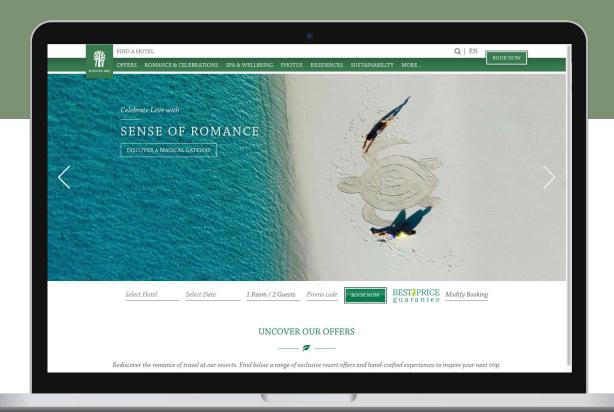
The 10 Usability Heuristics



RATINGS - Compliance with Usability Heuristics

We are classifying each issue with a score, where 0 point is the worse and 4 points is the best. The total score is then used to generate a summary diagram, which gives you the overall performance of your website.



Critical (0)

Does the problem prevent user from completing task?

Major (1)

Does the problem create significant delay and frustration?

Minor (2)

Is it a one-time problem that users can overcome once they know about it or will users repeatedly be bothered by the problem?

Trivial (3)

Is the problem just a slight irritation that causes hesitation? (for instance cosmetics)

Not a problem (4)

Is it a positive experience and the user did not come across any problems?



SCOPE OF EVALUATION

Looking at overall experience in:

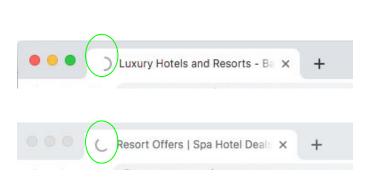


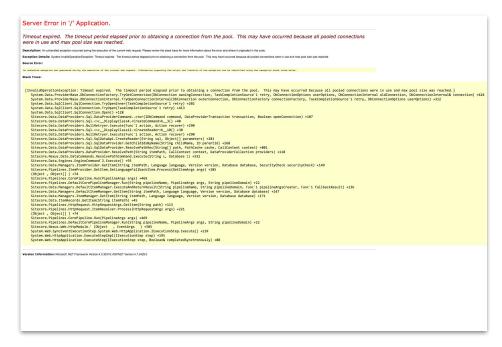
1.1. Visibility of System Status: LOADING TIME

There were many instances which loading pages on the website took 7sec or more, which led me to think that the system had hanged, or made me doubt that I had clicked on any action button.

On top of that, there were no visual cues to show loading times (only a small loading icon on my browser which was easily missed).

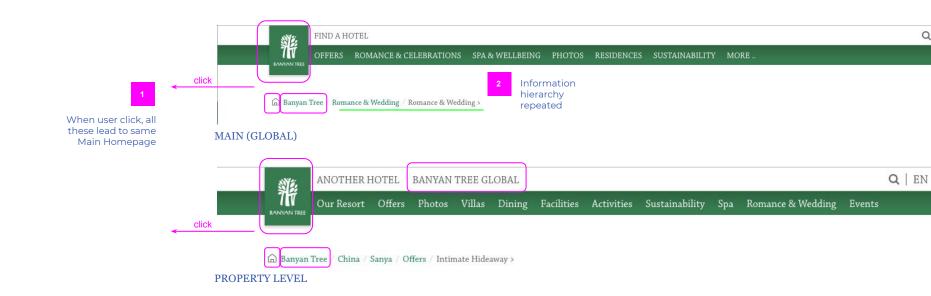
Instances that page did not load, there was a TIMEOUT page message.





1.2. Visibility of System Status: BREADCRUMB

- 1. Breadcrumb is displayed in it's typical location at the top of the page and below the navigation bar. But on the breadcrumb there is a duplicate of the 'Home' icon + Brand Name. This is not necessary as there is a quick 'link' back into homepage via the Main logo on the Main navigation on top Left. (Have one or the other, is fine)
- Breadcrumbs should include only site pages, not logical categories in your IA. Each node (level) in the breadcrumb trail should be a link to an ancestor page. (Do not repeat name)



