

# real life

CARIBBEAN LUXURY LIFESTYLE, PROPERTY AND DESIGN MAGAZINE

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## COASTAL JEWEL

A CAYMAN HOME CRAFTED  
FOR AN EVOLVING LIFESTYLE



EXCLUSIVE SHOWCASE PROPERTIES

## KOKO KAI

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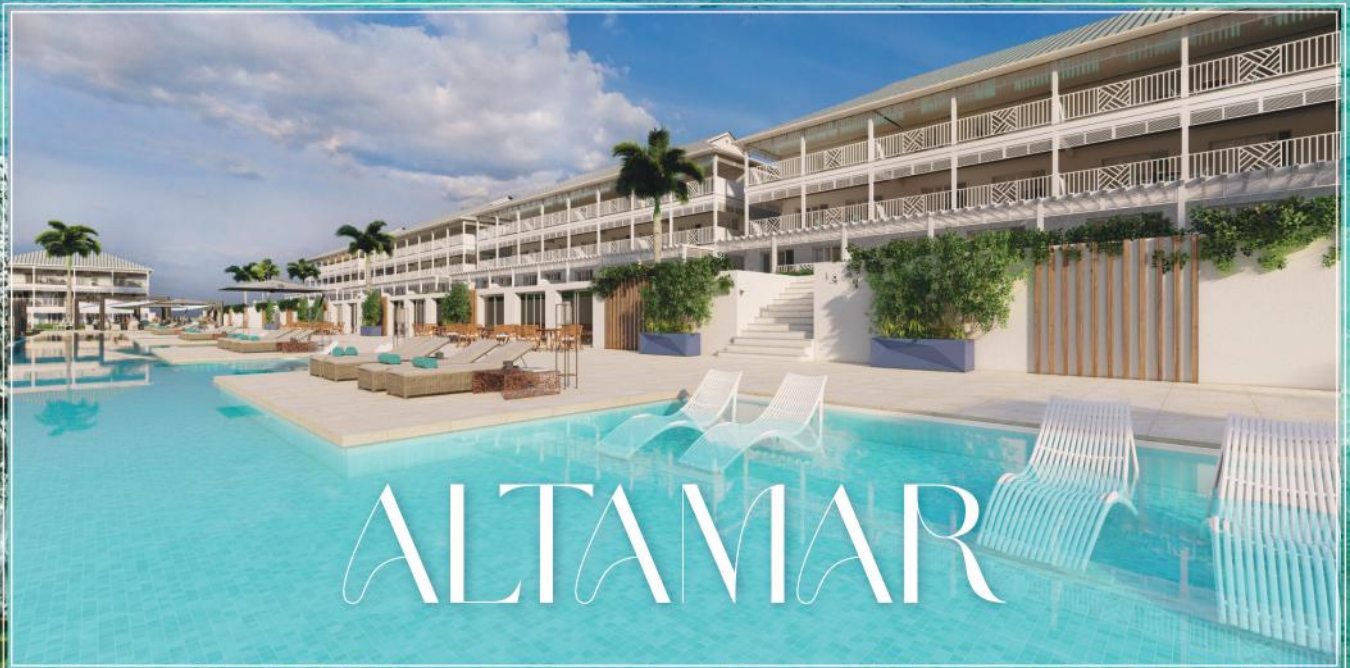


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## BEFORE



### Check your policies

Make sure your insurance policies are up-to-date.



### Prepare an emergency kit

Check supplies including a battery-operated radio, flashlights, extra batteries, first aid kit and medications.



### Have a family plan

Develop an emergency plan for your home, property and pets.



### Stock up on food and water

Have a three-day supply of drinking water and non-perishable food. Fill bathtub and buckets with water.



### Charge up

Make sure to charge your mobile device and save all emergency phone numbers.



### Protect your property

Secure windows by installing hurricane shutters or boarding them up. Clear yard of loose objects. Move your vehicle and/or boat to a secure location.

## DURING



### Remain indoors

Stay in the structurally strongest part of the house, and away from windows and doors.



### Secure important documents

Store valuables and personal papers (e.g. insurance, medical records, passports, etc.) in a waterproof container.



### Follow official instructions

Do not go outside unless local authorities announce an evacuation or if it is safe to step outside.



### Monitor the news

Stay tuned to the Government Emergency Broadcast station.

## AFTER



### Check everyone's safety

Ensure all family members, friends and neighbours are safe, especially senior citizens.



### Stay alert

Continue to monitor local news for the latest updates. Keep the roads clear for emergency vehicles.



### Discard perishable food

Get rid of perishable food (such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers) that have been above 40°F for 2 hours or more.



### Inspect your property

Secure your house and property against the possibility of further damage. If you hire anyone for repairs, keep receipts.



### Note the damages

List and photograph all damages sustained. Get two written quotes for repairs.



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The steamy summer season is upon us – and these hot, languid days are the perfect excuse to find a shady spot, sip an icy drink and dive into the latest issue of REAL LIFE.

In our quest to share fresh perspectives on property, design and island living, we've packed this issue with colourful and informative content. Whether you're building, buying, selling, or updating, we've got you covered – from planning notices and strata ownership to value-adding renovations and innovations in outdoor living spaces.

As always, we explore some exceptional homes that tell fascinating stories. Join us as we tour a 150-year-old Caymanian cottage, a beach house designed in the image of the owners' previous home and a Mexican retreat that celebrates the sound of silence.

We also meet some of the people shaping our community – the architects and developers transforming our skyline, the business owners helping make houses into homes and the artists who help us see our world a little differently.

There's plenty more besides this. We hope you'll find the pages that follow informative, inspirational and celebratory.

*Cheers & enjoy!*



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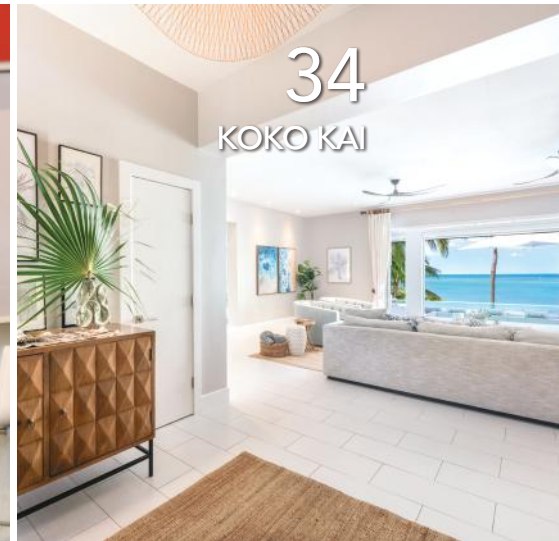
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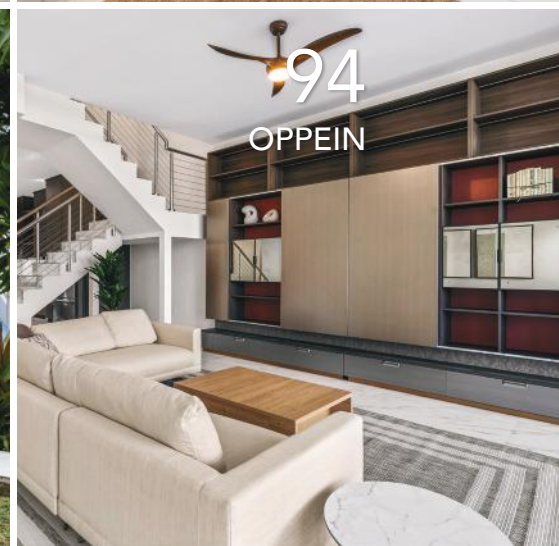
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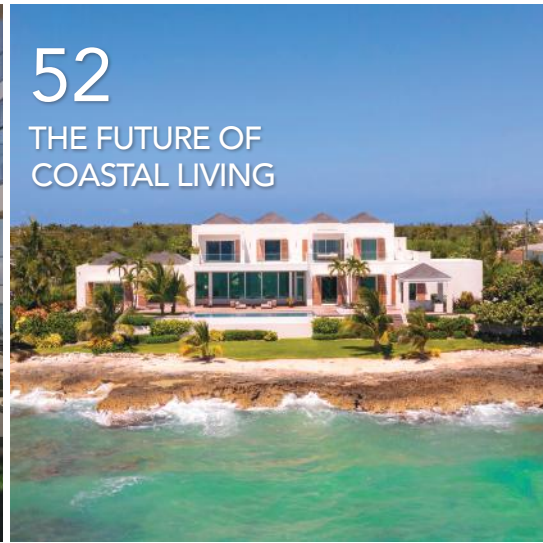
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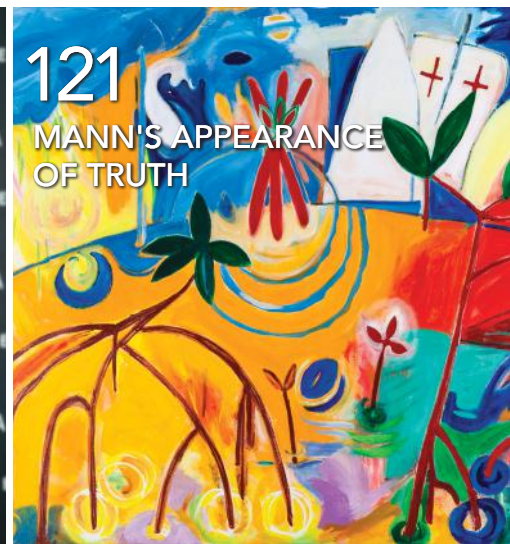
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# COASTAL JEWEL

Crafted for an evolving lifestyle

*Words by Natasha Weré. Photography by [www.tenzophotography.com](http://www.tenzophotography.com)*

What if you had designed and built your ideal home, but then a buyer came along and made an offer you couldn't refuse? For one couple in South Sound, the answer was simple: build the same home again, just a quarter of a mile down the road.

**D**etermined to remain in the neighbourhood they loved, the owners secured the only available waterfront parcel, boasting a magnificent stretch of pristine beach. With a nip here, a tuck there, and a flip of the layout, they adapted the designs for their original home to the new lot's dimensions.

## A REPLICA, REFINED

The semi-open floor plan mirrors their previous home, but slightly smaller, with the same extra-wide doorways between the living room, dining room and office, that achieve the delicate balance between connection and separation that was critical for the owners.



With their children now grown, they opted for fewer but more spacious bedrooms upstairs. And throughout the home, wall-to-wall glass ensures the seascape remains the undisputed star of the show.

"We wanted the whole house to feel light and bright, contemporary yet comfortable, with nothing detracting from the views," the owners explain. This philosophy manifests in every design choice – from

the low-profile sofas and the delicate lines of the Cherner chairs to the fine mesh Moooi pendant lights above the kitchen island – everything allows one to see through to the outdoors. Perhaps the most striking example is in the foyer, where a sculptural piece of driftwood, mounted between two bookcases, offers tantalising glimpses of sky and sea through its twisted branches.→



### ART BEFORE ALL

After 25 years of collecting art – everything from Old Masters to Andy Warhol silkscreens and digital art by dready – the owners designed their space around these treasured pieces.

“We knew what we wanted to display and where,” they say. “We installed spotlights in strategic locations and even created niches to showcase some larger pieces.” Characterised by clean

lines, airy spaces, and neutral palettes, the result feels like a private art gallery, where each piece has been meticulously placed.

By taking their existing furniture with them, they not only sidestepped the costs and complexities of shipping in new homewares but were able to map out each item’s dimensions on the new floors to ensure perfect flow throughout the space.→







#### TEN YEARS WISER

The decade between building their first Cayman home and creating their new residence gave the couple ample time to refine their vision. Although the double height living room in their first home had brought visual drama, the swathes of glass also created significant heat. For this iteration, the owners not only eliminated the two-storey space but also had a sun study conducted to ensure direct sunlight would not shine into the interior.

Other refinements abound: the Jack and Jill bathrooms that had worked when their children were young were no longer needed, so each bedroom now has its own luxurious en-suite. High-maintenance marble floors indoors were changed out for durable porcelain tile. Outside, to avoid the issues with pitting and mildew they had encountered with coral stone, they chose a limestone tile, and locally crafted silver thatch roofs – rather than the inexpensive but short-lived elephant grass – now crown the cabanas.→





### THE JEWEL BOX EFFECT

"We both had the idea that we wanted the house to be like a jewel box, with a few dazzling details," the owners reveal. Nowhere is this more evident than in the kitchen, where luxurious grey and white marble-look porcelain wraps the island, countertops and walls. Installed in five by ten foot slabs, carefully arranged so that the veining is continuous, the effect is both seamless and striking.

The same dramatic porcelain creates an architectural illusion in the master bathroom. Inspired by a magazine concept, the 'invisible' bathroom features walls and closet doors clad in matching porcelain, creating the appearance of an uninterrupted marble expanse. Sleek, somewhat masculine vanities sit opposite one another rather than side-by-side, perfectly balanced by the soft curves of a central soaker tub.

Guest bathrooms have their own distinctive flair: beautiful mother of pearl and thassos tile lends a subtle, luxurious shimmer to the walk-in showers, which blend with the warm neutrals of the bedrooms.→







### DESIGNED FOR LIVING

The pool, too, sparkles, with iridescent mosaic tiles from top to bottom in varying shades of blue. But this pool boasts more than looks.

“Our previous pool had traditional shallow and deep ends, perfect for kids jumping around,” the owners explain. “This pool was designed around our current lifestyle and our friends.” With shallow steps running the length of each side of the pool, and only four and a half feet deep, it’s a pool for socialising: for sitting and sipping, rather than diving and splashing.

Below the pool deck, soft sand extends to the shoreline, dotted with perfect vignettes of island living: a dining table for starlit dinners, a timber daybed for lazy afternoon naps, clusters of chairs nestled in the shade of a palm tree. With undeveloped lots on either side, this private oasis is embraced by lush greenery, white sand and the brilliant blue sea. →







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Wallpaper (Powder Room): Edie's  
Window Treatments (Bedrooms): Design Studio  
Outdoor Railing: Home & Outdoor  
Landscaping: Vigoro Nursery  
Outdoor Daybed: Martlet design



While this wasn't the couple's first design-build project, it marked their first without a professional designer. It was a true joint project between husband and wife, and as a result has a lot more of them in it. More importantly perhaps, it was a rare chance to create their dream home again, informed by experience and adapted to their current lifestyle. 🏡





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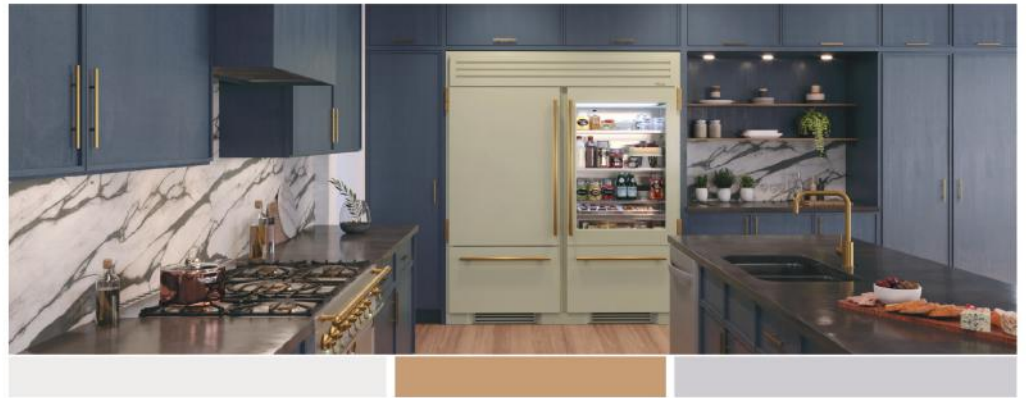
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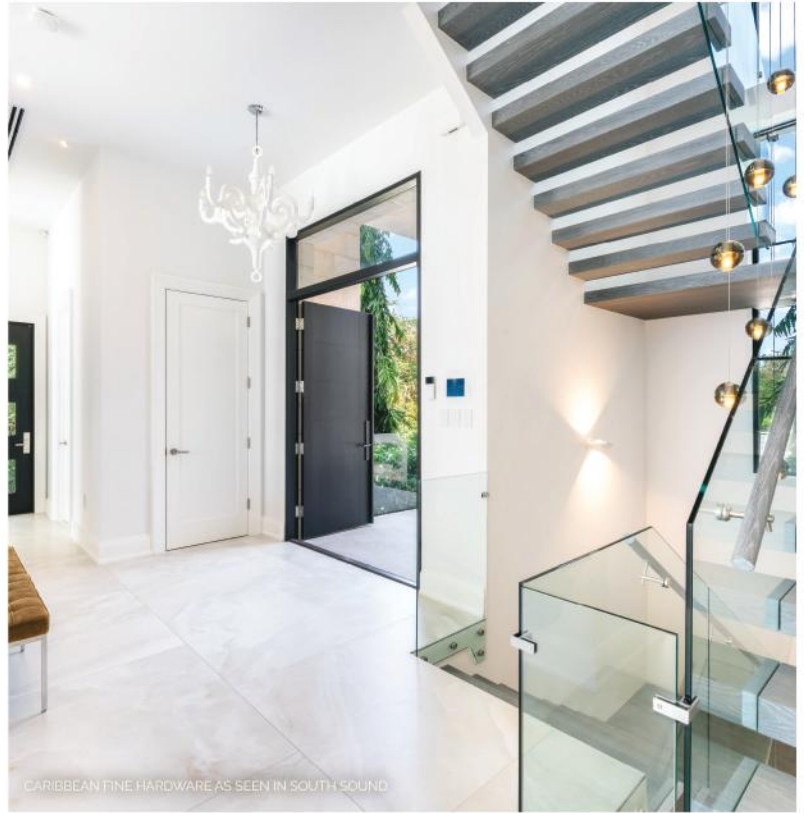
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# Savouring Life

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Kitchens are spaces that feel alive with possibility. Pots bubbling, glasses clinking, voices chattering and aromas mingling in the air. Few experiences are as deeply satisfying and life-affirming as the simple act of cooking and eating together. *Words by Natasha Were.*



This is the essence of Bon Vivant's *raison d'être*. Born from the owner's love of hosting and entertaining, it's much more than a kitchen store: it's a vibrant hub for foodies, amateur chefs and homeowners alike. It's a place where the joy of cooking, eating and sharing is not just encouraged, but celebrated.

