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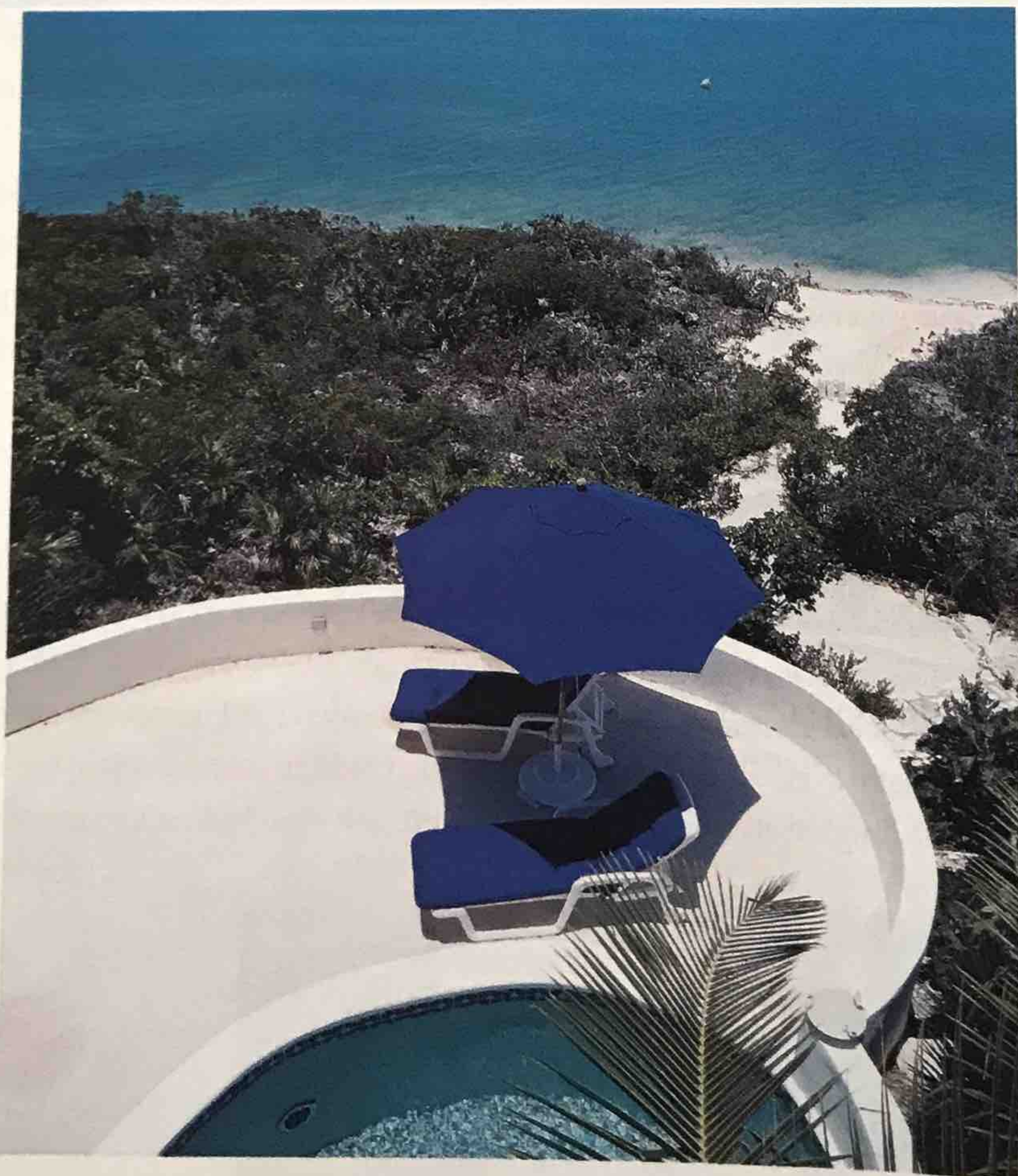
YOUR ISLAND GUIDE WITH COMPLIMENTS OF **American Airlines**