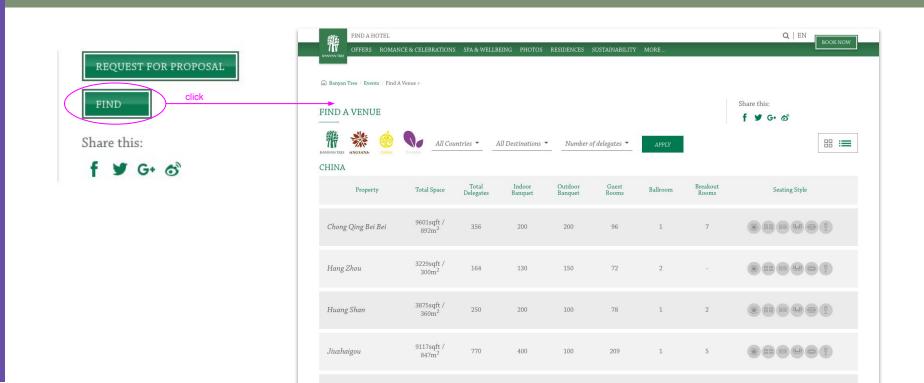
2. Match between system and the real world:

MEANING OF BUTTON

The CTA button on 'EVENT' page had a 'FIND button. Commonly 'FIND' could mean: find a location, find out more about events.

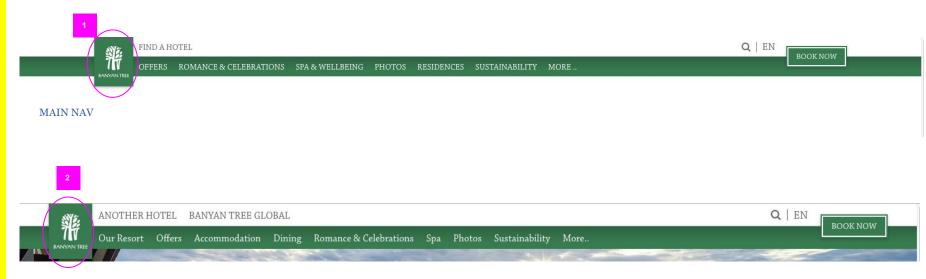
Upon clicking, it was actually a detailed chart info of the location's seating capacity.

Therefore, it was unclear what the CTA button 'FIND' meant from the beginning.



3.1. User control and freedom: NAVIGATION

- 1. In the navigation bar, the logo takes the user back to the main (global) homepage. This was clear.
- In the navigation bar for Property level, the logo takes the user back to the main (global) homepage. (Note: But there is no indication of name of the property on the navigation bar to let the user know they have landed on the Property Homepage)



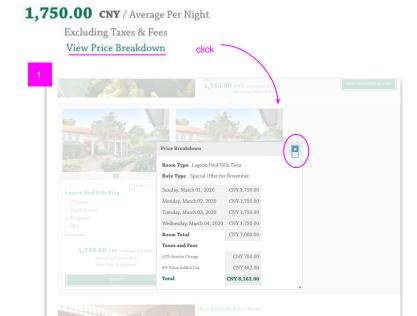
PROPERTY LEVEL

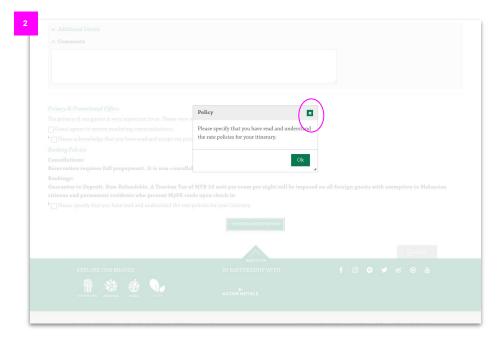
3.2. User control and freedom:

POP-UPS (1/2)

When a pop-up appeared, the background was lightened with a white pop-up box on top. Visually it lacked contrast.

- When user click on view price breakdown, a pop-up appears with a close icon in the top right corner to dismiss the pop-up. This was clear.
- During the form filling, if the user needed to check a box but did not do so, there is a
 pop-up message with a close icon in the top right corner to dismiss it.