**MORE THAN A STORE**

Step into the retail store in the heart of Camana Bay and feel the difference. Here, customers don't just browse – they engage. "It's an immersive, interactive space where you're welcome to touch, feel and even use some of the products on sale," founder Cynthia Hew explains. "From the amazing team to our customers, we all share a genuine passion not only for cooking but for the unity and social ties that eating together creates."

Whilst it is brimming with beautiful products, large and small, the heart and soul of this store is its convivial demo kitchen. With space for a dozen or more people to gather around, this is where cooking classes, private parties and corporate events unfold, where equipment can be seen in action and where culinary passions are indulged.

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From sophisticated, top-of-the-range refrigerators and ovens from brands such as La Cornue, Gaggenau, Bosch and Smeg to compact coffee machines from Jura and small appliances from Breville, Bon Vivant's collection of products is vast.

Whether Le Creuset's timeless cookware, Aarke's innovative carbonators, Elkay's sleek water dispensers or Zip Line's water

preference technology, every brand sold at Bon Vivant has been chosen for its quality and suitability to Cayman's unique environment.

But what truly sets Bon Vivant apart is its approach to matching products with people. The knowledgeable team is there first and foremost to listen and understand, before guiding you towards the right choice for you – whether your priority is performance, energy efficiency or sheer aesthetic beauty.

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The team's commitment to providing outstanding value means its services extend well beyond the business's physical space. For smaller items, an online store brings the convenience of shopping from home to your fingertips, while for larger items, shipping and logistics experts ensure your order arrives safely and efficiently. Delivery, installation and after-sales care are all part of the service.

And if you are building a new home or embarking on a renovation, Bon Vivant's kitchen design services and custom millwork transform visions into reality.

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# KOKO KAI

## THE ART OF COASTAL LIVING

Words by Natasha Were. Photography by [www.tenzophotography.com](http://www.tenzophotography.com)



The moment you open the wide double front doors of Koko Kai, the sense of serenity is palpable. From the oversized sofa at the heart of the living space, you gaze across the aquamarine infinity-edge pool to the still waters of North Sound. The same layered, thoughtful design permeates every part of this Cayman Kai home.

"There's a sense of calm that takes over the moment you walk in," the owner affirms. "Everyone feels it. There's no clinical therapy that works this instantly."

In a neighbourhood where beachfront properties often change hands quickly and undergo surface-level renovations for the rental market, Koko Kai stands apart: a family home that has evolved over two decades, exuding a sense of purpose and permanence.

### A SILVER LINING

Originally built in 1998, the house was a product of its time, with 'several avocado-coloured bathrooms and an ugly 1980s style pool.' The current owners purchased the property in early 2004, and a few months later, Hurricane Ivan struck. "While the insurance didn't cover the full scope of the renovation I envisioned, it marked the true beginning of a transformation," the owner says. The house was stripped back to the studs and deliberately rebuilt in phases: first the pool, then the interiors, and finally the exteriors.➔



### THE HEART OF KOKO KAI

Reimagining the relationship between the living spaces was central to the transformation. Where once stood an enclosed kitchen and separate TV area, there is now an open, airy culinary space that flows seamlessly into the dining area and onto the deck.

The owner worked with interior designer Lydia Uzzell to achieve the classic contemporary beach chic style in her mind's eye. The custom-designed kitchen, like the rest of the property, is elegant yet practical. The large island, crowned by striking, concrete pendants, features an integrated stovetop that makes cooking a social occasion and a plethora of drawers ensures ample storage within its clean lines.

In the dining area, the chunky hardwood table and comfortable cantilevered chairs have a reassuring solidity, creating a space that feels genuinely natural due to both the organic materials within and the views of lush gardens beyond.

In the living room, an oversized corner sofa and inviting rounded chairs are positioned to ensure clear sightlines to the North Sound. While the view through sliding glass doors is the focal point, prints of abstract seascapes – each carefully sized to fit the space – add pleasing balance and symmetry to the room.

Five automated mosquito screens surrounding the covered terrace allow the sliding doors across the living spaces to remain open, dissolving the distinction between inside and outside, while also keeping insects at bay. →







### SANCTUARIES FOR ALL AGES

While the commercial offices from the original layout were eliminated (and replaced with two guest bedrooms), the architectural features that lend character – the dormer windows and curved frames – were kept.

A testament to understated luxury, the master suite is a bright, generous space, anchored by the interior designer’s custom-commissioned ‘cloud bed’. The extravagantly tufted bedframe makes a bold design statement, beautifully accented by the Tom Dixon smoked glass pendants hanging above it.

Then there’s the elephant in the room – quite literally. The sculpture, a genuine Banksy piece decorated with photos of the artist’s murals, has become a much-loved member of the family.

In the master bathroom, the ceiling mounted rain shower and double vanity are only half the story. Perhaps the greatest design indulgence is the freeform bathtub designed to fit the curves of the human body, imported from Australia.

A testament to the family-centric design, not only do the children each have their own rooms with en-suite bathrooms, but there is also a dedicated sleepover room with a triple bunk and double bed. The original mezzanine has been transformed into a den filled with sofas and tactile fabrics, ideal for the children and friends to relax after a day of water sports, while also keeping the living room blissfully media-free. →







### OUTDOOR LIVING: WHERE FAMILY MEMORIES ARE MADE

Over the years, Koko Kai's outdoor spaces have borne witness to what, for many, would seem a fantasy family life play out, the private dock having once served as the departure point for the school run, the beach being the launch pad for kayak and paddleboard expeditions, and the firepit the site of many a memorable evening.

This constant connection to water defines life at Koko Kai, and the pool is a focal point of the outdoor living space. Long enough to swim laps parallel to the sea, the wide steps and tanning ledge ensure it's also a place to relax and have fun.

Behind it, the hot tub – the optimal place to enjoy a sundowner with a view – was meticulously designed so that when one





sinks down into it, the view is of continuous water. "On calm days, you literally can't see where the pool stops and where the sea begins," the owner says.

The landscape, too, has evolved with the family. What was once bare sand and a few palms is now a lush, salt-tolerant garden of bismarck palms, silver thatch, hibiscus and bougainvillea. Lovingly planted and carefully nurtured over the past 21 years, the now lush canopy harbours discreet seating areas and well-established palms provide the quintessential support for hammocks.

A clear source of pride for the owner, she documented this botanical progress in a series of pencil sketches of the trees at different stages, now exhibited as a mini gallery on the entrance hall wall. →



### A LEGACY OF PERMANENCE

Such a mature garden is unusual in Cayman Kai, where newly landscaped properties tend to dominate, but so is a property that is a genuine family home, one that is lived in and loved, year round.

That is the true distinction of Koko Kai: its authenticity. In a neighbourhood dominated by vacation rental properties, here stands a home where every decision was guided by a family's living needs rather than rental appeal or resale value.

"Above all, Koko Kai feels honest," the owner says. "Nothing in this house is for show. Every detail was designed with purpose and integrity."

Having had only three owners since its construction in 1998, Koko Kai stands as a testament to creating spaces that endure, where fixtures and furnishings are selected for longevity and gardens are given time to mature. The result is something increasingly precious in Cayman Kai: a home with roots as deep as the palms that frame it, that offers the profound sense of calm that only comes from being in a place built to last. 🌴

#### SERVICE PROVIDERS AND SUPPLIERS IN CAYMAN

Contractors: GPE Services

Interior Designer & Furniture Supplier:

Lydia Uzzell Interior Design and Hüis

Kitchen Design: Lydia Uzzell Interior Design

Kitchen Countertops: Elite Marble & Granite

Audio Visual: Audiophile

Artwork: Claire at the Beach





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# SCULPTING THE SKYLINE

BDCL, a boutique architectural firm based in George Town, has been shaping Cayman's built environment for 20 years. *Words by Natasha Were.*

Established shortly after Hurricane Ivan, Donal McGrath and his team were instrumental in rebuilding a devastated community in the early years of the firm and have since worked on a wide range of projects, including residential, commercial and civic. Whether applying their creativity and expertise to schools, government buildings, resorts or private residences, their commitment to providing practical, reliable advice and personal attention remains unchanged.

BDCL's services include architectural design, interior design and project management.

## BDCL'S APPROACH TO DESIGN

With over 20 years' experience in the Cayman Islands, BDCL's approach to design is people-first and environment-led. Blending elements of modern innovation with traditional and climate-conscious Caribbean design, BDCL works closely with their clients to ensure each project is a tailor-made experience from inception through to construction.

## RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

BDCL's book of residential projects ranges from private single-family dwellings to large-scale condominium developments across the island.

While the scope of the project may vary, Donal and his team are steadfast in their commitment to promoting Cayman's vibrant culture and relaxed lifestyle through design: open-air spaces, natural ventilation, locally sourced materials and a seamless connection between indoor and outdoor living are just some of the beautiful features that a BDCL house design boasts.

Working with each client to understand their vision, lifestyle, priorities and budget, BDCL translates their dreams and needs into spaces that reflect both their identity and the beauty of the natural environment.

Some key features of BDCL's residential designs include:

- thoughtful collaboration and meticulous planning
- open-plan layouts, where the living, dining and kitchen areas flow smoothly into each other
- high ceilings to maximise light and space
- rooflines that may be pitched or flat, mixing traditional island influences with modern design
- ventilation louvres, trellis work and shaded outdoor spaces to further blend interior and exterior

## COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

In addition to residential projects, BDCL also specialises in commercial design. The firm's expertise spans office buildings, retail spaces, hotels and mixed-use developments that balance functionality, aesthetics and business needs.

As with any BDCL project, sustainability and an appreciation for the island's natural environment remain at the forefront. Eco-friendly materials, energy-efficient systems and modern technology are incorporated into designs and, where possible, BDCL follows the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system with respect to design, site development, water efficiency, energy efficiency, material selection and indoor environmental quality.



**HARBOUR WALK**

BDCL provided architectural services for Harbour Walk, a mixed-use development in Grand Harbour that embodies modern Caribbean living. Designed around a shady, landscaped courtyard and featuring breezy walkways and high-end amenities, Harbour Walk is a prime example of BDCL's commitment to embracing tropical urban design.

With a vibrant blend of retail spaces, dining venues and entertainment options on the first floor and Class A office spaces and modern residences above, it has quickly become a community hub, not only for residents of the development but also for the wider neighbourhood.

**THE TEAM**

**Donal McGrath**

Founder Donal McGrath has been practicing architecture in the Cayman Islands for over 30 years; he also has extensive experience working in England and Ireland. Donal earned his Bachelor of Architecture degree from University College Dublin and is a member of both the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Institute of Cayman Islands Architects.

**Kristen Mandish**

Kristen received her BA in Architecture from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. While completing her degree she studied throughout Italy and Japan, developing a passion for modern aesthetics that she continues to apply to her designs.

**Rotimi Assani**

Rotimi trained at the KNUST School of Architecture, Ghana, where he gained a BSc and PG Diploma in Architecture. Building on his formative education he pursued an advanced degree in Sustainable Design and Computer Aided Building Simulation from the University of Sheffield. 🇳🇮



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# THE FUTURE OF COASTAL LIVING

## ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS FOR CHANGING SHORELINES

As coastal development in Grand Cayman continues, so do the challenges of rising sea levels, coastal erosion and extreme weather. How can the island's infrastructure, communities and ecosystems be designed to withstand these impacts while protecting its natural beauty and biodiversity? Engineering consultancy Reed Consulting Engineers (RCE) discusses with REAL LIFE the key considerations for the future of coastal development and how working in partnership with environmental experts like LGL Limited can help shape sustainable solutions.



### **RL: What are the key challenges facing coastal development in Grand Cayman?**

**RCE:** Like many island nations, Grand Cayman is experiencing increasing pressure from climate change, rising sea levels and coastal erosion. While economic growth remains vital, coastal zones are increasingly vulnerable to storm surges and extreme weather, putting infrastructure, natural systems and local livelihoods at risk.

Additionally, unchecked development has, in some cases, compromised the natural features that help buffer the coastline: coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves.

As development continues, it is crucial to balance progress with long-term resilience by integrating sustainable design and engineering solutions that safeguard both built and natural environments across the island.

### **RL: What steps can be taken to make coastal areas more resilient?**

**RCE:** There are several forward-thinking strategies that could be incorporated into future coastal planning:

- *Elevated and flood-resistant infrastructure:* Raising critical facilities and designing with sacrificial or adaptive elements can reduce disruption from sea-level rise and future climate scenarios.

- *Living shorelines and hybrid erosion control:* Instead of traditional seawalls, communities can explore site-specific approaches like mangrove restoration, seagrass conservation and engineered reef structures that stabilise coastlines and enhance biodiversity.

- *Permeable surfaces and stormwater management:* Integrated drainage systems using retention features and vegetated buffers can help manage runoff, reduce flooding and protect near shore water quality.

- *Sustainable material choices:* Using resilient, locally appropriate and low-impact construction materials strengthens island infrastructure while minimising long-term maintenance and environmental costs.

These are all strategies that RCE is eager to see implemented as part of a broader commitment to climate-resilient infrastructure and island sustainability.

### **RL: What role can engineering and environmental expertise play in shaping the future of development?**

**RCE:** Resilient coastal development depends on collaboration across disciplines. Engineering solutions must be guided by environmental science to support long-term community safety and ecological integrity.

This is where partnerships between coastal engineers and environmental consultants – like RCE's collaboration with LGL –




can be valuable. By working alongside marine biologists and ecologists, developers can make informed choices about site selection, erosion mitigation and marine habitat protection. For example, assessments of local seabed conditions and water flow patterns can guide decisions on where and how to build, minimising disruption to fragile ecosystems like coral reefs and mangroves.

