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MALDIVES PARADISO: W RETREAT & SPA

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IMAGE COURTESY OF ECO-ID ARCHITECT & DESIGN CONSULTANCY F+B DESIGN BY POOLE ASSOCIATES PRIVATE LIMITED

On the private island of Fesdu in the Maldives nestles a new wonderland for the ultimate luxury escape. Bagging international travel publication *Travel+Leisure*'s Best Design and Architecture Award 2007 in the international resort category, the design of W Retreat and Spa revels in the splendour of its natural surroundings, allowing guests unobstructed views of the sea and the sky while also delivering the most exclusive and private experience.

The master planning, architecture and interior design of the project was devised by eco•id, one of Singapore's leading architectural and design firms. Calvin Sim, director of eco•id, describes the team's design concept as "a unique fusion of organic forms and chic modernity comprising the ultimate in luxury and privacy. We planned the island based on an organic geometry inspired by coral growth."

Indeed, guests arriving at Fesdu Island via seaplane will marvel at the island's beautiful shape, a crescent-like sanctuary in an expanse of blue. The restaurants and bars are designed to be intimately close to the water, allowing guests to take in the spectacular sea views. The Away@Spa sanctuary hovers over turquoise lagoons, where nature and nurture blend into the ultimate rejuvenating experience.

W Resort and Spa's 78 villas are deliciously spread out for a completely exclusive experience. Each villa is equipped with its own open plunge pool and sun deck, featuring lush outdoor lounging areas, individual barbeque stations for private dining, and circular custom-made day beds for lounging. The Ocean Oasis retreats feature roofs which offer peek-a-boo views of the sky, and glass-panelled floors which reveal the living fauna below. The two-level Beach Oasis retreats are coveted for their gorgeous views of the Indian Ocean.

W Retreat and Spa also boasts six gourmet eateries and cocktail bars, including 15 Below, the region's only subterranean grotto bar, literally located 15 feet below the island's surface.

W Retreat and Spa is located at Fesdu Island, North Ari Atoll, Republic of Maldives. For more information, visit www.whotels.com.