



Yeah, next year... as long as our passions don't take us our separate ways before then. As you get older, you slow down and you have other passions. But we will definitely get back together.

I don't think we'll be as famous as when we were younger. It's just not going to happen. Our aim will be to make sure we write damn good songs though. At the end of the day people remember the songs more than you...unless you're a real celebrity like Michael Jackson. But that's what you want. You want your songs to stand out, be remembered and have soul. You don't want to be a one-hit wonder. Hopefully I can create some soul in this hotel, as well.

**Your whole family is talented. Do you have a family secret for success? Does talent run in your genes?**

I think we're just eccentric people. We're not businesspeople. I mean if we were real business people, we could have financially grown a lot more. Other businesses would not have built a hotel like this. I mean, 39 rooms on 3 acres of land. Only artists would build a hotel like this because it's not about money. In fact, my mum joked that this hotel is my problem. She said, 'By the time we make money, I'll be dead.' So yeah, we're just eccentric people who love art.

**What about dealing with fame?**

Fame's a funny thing. You've got to remember that while in Thailand I was once considered to be a big rock star, in the US I've always been practically unknown.

I remember one time 10 years ago at the peak of my fame in Thailand I was in a jewelry shop in New York and Lenny Kravitz walked in, and on his arm was a blonde model girlfriend. I looked at him and then looked at myself and I remember thinking, 'geez, I'm not a rock star. That's a rock star. He's the

talented one. I can't compete with that...I'll just go build hotels man.' (laughs).

The funny thing is that not so long ago I was approached by Travel and Leisure magazine with regards to featuring in an article about rock stars and their hotels. And guess who else they said would feature in the article? Lenny Kravitz! I thought, yeah, I'm not a peanut anymore. And it's all thanks to this hotel.



**About The Siam**

CONCEIVED by Krissada Sukosol Clapp and globally acclaimed architect and designer Bill Bensley, The Siam is located on three acres of premium river frontage in Bangkok's royal Dusit district. Thirty-nine rooms are divided between spacious suites and private pool villas with open-air roof terraces. Three traditional Thai teakwood houses sourced by silk tycoon Jim Thompson and socialite owner Connie Mangskau make up Thai restaurant 'Chon,' while another one has been turned into a unique pool villa. Facilities include café, spa, gym, Muay Thai boxing ring, library/cinema, infinity pool, and more. The Siam is a Sukosol Hotel, member of Virtuoso Hotels & Resorts and Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH).

For more info see: [www.thesiamhotel.com](http://www.thesiamhotel.com)



to design it. My first thoughts went to Bill Bensley, because we often go to the same antiques stores and share the same tastes. In fact, there have been many times that I've gone to an antiques shop and found that Bill has already bought the item I wanted.

The fact that Bill is based in Bangkok was another huge bonus; most other leading architects are based in America or Paris. I also wanted someone I could work with closely, someone who shares the same ideas and who doesn't have a big ego. So Bill was the perfect choice.

**So he was an easy guy to work with? Even though you had the competition for the antiques?**

We do have competition for the antiques but it's all good fun. And working together has been great. Of course it's sometimes a challenge, but just like the relationship between a director and an actor, you simply respect each other's roles and realize the work you're creating is a collaboration.

**Many of your antiques are used to decorate the hotel. Was this always your intention from the start?**

I wanted to give the hotel its own identity and make it unique so I have tried to use as many as my own antiques as possible. I didn't want to go for a fake oldy-worldy feel; I wanted items with a real history to be on display. In this approach I decorated the rooms as if they were my home, rather than a hotel.

I think we've achieved the homely feeling because a lot of people come here and say that while it's a big piece of land, the resort actually feels small. And I'm really glad that we were able to create that - an intimate feel within a big construction.

**How long have you been collecting antiques for?**

It started right after university when I lived in New York and I got hooked on going to the flea markets. Then when I came back to Bangkok I got hooked on Chatuchak Market, where I go every weekend looking for antiques. So it's been a passion of mine for over 20 years now, and I collect items from many different periods. I'm lucky to have a warehouse where I store most of my purchases.

**Do you plan to sell any of your antiques at the hotel?**

Yes, there's a small shop at the front of the hotel where I will sell more eccentric items; a different kind of antique shop that you can't find elsewhere in Bangkok.