**RL: What recommendations would you give to leaders seeking to future-proof the island?**

**RCE:** Grand Cayman has an opportunity to lead by example in resilient coastal planning. Some key considerations include:

- *Planning with climate resilience in mind:* Accounting for long-term sea-level rise and major storm events in public and private development can help reduce costs and protect essential services.
- *Prioritising nature-based solutions:* Integrating natural buffers such as mangroves, beach systems and offshore reefs can provide low-impact, high-benefit protection at scale.
- *Engaging engineering and environmental expertise early:* Involving technical experts from the outset enables smarter siting decisions and better alignment with conservation priorities.
- *Investing in long-term monitoring and adaptation:* Because conditions change over time, adaptive infrastructure and ongoing assessments are essential to protecting people, property and natural resources.

By incorporating these principles, Grand Cayman can raise the bar for sustainable, resilient and environmentally integrated island development. 



For more information on Reed Consulting Engineers and their projects, CLICK: [www.reedconsultingengineers.com](http://www.reedconsultingengineers.com)





# STRATA OWNERSHIP

## IS IT THE RIGHT MOVE FOR YOU?

Words by Jonathan Hughes, Counsel, Ogier in Cayman.

**S**trata developments present unique opportunities for community living and solid investment potential in the Cayman Islands. Knowing the details of strata ownership is key for making informed decisions.

### WHAT IS STRATA TITLE?

Strata title is an important part of property ownership in the Cayman Islands. It lets you own a specific unit (or 'strata lot') within a development whilst sharing common areas such as gardens and swimming pools.

The common areas and amenities of a strata development are taken care of by a strata corporation. All strata lot owners automatically join the strata corporation upon becoming a registered owner of their unit.

In this article we look at what an owner might do if they are unhappy with the management of the strata scheme by the strata corporation.

#### *Key considerations*

To avoid problems from the start, a prospective buyer should check not only the unit being purchased but the wider strata scheme too, including:

- **Bye-laws:** strata lots and common property are regulated by bye-laws. Prospective buyers should check the bye-laws to make sure they are familiar with the rules.
- **Strata finances:** ask for copies of financial records and meeting minutes to ensure the strata corporation is adequately funded and well managed.
- **Future expense:** ask the seller and the strata corporation about any planned works that could cause disruption or incur significant costs.

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHTS

Once the unit has been purchased, owners should be aware of their rights about the ongoing operations of the strata corporation, including:


- **General meetings:** owners can participate in general meetings of the strata corporation and vote on decisions involving the management and operation of the strata scheme.

- **Documentation:** owners are allowed to see certain records of the strata corporation, including financial statements, meeting minutes and insurance information.
- **Common property:** surplus land within the common property may only be sold by the owners passing a super-majority resolution.

### RESOLVING DISPUTES

In the unfortunate event that owners find themselves in dispute with the strata corporation, they may try to solve the problem in the following ways:

- **Discuss with other owners:** other owners may also be dissatisfied with the management of the strata and working together might be more effective than acting alone.
- **Raise at general meeting:** annual general meetings let owners bring up issues with the Executive Committee of the strata corporation regarding management of the strata scheme. If no annual general meeting is due, owners should check the bye-laws to establish how they may call for a general meeting, including the level of support required from other owners to do so.
- **Active participation:** owners may wish to become more actively involved in the management of the strata scheme by seeking election to the Executive Committee.

If you're buying a property in a strata scheme it's important to talk to a property lawyer to ensure you're well informed before you commit to the purchase. 

---

To learn more, contact: Jonathan Hughes, Counsel for Ogier in Cayman, at: EMAIL [cayman@ogier.com](mailto:cayman@ogier.com) • CALL 1.345.949.9876



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# MAREA

## EASY LIVING IN LITTLE CAYMAN

Words by Natasha Were.

**P**icture the scene: soft morning light filters through the blinds of your master suite, gently stirring you from a deep sleep. It's the kind of sleep that only comes from the absolute quiet of Little Cayman. The only sounds are the rustle of palm fronds and the occasional call of a frigate bird.

You reach for your phone and find a message from your concierge: "Good morning! Breakfast will be delivered at 8am and your dive trip to Bloody Bay Wall is booked for 9.30am. The dive boat will pick you up at the dock."

It's the beginning of a perfect Little Cayman day.

### PARADISE, MADE EFFORTLESS

Anyone who has spent a weekend or longer on Little Cayman will have been enchanted by the tiny island: the quiet sandy roads, the iguanas basking in the sun, white sand beaches empty of footprints and waters so clear you can count the scales on passing parrotfish. With no pressure to do anything beyond swing in a hammock counting the sea's many shades of blue, it's everything a vacation should be.

However, Little Cayman's simplicity is also its greatest challenge. Not only do you need to pack all your clothes and dive gear, but you also need to take provisions with you. And even on vacation, you still have to cook, clean and organise.

"The thought of filling coolers with provisions to take with you, of having to prepare meals on vacation, of planning activities and arranging transport can be off-putting to those who already lead busy lives," says the developer behind MAREA. "At MAREA, we eliminate every one of those sticking points, so that owners only need to get themselves there. Everything else is taken care of."

With a full management and concierge service, this collection of modern luxury villas has been conceived to provide the ideal Little Cayman experience: all the advantages, and none of the inconveniences.

### THE MAREA EXPERIENCE


When you land on Little Cayman's tiny airstrip an air-conditioned car is waiting for you. Because you're carrying no luggage and no coolers, you arrive at your villa within minutes. Your clothes are hanging in the closet, your dive gear is ready and waiting for you, and the fridge is stocked with all the groceries you pre-ordered.

Whilst the children run to the pool, you settle down on the screened terrace and contemplate what the rest of the day has in store. Will you cycle slowly out to Point of Sand for a snorkel? Or will you paddle gently over to Owen Island?

With two vehicles – an SUV and a Jeep – available for owners to use, as well as push bikes, e-bikes and kayaks, the question is not how you will get around, but which mode of transport you will choose.

For those that don't relish rising early to make breakfast for hungry kids but also don't want to eat out for every meal, room service is available from the neighbouring Little Cayman Beach Resort. Your concierge will arrange this, as well as any dive trips, fishing charters and restaurant reservations you may desire.

Departures are equally seamless. Simply lock up and leave. The management will take care of cleaning and, should you wish to rent your property when not in residence, personal possessions can be stored in an owners' closet, and later unpacked and returned to their place for your next visit.

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## MAREA AT A GLANCE

A development of ten luxury villas on Little Cayman's southern coast.

- Designed by MJM Architects
- Built by Arch & Godfrey

### VILLA SPECIFICATIONS

- Two storey, 2,700 square foot floorplans
- Open concept kitchen and living
- 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms
- Screened terraces on both levels
- Outdoor shower

### SHARED AMENITIES

- 330 feet of beachfront
- Private dock
- Multi-level pool and integrated hot tub
- Private cabanas for each villa
- Entertainment pavilion
- Kayaks, paddle boards, electric bikes
- Use of two vehicles



# VISTA COLINA

## A NEW VISION FOR ISLAND LIVING

Words by Natasha Were.



**D**avenport Development, the name behind some of South Sound's most coveted communities – Arvia, Bahia, Vela and San Sebastian – has been planning ventures in East End for several years. The first of these, Vista Colina, breaks ground this summer.

### OLD-WORLD CHARM MEETS MODERN LUXURY

As the western side of Grand Cayman approaches full development, the island's authentic, undeveloped East End beckons those in search of a more tranquil island lifestyle.

East End is 'what Cayman used to be' – a place where life moves at a gentle, unhurried pace, where traffic is a distant memory and sophisticated soirées are few and far between. For those seeking a simpler life, without sacrificing contemporary comforts, Vista Colina offers the perfect balance.

### DESIGNED FOR MODERN LIVING

An intimate community of just 16 units, Vista Colina is the first multi-family development of its kind in the area. It will address the growing demand for quality housing among professionals working at the nearby resorts and hospital.

Oriented towards the sea breeze, Vista Colina features contemporary Caribbean architecture, with clean lines, sun-bleached materials and shaded patios and terraces, complemented by flowing, airy interiors.

The development comprises:

- Eight two-bedroom apartments (1200 square feet) on the ground floor with open-plan kitchen, dining and living spaces that open onto private patios.

- Eight three or four-bedroom units (1850 square feet) distributed across the second and third floors. The second floors will be identical in layout to the two-bedroom units, with one generous master suite with private terrace, or a master and smaller fourth bedroom on the top floor, many with sea views.

### QUALITY CONSTRUCTION & CRAFTSMANSHIP

Like all Davenport developments, Vista Colina homes are constructed to withstand the test of time and tropical conditions:

- Highly insulated building envelopes for optimal energy efficiency
- State-of-the-art energy-efficient air conditioning systems
- Hurricane-proof doors and windows
- Smart home integration technology
- Solar-ready infrastructure for sustainable living

The interiors, meanwhile, are bright and airy with modern kitchens, bathrooms and closets all designed and built in-house. Kitchens will be fitted with appliances and some customisation of countertops and tiles will be possible.

### LOCATION & AMENITIES

Located within walking distance of East End Primary School and just a five-minute drive from beaches, dive shops and restaurants, Vista Colina provides convenience without compromising on tranquillity. Although not directly on the coast, units will benefit from the cool trade winds and many will have elevated sea views. The development is nestled within beautifully landscaped gardens and offers residents access to a sleek, modern pool and relaxing cabana.



### AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

“Davenport Development has a reputation for delivering real value for money,” explains Davenport CEO Dan DeFinis. “When you compare the pre-construction price to the post-construction valuation, there’s a very significant difference. Vista Colina will be the absolute best value available in East End, if not anywhere on the island.”

Although aimed primarily at owner-occupiers and long-term renters, unlike previous Davenport projects, Vista Colina will not prohibit short-term vacation rentals, creating additional income potential for investors.

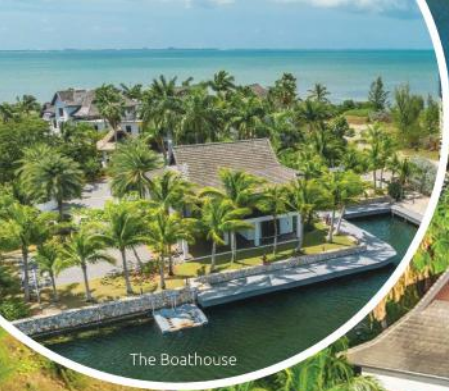
### LIMITED OPPORTUNITY

With just 16 units available and construction expected to complete within 18 months, Vista Colina represents a rare opportunity to secure a foothold in Cayman’s emerging eastern frontier. For professionals working in East End, residents looking to escape the hustle of Seven Mile Beach, or investors seeking strong returns, Vista Colina offers unparalleled value in an unspoiled paradise. 🏝️

Contact Davenport Development to learn more about pre-construction pricing and availability at Vista Colina:  
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The Boathouse



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The residence is 23,000 sqft encompassing 9,500 sqft of interior space with the rest being open air and covered patios, porches, Gazebos and terraces (not the mentioned a huge ground floor bonus space). It boasts 5 bedrooms, 4 full and 2 powder bathrooms, entertainment room with full bar, dining room, kitchen, game room, thatched cabana, 3+ car garage, tons of storage, beach/oceanfront infinity pool and a Boat House (a 1 bedroom 1 bath fully equipped service apartment). An unbelievable 1.28 acres with 345 ft of water frontage on the shimmering turquoise North Sound and canal front.



LOCATION



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The Main Residence is perched on an 18 foot height of cliff bluff enjoying 190 feet width of high elevation for the entire residence. Contiguous is an 880 feet of beautiful sugar quality reef protected beach enjoyed with high privacy wall from the road. An additional 117 feet of elevated land and beach for a total of 1,1187 ft+/- of water frontage. Total size of the Sand Bluff Estate is 15.14 acres and 1,462 feet+/- of beach and water frontage and 212 feet of depth.

the Sand Bluff Estate enjoys 13,500 sqft with 5 bed 5.5 bath residence, generous primary suite encompassing his and hers walk-in closets his and hers water closets with two private balconies and great room, family living room, family nook, dedicated dining room with oversized guest suite, movie room, screened and unscreened patios and 3 car garage. Along with Caretakers 1 bedroom quarters, Gym and separate car garage.



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# A TALE OF TWO SIDES

## PLANNING NOTICES IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS: A GUIDE FOR BOTH SIDES

Words by Jess Peacey of PPDS Cayman Ltd.

**W**hen it comes to property development in the Cayman Islands, planning notices mean different things to different people. If you're a nearby property owner, a notice in your mailbox might be your first clue that a development is planned in your neighbourhood. If you're an applicant, sending these notices is a key step in a structured process. Understanding the process from both sides can help reduce friction and ensure everyone's rights and responsibilities are respected.

### FOR NEIGHBOURS: RECEIVING NOTICES

Plans submitted as part of an application are published online so that neighbours have a chance to review them. It is important to note that not all planning applications require notices. However, of the ones that do, some may also be advertised in local newspapers.

### MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS A NOTICE

If the project requires notices, property owners within a specified radius will be notified by mail. Notices are sent to the address on the land register, so it's important to keep your contact details up to date, and to check your mailbox regularly.

Applications that require notices and those advertised in the newspaper are published online – [www.planning.ky/planning-notices](http://www.planning.ky/planning-notices) – and can also be viewed in person at the Department of Planning, in the Government Administration Building.

### RESPONDING TO A NOTICE

You have 21 days from the postmark date (not the date you received the notice) to respond. In the case of newspaper adverts, only land or property owners within 1,000 feet of the application site may submit an objection.

Should you wish to object you may do so by emailing the Department of Planning. But simply sending a message saying "I object" is insufficient. Your objection must reference the application site, outline your grounds for objecting, include your block and parcel number and for weight to be given, objections should be based on material planning considerations.

Objections received after the 21-day deadline – or those that do not include grounds – are not recognised under the law.

### SENDING NOTICES: THE APPLICANT'S ROLE

For applicants, sending notices is typically a critical part of the planning process. First, owner listings and buffer maps must be requested from

Lands & Survey to identify the owners who must be notified. Then, the applicant or their agent must send notices to those owners by registered mail. Applicants should know:

- By law, you may not send notices more than three days before submitting your application
- Within three days of mailing, you should upload the owner list, copies of notices and proof of mailing (postal receipts) to the planning system
- Failing to do this may result in the notices being considered invalid, and you will have to reissue them.


### HANDLING OBJECTIONS

Once the notice period ends, any objections received are typically reviewed to ensure they were submitted on time and come from verified land or property owners. Applicants are usually given copies of any objections and should confirm whether each has been validly submitted under the law.

The regulations only recognise objections. Supportive comments may be noted, however, they do not carry significant weight in the determination of applications.

### TWO PERSPECTIVES, ONE PROCESS

While applicants may view notices as an administrative hurdle, and neighbours may feel caught off-guard by them, the process is designed to promote transparency and public participation. When handled properly, it can lead to better outcomes for both sides – whether that's by addressing concerns early, avoiding delays at the CPA, or simply fostering more informed engagement between neighbours.

The requirements governing this process are set out in the Development and Planning Act (2021 Revision) and the Development and Planning Regulations (2024 Revision). A shared understanding of these procedures enables all parties, on either side of the process, to participate meaningfully and responsibly. 

For more info, contact Professional Planning and Development Services Cayman Ltd. (PPDS):

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# RENOVATE TO ELEVATE

WHERE TO SPEND AND WHERE TO SAVE BEFORE YOU SELL. *Words by Natasha Were.*

Common wisdom is that selling a property is about location, location, location. But it's also about presentation – and Cayman property experts all agree that renovated properties sell faster and fetch higher prices.

This is particularly true for the condo market, where renovation windows are seasonal and buyers – especially if they are new to the island or non-residents – prefer the convenience of a move-in ready home.

“Even if buyers don't love the finishes, they can live with them for a year or two while they plan their own changes,” observes Eric Kline, senior project manager at design-build firm Encompass, “whereas a property that needs months of work before it can be used is far less appealing to buyers.”

