

Studio — Saxe

Press Release

The Gilded Iguana Hotel

June 2018

— The Gilded Iguana Hotel



GildedIguanaHotel_Outside_3

COSTA RICA SURF HOTEL COMBINES PAST AND PRESENT TO REFLECT LOW-KEY ATMOSPHERE OF BEACH TOWN

Playa Guiones, in the town of Nosara, Costa Rica has long been known by the wider international community of surfers as a hidden gem and off-grid paradise of white sand beaches and constant waves. Decades ago the first wooden house in town was built close to the beach-break and in time this simple structure became the perfect resting place for transient surfers as well as a gathering venue for music, food, and interaction. The Gilded Iguana was born!

Today Nosara still attracts avid surfers from around the world however it has also become a destination for yogis, the wellness community, and families looking for healthy fun and adventure. Everyone shares a common goal to preserve the natural habitat and the low-key unpretentious essence of the place.

Location: Nosara, Costa Rica

Date of completion: 2018

Client: The Gilded Iguana Hotel

Area: Aprox. 5340m²

Director: Benjamin G. Saxe

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GildedIguanaHotel_Inside_15

Studio Saxe was commissioned to expand and rethink the entire Gilded Iguana Hotel as a destination that addresses modern comforts and adapts to the new wave of travelers coming to the area whilst preserving the rich historical importance of the location.

Together with the owners, we decided to restore and revitalize the existing dilapidated house structure as a tribute to the memory it holds for locals, travelers, and the town at large. The new restaurant that now sits there has already become a town favorite for food, concerts, and general gatherings. The Gilded Iguana beach-house historic restoration is also one of very few samples in Costa Rica that acknowledges the importance of preservation of traditional tropical architecture.

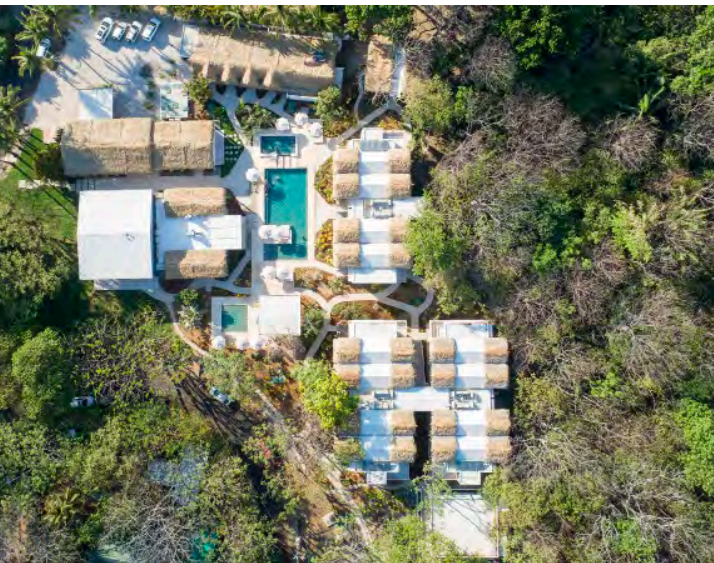


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GildedIguanaHotel_Outside_2



GildedIguanaHotel_Outside_22

The studio worked hard to complement the existing house with new structures poised around the property amongst the existing trees and in turn create a heart center framed by a fantastic communal area-pool for all guests to enjoy. The new Room Buildings along with the Reception and SPA areas combine elements of the old house such as the simple wooden frames and balconies with typical hand-made palm thatch “palapas” commonly found on the beach for shade.

In contrast to typical enclosed and hermetic hotel developments in Latin America, the Reception area and Restaurant at The Gilded Iguana completely open up to the town of Nosara creating a subtle, relaxed, and unpretentious atmosphere where anyone can come in.

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GildedIguanaHotel_Inside_2

The architecture and interiors throughout combine simple and unpolished materials such as teak, palm thatch, jute fabric, and concrete tiles with modern tropical furniture made with local materials and craftsmanship.

Room Buildings cater to a varied type of traveler depending on their orientation. Pool Rooms are ideal for families, Jungle Rooms create a more private experience, and Surfer Rooms promote a more social interaction amongst travelers. Each room has a large outdoor terrace that brings the outside in and allows for bedrooms to be connected strongly to the outside. Private gardens are incorporated into showers and the play of light and shadows constantly fills every space with an acute awareness of the natural environment.



GildedIguanaHotel_Inside_8

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GildedIguanaHotel_Outside_1



GildedIguanaHotel_Outside_5

Walking around the Gilded Iguana is always an opportunity to encounter and mingle. The studio carefully placed seating areas as well as water stations and surfboard racks along the entire property which in turn provoke interaction amongst guests and a more down-to-earth and authentic experience amongst travelers.

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GildedIguanaHotel_Inside_1



GildedIguanaHotel_Outside_4

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GildedIguanaHotel_Outside_11

The pool area is truly the heart center for guests at the Gilded Iguana. It is here where the sun and water come together in a place where adults and children can enjoy the tropical weather, relax, read a book, or play. The simple geometry and natural pool stone tiles combine perfectly with the old house and the new structures around the property.



GildedIguanaHotel_Inside_4

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GildedIguanaHotel_Inside_19



GildedIguanaHotel_Inside_20

Architect Benjamin Garcia Saxe explains:

“The Gilded Iguana Hotel is designed as a harmonious “dialogue” between the tropical identity of the past and a new toned-down, unpretentious, and timeless tropical modernity that sits softly in the landscape and reflects the relaxed town atmosphere which most wish to preserve.”

Sustainability

The Gilded Iguana Hotel was conceived through Bioclimatic Design to take advantage of solar orientation, shade, wind currents, and others to create comfort through passive strategies of temperature control. Additionally, Studio Saxe worked hard with active sustainable technological measures such as water recycling through water treatment systems, solar hot water, and energy harnessing through photovoltaic. Locally resourced materials, such as teak from certified sustainable farms, and local manual labor was used throughout the project to create a positive impact in the town of Nosara and generate new jobs for the community.

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GildedIguanaHotel_Outside_6



GildedIguanaHotel_Outside_7

Builder: LHC

Hotel Consultant: Consuhotel

Interior Design: Sofia Interiorismo

Structural Engineer: Sotela Alfaro Ltda.

Electromechanical Engineer: Dynamo Studio

Landscape: Zamia

Pool: Joan Roca

Treatment Plant: Tebag

Irrigation Consultant: Hidroplant

Technology Consultant: Access Point

Photography: Andrés García Lachner

— About us

Benjamin Garcia Saxe set up his own practice in San Jose, Costa Rica in 2004, with the aim of exploring our relationship with the natural environment through architecture. Since then, Studio Saxe has grown into an award-winning international practice made up of a multidisciplinary team, creating buildings and spaces by blending **technological innovation** with handcrafted techniques to form truly sustainable designs. Founded on the belief that buildings must connect to their landscape – whether a tropical paradise or a concrete jungle – **Studio Saxe brings a global attitude to solve local problems.** Ideas and techniques from around the world can be harnessed to benefit communities, both at home and abroad. Local traditions and identities are explored and developed, ensuring a process whereby we learn from the past and build for the future.

The dedicated architects and designers at Studio Saxe uncover **new design solutions for every project**, treating each building as an opportunity to improve methods and approaches, responding to specific places. Working alongside clients and collaborators, the studio continually seeks new forms and functions that blur the boundaries between natural habitats and inhabited space.

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