**You've been so busy with the hotel and promoting your new movie we guess you haven't had any time to complete your new solo album?**

You're right. I've been recording my solo album for the past three or four years now. I actually completed all the music two years ago, but at the moment all my passion has been in this property so I've had no free time to go into the studio and sing the songs. I won't sing a song if my heart's not there, so I've just been delaying it. I think for certain next year I have to finish this album because, yeah, I'm not getting any younger.

Unfortunately, showbusiness is a young man's game,

especially in Thailand, and I'm over 40 now. I'm slowing down.

**Yes, but you look a lot younger than forty.**

Oh maybe, yeah. But I get tired on stage a lot easier now, it's funny. Life changes when you're 40, your health changes, your eyesight dwindles - I actually couldn't read the newspaper this morning without moving it closer to my face.

**You still had enough energy to film your movie, Antapan (Gangster), though?**

Yeah, but the timing is kind of crazy considering we've just opened the hotel and at the same time I'm promoting the movie. It's good for motivation here though - the staff laughs and says that by day I'm a gangster who runs around killing people with crab claws, and then by night I run the hotel.

**It must have been fun playing a gangster.**

It was great fun. I mean, portraying a gangster is every boy's dream. It was tiring though, especially as I did my own stunts. Some of the fight scenes look funny because we fought like people would in real life - no finesse, just mayhem. And arms flailing like windmills.

You have to remember that in Thailand there are no safety rules like they have in Hollywood. So when the director tells you that you're going to be running across a rooftop and jumping into a pile of boxes, it makes you gulp, but it's fun.

**So did you have any serious accidents?**

No I didn't. I do have two scars on my legs from falling down, but that was it.

**Was it difficult to get into the mindset of a gangster?**

I'm not like a method actor or anything, but I did prepare for the roll by watching gangster movies and learning to hold a cigarette properly. I also went to the gym, not to get mega bulked up, but just to look skinny yet solid.

**So did you have a ball filming the movie?**

It was stressful juggling filming with constructing the hotel but I did have a ball. Good roles come to me once every two years or so, so I was really lucky to be given the opportunity and that's why I took it.

**Do you have any more movies on the pipeline?**

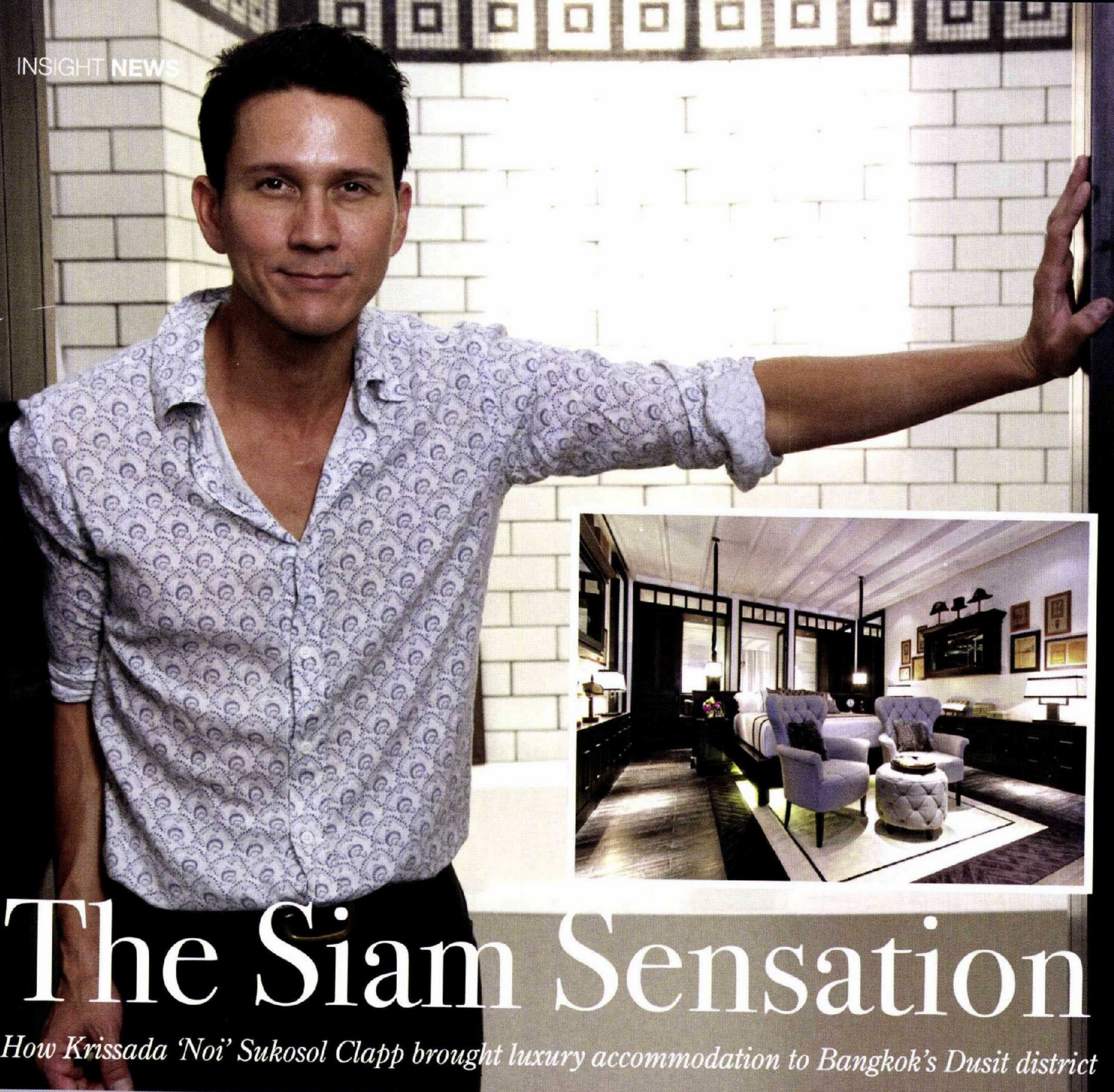
Not at the moment, but if another great script comes along I'd certainly consider it.