But renovating to sell is a different beast from renovating for personal use. It's not about your personal style, but about appealing to a broad range of buyers, cautions George Evans, owner of GPE Services. Rather than investing in indulgent upgrades, homeowners must be strategic and consider what buyers expect as standard in a given price range, which renovations will deliver a return on investment and which will not.

## START AT THE HEART

As the heart of the home, kitchens are the most trafficked and most public space and therefore the focus of most renovations.

“While condo renovations are limited by plumbing locations and supporting columns, creating more open layouts where structurally possible can transform a property's feel,” says Sophie Sweeting, interior designer at Design Studio. “Knocking through walls between kitchen and living areas immediately creates a more contemporary, inviting atmosphere.”

A kitchen's layout is paramount. If the flow is awkward, even the finest finishes won't redeem it. Today's trend is to separate cooktops and ovens rather than stacking them, Eric says, and replace split-level islands with large single-height islands that double as dining spaces – practical changes that enhance functionality.

## OUTDOOR ATTENTION

The potential for outdoor living is a prime selling point on a Caribbean island, but many older properties have undersized windows that don't do justice to the views and sunny skies.

“Creating big floor-to-ceiling glass areas – whether it's a window or just an opening – brings the outdoors in, and makes a space feel larger, which really adds value,” Eric says.

Hurricane-rated doors and windows are another smart investment that improves both aesthetics and safety. For energy-conscious buyers (that's everyone these days), insulated, low-E glass offers the added benefit of improved efficiency.

## SHOWER POWER

When it comes to bathrooms, the clean, serene aesthetic reigns supreme. Large-format porcelain tiles create fewer grout lines and a more luxurious feel. Coordinated fixtures – from faucets to shower heads – establish a cohesive, updated look, while frameless glass shower screens add an instant upscale touch.

But the bathroom upgrade with the biggest impact? Rethinking the bath-shower equation.

“Baths look great but they don't usually see much use,” Eric notes. “One of the biggest things we do is take out baths and create big walk-in showers in their place, with benches and niches for shampoos and soaps.”

While keeping one bath in larger homes (typically in the master suite) makes sense, when forced to choose, the consensus is clear: showers win the day.

## BALANCE THE BUDGET

It's also crucial to work out a sensible budget and stick to it, Sophie notes. Research the ceiling price for comparable properties in your area, and don't spend more than you can realistically make back. Working with professionals who are familiar with the costs and timelines will ensure your project stays on track.

Beware of blowing the budget on a showstopper kitchen or an ultra-luxury bathroom and neglecting the rest of the property. Fortunately, refreshing other rooms need not break the bank. Fresh paint and updated flooring work wonders throughout a home. If selling furnished, Sophie suggests directing some funds toward quality sofas and beds, thus removing another potential sticking point for buyers.

## RENOVATION RED FLAGS

Beware of making changes based on your personal tastes, and of spending your budget on niche features that may not appeal to all demographics. “Different people value different features,” Eric cautions. “When considering major works such as building pools, or specialty additions like home gyms, steam showers or games rooms, think carefully about whether these are upgrades a buyer would necessarily want.”



Similarly, elaborate smart home systems, while technologically impressive, might be better left for buyers to implement according to their own preferences and technological comfort level. When it comes to design choices, resist the urge to go bold or very contemporary, Sophie says, and instead stick to neutral palettes and natural materials that will not quickly date. And don't splash out on high-end marble, designer light fixtures or imported tiles that you love – the aim is to create a blank canvas that potential buyers can project their vision on to.

**PLAN FOR SUCCESS**

With any renovation, once you start knocking down walls and pulling up floors, George cautions, you may uncover unexpected issues – mould, plumbing problems, or structural concerns – that must be addressed, so be flexible with time frames and realistic with expectations. Between drawing up plans, sourcing materials and acquiring permits (mandatory if you're moving structural walls) allow a year, he says, plus actual construction time.

Ultimately, the goal isn't to create your fantasy home but rather a property where prospective buyers can envision their future. Focus on universally valued fundamentals, ensure quality finishes throughout, and remember: the most effective renovations aren't necessarily the most expensive ones – they're the most thoughtfully considered. 🏡



**BIG IMPACT, SMALL BUDGET: CLEVER & AFFORDABLE UPGRADES**

- Rather than removing popcorn ceilings and textured walls, cover them with shiplap panelling
- Consider easy to install vinyl or laminate flooring as an alternative to expensive tiles
- Replace hollow core doors with solid ones for a high-quality feel
- Paint rather than replace millwork and cabinetry
- Change out hardware and faucets for an instant update
- Replace 'can' lights with flush LED fixtures
- Paint walls and ceilings for an instant refresh
- Instead of re-tiling, consider re-grouting for a quick, clean look



# THE EVOLVING OASIS

Outdoor spaces are no longer just an extension of the home – they are the new living rooms, often surpassing their indoor counterparts in both style and functionality. Whether you are creating an outdoor oasis from scratch or breathing new life into a tired pool area, the latest innovations in outdoor design can truly enhance your lifestyle. *Words by Georgia Austin.*

“Lifestyle begins at home,” says James Bussey, owner of Oasis, a luxury pool and water-shape design company in Grand Cayman. “A well-designed outdoor space doesn’t just add beauty – it elevates how you live every day.” From upgrading pools and embracing new smart technology to rethinking landscaping, homeowners are turning their backyards into resort-style retreats.

## UPDATE AND ELEVATE

Most renovations are triggered by necessity. Pools need regular care, and the plaster finishes that are typically installed in older pools have a lifespan of seven to ten years, but resurfacing brings a pool back to life, says Bussey, and it can be done in as little as seven days.

Once a pool is empty, however, the door is open to go much further. “You’re not married to the current design of your pool,” assures Bussey. “Adding a tanning ledge, lap lanes, reconfiguring the edge or even extending the pool can completely change the look and feel of a backyard.”

## STYLE AND FUNCTION

When it comes to the look of a pool, the real drama happens at the edge: whether it’s an infinity edge that visually merges with the horizon or a perimeter overflow that creates a mirror-like surface, today’s pools can be true showstoppers.

Material choice is also key. While a plaster finish is standard, tile is the more durable and elegant option. A versatile design element, homeowners can choose from glass mosaics that catch and reflect the light, large porcelain slabs that look sleek and serene, or even custom designed tilework that makes a pool truly one of a kind.

Beyond the pool itself, water and fire features create a magical atmosphere. Waterfalls introduce soothing sounds, features like propane tiki torches and fire pits create ambience with flickering light, and heated spa jets – either within the pool or in a separate hot tub – soothe tired muscles and introduce a spa-style experience.

## SMART POOLS

Smart pool technology makes maintenance easier than ever. Self-regulating chemical dispensers monitor and adjust the pool’s chemical

levels automatically, while automated systems allow homeowners to control lighting, water features, and even temperature from their smartphones.

Temperature control has proved invaluable in enabling owners to enjoy their pools year-round. While pool water can become uncomfortably warm during summer and unpleasantly chilly in the winter, heating and cooling systems ensure pools are always at the perfect temperature, whatever the weather.


Other technological advances include Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) sanitation, which kills 99.9% of germs with minimal chlorine, making the water gentler on skin, and salt chlorine generators that convert ordinary salt into chlorine through electrolysis, providing softer water whilst lessening the negative effects of harsh chemicals.

## BEYOND THE POOL

While the pool can be a standout feature of an extraordinary outdoor space, it’s thoughtful landscaping that truly unifies all the elements, creating a harmonious backyard retreat. “Aesthetically, a landscape should complement the style of the house,” says Tom Balon of Vigoro, a leading landscaping company. “But functionality is also very important. From play spaces for children and lounging spots for adults to shaded areas for everyone, the exterior space should be carefully thought out.”

Landscaping features like artificial turf provide year-round green spaces with no maintenance. Strategically positioned mature plants deliver immediate visual impact while offering practical benefits like shade, privacy and wind protection, and outdoor lighting extends enjoyment well into the evening. Beyond landscaping, cabanas, outdoor kitchens and automated pergolas transform your backyard into a true extension of your home, making outdoor living and entertaining a breeze.

## BRINGING THE RESORT HOME

Many of the features and technologies that were once exclusive to resorts are now increasingly affordable for residential installations. So why save the luxury living experience for your next hotel stay? Smart upgrades and stylish renovations can turn your backyard into your own personal retreat: the place where you savour your morning coffee, spend afternoons swimming with the family, and dine under the stars in the evenings – an everyday escape. 





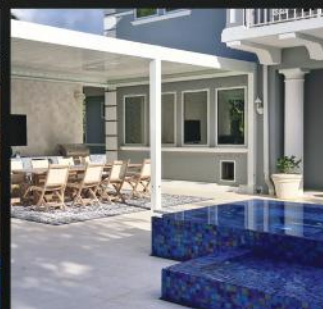
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# Wildlife and Heritage

SUSTAINING OUR

Planting trees is good. Planting native and endemic trees is better.

Words by Hannah Reid.

**T**he passionflower vine growing up my garden fence is a source of frustration and pride. Frustration because I have never seen it with more than two or three leaves at any given time.

And pride because hungry Gulf Fritillary caterpillars routinely devour those few leaves. As the saying goes, if nothing is eating your garden, it is not part of the ecosystem. Native and endemic plants and trees help attract local wildlife to your garden, add resilience to your landscape and help sustain the natural heritage of our islands.

But before we get our hands dirty, let us explore the difference between the terms 'native' and 'endemic'.

Native species of plants and animals are naturally found in certain areas or habitats, while endemic species are naturally found only in a particular area. For example, mahogany trees are native to the Cayman Islands and other Caribbean islands such as Cuba and Jamaica. Meanwhile, our silver thatch tree is endemic to the Cayman Islands and found nowhere else in the world naturally.

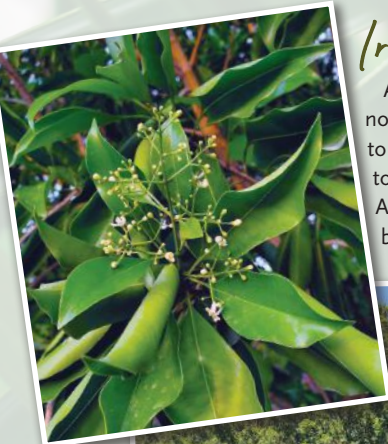


## Silver Thatch

(*Coccothrinax proctorii*)

Our National Tree, the endemic silver thatch is one of the most culturally and historically significant tree species in the Cayman Islands. It gets its local name from the silvery underside of its leaves, which were used to roof traditional Caymanian cottages. The emerging leaves or 'tops'

were favoured for plaiting hats and baskets or twisting into sturdy rope. Renowned for its strength and durability, silver thatch was a mainstay of the local economy for many years. Though slow-growing, silver thatch can be propagated from the cleaned seeds.



## Ironwood

(*Chionanthus caymanensis*)

Another endemic tree, ironwood is found nowhere else in the world. Because it is resistant to warping, rot and pests, ironwood was used to construct traditional Caymanian cottages. Another slow growing tree, ironwood can be propagated from cleaned seeds.



Native and endemic plants help attract local wildlife to your garden because they are natural sources of food, nectar and shelter. Often naturally tolerant to drought, salt, sun and pests, these species are also culturally significant due to their traditional use in construction, shipbuilding, medicine and crafting.

By adding native and endemic trees to your garden, you can help safeguard the cultural biodiversity of the Cayman Islands while enhancing its resilience to the unique growing conditions of our environment. To ensure your garden truly contributes to the ecosystem, it is important to complement your planting efforts with sustainable gardening practices, such as avoiding herbicides and pesticides.

Like my passionflower vine, the following trees are uniquely suited to the growing conditions of the Cayman Islands and well able to withstand the nibbles of a few caterpillars. Ultimately, your garden can be designed to be naturally resilient, with every plant and creature playing a vital role in nature's interconnected web. 🌿

## Cabbage

(*Guapira discolor*)

Another fast-growing, native tree is cabbage. The thin, flexible branches of the cabbage tree were used to weave the 'wattle' in traditional wattle-and-daub Caymanian cottages and to craft 'calavans' for trapping ground doves. Cabbage trees have an elegant, weeping growth pattern and bright red berries, a favourite treat for local birds. Cabbage can be easily propagated from both cuttings and the cleaned seeds.



## Headache Bush

(*Morisonia cynophallophora*)

This native tree gets its local name from its traditional use as a medicine for treating – you guessed it – headaches. It produces beautiful, fragrant flowers that shift in colour from white to deep magenta. Although it can be maintained as a shrub or hedge, headache bush can grow into a lovely tree. Headache bush is also a larval food plant for the Great Southern White butterfly.



## Mahogany

(*Swietenia mahagoni*)

If you are looking for something a little faster-growing, mahogany is an excellent native option. Another culturally significant tree, mahogany timber was a vital resource for early settlers who used it to construct everything from schooners and furniture to musical instruments. The global demand for exceptionally durable and beautiful hardwood made it a chief export for the country for many years. Mahogany can be easily propagated from the papery seeds that emerge from its seed pods.



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# Sleep

## MATTERS

THE FOUNDATION OF A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP Words by Natasha Were.

The quest for the perfect night's sleep begins with what lies beneath you – but with so many options in mattresses, how do you choose the right one for you? Your ideal match isn't only the most comfortable one, it's the one that keeps your spine aligned – and that depends on your weight, your sleep position and whether you run hot or cold at night.

### THE MATTRESS MENU

Mattresses fall broadly into four types:

**Foam** Composed of layers of memory foam or latex, these mattresses contour to your body, relieving pressure points and absorbing motion, so your partner's nocturnal motions won't disturb your slumber. While you sink slowly into memory foam – it's sometimes described as feeling like a hug – latex feels more like floating. Some foams retain heat, so are not ideal for those who run hot at night.

**Innerspring** With a foundation of steel coils topped with padding or foam, innerspring mattresses have been around for decades. While these allow for better airflow and therefore tend to be cooler than foam, they have more bounce, so you'll know about it if your partner is having a restless night.

**Hybrid** An ideal compromise, these mattresses combine a supportive coil base with plush foam layers on top. They're the Swiss Army knife of mattresses, delivering the best of both worlds – though usually at a higher price point.

**Adjustable Air** While other mattresses offer only one firmness level, the inflatable air chambers in adjustable mattresses allow you

to choose from multiple firmness settings that can be adjusted at any time. Each side typically has its own chamber, allowing you to each choose your preferred sleep surface.

### BODY TYPE & SLEEP POSITION

Because heavier individuals will sink further into a mattress, firmer mattresses are better for keeping the spine aligned. On the flip side, lighter individuals may find firm mattresses have little give, so a softer option is needed to provide optimal support.

**Side sleepers** need cushioning for shoulders and hips – the widest parts that bear the most pressure. Medium to medium-soft mattresses typically work best.

**Back sleepers** will sink into a banana shape on a soft surface but a hard surface won't support the natural curves of the spine. Medium-firm options are often the Goldilocks solution.

**Stomach sleepers** need firmer support to keep hips from sinking too deeply, which can create that dreaded back arch (and morning pain).

### LIFESPAN AND UPKEEP

Some mattresses age better than others. Latex models can last 12-15 years, while memory foam averages 7-10 years. Hybrid and innerspring options typically need replacement after 6-8 years.

Most modern mattresses are built with a specific top side so shouldn't be flipped – but rotating them 180 degrees every 3-6 months prevents body impressions from becoming permanent.

### INNOVATION STATION


Mattress technology is constantly advancing to provide improved sleep and address common issues. Some innovative solutions include:

**Smart beds** with incorporated sensors that track everything from your heart rate to breathing patterns, to provide sleep insights and offer personalised recommendations. Some detect when you're snoring and automatically adjust your head position, others use AI to automatically adjust firmness and temperature throughout the night.

**Adjustable bases**, which can raise and lower head and feet at the touch of a button, can help alleviate snoring, acid reflux and sleep apnea.

To combat the heat retaining properties of foam mattresses, manufacturers may add a layer of gel, or infuse the foam with tiny gel beads that absorb heat. **Phase change materials** take this a step further with gels that change from solid to liquid states as the temperature around them changes.

