



also maintain a sleek outdoor setting. Sometimes the furniture is a simple folding wooden chair and table that are placed under the fabric canopy or umbrella for lunch and dinner. These are accompanied by hanging creepers, orchids, and a small fountain.

The more comfortable and stylish your furniture feels and looks, the better it is. As it is the tropics we are talking about, we want them to have an edge and a sense of place. It should be a type of decor that compliments all that Asia has to offer.

During my visit, I had a great time in Sabah and the Sarawak Borneo island of Malaysia. The Mount Kinabalu resort and museum is really thrilling and their open sitting area is soothing to the eye. You can spend some time relaxing at this sanctuary after you have scaled the trails of the mountain. Another enjoyable experience was when I visited a simple tea house in Rangoon, the capital of Myanmar. The people there love green tea and all over the city many open tea houses serve tea, free of cost. The

sitting arrangements of these shops are very simple wooden stools.

'Uthan' is a local name for open space. In our country, open courtyards are a very common part of our house. Back in the old days, villages would maintain two to three courtyards. 'Darber' is the front of the house while 'bathok khana' is the living room. The 'ondor mohol uthan' is situated at the middle part of house. The use

of wooden sofas, simple benches, cane and nylon chairs are common for these houses.

At the end of the day, tropical Asia is both supremely beautiful and also very hot which is why intelligent architecture is important to link your house with the heart of nature by using outdoor arrangements.

This allows cross ventilation and invites natural beauty inside our space and soul.

By Nazneen Haque  
Mimi  
Photo: Tamim Sujat



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