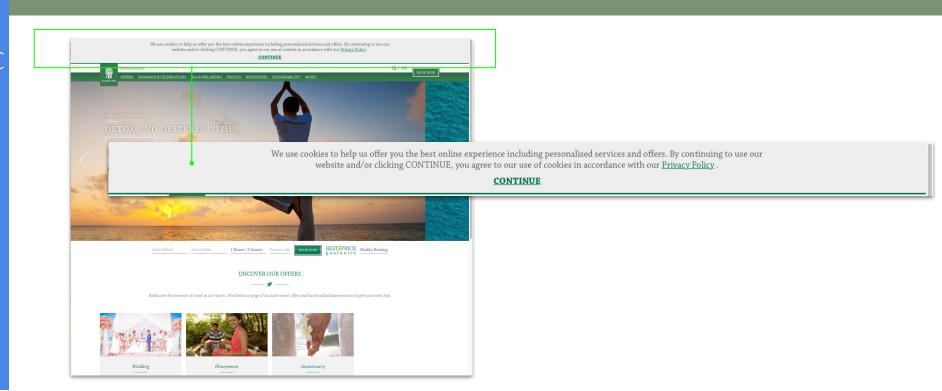


3.2. User control and freedom:

POP-UPS - COOKIES (2/2)

For first time users, there is a Privacy Policy message box that appears on top of the screen. The CTA link ('continue'), is clear to dismiss it.

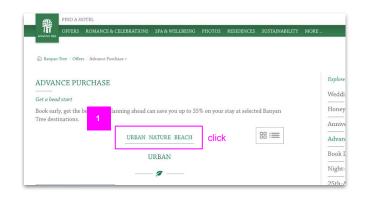
However User have to read a 'long' message (the size is bigger than the navigation bar) before they even start to browse. This might be off-putting for them.



4.1. Consistency and standards:

FILTERS

- 1. Underlined text here were actually filter buttons. This interaction prompt was not recognisable as they looked like headlines.
- Utilizing brand logos as a filtering system was not clear, as they are a display of brands.
 Moreover, the logos were position next to a filter drop-down menu (which is a more conventional display of filters).





In this case, when the user clicks on a check-box, it is deselected from the list below, and no longer displayed

4.2. Consistency and standards:

NAVIGATION (main) (1/2)

People presume how the system (website) could work based on their previous experience with other systems (websites) that are similar.

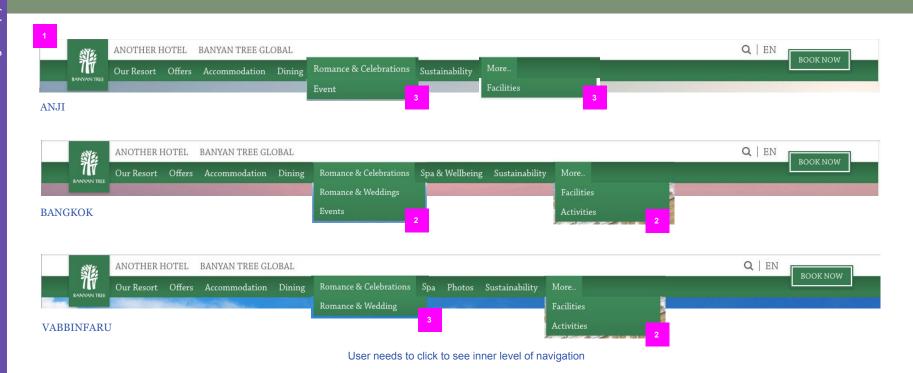
- Placement of "FIND A HOTEL" is up on the 'Utility Navigation'/ Above Nav, together with Language selector and a search button, making it a **Secondary** in nature. Because of this visual placement, users might miss this out and focus on the Main Navigation Bar.
- 2. Navigation Behaviour: User needs to click to display drop-down for some items. This was confusing it could lead people into thinking that other items did not display their drop-downs. (When only some of the primary navigation items are links, people will try to click on non-links, feel confused and frustrated when no page loads.)
- 3. The navigation bar was not consistently sticky for all pages.



4.2. Consistency and standards:

NAVIGATION (property) (2/2)

- As there was no property logo within the navigation (It was the Main Global logo BANYAN TREE), it was not immediately apparent that the user had landed on it. One needed to scan down to see the name of the Property (in the country) within the main image area.
- 2. Instances where there was only one item in the dropdown menu, it was still hidden. User needed to click to see.
- 3. One item was 'hidden' in a drop-down menu.

