

invaded with sharp lesson in Asian assertiveness before Indonesian unity and independence was won in 1947. The Dutch did however leave behind a strong cultural legacy ranging from architecture to a fair amount of DNA.

Designed by a Dutch architect, three-bedroomed Villa Mako presents a rich and creative combination of two cultures. It captures its Dutch-colonial heritage with recycled teakwood floors, old stained glass doors and louvered shutters, *objets trouvés*, antique furnishings and lush fabrics. Yet comfort is by no means excluded in this desire for authenticity and 21st century trappings have a strong showing throughout, including a feature kitchen, a media room complete with sound system, computer and fax machine, and a delightful pool shaded by a large grove of coconut trees.

The villa lies at the heart of a traditional Balinese village. If you duck out through the gate at the bottom of the beautifully stepped lawns and gardens for a peaceful stroll by the river you will hardly see a soul; perhaps the odd farmer going about their daily business. The staff are all from the neighbourhood and, as such, are well connected and happy to escort guests to ceremonies at the nearby temple or take them shopping for fresh produce in the local market. Villa Mako's stellar cook isn't afraid to divulge a local recipe or two either – just the thing to take home as a lasting memory.

www.theasiavillaguide.com/Mako/