**Do you have any plans to reform your band Pru?**

Yes I do, and after going through making the solo album process, I think I'd rather go back into the rock band and work with my brother again - especially as he's great at all the promotional stuff and can come up with beautiful witty punchlines on the spot.

**So we can expect the band to reform next year, after the solo album is released.**





# The Siam Sensation

*How Krissada 'Noi' Sukosol Clapp brought luxury accommodation to Bangkok's Dusit district*

■ THERE can't be many actors in the world who can claim to have starred in a movie that sees them assassinate another character by stabbing them in the neck with a crab claw. But that's exactly what Khun Krissada 'Noi' Sukosol Clapp was seen doing last month in his new movie, *Antapan* (Gangster). For anyone who likes action movies, this grisly seafood dispatch is as cool as it gets. But what more would you expect from a cool character such as Khun Noi?

After all, he's a rock star, actor, family man with two kids, and the creative director of his family's brand new luxury resort The Siam, considered by many in the trade to be one of the city's hottest new hotels. Just the thought of juggling all these roles would be enough to send most men insane, but Khun Noi takes it all in his stride. In fact, he even finds time on weekend mornings to pursue his hobby of collecting rare, valuable antiques, many of which are on display in the rooms at The Siam.

We recently caught up with Khun Noi to find out what inspired him to create the new hotel, and whether or not we can expect him to return to the stage or screen any time soon.

**How did you get the idea for the hotel and how long did it take to build?**

The idea for the project came to me around 2004 and we got the ball rolling late 2005. I think we then started building around 2006, so it's taken around six or seven years to complete.

I was always trying to figure out a way that I could contribute to the family because I was always singing and acting, fulfilling other passions, and I was always feeling kind of guilty, as I never quite helped support the family business.

My mum told me that we had some land in the old area of town so I went to take a look at it and as soon as I saw it I said, 'you know what, mum, we should build a hotel here.' The old part of Bangkok has so much character and is full of beautiful buildings, so I thought it was perfectly placed for an upmarket hotel – one that gives travelers the chance to see a side of the city they don't normally get to see.

**What about the design concept?**

I'm kind of a dreamer and I love antiques so I decided I wanted to build this world of mine which looks modern but has old touches. A world which allows guests to step back in time but in a comfortable, luxurious way.

So that was the initial idea, and then I needed to find someone