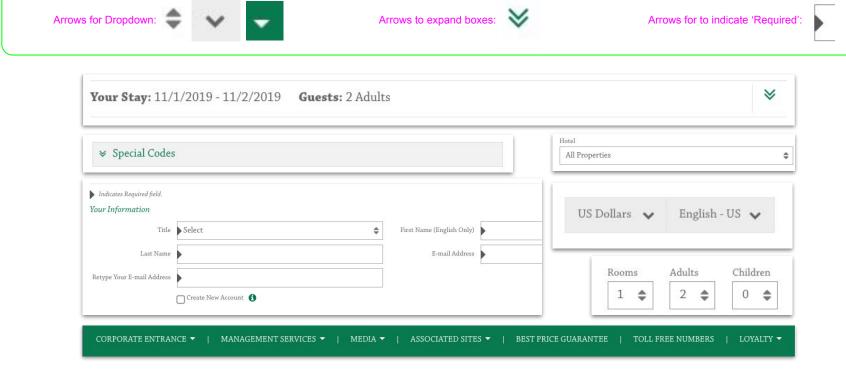


4.3. Consistency and standards:

ARROW ICON

(Booking)

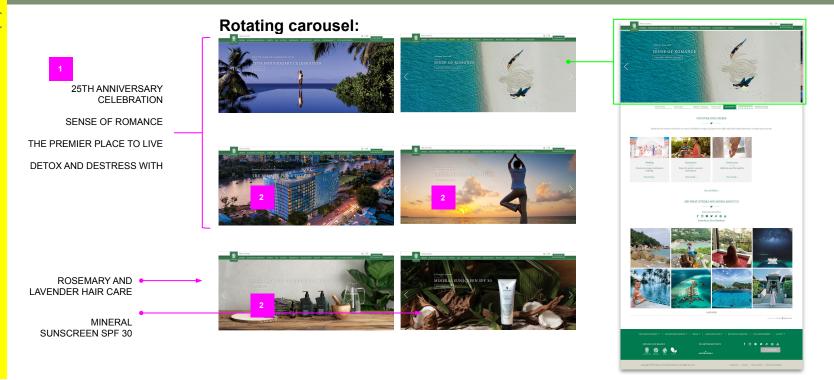
There were various kinds of arrows to indicate drop-down menu. Also, within the same page, there were other forms of arrows. At one glance, having so many fields to fill up with various arrows might be confusing for the user.



4.4. Consistency and standards:

MAIN HOMEPAGE SLIDER

- Product placement seemed out of place in this area which is usually for a promotion or to highlight an event Most likely when a user arrives on a main Homepage (like Banyan Tree), they will be looking to find out more about holiday destinations or locations.
- 2. Legibility of text over image is not clear for all promotions. In the case of a light image/complicated background, the white text does not stand out, and therefore was difficult to read.

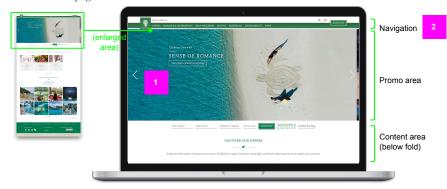


4.5. Consistency and standards:

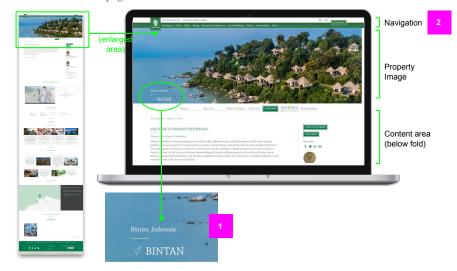
HOMEPAGE

- Visually the two Homepages look very similar: There are no distinct elements to tell the two apart (except for a Property name on image. On some other Property Homepages, this was missed out as the image was quite busy and lacked contrast).
- 2. The Navigation does not have an indication for the user that they have landed on a Property Page. This potentially could be an issue for the user as they are browsing and land on different properties without even knowing that they did.
- Content wise, it does not give a sense of luxury or aspiration as information was laid out in a very box-like (card view) and factual way.