**The ultimate cool mattresses**, however, are those with active cooling technology, which push cool air or water through your mattress via internal tubes. It's essentially air-conditioning for your mattress. Simply set your preferred temperature and the technology will maintain it throughout the night.

There's no such thing as the 'best mattress' – only the best one for you. So choose wisely, sleep deeply, and wake up ready to take on the world. 





# SERVICE, EXPERTISE & VALUE

## TOMLINSON FURNITURE LTD.

Words by Natasha Were.

This summer, Tomlinson Furniture and The Mattress Gallery (TF) are celebrating 50 years in business. The oldest furniture store in the Cayman Islands has mastered the art of staying fresh through constant innovation and expansion. Here's what's happening at this island staple:

**RL: This year marks a major milestone for TF. But where did it all begin?**

**TF:** Tony and Chrissie Tomlinson launched the business in 1975. Located in the centre of George Town, it started out as more of a variety store. Forty-five years ago, the business relocated to Walkers Road in a renovated house. In 2014, that was demolished and the three-storey Tomlinson Building constructed in its place; at that point the focus shifted, with furniture and mattresses occupying the first and second floors. While we've dramatically expanded our product range and services over the decades, Tomlinson Furniture remains authentically family-owned, now thriving under third-generation leadership.

**RL: What treasures can shoppers discover when wandering through Tomlinson Furniture today?**

**TF:** We partner with dozens of top brands including Palliser, Modway, Ashley, and Uttermost to offer furniture for every room in your home. Our inventory covers everything from living room essentials like sofas and entertainment units to dining room furnishings, bedroom suites, outdoor pieces and home office solutions. We also feature an extensive selection of soft furnishings and decorative accents to complete any space.

**RL: The Mattress Gallery is a sleep lover's paradise. What will customers find there?**

**TF:** The Mattress Gallery is truly your one-stop shop for all things sleep-related. We carry premium mattresses from respected brands like Sealy, Serta, Simmons, Beautyrest and Tempurpedic USA, covering all types – innerspring, foam and hybrid – with options at every price point and comfort level. Beyond mattresses, we offer bed frames, bases, toppers, protectors, pillows, bedding – everything for a perfect night's sleep.

**RL: How does Tomlinson Furniture serve customers beyond the off-the-shelf products?**

**TF:** We offer several ways to personalise your home furnishings. Our custom window treatments may be our best-known: we create vertical


or horizontal blinds, roller or Roman shades, motorised shades and plantation shutters – all made to perfectly fit the measurements of your windows.

We also offer furniture customisation which allows you to choose everything from the shape to the fabric and the legs of your sofa – and even have it made to your dimensions. We've also expanded into custom wallpaper options, where you can select from our sample books or have your own image printed directly onto wallpaper.

**RL: What innovations are you rolling out in the coming months?**

**TF:** This summer, we're particularly excited to launch our Custom Interiors division to elevate the customer experience. Our in-house designers will work with homeowners and businesses to transform ideas into beautiful, functional spaces. Whether you need closet or kitchen design, expert spatial planning, furniture layout guidance, or comprehensive mood boards, our interior designer has the expertise you need. And, for those who prefer a turn-key approach, we also provide complete house packages.

**RL: Are there any services even your longtime customers might not know about?**

**TF:** Many people don't realise we maintain a robust wholesale division serving hotels, restaurants, healthcare facilities and educational institutions. We also offer complimentary island-wide delivery to all customers, both residential and commercial. It's all part of our commitment to making furnishing your space as seamless as possible. Also, if we don't have a particular item or style in stock, we can place a special order, ensuring our clients' needs are always met. 

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Make a bold statement with the *Winslow Eastern King Panel Bed*, where natural elegance meets refined craftsmanship. Its rich smokey walnut and coffee bean finish, combined with a distinctive cut-out headboard, brings an organic sophistication to any bedroom. [www.tomlinsonfurniture.ky](http://www.tomlinsonfurniture.ky)



The *Alignment Lapis Pillow* brings bold, coastal charm with its striking lapis blue hue and intricate hand-embroidered design.

A perfect blend of texture and colour that transforms your bedroom into a serene sanctuary. [www.designstudio.ky](http://www.designstudio.ky)



The *Satri Throw* brings effortless beach-house chic to your bedroom with its soft, textured weave and playful tasseled edges. Woven in a soothing oatmeal hue with subtle blue accents, it's the perfect finishing touch for your relaxed retreat. [www.living.ky](http://www.living.ky)

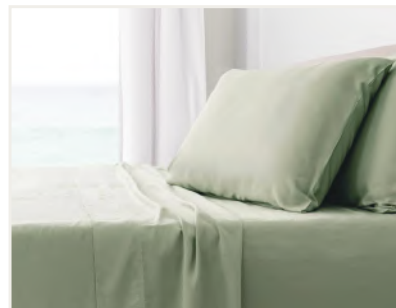


Rooted in an organic, back-to-nature feel, the *Isanti Nightstand* pairs clean lines with the warm character of mango wood. Its smooth, minimal design lets the natural grain shine, bringing a quiet, grounded presence to your space – simple, thoughtful, and beautifully unfussy. [www.beaconfurniture.ky](http://www.beaconfurniture.ky)

# Sweet Slumber

Words by Georgia Austin.

Channelling the quiet elegance of Belgian design, this *Bon Vivant bed* brings comfort down to earth. Upholstered in soft Antwerp linen with a touch of rustic burlap around the edges, it's a thoughtful blend of refined and relaxed. [www.huiscaymann.com](http://www.huiscaymann.com)



Slip into the silky softness of bamboo and drift off in cool, cloud-like comfort. Naturally breathable and oh-so-smooth, these *Cariloha sheets* turn bedtime into a blissful escape. [www.kirkfreeport.net](http://www.kirkfreeport.net)

The *DreamFit Adjustable Pillow* is the ultimate in personalised comfort, allowing a tailored sleep experience. With its adjustable design, you can easily find the perfect level of support for your head and neck, ensuring a restful, custom fit. [www.tomlinsonfurniture.ky](http://www.tomlinsonfurniture.ky)



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# SIMPLY SMART

## HOME AUTOMATION

Words by Natasha Were.



In today's premium residences, home automation has evolved from novelty to necessity. Whether you're building a new property or updating an existing home, incorporating smart systems is essential for creating the seamless, responsive living environment that defines contemporary luxury.

"Despite the many advantages, there is some hesitation in adopting smart systems in residential applications due to the perceived complexity," says Chris Upstone, of Creative Tech. "The key is to design systems that are simple and intuitive to use, no matter how much is going on behind the scenes."

There are, broadly speaking, two approaches to home automation.

### THE PREMIUM APPROACH

For discerning homeowners who require a sleek, refined system that is as reliable as it is invisible, fully integrated, hardwired systems are the gold standard. These systems are built into the fabric of the home: lighting, audiovisual, security systems and more are all physically connected with wiring hidden within the home's walls.

An elegant solution, designed-in systems keep the technology out of sight, while users interact with it via a single, intuitive touchscreen or mobile app. The greatest advantage of these systems, however, is performance: rather than competing for wireless bandwidth, Chris explains, data travels down copper cables, eliminating the buffering and dropped signals that can plague WiFi-based systems.

### STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

While architecturally integrated home automation delivers superior results, it also requires considerable foresight. "Ideally, these systems are designed at the architectural planning stage for new builds or major renovations," says Malcolm Eden, managing director of Audiophile.

"It's trickier to retrofit and can incur significant costs."

The initial investment in these top tier systems reflects the bespoke nature of their design and installation, but the returns are convenience, security, energy savings and, potentially, enhanced property valuation.

### THE FLEXIBLE ALTERNATIVE

For those constrained by existing architecture, who prefer a more flexible setup, or who are not ready to make a major financial commitment, smart home automation is not out of reach, however.

Wireless solutions offer a compelling alternative that can be installed in hours, not months. These systems use a voice assistant such as Siri or Alexa which connects to a variety of smart devices. Because they communicate through WiFi, Bluetooth or other wireless protocols, without the need for built-in wiring, these systems are straightforward and affordable to retrofit.

From voice-controlled lightbulbs and dimmer switches to smart locks that enable keyless entry, thermostats that learn your routines, video doorbells that show you who is calling even when you're out, all the way to smoke detectors and security systems, today's range of smart WiFi enabled devices cater to every conceivable need.

From voice-controlled lightbulbs and dimmer switches to smart locks that enable keyless entry, thermostats that learn your routines, video doorbells that show you who is calling even when you're out, all the way to smoke detectors and security systems, today's range of smart WiFi enabled devices cater to every conceivable need.


### SELECTIVE EXCELLENCE

The key to building a smart home this way lies in careful curation. "If you assemble a patchwork of devices from different manufacturers, they may or may not be compatible, and you may end up with a dozen different apps to control them" the team at Creative Tech cautions.

For residential applications, sticking to a single ecosystem, be it Google Home, Apple Home or Amazon Alexa, will deliver a more streamlined result and is designed with consumers rather than professionals in mind.

### PERFORMANCE CONSIDERATIONS

One significant advantage of wireless home automation is its portability: simply unplug your devices and take them with you if you move. The downside, however, is its dependence on WiFi. Weak or unreliable coverage can cause smart devices to drop off the network, and in larger homes, the WiFi signal simply may not reach every corner. That is why, Chris stresses, a properly designed, solid WiFi system is essential for wireless automation devices to function optimally.

There is no one 'right' approach when planning a smart home, only the one that best fits your circumstances, your budget and the functionality you seek. Staying up to date on the latest technologies in such a fast changing industry is challenging, however, making professional guidance invaluable. 



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# ABOVE ALL THINGS

Words by Georgia Austin.

**H**ave you ever walked into a grand hotel lobby or a historic building and instinctively looked up?

That moment of quiet awe – the intricate mouldings, the dramatic lighting, the unexpected textures – proves how much a ceiling can shape an experience.

Although in most homes ceilings are left plain and untouched there is much untapped design potential in that fifth wall: ceilings can become a focal point, adding depth, drama and personality to a space.

## A BLANK CANVAS

Think of breathtaking cathedrals, historic theatres or even cosy cottages, and the chances are, the ceiling plays a major role in the space's atmosphere. High, vaulted ceilings immediately create a sense of openness, while lower, richly textured designs add intimacy and character.

For those working with standard ceiling heights, there's still plenty of room for creativity. Cladding or panelling with natural materials introduces warmth and dimension, drawing the eye upward. Even a simple coat of paint can shift a room's energy: light shades make a space feel airy and expansive, while darker hues add cosiness and depth. And for the bold? Wallpaper, intricate stencils or a hand-painted mural can turn the ceiling into an unexpected work of art.


## BEYOND APPEARANCES

Design isn't just about aesthetics, it's about how a space functions – and ceilings are no exception. Lighting is key. The right combination will completely alter a room's mood, whether it's soft, recessed LED strips creating a warm glow or a statement pendant acting as a sculptural centrepiece. A backlit tray ceiling can create the illusion of height while bathing the space in an inviting, diffused light.

And then there's sound. Ceilings play a crucial role in acoustics, especially in modern homes with high ceilings and minimalistic design. Acoustic panels or thoughtfully placed textures help control noise, creating a space that sounds as good as it looks.

## THE FUTURE OF THE FIFTH WALL

Beyond aesthetics and function, ceilings are also becoming smarter. Integrated speakers, automated lighting and climate control systems are quietly reshaping the way we experience our homes. Imagine lights that adjust automatically based on the time of day, or an invisible surround-sound system seamlessly built into the ceiling. These details don't just add convenience, they redefine luxury living.

Given the attention they deserve, ceilings can completely redefine a space. So, next time you step into a room, take a second to glance upward. You might just find inspiration where you least expect it. 



## SMALL CHANGES, BIG IMPACT

You don't need a full renovation to make your ceiling work for you. A few simple upgrades can have a major impact:

- **Paint It Bold:** Deep navy, charcoal, or even an unexpected pop of colour can redefine the room.
- **Introduce Moulding:** Crown moulding or decorative trim adds instant interest and creates a more finished look.
- **Experiment with Lighting:** Mix pendants, dimmable overheads and sconces to illuminate the ceiling.
- **Play with Texture:** Wood panelling, tin tiles, or even a patterned wallpaper can add unexpected character.





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# BORROWED AND BLUE

Perched on ironwood stilts, a modest yet storied little blue house on South Church Street has stood the test of time, its shiplap timber walls and shingled roof whispering tales of love, legacy and Caymanian craftsmanship. *Words by Georgia Austin. Photography by Scott Bruck.*

**B**uilt in 1870 by skilled shipbuilder, Conton Waide Coe, the Blue House was constructed using durable Nicaraguan wood, its porch embellished with his delicate, hand carved gingerbread fretwork. Pastor William Mearns Coe Jr., a founder of the Church of God in Cayman, and his wife Cissie were the first occupants of a home that would come to hold one and a half centuries of Cayman's living memory.

Since then, the home has served as both wedding venue and film set. A picturesque porch draws passersby – including many a curious cruise ship passenger, who stray just beyond the sidewalk to rest in the shade, enticed by the home's historic charm. Framed by blooming bougainvillea and fragrant frangipani flowers, the Blue House's facade is a vibrant vista that transports onlookers to a bygone era, when front gardens were a source of pride and traditional verandas were a meeting place for the community.

This legacy is now lovingly upheld by Beverly and Andrew Edgington and their daughters, Grace and Emilie. Longtime residents, the Edgington family are firmly woven into the fabric of Cayman. To them, homeownership is not about possession, but stewardship. As Beverly says, "You never really own a home, you borrow it from the next generation." It's a sentiment echoed by watchmaker Patek Philippe, and one the Edgingtons embody in both word and deed.

The Blue House is, in every way, a borrowed space: borrowed from the past, borrowed for the future, and still vividly alive in the present. The family moved into the home in 2020 as renters, but just six weeks later the home was listed for sale. Recognising the importance of keeping one of the oldest homes in Cayman in caring hands, the

Edgingtons made the decision to purchase. As the pandemic brought the world to a standstill, the proud new owners found themselves in a world of their own, painting walls and uncovering the secret histories held by their heritage home.

Beneath a bed, they unearthed a trove of Caribbean artwork, including original pieces by Bendel Hydes and John Broad. In the attic, a dusty box of love letters surfaced – heartfelt notes exchanged decades earlier by a young Caymanian couple, now married. The letters were returned to their surprised and delighted authors.

Within the original walls of this heritage home, big and small histories unfurl in every corner. But history isn't just tucked away in forgotten spaces, it's in the well-worn original floorboards, trodden smooth by generations past. It's in the traditional layout, where an open front door channels straight to the back of the house – an architectural feature pre-dating air conditioning that optimises natural airflow and cooling. History inhabits this home alongside the Edgingtons.

From architecture to artwork, the home's sense of place is never lost. In the cosy sitting room, walls are adorned with local artwork. Beside works from Joanne Sibley, Avril Ward and Ruby Marr, are pieces by Jason Kennedy, Stoak'd and Ren Seffer, a vibrant and treasured collection of Cayman's creatives.

Though the Edgingtons opted out of modern luxuries like walk-in wardrobes and an en-suite master bath, they gained something more valuable: integrity of character.

Every detail is a gentle negotiation between memory and modernity. In the soft, sage green master bedroom, new built-in wardrobes blend seamlessly into original timber walls, while four generous →



windows lend an airy openness to the modest footprint. Grace and Emilie's bedrooms offer a playful juxtaposition of contemporary lives in a heritage setting – creative, lived-in spaces filled with keepsakes, where glossy pink subway tiles meet historic shiplap walls.

This delicate dance of old and new began before their time. An authentic louvred door topped with delicate stained glass opens into an area the family affectionately calls 'the new house' – a kitchen-living space added in the late 1980s to extend and modernise the home. But history remains, this time in the utility room, where an original mahogany folding ironing board remains affixed to the home's panelling, an enduring relic of simpler times when ironing was a porch-side ritual.

