offset target
Building systems / MEP	Water, energy, waste and back-of-house services
Landscape / biodiversity	Native planting and habitat restoration

Bamboo Mountain Eco-Resort

ABOUT THE SITE



Bamboo Mountain Eco-Resort

Note: Conceptual rendered image for presentation purpose only. The AutoCAD file is available on the website for download.

Parameters & Design Principles

Planning, Passive Design & Climate Response

Orientation, zoning, circulation, form and shading to local sun and wind; ventilation and daylighting that cut loads; thermal mass and envelope for a hot, humid island.



25%

Solar Integration & Energy Performance

BIPV over rooftop retrofits; solar tiles and shading doing a second job; battery storage; generation, self-sufficiency and reliable supply.



20%

Scalability & Replicability for SIDS

Works across islands of different sizes and budgets; modular, documented, affordable to repeat; local skills and supply chains.



15%

Disaster Resilience

Withstands cyclones, storm surge, flooding and seismic risk; keeps power running through an event; fails safe and recovers quickly.



13%

Sustainability & Environmental Impact

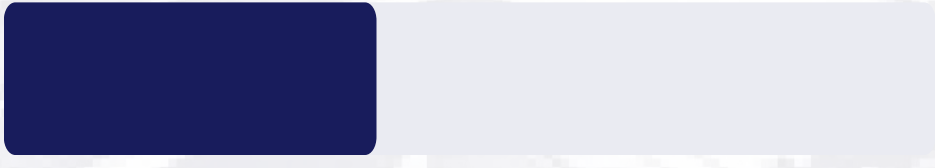
Treats land as a scarce constraint; manages waste; harvests rainwater; local, low-embodied-carbon materials.



12%

Adherence to SIDS Policy Frameworks

Supports NDCs and code commitments; eligible for finance and incentive routes; reduces permitting friction.



10%

Community, Inclusion, Livelihoods & Innovation

Community and livelihood integration; social inclusion; genuine design innovation.



5%

Eligibility & Team Composition

- ▶ The ISA-iSUN Design Challenge is open **exclusively to accredited architecture and engineering institutions worldwide**, including universities, colleges, schools of architecture and other recognised academic institutions offering relevant programmes.
- ▶ There is **No Registration Fee** to participate in this competition.
- ▶ **Registration is at the institutional level.** Each participating institution shall register using its official institutional name, institutional email address(es), and country of the institution. Each registration will be assigned an Institution Code upon completion of the process.
- ▶ Institutions may make their submissions for one or more of the SIDS site options.
- ▶ Each team shall comprise:
 - **2-8 Students** enrolled in the participating academic institution.
 - **At least 1, and at most 2, faculty member(s)** from the institution (mandatory).

Each team may include at least one practising architect registered with the country's recognised architecture council. This requirement may be met by either:

- a **faculty member** who is also a practising registered architect; or
- an **external advisory** architect.

Optional Advisory Experts

- Practising registered architect (if not already included above),
- Solar industry professionals with relevant expertise.

Note: An association/endorsement letter must be submitted from each advisory expert listed above in the Phase 2 submission, if shortlisted in Phase 1. Advisory experts are not required for Phase 1.

Submission Requirements

The challenge runs in two phases.

Phase 1 is a concept submission open to all. Phase 2 develops the design further and is only for teams shortlisted from Phase 1.

Phase 1 tests the idea and its logic. Phase 2 tests whether it resolves.

Finalists from Phase 2 present printed sheets and a physical model at the Award Ceremony.

PHASE 1

Preliminary concept submitted via the Participant Panel, evaluated anonymously by Jury 1.

PHASE 2

Detailed and refined submission by shortlisted teams, , with supporting analyses, evaluated anonymously by Jury 2.

PHASE 1 submissions should cover the following content:

- ✓ Design concept and architectural drawings including site plans, plans, elevations, sections
- ✓ Passive & active low-impact design strategies
- ✓ Solar energy strategy including BIPV approach, indicative generation and storage
- ✓ Replicability and scalability logic for the solar module system
- ✓ Views, perspectives & additional visuals

PHASE 2 submissions should cover the following content:

- ✓ Detailed architectural drawings including site plans, plans, elevations, sections
- ✓ Detailed documentation of passive and active low-impact design strategies with analysis
- ✓ Energy performance analysis comprising generation, demand, self-sufficiency and storage
- ✓ Resilience detailing for cyclones, storm surge, flooding, seismic risk and marine erosion
- ✓ Materials strategy including local, low-embodied-carbon
- ✓ A walkthrough video of the interior and exterior spaces
- ✓ Life-Cycle Assessment – LCA (bonus)
- ✓ Cost estimation (bonus)

Note: Teams may submit any additional supporting documents that may help explain the submission better.