MAIN Homepage



PROPERTY Homepage

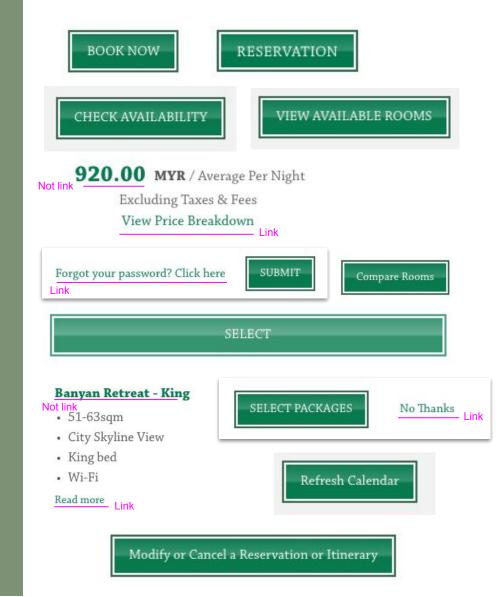


4.6. Consistency and standards: CTA - BUTTONS (1/2)

From the moment user click 'BOOK NOW' they are presented with various CTA buttons and naming conventions. They are also:

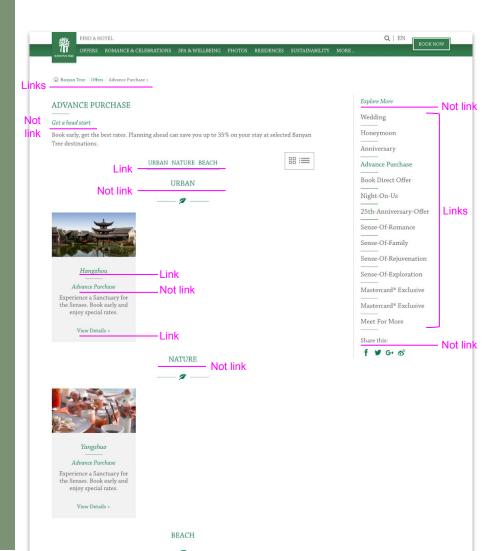
- In a range of different lengths & sizes
- In a mix of Sentence Case / UPPER CASE
- Placed closely to each other
- Repeated

For some secondary action buttons/links, they are presented as green text.



4.6. Consistency and standards: CTA - LINKS (2/2)

In a typical page on the website, there are text which are also links. At one glance, it was not clear which information the user should click on. - The hierarchy of headline text, bodycopy text and CTA links is not clearly defined. (For some secondary action buttons/links, they are presented as green text.)



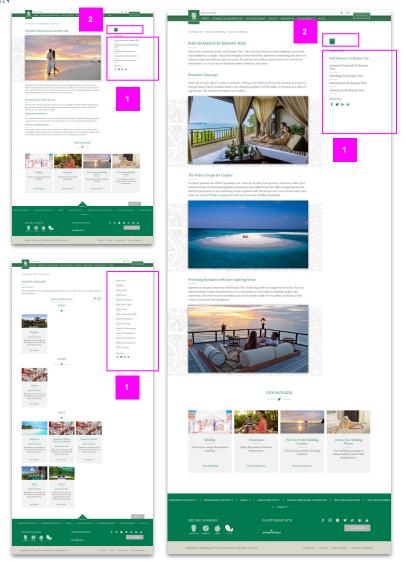
4.7. Consistency and standards:

RIGHT SIDE PLACEMENT (1/2)

(Current & Next Slide)

- 1. In this page, there is a new right navigation that appears. This breaks the flow of the previous browsing pattern and can be confusing for the user.
 - a. Typically, when users land on a content webpage and assess its content, they are not inspecting the navigation bars (which are typically at the top and/or left of the page). Their gazes land on the very leftmost part of the full page, and scan the page from left to right, downwardly (call The F-pattern) Therefore placement of a new right navigation on certain pages, breaks this convention.
- 2. There is a new button that appears above the right navigation. The sudden addition of the button was not apparent as previous pages did not have buttons within this area. In addition, if users see such CTA button before they read the information there are high chances that they will just ignore it.

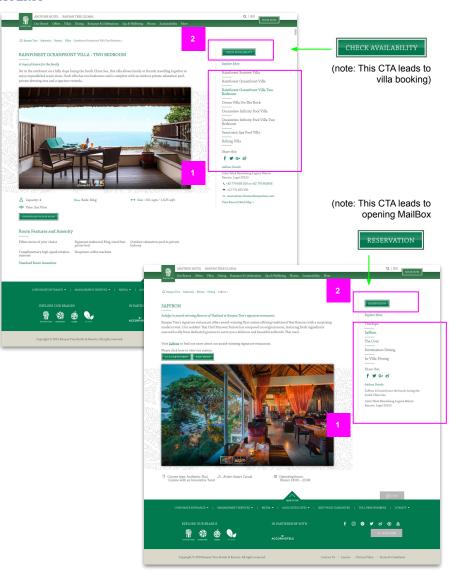
MAIN



4.7. Consistency and standards:

RIGHT SIDE PLACEMENT (2/2)

