

The Balinese Kul-Kul

The Balinese Kul-Kul, or drum tower is commonly a four-poster pavilion with one or more wooden drums hanging within it. It is used to call the villagers within the local community for a number of reasons, including a regular assembly, a fire or a sudden bereavement. The rhythm of the drumming varies according to the reason of the summons. The *Kul-Kul* tower often is positioned in the front corner of the neighborhood community hall, known as the *Banjar*.

At the sounding of the *Kul-Kul*, the men folk rush out of their family compound to determine the source of disturbance. If the beating is a fast incessant rhythm it invariably indicates a dangerous situation such as a theft and the men come running with a protective weapon such as a club or dagger.

The *Kul-Kul* is a unique calling system within traditional Balinese society. When the hollowed wooden log is beaten the sound resonates throughout the entire village and is an effective means of security in areas without the convenience of telephones and other electronic devices.