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# VERVE INTERVIEWS

# LYNNE HUNT

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THE TALENT BEHIND LAUCALA ISLAND'S UNFORGETTABLE INTERIORS



Lynne Hunt is admired for the interior design of many outstanding projects, for example, The Jumerirah Lowndes Hotel in London, the Intercontinental Mar Menor in Spain, the Brompton Bar and Grill in London, as well as the amazingly integrated villas on Laucala Island (see previous article). These showstoppers, completely encompassed the stranded-in-paradise vibe, and were a result of Lynne's talent and aesthetic.

Verve Magazine is privileged to bring you this mini-interview with Lynne, one of the world's leading interior designers.

**Verve: When you were approached to do the interior design at Laucala Island you must have felt huge apprehension yet utter excitement. Was this the first interior you had done for a resort such as this?**

Lynne: I was very excited to be involved in such an idyllic project and in such an exotic location. I have worked on many hotels and resorts throughout my career, so in that respect I was not overwhelmed but excited by the challenge and the creative opportunity.

**V: We walked into our room at Laucala Island and felt it was pure understated luxury. How did you achieve this?**

L: We worked closely with the architects and owner on space planning and scale of the spaces. Then the luxury came from the finishes, the quality of the furnishings and custom designs we were able to create that are unique to Laucala.

**V: The lighting was something that we thought had been mastered to perfection. What was your thought process in creating the lighting?**

L: We wanted to create an authentic experience and the Fijian people have homes that are somewhat dark and therefore protected from the elements, be it rain or sun. We wanted to work with that feeling and to create a play on light with a cocooned feeling within the rooms.

**V: Lynne, could you talk us through the creative procedure?**

L: We initially started with a visit to Laucala and then we did many research trips to museums in Suva, other hotels, and then lots of reading and reviews of books and reference literature were all used to start the creative process.

**V: Staying on Laucala Island must have been a treat — or was it? Can you describe a typical day on the island whilst you were going through the creative process?**

L: Staying on Laucala now that the design has been realised is indeed a dream and a privilege. During the construction period it was hard work — starting at 9am and working through until sunset and then staying in not so glamorous portocabins on the beach and wearing shorts and timberlands! Of course the natural beauty of the island was always there, which was overwhelming and therefore a pleasure.

**V: What was the best thing about this job?**

L: I think the location, the team, the owner, and having the opportunity to create something truly unique. It has been an amazing experience for me!

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[WWW.LYNNEHUNT.CO.UK](http://WWW.LYNNEHUNT.CO.UK)

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Lynne Hunt, design director and founder of Lynne Hunt London obtained an associate of Arts (Hons) degree in 1985 at Brooks College, Long Beach, California, USA. Her broad experience in interior design and project management has mainly been in the hotel and leisure industries, but also includes luxury residential and corporate office interiors. Lynne formed Hunt Hamilton Zuch in 1993 and continued to specialise in luxury interiors. The business became incorporated as a Limited Company in 2002, and was recently relaunched as Lynne Hunt London at the beginning of this year.