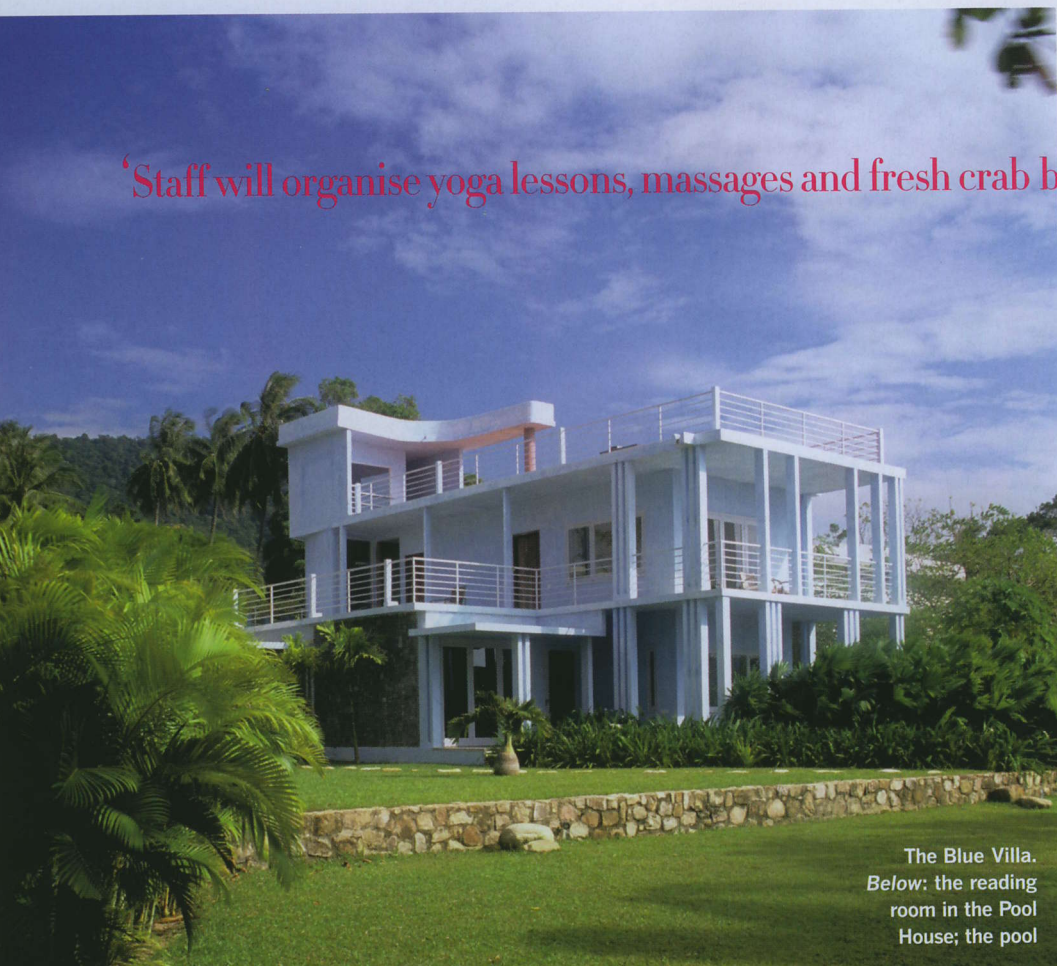


'Staff will organise yoga lessons, massages and fresh crab barbecued on the beach'



The Blue Villa.
Below: the reading room in the Pool House; the pool

pavilion on the shore and is run by Frenchman Stephane Arrii and 14 staff, who will organise yoga lessons, massages and fresh crab from the local market, served in the dining room or barbecued on the beach.

The unspoilt Rabbit Island is a short boat-ride away and the once bustling port of Kampot, offering languid river trips and trekking around the atmospheric former hill station of Bokor, is not much further off. **LISA JOHNSON** *Knai Bang Chatt* (www.knaibangchatt.com; 00 84 5 1234 9742) is one of *Travel Indochina's* high-end Cambodian properties (www.travelindochina.co.uk; 01865 268940). One night at the Blue Villa (maximum eight people) costs from £775 for two people. Breakfast costs £6.75 per person.

The Riviera, but not as we know it

Must visit Think this Corbusier-style villa is in the South of France? Think again. It's on a Cambodian seafront, and offers style and romance in spades

Beach towns are Cambodia's best-kept secret and one of the smallest and most romantic is Kep, a bolthole for French colonials in the early 20th century and the Khmer elite in the 1950s and 1960s. The town fell prey to bitter fighting 20 years later, but thanks to its natural advantages – it sits on a headland 172km from Phnom Penh with views over the Gulf of Thailand and Phu Quoc island – guesthouses and second homes are now opening among the bullet-ridden villas and around the ghostly former palace of King Sihanouk.

Belgians Jef Moons and Boris Vervoordt spotted its potential when they came here on holiday in 2003, so they bought three abandoned villas – the Blue Villa, (built in 1962 by Le Corbusier's pupil Vann Molivann), the Pool House and the New Pavilion – and turned them into a luxury 11-room retreat.

The property, called **Knai Bang Chatt**, which is available for rent on an exclusive basis, has been furnished by Vervoordt, the son of an antiques dealer, mixing contemporary design with Cambodian artefacts. It has an infinity pool with a canopied