The new house's spacious living area doesn't break from the past, it blossoms from it. Light pours in from sliding balcony doors while the open-plan kitchen flows to a communal dining and seating area. Designed for gathering and sharing, community and connection remain at the heart of it all.

The home spills onto a traditional wraparound porch with views of the verdant back garden. Recently expanded to accommodate an outdoor dining area, the ginger-breading was removed and reinstalled to the extended footprint to preserve the historical integrity of the space. With twinkling lights strung overhead, it's a whimsical space for hosting.

Like the house, the garden is a space where the past gives freely to those who nurture it. Bats nest in the arching branches of an ancient, sky-scraping naseberry tree, whilst heavy avocados and papayas ripen and mangoes drip from laden branches. And as the garden grows, so too does the immutable bond between land and home.

From shipbuilder Conton Coe's steady hands to the thoughtful care of Andrew, Beverly, Grace and Emilie, the Blue House has been held, never owned. Lived in with love, it stands as a keeper of stories, a gallery of art, and above all, a deeply rooted reflection of history. Marrying the historical and the contemporary, it is a living testament to tradition, and for the Edgingtons, it is their very own something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue. 🌊



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This *Round Wood Mirror* draws you in with a floating wooden frame - perfect for reflecting not just your space, but your impeccable taste. [www.beaconfurniture.ky](http://www.beaconfurniture.ky)

# FROM THE WOODS

Words by Georgia Austin.



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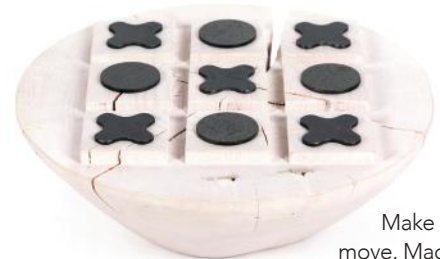
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# OPPEIN

## CUSTOM CABINETRY MADE SIMPLE

Words by Natasha Were.

Oppein, the global leaders in custom cabinetry and home décor solutions, now offer their sophisticated design and superior craftsmanship to clients in the Cayman Islands.

Part of Davenport Retailers – a division of Davenport Development – Oppein Cayman Islands is the official retail distribution centre for the kitchen and bathroom mega-brand, serving homeowners and property developers alike.

### ABOUT OPPEIN

With a factory in China and over 8700 showrooms in 128 countries – and a Cayman showroom coming soon – Oppein is the largest cabinetry manufacturer in the world. The company's size ensures an economy of scale and efficiency that is unmatched, and its quality control is exceptional. This, along with the company's unique combination of Italian design aesthetic, European craftsmanship, and Chinese manufacturing creates an unbeatable value proposition for discerning homeowners.

### ONE-STOP SOLUTION

Custom cabinetry – whether for the kitchen, bathroom or a walk-in closet – has traditionally been a complex, multi-step process, but with Oppein the process is beautifully simple.

"We design your cabinetry here, using Oppein's proprietary software," explains Davenport CEO Dan DeFinis. "That design is sent directly to the factory in China where it is precision manufactured and then shipped direct to the Cayman Islands."

All the components – cabinets, countertops, sinks, faucets – are shipped together, and can even be pre-fitted at the factory, making the process seamless and streamlined. Once the shipment arrives on island, Oppein Cayman Islands' trained professionals take care of assembly and installation.

### CUSTOMISATION FOR EVERY STYLE & BUDGET

Every aspect of Oppein's custom cabinetry can be personalised. Clients not only create layouts to fit their space, but they choose the colours and finishes, the countertops and backsplashes, the sinks and faucets, and even the hinges and under cabinet lighting.

Although Oppein has its own white label faucets and sinks, it also distributes world-class brands such as Kohler, Hansgrohe and Delta, enabling each client to achieve the exact look and style they want.

Oppein's custom cabinetry is not reserved for high end homes and unlimited budgets, however. With material choices ranging from very affordable particle board, all the way up to solid wood, custom cabinetry need not be out of reach.

"Whatever finish you want, Oppein can do it for the best price, and whatever your budget, Oppein delivers the best finish," says DeFinis.

### SUPERIOR QUALITY

Davenport Development, known for building affordable luxury homes, has worked with numerous cabinet suppliers over the years and Oppein has emerged as the clear winner, both in terms of quality and price point.

"We've installed Oppein cabinets in five of our properties, and tested products in our personal homes, so we can attest to Oppein's superior quality and seamless service," assures DeFinis.

All Oppein products feature precision manufacturing, moisture-resistant materials ideal for Caribbean climates, and premium hardware including soft-close hinges and drawer glides rated for decades of use.



### MILLWORK FOR EVERY SPACE

Although perhaps best known for kitchens, Oppein offers whole home customisation. Other made to measure solutions include:

- *Bathrooms:* Create your perfect sanctuary with custom vanities, shelving solutions, elegant shower screens, and integrated storage systems.
- *Walk-in wardrobes:* Transform your closet experience with automatic lighting, specialised organisation racks, velvet-lined jewellery drawers, shoe displays, and more.
- *Entertainment units:* Enhance your living space with bespoke TV units, decorative and functional shelving, sliding doors to conceal electronics, and drawers designed specifically for media storage.
- *Interior doors:* Complete your home's aesthetic with custom doors featuring various panel designs, finishes, and hardware options to complement your overall décor scheme.
- *Outdoor kitchens:* Elevate your entertaining with stainless steel cabinetry, clad in traditional-looking finishes, designed to withstand sun, salt and wind.

Once designed, manufacturing takes two to four weeks, depending on the finish. With a five year warranty and direct shipping to the Cayman Islands (no stops in the US) this is the most affordable and efficient option for custom cabinets in Cayman. 🇰🇾

For more information or to schedule a design consultation contact Oppein Cayman Islands:  
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In an age that values both order and elegance, the pantry has emerged from behind closed doors, redefined for modern living. *Words by Georgia Austin.*

Offering both harmony and utility, the pantry is an instrument of purpose and order. With a personalised, creative approach it becomes a space that not only stores, but streamlines daily routines, reduces clutter and brings ease to busy households.

Whether drawing inspiration from traditional butler's pantries – separate rooms found in historic English country homes – or re-purposing an under-utilised cupboard to reclaim space and restore calm, the modern pantry is far from a forgotten cupboard.

#### SQUARE FOOT SAVVY

Whether you're working with a cupboard or a custom room, a well-designed pantry proves that it's not about how much space you have, but how intelligently you use it. Within the footprint of a compact kitchen or when modernising a traditional butler pantry, the goal remains the same: to organise, conceal and complement.

In smaller homes, pantries can be carved from existing layouts with surprising ease. Narrow cupboards fitted

with pull-out shelving, freestanding cabinets anchoring a wall, and door-mounted storage offer efficient solutions without requiring extra space. Maximise vertical space with floor-to-ceiling tiered shelving, but don't forget to factor in a ladder for access to higher shelves.

For those with space, a tailor-made walk-in pantry can be designed with space for appliances, and modern storage features such as deep drawers, open shelving, and hanging hooks, so that no space goes unused.

#### ROUTINE REFINEMENTS

The best pantries are built around daily habits. Grouping items into zones, such as baking supplies, breakfast items, and dry goods, helps make busy routines smoother and more intuitive. Labelled jars and containers not only add visual harmony but also reduce clutter and save time.

Modern pantries are increasingly doing double duty. Incorporating a coffee station, food prep surface with additional sink, or an appliance zone allows you to declutter the main kitchen and create a multi-purpose space.





Pedini Cayman



Pedini Cayman



Pedini Cayman



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**BRIGHT IDEAS**

Because pantries often lack natural light, clever lighting is key. Interior spotlights, motion-sensor LEDs, or under-shelf strips illuminate dark corners, while task lighting beneath cabinetry makes everyday use feel effortless.

Ventilation plays an equally important role, especially in walk-in spaces. Keeping air circulating and temperature stable helps preserve dry goods and prevent humidity build-up, extending the shelf life of everything from flour to fresh produce.

Smart features are also becoming more common, like inventory systems that can monitor staple ingredients and send alerts when supplies are running low or integrated charging stations for small appliances that add another layer of practicality.

**STYLE IN STORAGE**

As as a pantry is practical, it can also reflect your style. Whether it mirrors the kitchen's finishes, or introduces a contrast in texture or colour, the pantry can feel like a natural extension of your living space. Two-tone cabinetry, tiled backsplashes, and warm lighting add detail and depth.



Bon Vivant



Bon Vivant

**AND EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE**

From cleverly fitted cupboards to dedicated walk-in rooms, the modern pantry is about more than simple storage, it's about adding order, convenience and ease to daily routines. A well-considered pantry supports the way you live, cook, shop and host, allowing homeowners the quiet luxury of having a place for everything, and everything in its place. 🏠



Caribbean Fine Hardware



Pooley Cabinets

# A Night to Remember

In a world where screens dominate our attention and we often see friends online more than in real life, it's refreshing to find places that bring people together through shared interests and pastimes. Cayman has a variety of venues that turn a simple night out into something special – whether that's dancing under the stars, getting creative in company, or learning something new. Ready to swap notifications for real-life connections? Here's where to go. *Words by Georgia Austin.*



## COOK & SAVOUR

**Who's it for?** Food enthusiasts, aspiring chefs and those who love a hands-on culinary experience.

**What's the vibe?** Intimate, interactive and educational.

**Where to go?**

- Pizza Making Masterclass at Allora – At Allora in Harbour Walk, you'll roll the dough, add your toppings and fire up a mouthwatering masterpiece at this Pizza Making Masterclass. A welcome Aperol spritz, canapés and appetisers set the mood, and the night ends with a scoop of gelato – plus the pizza you made yourself!

- Cooking Class at Bon Vivant – Step into the kitchen and learn to prepare delicious meals with

expert guidance. Along the way, you'll discover the story behind the ingredients and how to bring out its best flavours. A must for any food enthusiast.



## SING & JAM

**Who's it for?** Music lovers, shower singers and anyone ready to get in the groove.

**What's the vibe?** Upbeat and spontaneous.

**Where to go?**

- Karaoke at Fidel Murphy's – This Irish pub transforms into the ultimate stage for Cayman's performers every week. Whether you're belting out a power ballad or having a laugh with friends, grab a pint, pick a song and let the good times roll.

- Jam Night at Grand Tiki – Join fellow musicians for a jam session

on the deck. Whether you perform or just enjoy the music, it's a night full of rhythm, creativity and drink specials.



## CREATE & CONNECT

**Who's it for?** Craft lovers, creatives and amateur artists.

**What's the vibe?** Hands-on workshops and laid-back social atmosphere.

**Where to go?**

- Open Canvas at Karoo – Paint alongside fellow creatives in a bustling corner of Camana Bay. Easels and a complimentary glass of wine are provided – just bring your own art supplies.

- Three Girls and a Kiln – A cosy George Town studio with a robust craft calendar featuring pottery painting, wood sign making and special guest-led workshops or drop in for Adult Pottery Glazing and personalise your own ceramic piece.

- Art Nest – A lively creative hub offering

candle making, pottery wheel classes, improv nights and guided painting sessions. Some events even include complimentary drinks, making for the perfect mix of art and socialising.



## MOVE & GROOVE

**Who's it for?** Nostalgic party-goers, social butterflies and anyone who can't resist a good beat.

**What's the vibe?** High-energy, throwback hits and plenty of space to let loose.

**Where to go?**

- Boogie Night – Dance under the stars to the best of the '80s and '90s with a live DJ and silent disco at Sandbar Daiquiri Bar & Grill.

- Salsa Night – Warm up with a cocktail over dinner before jumping into a free salsa lesson, then show off your moves to lively Latin beats at the Wharf. 🍹

Check venues online for event times and monthly schedules.

# Callaloo

Words by Natasha Were.

## LEAF, LEGEND & LEGACY

**T**alking about callaloo can be confusing. Is it a vegetable or a dish? Is it amaranth or taro leaf? African or West Indian? When it comes to callaloo – the leafy green that grows abundantly across the Caribbean – the answer is simply: all of the above.

Technically a type of amaranth, callaloo also refers to the beloved Caribbean dish made from these leaves. On some islands, particularly those where taro (also called dasheen) is more common, the heart-shaped taro leaves are used instead. Whichever green is chosen, the dish remains callaloo – deeply rooted in tradition and flavour.

Originally brought from West Africa during the transatlantic slave trade, callaloo flourished in the Caribbean thanks to its hardiness, heat tolerance and adaptability to diverse soils. Its flavour, reminiscent of spinach or collard greens, lends itself to a wide range of dishes – from stews and sautés to soups and curries. Young leaves can even be enjoyed raw in salads or blended into nutrient-rich smoothies.

But it is the hearty callaloo soup that reigns supreme. Revered as the national dish in several Caribbean countries, its preparation varies by island and household: smooth or chunky, coconut milk or rich broth, spiked with shellfish, saltfish, or slow-cooked meats. Each version tells a story – of resilience, adaptation and vibrant culinary heritage. 🌿

## CALLALOO SOUP

### INGREDIENTS

4 cups callaloo leaves, washed and chopped  
 1 tablespoon olive oil or coconut oil  
 1 small onion, finely chopped  
 2 cloves garlic, minced  
 2 scallions, chopped  
 2 sprigs fresh thyme  
 1 medium tomato, chopped  
 1 whole scotch bonnet pepper  
 1/2 cup chopped okra (optional)  
 1 small sweet potato, peeled and cubed  
 1/2 cup pumpkin, peeled and cubed  
 1/2 cup coconut milk  
 2 1/2 cups vegetable or chicken stock  
 Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste  
 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)  
 1 cup cooked crab meat or flaked saltfish (optional, for a richer version)

### METHOD

*Sauté aromatics:* In a large pot, heat the oil over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, green onions and thyme. Sauté until fragrant and softened, about 3–4 minutes.

*Build the base:* Stir in the tomato, scotch bonnet pepper, sweet potato, pumpkin and okra (if using). Cook for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

*Add liquids and greens:* Pour in the coconut milk and stock. Bring to a gentle boil, then add the chopped callaloo. Reduce heat to a simmer.


*Simmer gently:* Let the soup cook uncovered for 25–30 minutes, or until the vegetables are soft and the flavours have melded beautifully.

*Optional additions:* Add crab meat or saltfish in the last 10 minutes if using. Adjust seasoning with salt, pepper and cayenne.

*Serve:* Remove the scotch bonnet pepper before serving. Ladle the soup into bowls and serve hot with a side of crusty bread or cassava flatbread.



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# Uniquely

## CARIBBEAN

If you see yourself as a traveller – as opposed to a vacationer – you no doubt search for unusual encounters and authentic activities that are particular to a destination. For the curious and the intrepid, the Caribbean offers an abundance of unique experiences. This is a taste of what the region has in store. *Words by Natasha Were.*



### PIGGY PADDLES IN PARADISE, BAHAMAS

On Big Major Cay in the Bahamas, 25 pigs are living their best lives, sunbathing, snoozing, swimming and delighting visitors. How they came to call Big Major Cay their home nobody quite knows. Perhaps sailors took them there intending to eat them but left unexpectedly, or perhaps farmers from nearby Staniel Cay relocated the swine there when villagers complained of the smell. Either way, the adorable creatures now associate boats with food, and so eagerly swim out to greet them.

**There's more:** A short swim from Pig Beach brings you to Thunderball Grotto, a stunning underwater cave system rich in marine life, where sunlight filters in from above causing the water to glow an ethereal blue. It's also only a short boat trip out to Compass Cay where tame nurse sharks will brush alongside swimmers in the crystal clear shallows.

**Stay:** Staniel Cay Yacht Club's waterfront bungalows and suites offer gorgeous views and plenty of Caribbean charm. Book the all-inclusive package and the complimentary kayaks, bikes, paddle boards and a 17-foot skiff are yours to play with.



### PANORAMIC PEAKS, ST. LUCIA

St. Lucia's Pitons – the spectacular twin mountains that appear to soar out of the sea almost vertically – have to be some of the region's most dramatic scenery. The sight of these volcanic plugs, which rise to well over 2,000 feet, can be enjoyed from land or from the ocean – but nothing beats climbing to the top. The hike up Gros Piton is challenging and must be undertaken with a guide, but the trail – which leads through lush forest – is beautiful and the panoramic views from the peak are the ultimate reward.