Defining Provo



By Teri D'Amico

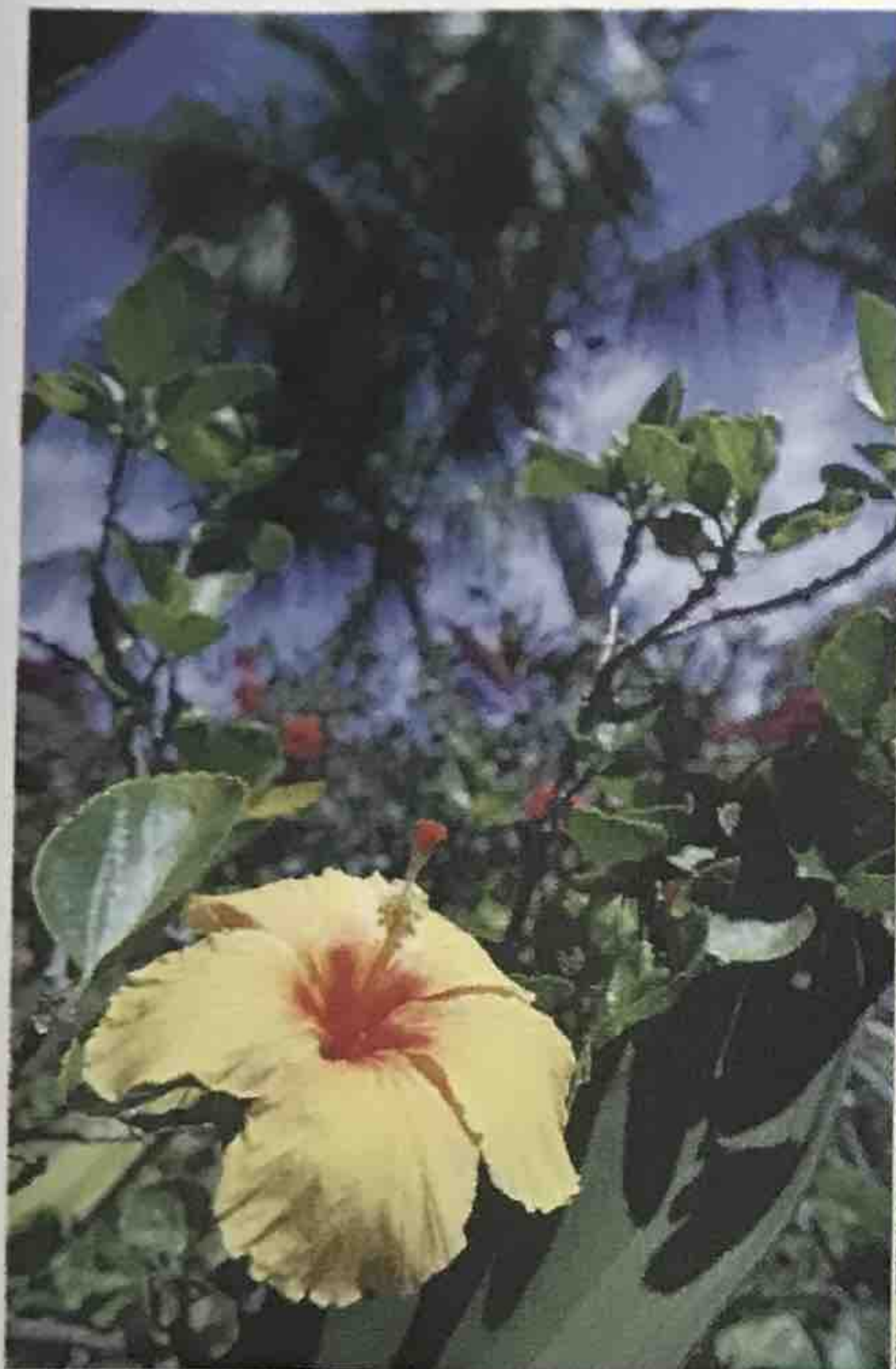


Turquoise water, unspoiled beaches, sea breezes, sunlight and friendship – the dream tropical getaway destination. Architects are painting tomorrow's scenery, the canvass being the beauty of Provo's landscape and the colours of their palettes enhanced by the strong natural light, which is second to none in the world.

