



#### Architect Q&A

## Jutta Hoehn

The founder of JSH Algarve is inspired by traditional tiles, clean modern lines, and Portugal's year-round warm weather

**Where did you grow up and what was home like?** I was born and raised in the spa town of Wiesbaden, in Germany—it's famed for its architecture. I think it was this exposure to the beautiful buildings that ignited an early passion for design and architecture.

**Was it always your ambition to be an architect?** My family have vineyards in Germany, and although I enjoy the fruits of their labor, I never saw myself becoming a farmer. Even at an early age I loved design and interesting buildings, so architecture seemed a natural career choice. I studied architecture at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.

**Why and when did you form JSH Algarve?** I led the redesign of what would become one of the Algarve's first five-star hotels in 1999. I decided to settle in Portugal and founded JSH Algarve. We specialize in bespoke design across Portugal, including both interior and exterior architecture, new builds, renovations, and remodeling.

**In what way does the Portuguese climate influence your designs?** My surrounding environment plays a fundamental role in my designs. Given the beautiful weather, we focus just as much on exterior living as we do on the interior. We aim to create light and cool open spaces to maximize the connection between indoor and outdoor and develop a harmonious duality between the two. We also strive for green solutions and sustainability.



*Clockwise from top right: Quinta do Lago Golf Leste, one of a number of "super villas" that JSH Algarve is creating in the Quinta do Lago golf resort in Portugal; the property's light-filled interior; Villa Varandas do Lago; Villa Vale do Lobo; Villa Vale Verde.*

#### How do you approach a commission?

The design process begins with a conversation where we discuss ideas, the client's tastes and preferences, as well as the location and topography of the site. I then transform this into a 3D design concept. We also use virtual reality so that clients can get excited about the end product. I love working collaboratively with clients to make their visions reality, while injecting my own signature style.

**Describe the Jutta Hoehn "look."** My style is a blend of contemporary and traditional elements. I often use authentic Portuguese tiles within my properties, which juxtapose well with the modern aesthetic of my projects. Challenges can lie in blending modern architecture with traditional finishes and striking the correct balance between the two.

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**How do you unify your projects?** Our projects aim to show that green architecture and luxury can be seamlessly combined. The design approach always considers energy-saving solutions, local materials when possible, and water-saving solutions, as well as sustainable and recyclable materials.

**What inspires you?** I am always inspired by my surroundings, wherever I am in the world. I love to have a sense of duality in my projects; between traditional and contemporary, luxury and environmentally friendly, and especially unity between indoor and outdoor living.

**Whose work do you admire?** Isay Weinfeld of Brazil, Pitsou Kedem of Israel, Jean Nouvel of France, and of course, Zaha Hadid.

**What is your own home like?** I have actually recently completed building my own home in Loulé and I am thrilled with the result. The overall style is a blend of contemporary features with eclectic artwork and unusual pieces of furniture. Of course I've included Portuguese tiles in my bath which look beautiful against copper fixtures and fittings. [algarve-architecture.com](http://algarve-architecture.com)