Submission Format

Design submission proposal to be submitted as per the following guidelines:



Phase 1:

- 4 × A1 Landscape Sheets (841 × 594 mm each)
- AutoCAD drawings
- Duly signed and stamped declaration forms of competition terms & conditions (for each site).



Phase 2:

- Design Presentation (maximum 40 slides)
- AutoCAD drawings
- 1 × Walkthrough Video of 60–90 seconds, MP4 format, showcasing the key interior and exterior spaces and demonstrating the relationship between architecture, landscape and environmental systems.
- Duly signed and stamped association / endorsement letter from each advisory expert.



Final Shortlisted Entries (Award Ceremony):

- Printouts 2 × A0 Landscape Sheets (1189 mm × 841 mm)
- Physical model of the proposed design, at an appropriate scale



Your Institution Code, which is a Unique Identification Number, along with the Site Code will have to be mentioned on all submissions. You will receive your Institution Code after completing your registration.



All submissions must be anonymous. No personal information such as name, college, organisation or contact details should appear; failing which may lead to disqualification.



All text must be in English.



Proposal may be presented using any technique of your choice (sketches, diagrams, 3D visualisations, model photos, CAD drawings, etc).



All dimensions should be in metric units.

How to Submit

✓ Step 1: Log in to the Participant Panel

- Log in using your registered institutional credentials to access your dashboard.

✓ Step 2: Create your Team(s)

- On your dashboard, create your team for each site you have selected by adding details of your members (students, faculty and advisory experts) in the respective fields.

✓ Step 3: Download the Required Files

- Download the reference files needed to prepare your submission (the CAD drawing, the Design Brief, and the Declaration templates.)

✓ Step 4: Go to your Site Page

- From the top navigation, open the site you are submitting for: Mauritius, Maldives or Fiji.
- If your institution has entered more than one site, each has its own separate page and submission.

✓ Step 5: Upload your files

- Each required deliverable has its own upload button.
- Upload the correct document against each entry: the Drawing, the Presentation, the Declaration by Institution, and the Declaration by Expert.
- Apart from your Institution Code and Site Code, no names, logos or identifiers should appear in the files, so that your entry stays anonymous.

Editing Before the Deadline:

- Your submission can be edited any number of times until the submission deadline.
- You may re-upload any file to replace an earlier version. The submission window locks automatically, and the last upload will be considered as final.

Tip: *Do a test upload early. Avoid uploading in the last few hours before the deadline.*

Key Dates



Terms & Conditions

The competition is governed by the official **ISA-iSUN Design Challenge rules and conditions** issued by the organisers. These cover, among others:

- Accuracy of participant information
- Authorship & intellectual property
- Use of images for communication
- Conflict of interest
- Amendments & clarifications to the brief
- Compliance with submission requirements
- Changes to timelines, where required
- Originality of submissions
- Rights to reproduce & publish entries
- Confidentiality & anonymity in judging
- Disqualification
- Late submissions
- Jury decisions
- Use of winning proposals for exhibitions

Note: Participants are responsible for ensuring that all submitted material is original or appropriately licensed for use.

Awards

The ISA-iSUN Design Challenge recognises outstanding proposals demonstrating excellence in architecture, solar-energy integration, climate resilience, sustainability and replicability for SIDS.

Site-wise Top 3 designs will be awarded* as follows:



\$2,000

1st Runner-up



\$5,000

Winner



\$1,000

2nd Runner-up

**Tentative. Full and exact details will be published on the website.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQs



Who can participate in the ISA-iSUN Design Challenge?

The challenge is open to architecture and engineering student teams guided by faculty members and industry experts in architecture, planning and engineering. Refer to the Participation Guidelines section for more details.



Is there a registration fee?

No. There is no registration fee.



Can our team choose more than one site?

Yes, institutions may submit entries for each site option provided in the design brief.



Will our identity be visible to the jury during evaluation?

No. All submissions must be free of names, logos or institution marks so that the jury evaluation stays fully anonymous through the entire evaluation stage.



How and when will we know if we're shortlisted?

Once the evaluation team finalises the Phase 1 shortlist, results are published on the website and emailed to all registered teams, along with instructions for shortlisted teams on the Phase 2 submission window.



What happens if our team is not shortlisted after Phase 1?

You'll receive an email thanking you for your participation and confirming that your entry was not selected to move to Phase 2. All teams, shortlisted and not, are notified once the Phase 1 results are finalised.



Who do we contact if we have a query?

Write to us at isa-isun@grihaindia.org and we'll get back to you.

ISA-ISUN DESIGN CHALLENGE

Energising the Frontline: Architecture for SIDS Resilience

For any queries, reach out to isa-isun@grihaindia.org