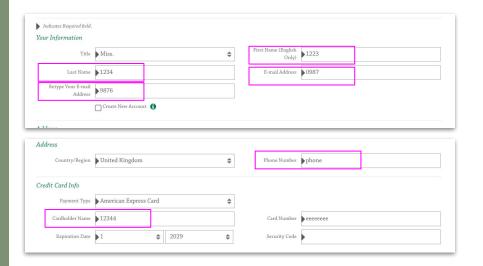
PROPERTY



5. Error prevention: FORM FILLING

There are no UI constraints to prevent the user from entering incorrect values in forms. Within the confirmation form, the user had the option to:

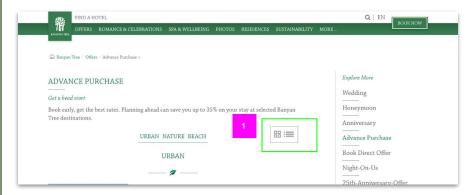
- Add numeric characters in the *Name* field
- Add non-numeric characters in the Telephone number field
- Add numeric characters in the Cardholder name field





6. Recognition vs. Recall: LACK OF LABELS

There is no text to accompany the icons - in this case for Card View and List View.

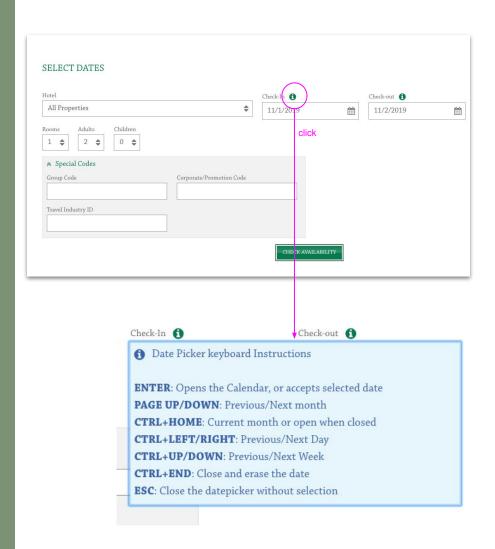




7. Flexibility and efficiency of use:

TOOLTIP: CALENDAR PICKER

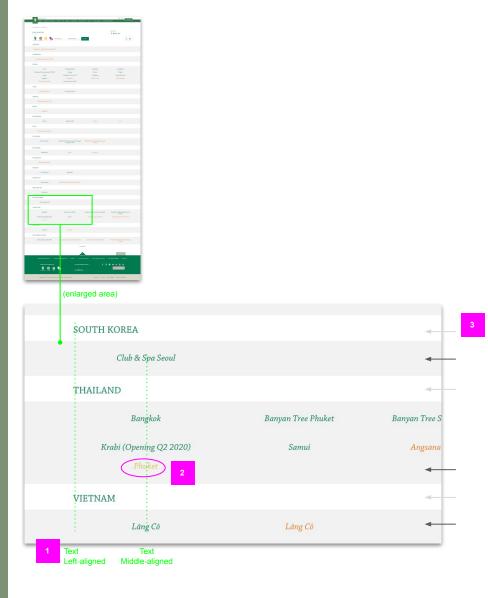
On the booking page, user is presented with an option of Tooltips on the calendar selection. Upon clicking, it is actually shortcut commands for the user to utilise the calendar.



8.1. Aesthetic and minimalist design:

TYPOGRAPHY (List view) (1/3)

- Because of the same serif font used throughout website, there was no clear hierarchy to differentiate between the information. Having the property middle-aligned while the main Country text was left-aligned made the overall page displayed look untidy.
- 2. Colour coding the text by location was not clear from the beginning. In some instance, the colour of text on Grey box was lacking contrast (poor visibility) and was difficult to read.
- 3. Having rows of text information sitting in alternate white and grey (called Zebra Striping), may seem helpful at first, but upon closer inspection, it was actually counter-intuitive as the information was chunked according to Country headlines (white) and The Properties (grey).