If you are contemplating building a home or other development in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the choice of an architect can be critical for the project's success. Properly trained local architects are uniquely qualified to advise the newcomer on local issues and environmental variables. In addition to assisting with the strict local building regulations (which are necessary in the hurricane prone tropics) and development laws, your local architect will be familiar with the types of building constructions, which are available in the Islands. Currently, the most commonly used method of

construction is steel-reinforced concrete and block construction. When properly designed, this method offers hurricane safety and can be easily employed with readily available skilled labour.

Architecturally, Provo is a very young island compared to the Mother Island of Grand Turk. The Caicos Islands in general have little commercial history. Provo, which is now developing rapidly, however, has attracted developers/architects and builders from all corners of the globe, each



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with their own preferred styles, methods and materials. Because of this, a common architectural identity has not yet developed on the Island. The traditional architecture of Grand Turk, being steeped in rich history, definitely Caribbean and uniquely "Turks and Caicos", may well provide the perfect unifying precedent for the development of Provo to follow.

Although heavily influenced by salt traders from Bermuda in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, the architecture of Grand Turk is lighter and more open, "West Indian" in flavour and more reminiscent of

- TOP LEFT • View from Point Grace
- BOTTOM LEFT • Sully Creek Residence
- TOP RIGHT • Comfort Suites
- MIDDLE RIGHT • Provo Golf Club
- BOTTOM RIGHT • Mystic & Stanbrook Law Offices

Barbados than Bermuda. The primary reason for this is most likely climate. The year round temperature in the Turks and Caicos is higher than in Bermuda. Large covered porches/verandas are needed to shade the homes while keeping rain out from wide open doors and windows which in turn are orientated to catch the cool trade winds. Materials have been historically limited and many buildings are built utilising the timbers from old boats creating interesting and unique detailing. Balconies sporting decorative brackets, balustrading and fretwork are the predominant and identifying features of many buildings, each one different from the other. Heavily gabled roofs, quoining, keystones, cornice mouldings and storm shutters are all part of the architectural language.



create partially shaded areas for comfortable seating that is open to majestic views of the world renowned waters and sunsets.

Dramatic roof designs sharply contrasting against the soft blue skies are not only visually appealing but they provide high exposed "cathedral" ceilings. Extension of the roof's eaves over terraces can expand the living



environment beyond the envelop of the structural walls. All these elements can create shaded transitional areas between the internal and external environment, which is an essential step in achieving successful tropical design.

These vernacular elements are being used by some Architects in Provo to maintain a tradition of architecture while taking advantage of the unique climatic conditions. Pergolas and verandas are used as bris soleil (architectural features designed to block out the sun while allowing the cool winds to blow through) which create sun catching effects with light and shadows against the contrastingly smooth rendered walls. These features are also used to

Indoor/outdoor living creates many challenges for designers, they must understand and research current building technology. Tile and stone are suitable for use both internally and externally and when properly detailed they have endless design possibilities. Finish materials such

as wood, metal and textiles must be carefully selected to avoid deterioration in the surprisingly harsh seacoast and sunny environment.

With considered respect for the principles of traditional architectural



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ABOVE • Sapodilla Bay Terrace

design, whatever interior style is preferred (be in the elegance of a bygone plantation era or a more modern sleek and colourful style using ceramics, marble and seamless glass) the designer can provide the end user with a comfortable, inspiring and refreshingly unique Caribbean living experience.

Architecture

Simon Wood Associates Ltd, Providenciales

Simon Wood, a British qualified architect and member of the Royal Institute has lived and worked in the Caribbean for the past 13 years. Residing in Provo for 10 of those years, he has contributed tremendously to the

betterment of the built environment.

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Interior Design:

Teri D'Amico Interiors

Teri D'Amico, NCID!Q certified and Florida licensed interior designer, Teri is currently an Adjunct Professor at Florida International University, School of Architecture.

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Photography

Paul Stoppi Photography

Paul Stoppi was trained in architecture and photography in Jamaica, England and the United States. Paul's work is exhibited at the National Gallery of Jamaica.

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