**Add ons:** St. Lucia's natural wonders include waterfalls, rivers, jungles, volcanoes and sulphur springs, as well as beaches and reefs, but one of its most memorable experiences is Hotel Chocolat's Tree to Bar tour, where you can experience the entire chocolate-making process from bud to bite, including crafting your own bar of ethical deliciousness.

**Stay:** Set above a remote sandy beach, Ti Kaye is a tranquil collection of rustic-chic sea-facing cottages, where the management will craft itineraries and book treatments in the cliff-edge spa.





### CENOTE SERENITY, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Although most of the world's cenotes are found in Mexico, the Dominican Republic has a few spring-fed fresh water lagoons of its own. Blue Hole and Dudu Lagoon at Skape Park are two cool, crystal clear, intensely blue swimming holes that visitors can bathe in. The question is: will you cliff jump or zip line into the cerulean pools?

**What else?** Nearby Samana Bay in the northeast of the island is home to a renowned whale sanctuary. Each winter hundreds of humpback whales congregate here to mate, calve and nurse their young. Day trips with trained naturalists and liveboard trips are an unforgettable way to see and hear these gentle ocean giants as they put on their acrobatic displays.

**Stay:** Situated on the mountainside within easy reach of numerous points of interest, Casa el Paraiso's open-to-the elements rooms embrace sensational views of Samana Bay.

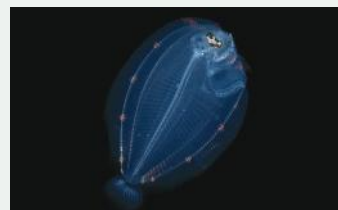


### INTO THE DEEP, CAYMAN ISLANDS

Black water diving – the latest frontier in recreational diving – entails travelling a mile or more offshore, where the sea is thousands of feet deep, in the dead of night. Because it is here that one can see an extraordinary sight: mysterious, otherworldly creatures – reef fish in their larval stages and baby dwellers of the deep – rising up through the water column, their translucent bodies and long, feathery fins glowing eerily as flashlights sweep over them. Due to the need for a cool head and expert buoyancy, this is for experienced divers only, available exclusively through Don Fosters.

**Alternatively:** For less experienced divers, multi-colour night dives promise an equally unusual perspective of the watery underworld. Within the safety of a shallow lagoon, divers equipped with lights with ultraviolet, red night vision and warm white colour options can experience fluorescence, where creatures and corals glow in psychedelic hues under the cover of night.

**Stay:** From barefoot-luxury beachfront estates to secluded retreats, Cayman Villas offers sun-drenched escapes where sandy toes, post-dive unwinding and sweeping sea views are standard – all just steps from Cayman's best beaches and dive sites.



# Escape to Honduras

Just outside La Ceiba, Honduras' third-largest city, a pocket of pristine nature awaits. Sandwiched between the Nombre de Dios mountain range and the Caribbean Sea, dense rainforests, swift rivers and tranquil lagoons offer possibilities for everyone from adrenaline junkies to serenity seekers. *Words by Natasha Were.*



## Pulse Raising Activities

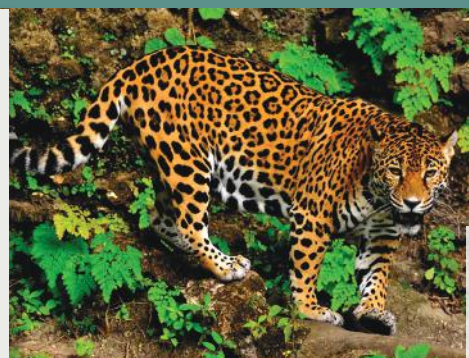
For thrill-seekers hoping to get their heart pumping, there are multiple options. Cross the 400-foot hanging bridge into the Pico Bonito National Park and choose from several hiking trails: some are loops, others take you out to thundering waterfalls and back. If you dare, rappel down the face of El Bejuco waterfall. If you don't, enjoy a refreshing dip in the swimming hole at its base.

For a different type of fun, the 14 zip lines close to Sambo Creek will have you channelling your inner Tarzan as you soar above the treetops with views all the way to the Caribbean Sea. The ultimate adrenaline rush, however, has to be white water rafting on the Rio Cangrejal. The class II, III and IV rapids, which funnel through giant boulders and whisk you past dense jungle, offer exhilaration in spades.

## Wondrous Wildlife

From the coastal mangrove forests, through the lush green rainforest and up to the misty cloud forest, this region harbours some of the greatest biodiversity in North America. While birders may not even need to leave their hammocks to see toucans, parrots, motmots and the electric blue cotinga, four-legged species such as ocelots, jaguars, giant anteaters and armadillos are best spotted with the aid of a guide.

Closer to the coast, paddle a dugout canoe or kayak around the tranquil mangrove-fringed Cacao Lagoon, where you will hear, if not see, the resident howler monkeys, alongside numerous aquatic birds and bats. Alternatively, take a river trip through the Cuero y Salado refuge – it's one of the best places to spot endangered manatees, as well as crocodiles and alligators.



## Just Chillin'

Take a dip in the pristine river and dry off on a smooth, sun-baked boulder, or soak up the jungle soundscape and valley views from your river's edge accommodation. If something more spa-like is needed, natural hot springs at Sambo Creek have been channelled into a series of pools perfect for soaking in. Get messy smothering yourself in mineral-rich mud first, or follow your soak with an on-site massage for ultimate relaxation. [RU](#)



Whatever your escape style  
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# Discover Paradise

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# THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Hidden behind a screen of tropical vegetation, Casa Areca is a place that presses the mute button on contemporary life. →

*Words by Natasha Were. Photography by Cesar Bejar.*







Situated in a lush residential community, halfway between the vibrant beach clubs and the inland town of Tulum, on Mexico's Caribbean coast, Casa Areca embodies a philosophy unusual in today's design landscape: it's a house that is deliberately restrained, where every design detail and material choice has been pared back to create a sense of space and calm.

Built for four close friends seeking a place of their own to escape the frantic pace of modern life, Casa Areca was conceived and executed by Co-Lab Design Office, a full service architecture and design-build firm based in the trendy beach town.

"The clients did not want anything too polished or ostentatious," explains Joshua Beck, partner at the design studio. "They wanted a place where they could slow down, unwind, and feel part of the landscape of Tulum."

This vision guided every decision in the creation of a home that achieves luxury not through extravagance, but through intentional simplicity. →



### CREATING SPACE

The challenge began with the site itself. A narrow, flat lot in a residential community, it offered neither views nor an abundance of space. Additionally, as the architects wanted to preserve the existing mature trees on the land, they decided to situate the pool on the side that received the most direct sunlight. This, however, made the available building space even narrower.

But rather than fighting these constraints, the architects embraced them, using the limitations to drive a design that feels both expansive and intimate. A single open living space on the ground floor, four en-suite bedrooms on the next floor, and a shaded roof terrace above those, gives the owners both the privacy and the community they wanted.

The kitchen, dining and living area is a long, fairly narrow space but walls of glass on two sides mitigate this by ensuring a continuous, seamless connection with the outdoors.

On the long side, facing the pool, vast glass doors slide all the way back, turning the interior into an extension of the garden. But it is the set of three frameless, floor-to-ceiling pivoting doors on the shorter façade that are particularly striking: a space-saving solution, they do not restrict access to the garden when open and channel prevailing winds through the interior. But they do more than that, the architect says: "They introduce a ceremonial quality. Opening them changes the dynamic of the space dramatically." →







## QUIET DESIGN

In Casa Areca, the choice of materials speaks softly but profoundly. The palette is intentionally tight: polished cement, local wood and natural linen.

“The idea was to create a silent, calming backdrop for living, something that feels almost elemental,” Beck explains. “We were inspired by the wabi-sabi and slow-living ethos but wanted to temper that rawness with warmth and comfort.”

The polished cement surfaces – warm white on the walls and soft grey on the floors – reference the powdery sand and silvery driftwood at the coast. Together these create a neutral backdrop that allows the nearby trees, the shadows and the artisanal pieces to become the real decoration. But it also serves a practical purpose: cool underfoot, it’s ideal for the hot and humid Caribbean climate as well as being low-maintenance and resistant to salt and moisture.

The interior doors and furniture, all custom-made from local hardwoods, *parota* and *tzalam* – also known as Caribbean walnut – were treated with natural stains to harmonise their colour, introducing an element of warmth.

In the seating area, a custom designed *parota* wood sofa is paired with a built-in concrete daybed that was poured on-site. Softened with linen cushions, both pieces sit low to the ground, maintaining the sense of openness and spatial flow.

The few decorative items and accessories – a wicker lampshade, a natural fibre rug, a clay urn filled with golden grass – all adhere to the muted colour scheme. By editing decorative items down to a minimum, each has the space to shine.→






Every detail of Casa Areca has been carefully considered both to create a sense of place and to ensure the house soothes the senses and promotes genuine rest. Even the pool, lined with a dark grey pigmented plaster, connects to this material narrative. "We chose it to echo the look of local cenotes, which often have warm, dark grey stones lining the cenote waters," Beck says. "The darker tone helps the water reflect the surrounding trees and sky, creating a sense of depth and calm."

This pared back palette of materials ensures everything speaks the same quiet language, making the house feel cohesive and grounded. Although the budget for this project was limited, the architect notes, that constraint led to more thoughtful design decisions, sourcing local materials, prioritising the essential, and avoiding excess.





The result is a house that is not only beautiful but offers respite from a world of sensory overload. Casa Areca is an invitation to a more intentional way of living – and an important reminder that true luxury lies not in having more, but in needing less. 



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# NATURAL NURTURE

Words by Georgia Austin.



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# SHINE BRIGHT: THE UNSTOPPABLE RIHANNA

When a teenage girl from St. Michael, Barbados released her debut album in 2005, few could have predicted that she would become one of the most influential success stories of our time. *Words by Natasha Were.*

From commanding global stages to disrupting the beauty industry and redefining fashion norms, Robyn Rihanna Fenty's life story is not only a tale of talent, but of resilience, authenticity and a commitment to inclusivity.

## RHYTHMS OF THE CARIBBEAN

Rihanna's early years, growing up in a modest home with five siblings, were inevitably shaped by her father's struggles with addiction and patterns of domestic abuse. Music became her refuge. Yet, little did she realise at the time that this refuge would serve as the launchpad to international stardom.

Discovered by music producer Evan Rogers as a fresh-faced 15-year-old, she left everything she knew behind and moved to the US to record a demo. Two years later, Rihanna burst onto the music scene with her debut single, 'Pon de Replay'.

Infused with the infectious rhythms of reggae, dancehall and soca, Rihanna's early music paid homage to her Caribbean roots, but she continually pushed boundaries, blending these influences with contemporary sounds. This bold experimentation resonated with audiences worldwide, earning her nine Grammy Awards and over 250 million record sales – securing her place among the best-selling artists of all time.

## INCLUSION REVOLUTION

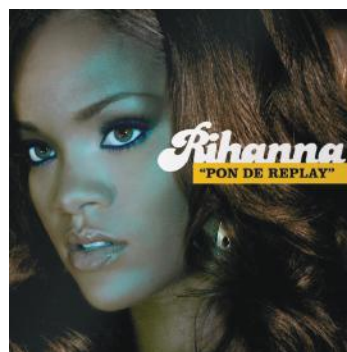
But Rihanna's artistic vision and bold spirit were destined to take her beyond the sound waves, challenging long-established norms in beauty and fashion.

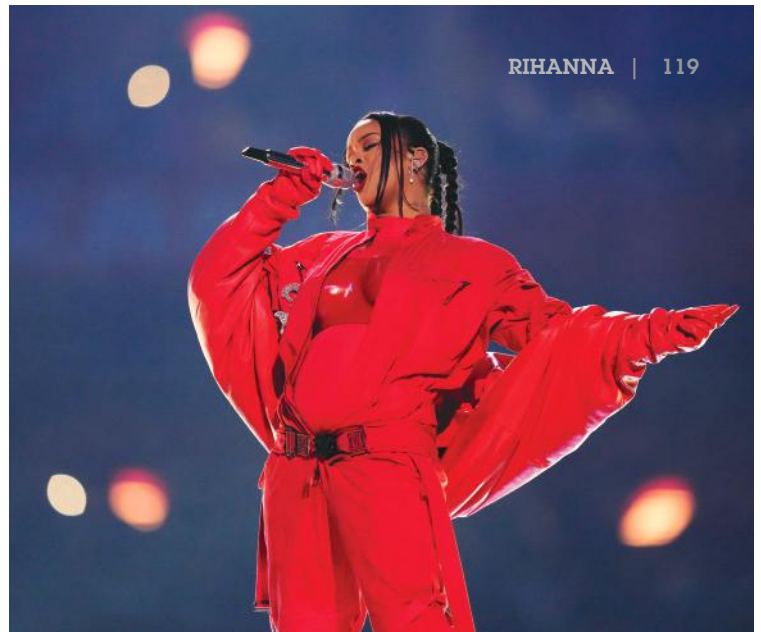
In 2017, she launched Fenty Beauty, a brand committed to doing what no beauty brand had done before: catering to women of every skin tone. With a range of foundations in 40 shades – that was later expanded to 50 – she made beauty accessible to all. This wasn't just a shrewd business move: it was a powerful statement about diversity and representation.

The approach, simply and powerfully marketed as "beauty for all," was an overnight success. It revolutionised the industry, sparking what became known as the 'Fenty effect', compelling other beauty giants to rethink their product lines and prioritise inclusivity. Named the 'Best Invention of 2017' by Time Magazine, Fenty Beauty expanded to the Caribbean in late 2024 through select retailers, including Kirk Freeport in the Cayman Islands, and is now one of the most successful beauty brands in the world.

A year after launching her makeup brand, Rihanna doubled down on her commitment to inclusivity with Savage X Fenty. This lingerie line once again challenged industry standards by catering to women of all shapes and sizes. Her runway shows, which feature models of diverse body types, abilities and backgrounds, have become cultural events, blending music, dance and high fashion, all while celebrating individuality.

Subsequent business ventures, from Fenty Skin, whose products are created for all genders and skin types, to Fenty Hair, whose hair care solutions embrace diversity and individual beauty, underscore her uncompromising commitment to inclusivity.



