



OVER THE MOON

Moon Gang, Ubud's newest retreat by YSG Studio,
is a creative, cosmic trip worth taking

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T rue to its mystical name, Moon Gang feels otherworldly from the first glimpse. The new five-suite Ubud retreat, the work of owner Kristen Millbank of Firstbase Studio and Sydney-based interior design firm YSG Studio, reincarnates a derelict concrete vacation home into something of a modern-day Balinese Babylon, drawing wellness devotees and creative wanderers into a shared orbit.

That transformation begins with the setting, just minutes from Ubud's town centre, yet tucked within its lush rice fields. Cloaked in earth-dyed, cinnamon-toned walls wrapped in hanging vines, Moon Gang builds its outdoor living around a leafy courtyard, sensory gardens, and a swimming pool ringed in black-and-white checkered tile relief – a nod to local Balinese tradition. Breezy archways and sculpted portholes ripple through open stairwells and corridors, connecting these alfresco spaces to the retreat's suites and lounges, while drawing in the sun and tropical air.

Indoors, the design takes on a more electric turn. YSG tapped into Indonesia's creative community to transform the interiors into a playground of '70s nostalgia, disco-era colour, and celestial mysticism, bringing cosmic motifs – like the spa's sliding bamboo screens depicting lunar phases – to life through sustainable craftsmanship. Their collaboration with over 15 eco-conscious artisans pushes age-old techniques into fantastical new territory, conjuring hand-woven lime pool loungers, banana-leaf pendants sculpted into soft, floating clouds, and colour-washed curtains naturally dyed with indigo, mango, coconut, and ketapang leaf.

The rooms nurture that same creative spirit, with suites Velvet Mood, Night Fever, Midnight Runners, and Golden Shadow enveloped in the same cinnamon walls and richly tactile finishes. Sun Dust, meanwhile, is a delicious contradiction. Despite its name, the Japanese hut-inspired rooftop suite is steeped in deep indigo, with an expansive skylight made for stargazing. In each, moments for pause and play are never far away. Bedside red light therapy helps bring guests' circadian rhythm back into sync, while large desks, complete with complimentary watercolour sets, invite them to write or paint. Each room also comes stocked with its own curveball accessory, like a Walkman and cassettes, a telescope, or a camera.

The invitation, throughout, is to rest, recover, and retune, whether that's through lo-fi analog pleasures or the retreat's high-vibrational programming. During the day, guests can drop into biophilic yoga with local practitioners, Aural and Plant Sonic meditations, silent-disco movement sessions, and full-spectrum saunas. After dark, the energy turns nocturnal with cinema under the canopy, moonlight typewriting sessions, and moon bathing. At the day-and-night spa, mindful botanical treatments come courtesy of a partnership with Fields of Yarrow, while medically administered vitamin infusions through Ubud's BSI International offer a deeper reset.