8.1. Aesthetic and minimalist design:

TYPOGRAPHY (Card view) (2/3)

(Current & Next Slide)

- The information (headline, body copy, CTA buttons) are all in the same colour and font family type. At one glance, it was not clear which information the user should click on. In some instances, the emphasis of information was misleading (eg bold for policies, regular for description body copy) - The hierarchy of headline text, bodycopy text and CTA links is not clearly defined.
- 2. Colour coding the text by location was not clear from the beginning. In some instance, the colour of text on Light or Dark Grey box was lacking contrast (poor visibility and failing at accessibility standards) and was difficult to read.
- (Next slide) Spacing and placement for 'Add to Compare' check-box visually looks misaligned and therefore could be misunderstood as a layout mistake. In some instances, check-box was not clearly defined as it was placed over an image and visually not clear.

INDONESIA





headline

Description

CTA links

Bintan

Discover rustic luxury in the tropics

Book Now > View Details >

Ungasan, Bali

Discover the wonders of Bali

Book Now > View Details >

"Which one should the user click?"





Bintan

Welcome to your island adventure

Book Now > View Details >

Bintan

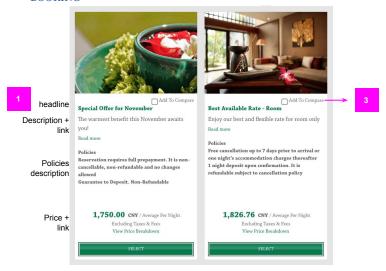
Book Now > View Details >



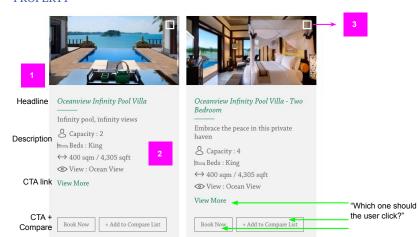
8.1. Aesthetic and minimalist design:

TYPOGRAPHY (Card view) (3/3)





PROPERTY



8.2. Aesthetic and minimalist design:

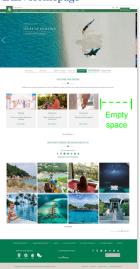
HOMEPAGE

The current website lacks a clear grid system. It consists of a mixed of Left aligned and Middle aligned content + half/half or 1/4 grid.

Without any set grid system established, the overall information looks messy. Therefore the user's eyes navigate down the page/screen in a broken rhythm.

Because of the same serif font used throughout website, there was no clear hierarchy to differentiate between the information.

MAIN Homepage

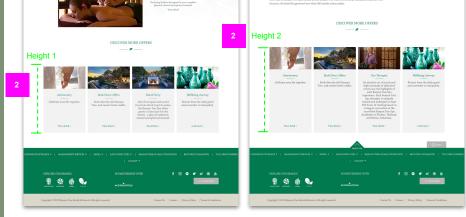


PROPERTY Homepage



8.3. Aesthetic and minimalist design: GRID / ALIGNMENT INCONSISTENCIES (1/3)

- There is a gap after the Card-View boxes. Visually this looks like a or some box is missing. (For Homepage, it should be a pleasant browsing experience, but this could come across as untidy and unprofessional with a lack of grid system)
- There are various heights for OFFER boxes (the content within is also not consistent, some are 1 line, 2 lines, some are up tp 12 lines etc)







8.3. Aesthetic and minimalist design:

GRID / ALIGNMENT INCONSISTENCIES (2/3)

The current website lacked a clear and grid system. It consists of a mixed of Left aligned and Middle aligned content + half/half or ½ grid.

Without any set grid system established, the overall information looks messy. Therefore the user's eyes navigate down the page/screen in a broken rhythm.





8.3. Aesthetic and minimalist design: GRID / ALIGNMENT INCONSISTENCIES (3/3)

The current website lacked a clear and grid system. It consists of a mixed of Left aligned and Middle aligned content + half/half or $\frac{1}{4}$ grid.

Without any set grid system established, the overall information looks messy. Therefore the user's eyes navigate down the page/screen in a broken rhythm.

