NORTH ISLAND
INTERIOR DESIGN PHILOSOPHY
North Island is world-renowned for its signature barefoot-luxury design. The essence of understated elegance and quiet authenticity that is so characteristic of North Island has been distilled by Cate Simpson, Interior Designer from Reflecting Africa, and who has continued to curated a bespoke interior design experience to complement Silvio Rech and Lesley Carstens’ architectural philosophy and the work of the initial design team.

North Island exudes a haute-couture Robinson Crusoe atmosphere, which is simple and sophisticated, comfortable yet stylish, contemporary but timeless. With constant attention, the design has continually evolved and is regularly refreshed in keeping with its original concept. Not only are the interiors inspired by North Island’s natural environment, but they are also designed in a way that encourages exploration and immersion in the Seychelles.

The quintessence of luxury is captured in the sheer indulgence of volume – space is the greatest luxury. A play on scale exists in the comfort of countless oversized loungers and cushions, as well as in the vast proportions of the Villas and public areas. There is an abundance of space and a celebration of the panoramic views. A sense of openness and a feeling of freedom invite guests to experience their own private paradise and connect with nature on North Island.

The environment is paramount in shaping the interiors’ organic look and feel – we are dictated to by nature’s elements, but have also incorporated tone and texture as an extension of the Island itself.

North Island is perceived internationally as a “rare” destination and our offering and design features need to enhance this extraordinary location. We have focused on adopting a unique ‘rough and smooth’ delivery concept. The interiors provide the visual foundation for this concept and are a constant reminder of the raw beauty of the Island – represented in the natural texture of the ‘rough’ design elements – juxtaposed against the ‘smooth’ – represented by chic additions.

The concept plays out both in small details and on a larger scale. For example, rough-barked coconut tree uprights felled locally on the Island contrast polished imported rosewood floors, while weathered wood mingles with sleek contemporary furniture. Sunset Beach by Chef Akira Back epitomises laid-back relaxation, while the Piazza Bar & Lounge personifies refined elegance on East Beach located at the other end of the compass. At North Island, one can dine with one’s feet in the sand, yet eat with only the finest silverware and glassware, and sleep in a custom over-sized bed that was rustically hand-carved on the Island, yet ensconced in the world’s best linen.
In support of the ‘rough and smooth’ concept, North Island’s interiors explore a style that highlights the contrast of day and night on the Island, and the natural change experienced as the Island breathes. To showcase such change, two contrasting colour palettes have been adopted.

Day is represented by a cool colour palette adopting the turquoise and greens so intensely represented in the Seychelles oceans. The freshness of the Island by day is reflected in subtle sage and natural textures of raw teak wood, natural shell and corals, contrasted with soft textures in green hues through hand-dyed fabrics and hand-blown glassware from Henry Dean, Belgium. Many elements, from cushions covers and table settings to staff uniforms, change by night to then represent a warmer and more striking colour palette of burnt oranges and coral – reflecting in the light as the sun goes down and enhanced as the Island changes its feel through lighting.

White and sand colours play an important role in the visual language of the interiors, they lay a neutral foundation for the day and night to be noticed. Nature’s manner of manipulating materials, stripping colour down to a fainter, calmer version of the original, suggest the use of only natural materials which age well with the sun, humidity and sea spray.

The interiors of North Island have been developed with careful intent around the unique service offering and has been, and continues to be, a constant dialogue between Cate and the Operational team. The ultimate aim of North Island’s distinctive design is to encourage the embrace of a generous private-island experience, where guests are in touch with luxury and nature, with all of the modern conveniences close at hand.