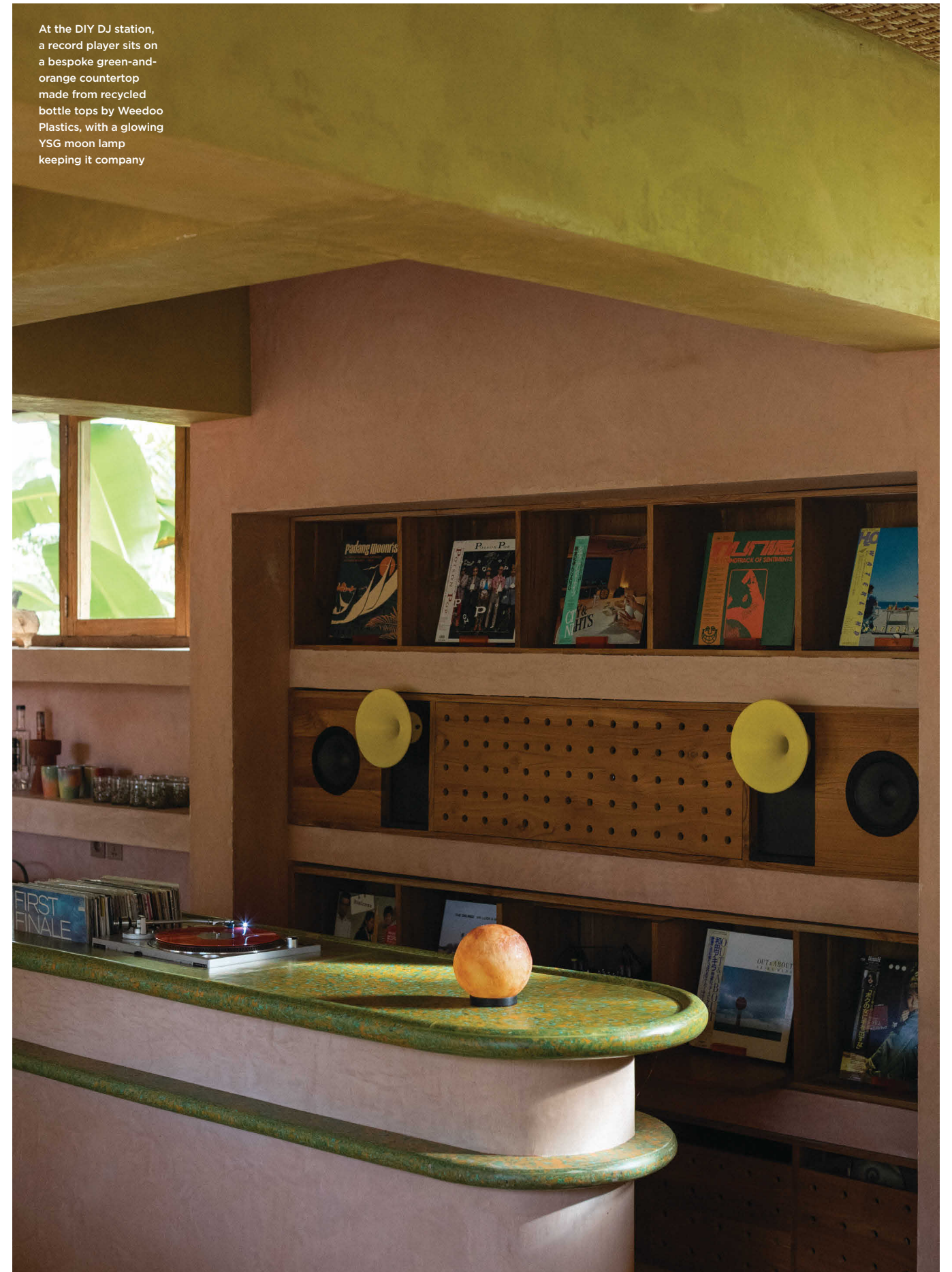
Off-program, guests can spin their own soundtrack at the Nongkrong lounge's DIY DJ station, settle in with tea at the self-serve salon, lose themselves in the library's magazines, or browse through wares at the Cosmos Kiosk. Serious about design but easygoing about everything else, Moon Gang's mix of ancient and modern rituals tunes to a frequency that's entirely its own. Stay long enough, and you might even start keeping time by the moon. ♦ moongangbali.com



The Sun Dust suite on the terrace, inspired by traditional Japanese bamboo huts and stained deep charcoal indigo, is punctured by expansive circular skylight designed for stargazing (OPPOSITE PAGE) A view of Moon Gang's central pool, where earth-dyed walls, generous windows, and arched corridors lend the architecture a breezy, open feel, with lush greenery planted throughout



Custom plant-dyed curtains by Pagi Motley pull back to reveal the Velvet Mood suite lounge, where acid-yellow Zellige tiles by Lava Stone Design set the scene for low-slung seating



At the DIY DJ station, a record player sits on a bespoke green-and-orange countertop made from recycled bottle tops by Weedoo Plastics, with a glowing YSG moon lamp keeping it company