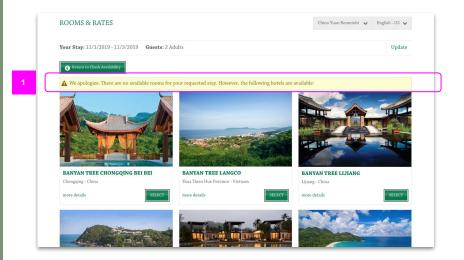


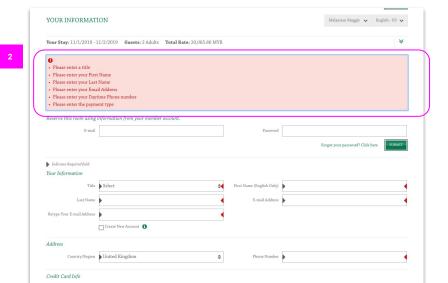
9.1. Help users recognize, diagnose, and recover from errors:

BOOKING RESULTS

(Booking)

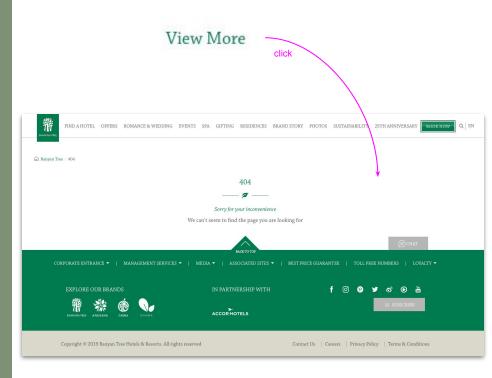
- During the Booking selection, if user input in a field an invalid entry, they will get an explanation of error message + a selection of suggested locations for user to browse. This was clear.
- If the user did not fill in the fields for the confirmation form and clicked 'CONFIRM RESERVATION', they will receive an error message indicating which fields to fill up. This was clear.





9.2. Help users recognize, diagnose, and recover from errors: ERROR 404

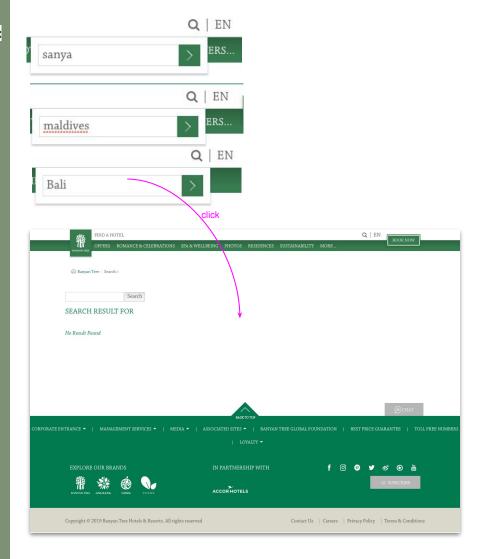
Upon clicking 'View More' from Hotel Listing, and on some pages browsing through the website, user is directed to an Error 404 page. But there is no further information to assist the user.



9.3. Help users recognize, diagnose, and recover from errors:

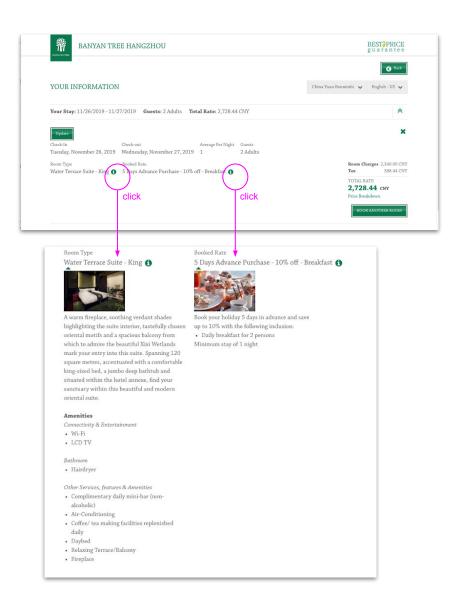
SEARCH RESULTS

Upon input of query into Search Bar, it did not yield any results. (When users try a search and get no results, there's a high risk of site abandonment - typically to then perform a Google search instead, which will almost always be successful.)



10.1. Help and documentation: TOOLTIPS

The tooltip icon is used on the form, where the user needs to click on it to reveal more about the summary of booking. This is not the best way to display info, as this is where the user wants to have an overview of information after going through a selection process in the previous pages.



10.2. Help and documentation: **CHAT**

- 1. There was a chat button at the bottom of the page (together with the footer bar), but was only visible after the user had scrolled down to the end of the page.
- Upon clicking chat, a window opened indicating that they (Banyan Tree) is not available. This might cause frustration to the user if indeed they had a query.

