

Between Earth and Sky

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Ward + Blake Architects' Aman Villas Provide Private Amangani Experience



“Aman 10,” one of nine site-sensitive private residences designed by Ward + Blake Architects at the Jackson Hole luxury Amangani Resort. (photo © Ward + Blake Architects)

Jackson Hole, Wyo. – Jan. 6, 2015 – Two new villas nestle into a dramatic butte overlooking Jackson Hole’s Teton and Snake River Ranges. Naturally elegant and at once distinct yet all of a piece, the elite private homes designed by [Ward + Blake Architects](#) are the latest of nine residences designed by the firm for Jackson’s ultra-chic [Amangani Resort](#). Named for the Shoshone word for “peaceful home,” Amangani was recently ranked on Robb Report’s list of the world’s top resorts and named a Travel + Leisure most romantic getaway. The Ward + Blake-designed homes are part of a collection of “[Aman Villas](#)” situated adjacent to Aman resorts internationally and referred to by the luxury resort group as its “ultimate tier” of Aman accommodation options. Dream vacation homes for

their owners, the villas also provide an extraordinary level of luxury and privacy available for guest lodging.

Working within the strict parameters of the resort's architectural covenants, Ward + Blake Architects designed the villas in harmony with resort architect Ed Tuttle's original aesthetic for Amangani. Tuttle envisioned that the resort would be "designed to be in relationship with its surroundings," creating the hotel with a modernist purity of line, its low profile and stepped roof reflecting the surrounding topography. "The idea is to be comfortable and sink into the views," said Tuttle, designer of Aman resorts around the world, in a Travel + Leisure article about the resort.

Ward + Blake's designs for the Aman Villas have unfolded like a life-size 3-D jigsaw puzzle over a period of more than a decade. Built within resort stipulations created by Tuttle that guide proportions, materials and composition, the homes – representing nearly half of 22 total residential building sites on 54 resort acres – coexist peacefully from a design standpoint with one another and the Tuttle-designed resort, while standing out as individuals. The vertical-boarded exteriors of the private residences mimic the surrounding peaks, and native grasses cover sod roofs like an extension of prairie.

The nine Ward + Blake-designed villas share the main resort's earth-hugging profile and palette of rugged natural materials. At the same time they belie their similarities to be revealed as unique, gem-like residences, each an unmistakable reflection of its owners, including the owner of the villa known as [Aman 12](#) who describes her Amangani vacation getaway as "truly awesome in the literal meaning of that word."

"What I love about it is the integrity of the materials, living in a home that's made of real wood and stone – and also an architecturally important home," says Aman 12's homeowner. "We have unobstructed views of the valley below – which is really why you live in a place like this – something Ward + Blake really took advantage of with their design."

The Aman 12 homeowner also praises the indoor/functionality and privacy of her villa – as well as its attunement to the resort's overall "peaceful home" intention. "We use the outdoor spaces as much as indoors," she says. "We love the hot tub on the big deck that overlooks the valley. And each of the bedrooms has its own outdoor space – great for reading and relaxing. I think of each of the bedrooms as a little private serenity chamber."

According to Amanresorts, the Aman Villas take the luxury, privacy and relaxation of an Aman resort stay "to an entirely different level." The Amangani vacation homes include the exquisite detailing and customized approach that Ward + Blake Architects is known for – "the finish work is absolutely flawless, just very subtle, beautiful details," says the Aman 12 owner. At the same time they offer access to all of the ultraluxurious services and facilities of the resort, from housekeeping and concierge to the restaurant, lounge, library, spa, ski shuttle and more.

Ward + Blake Architects was built on a distinctive vision: to be provocative in thought, flexible in nature and disciplined in execution. Since 1996, the firm has earned recognition

for architecture that is sensitive to its environment and successfully integrated with its surroundings, including being named Architect of the Year by International Design Awards, having a project shortlisted at the World Architecture Festival in Singapore, and being named Firm of the Year by the six-state AIA Western Mountain Region. Ward + Blake creates buildings that are tactile, modern, bio-climatically responsible, honestly expressed, technologically sound and artfully crafted. A recent monograph, *In the Shadows of the Tetons: Selected Works of Ward + Blake Architects*, provides an overview of the firm's award-winning work. For additional information, visit Ward + Blake online at www.wardblakearchitects.com or call 307.733.6867.

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