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DECIDING WHAT WORK I would consider timeless is not easy task, I can say that the majestic architecture of the past is timeless, think the Colosseum or the Roman Aqueducts which still stand today. Whilst they are no longer used for their original function, nevertheless they are made of solid and balanced materials, they stand the test of time and the still define the space and cities where they were built.

The Barcelona pavilion by Mies van der Rohe is one of my favourite contemporary timeless buildings; as it holds its presence through its quality, clarity, balance and ultimately

beauty. Here, space flows between the inside and outside, planes and elements intersect and define space seamlessly, materials are used clearly and beyond being a “finish”, they become part of the architecture.

What is interesting is that this pavilion was not built to last but it has made such an impact on the design and architectural world that it was rebuilt about 50 years after it was demolished to



TO ME, TIMELESS DESIGNS are those that transcend culture, that hold their presence through their depth of quality, clarity, balance and ultimately beauty that doesn't shout for attention, that holds its impact across time and generations.

It is also typically well-executed, made with solid and “honest” materials that integrate well with the context in which they are located — they embody the genius loci or the spirit of a place. While a building has to work within its context, I don't think it has to be traditional or predictable, contemporary architecture can talk with the local history and culture without mimicking it.

Each era should be able to express this in its own way, directly addressing the expectation and the necessity of the users, a building address timelessness once it moves beyond architectural history and is able to express cultural character without copying the past but by reinterpreting it.

It used to be that buildings were built to last, to create a legacy — unfortunately this is very rare now, as buildings are typically developed as an investment, and as such, the quality of material and design is measured mostly against its commercial value. Also compared to the past, cities and the use of buildings now change much faster and this is obviously a problem if one brings this is the equation of making a building timeless.



inspire generations of architects for years to come.

A recent project on the island of Boracay in the Philippines, Crimson Boracay Resort and Spa, is a good example of a contemporary and timeless interpretation of the local tradition. For this project we were inspired by the patterns used in the openings of traditional buildings along the coast to the way ethnic patterns are woven into traditional fabric motifs.

For Crimson Boracay Resort we develop a timeless pattern inspired by those mentioned above, which is weaved throughout the property from the precast panels of the architectural decorative walls to the unique elements of the interior décor and landscape design.