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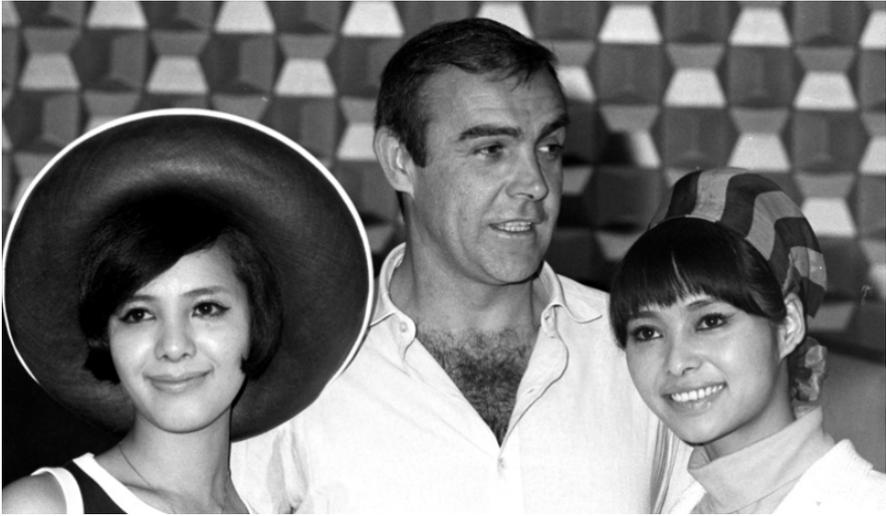
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Ken Adam made a few drawings of the volcano set, Cubby Broccoli asked what it would cost to build it, Adam roughly estimated "One million dollars" and Broccoli, without blinking his eyes, replied "If you can do it for a million dollars you can start building it", giving the very talented Ken Adam the opportunity to create one of the most memorable sets ever designed.

Writer Roald Dahl was brought in to write the screenplay and he used several elements that were originally written in the first outlines, which he mixed with fresh ideas based on the locations they had found in Japan. In May, after Dahl had delivered a first-draft screenplay, they returned to Japan to further work out the story, look for additional locations and to cast the leading Japanese roles.



As a result of the collaboration with the leading Japanese Toho Studios, EON was forced to use local Japanese actors. Lewis Gilbert had worked with Tetsuro Tamba before, so he was an obvious (and excellent) choice to play Tanaka. For the female parts, many Japanese girls were tested, until they settled for two of Toho's stars, Akiko Wakabayashi and Mie Hama. Hama would initially play Suki, the agent who rescues 007 more than once, while Wakabayashi would play the island girl Bond marries to in order to complete his disguise.



Mie Hama, Sean Connery and Akiko Wakabayashi

The girls were flown to London, where they got a crash course in English. After a month it turned out Wakabayashi managed herself well enough, while Hama still struggled with the English language. Gilbert instructed Tamba to take the girl out to dinner and tell her she could no longer be in the film. When Tamba returned, later that evening, and informed Gilbert that Hama had threatened to commit suicide, it was hastily decided she would be fine in the film as long as she wouldn't speak much. Therefore, the girls swapped roles and Suki became Aki (played by Akiko Wakabayashi), while Mie Hama would play Kissy Suzuki, the island girl that marries Bond. Kissy had only a few lines to say and in the final film, Hama was re-voiced (like so many before her) by Nikki van der Zyl.

Casting was complete, just before filming started on the 4th of July 1966. Well, almost complete.. There was no Blofeld yet, but this would be taken care of in time, Gilbert was told by Broccoli and Saltzman.

way into, to copy the contents of the safe and later in the film meets with Mr. Osato and his beautiful assistant Helga Brand. While all interior scenes were filmed at Pinewood, the exterior still looks exactly like it did back then. The stone columns outside the front door are still there, as is the large parking lot you can see Aki drive through several times in the film. The surroundings changed completely though.



Filming one of Bond's escapes on the New Otani parking lot

Two more towers were added to the complex in 1974 (Garden Tower) and 1991 (Garden Court), while the main building saw a major renovation in 2007. All these additions caused the disappearance of at least one filming location: The former southern exit. There used to be an elevated road, running from the main building towards the southernmost tip of the garden, where a curve brought the road back to street level. You can see this old street exit in the scene where Aki rescues Bond, when the latter visits Osato, while pretending to be Mr Fisher. Bond and Aki race off together, pursued by 'gunmen in black sedan' and use this exit to return to the streets of Tokyo .



60s postcard of the New Otani, showing the former southern exit (white arrow)

The New Otani landscape garden was also used as a location. This 400-year old garden was originally part of the residence of the Fushimi-no-miya family, the oldest of the four branches of the Imperial Family of Japan (before that, the land was owned by samurai lord Katō Kiyomasa). The later additions of buildings unfortunately caused the garden to shrink to its current size.

When Bond is chasing the thug who killed his contact Dikko Henderson, he can be seen running through this garden. After tackling the thug, a small fight takes place on a lawn with deer statues in the back. Most of this grass has disappeared. The deer statues are still present in the garden, but you really have to look carefully to find them. When you are walking through the garden, follow the path up hill to the garden restaurant. You should be able to find the statues when you stand in between the two buildings. They're almost hidden between the trees.