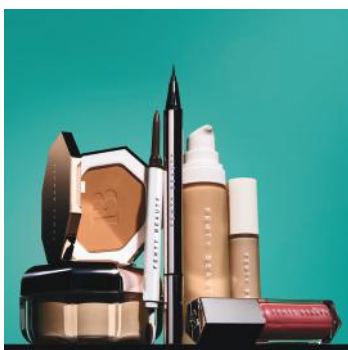
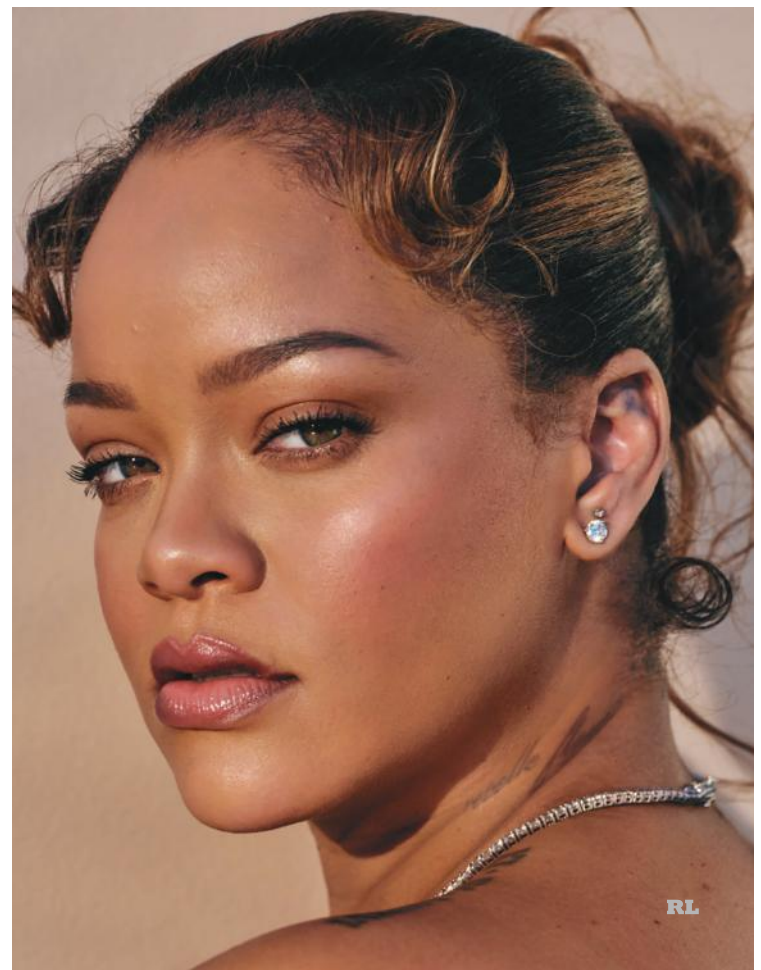


## PASSION AND PURPOSE

Where other celebrities might lend their names to products but have limited involvement in their creation and development, Rihanna is the opposite. "I really get involved with every aspect of anything I do, whether it's the Super Bowl, [where she performed, pregnant, in 2023, watched by 121 million viewers] whether it's a makeup product, whether it's Savage lingerie," she said at the pre-Super Bowl press conference. "Whatever I do, I'm that annoying girl who's gonna talk about everything. I want to see the copy on the website! I want to name every lipstick that I make. I care about it. I don't want my name to represent anything I don't stand for."

This Bajan princess has never forgotten or downplayed her island roots. From using Barbadian ingredients in her beauty products and giving them names like Island Ting and Bajan Gyal, she consistently pays homage to her home, while the Clara Lionel Foundation, established in honour of her grandparents, has frequently benefited Barbados with emergency hurricane relief, healthcare and education programmes.

Creative, bold and unafraid to challenge the status quo, Rihanna has transcended the boundaries of music, fashion and business to become one of the most influential women of her generation. She carries her Caribbean identity as a badge of honour, has been honoured as a national hero of Barbados and is widely regarded as an unofficial ambassador for the region. Simultaneously, Rihanna stands as an iconic role model and an inspiration for young Caribbean women everywhere. She is living proof that no dream is too big, no goal is out of reach and that the true value of success is using it to lift others along the way. **RL**



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# Mann's APPEARANCE OF TRUTH



A life lived in motion – eyes wide, heart open – Chris Mann’s artwork is an effusive extension of his collector’s spirit, weaving together stories of past, present and future. Through experimental colour, form and texture, his large-scale paintings become evocative, abstract studies of the world at his doorstep. His work reflects a keen eye for observation, uncovering stories in the overlooked and beauty in the mundane. *Words by Georgia Austin.*

With a creative career spanning decades, Chris Mann is not just an artist, but a storyteller, a quiet observer and a passionate educator. His journey, shaped by a deep appreciation of nature, bridges the coastal vistas of Cornwall, UK, and the mangroves of Cayman’s coastline, as he forges an ever-evolving artistic voice rooted in authenticity and abstraction.

Born on England’s south coast to a nurse and a Royal Air Force pilot, Chris’s early years wove a tapestry of transitions. His father’s pilot postings took the family across Oxfordshire, Cornwall, West Germany and Sardinia, instilling in him a perpetual sense of transience. Inspired by Jacques Cousteau’s underwater explorations, his first dream was to become a marine biologist, but his love for nature soon found expression in art.

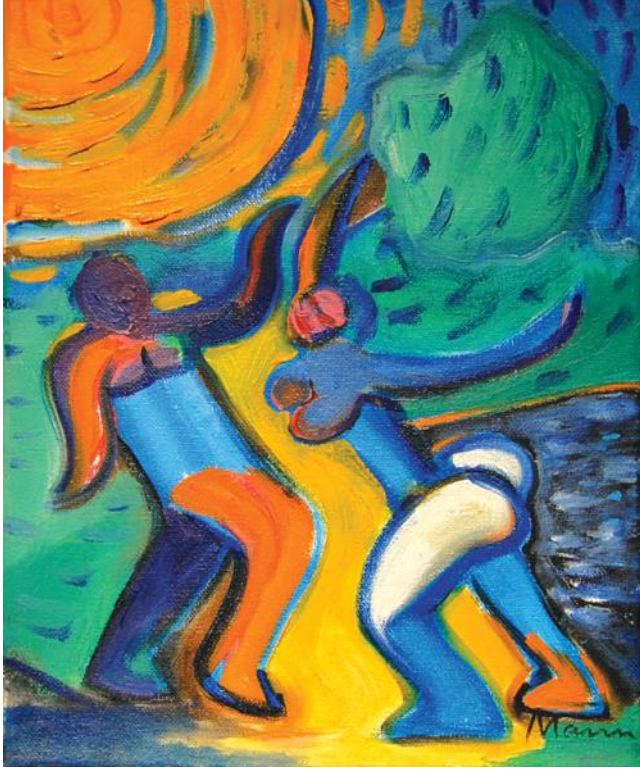
Chris’s artistic journey led him to London’s Goldsmith’s College to study Fine Art, Ceramics and Education. It was an experience marked by experimentation, exploring printmaking, drawing and, eventually, ceramics and sculpture. Drawn to the bold, abstract patterns of ancient pottery, he drew from non-Western art traditions rather than the religious and pastoral themes of conventional painting. These early foundations underpinned his unique artistic language – a delicate balance between representation and abstraction.

After graduating, Chris spent eight years teaching art in southeast London, but on a drizzly, grey morning in January 1987, a serendipitous newspaper posting caught his eye: a position for Head of the Art Department at the Cayman Islands Middle School. The allure of a Caribbean adventure beckoned, and by August, Chris, his wife and their 15-month-old son had relocated to the shores of Grand Cayman.

Having spent many of his formative years amidst rolling hills and plunging valleys, the flat tropical landscape of Cayman initially felt alien. He went in search of a subject that could provide the depth, complexity and sense of place he craved.

In the mangroves, he found a micro-landscape teeming with life, layers and structure. From sunlight refracting on water and shifting ocean depths, to juvenile fish sheltering in the shadows and the layers of fallen leaves below the surface, this vital ecosystem offered endless inspiration.

The arching roots of red mangroves became his muse, a discovery that led him away from formal rendering toward figurative abstraction. Through playful experimentation with form, colour and composition, he sought to “break through to something that had a connection in the real world.” His style became less about direct representation and more about the *experience* of the mangroves. →

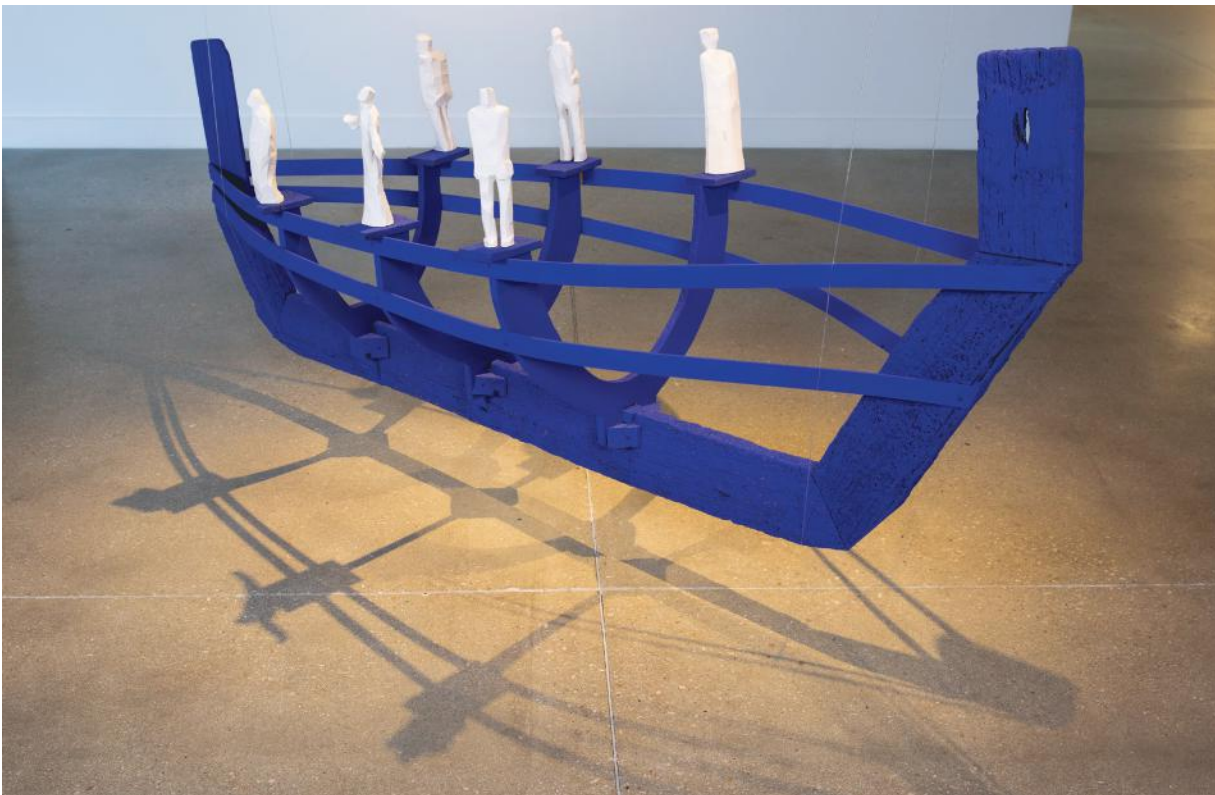


Chris's work has been exhibited internationally – in the Dominican Republic, Guyana and New Zealand – and locally in group exhibitions at the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands and the Cayman National Cultural Foundation. In 2017, he was awarded the National Arts and Culture Gold Award for Creativity in the Arts by the Cayman National Cultural Foundation in recognition of a lifetime of consistent, high-quality creativity. And he continues to create to this day, working at the intersection of passion and purpose, a continuous journey of discovery and expression.

Chris likens his exploration of abstraction to the concept of verisimilitude: creating the appearance of truth. Much like the classical music which he treasures as his painting companion, his paintings are composed with rhythm, harmony and resolution. His process is spontaneous yet deliberate, favouring the immediacy of acrylics, while also working with layered oil paints.

"I want to see the hand of the artist in my work," he shares, a philosophy deeply rooted in his ceramicist background, where ancient artefacts, lifted from the earth after centuries, still carry the imprint of their maker's touch. That thumbprint becomes a powerful point of connection between creator and creation. His large-scale canvases embrace this tactile quality, capturing authentic movement and gesture, his own version of a thumbprint formed through the physicality of painting.


His practice extends beyond the painted surface into sculptural and installation-based pieces, many of which have been acquired by the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands. Though abstract, these works are a unique assemblage of moments: memories, observations, historical context and environmental activism, alongside emotional undercurrents. But beneath the abstraction lies the presence of truth, embodied not through stark realism, but through the sensory acuity of each piece. →





Among his most personal projects are his *Memory Boxes* – delicate collections composed of found objects, weathered photographs, sculptures and mementos. Collectively forming poetic narratives, the viewer imbues meaning in the space left by the artist. Tactile and trusting, these works are meditations on time, place and identity.

Chris's studio is his own personal *Memory Box*. Accessed via ladder and trapdoor, it is a world unto itself: walls adorned with images, colour swatches and quotes; shelves brimming with well-thumbed books; collections of driftwood each with its own imagined origin story; and stacks of records – most notably his Bob Dylan collection – a visual storyteller's admiration for one of the greatest musical storytellers of his time.

At its core, Chris Mann's art is about connection – whether to nature, history, culture, or personal revelations of truth. His keen eye for detail and deep sensitivity allow him to transform landscapes into visual symphonies of colour and form. In his studio, creation is not about simply seeing, but rather feeling, listening to the world's rhythms and whispers and interpreting them in a vibrant celebration of what it means to create. 

For more info and to view more of Chris Mann's artwork contact:  
 EMAIL [chrismann55@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chrismann55@yahoo.co.uk)  
 VISIT: National Gallery of the Cayman Islands and the Cayman National Cultural Foundation.

*Artwork images courtesy of Chris Mann and the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands.*





**BCQS ANNOUNCES REFRESHED BRAND IDENTITY**  
Property and development consultancy BCQS has refined its brand identity, simplifying its logo while retaining its familiar name. The company's new website and updated visual identity reflects

its forward-thinking approach as it continues to lead in consultancy services across the Caribbean and Latin America. [www.bcqs.com](http://www.bcqs.com)

**BARAUD DEVELOPMENT INTRODUCE NEW DEVELOPMENT**

Lumière at Clipper Bay is an elevated residential development set in heart of the Seven Mile Beach Corridor. The thoughtfully designed residences celebrate natural light, clean architectural forms and elevated finishes. All units are now reserved. Join the waitlist to be the first to know about any upcoming availability. [www.barauddevelopment.com](http://www.barauddevelopment.com)



**BRANDSOURCE HOME GALLERY EXTENDS LUXURY SERVICE TO THE SISTER ISLANDS**  
Residents of Little Cayman and Cayman Brac can now enjoy BrandSource Home Gallery's

exceptional offerings with 15% off store-wide and complimentary delivery to Thompson Shipping. Elevate your home with premium products and seamless service. Contact BrandSource Home Gallery to experience the difference. [www.brandsourcecayman.com](http://www.brandsourcecayman.com)

**BEACON FURNITURE HAS RELOCATED**

Beacon Furniture has moved its premises from Shamrock Road to Plaza Venezia on North South Road, making furnishing and decorating more convenient than ever. They offer a stylish inventory that includes bedroom, living room, dining room, outdoor furniture and accessories. Their exceptional sales and delivery teams make updating your interiors even easier. [www.beaconfurniture.ky](http://www.beaconfurniture.ky)



**REFRESHED WEBSITE FOR CAYMAN VILLAS**

With over 55 years in business, Cayman Villas continues to deliver authentic island experiences for guests. A refreshed website now showcases the company's 70+ condos and villas, along with a curated list of unique local experiences designed to give guests a true taste of the islands. [www.caymanvillas.com](http://www.caymanvillas.com)



**DAVENPORT ANNOUNCES EAST END RESIDENTIAL PROJECT VISTA COLINA**

Vista Colina, a new residential community by Davenport Development will commence construction this summer in East End. The development, comprised of 16 units, will provide much needed high quality housing for residents of the eastern district. The energy efficient, hurricane-rated units will feature kitchens designed in-house, shaded terraces and access to a shared pool and garden. [www.davenport.ky](http://www.davenport.ky)

**HÜIS OFFERS CUSTOMISED BED DESIGN**

Homewares store HÜIS's customers can now create their own personalised bed designs through the Jonathan Louise Design Lab. Create a bed made to fit your space and style by choosing the size, bed base option, headboard shape and treatment, bed legs, fabric and finishes from a range of options. Visit the store for assistance and watch your bed take shape in renderings as you make your selections. With pricing starting from \$1204 designing your custom bed is both affordable and simple. [www.huis cayman.com](http://www.huis cayman.com)



**IDG SETS THE STANDARD FOR LUXURY DESIGN IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

IDG is proud to be the Design Exemplar for several of the most esteemed developments in the Cayman Islands, including The Residences at The Ritz-Carlton, The WaterColours, Waters Edge, Stone Island, Seafire, Aqua, and most recently, The Watermark. With a focus on custom interiors and design-oriented furniture packages, IDG remains the benchmark for luxury living in the Cayman Islands. [www.idgcayman.com](http://www.idgcayman.com)



**LEDGER & LOOMS CREATES CUSTOM RUGS FOR RESIDENTIAL RESORT**

Ledger & Looms was honoured to collaborate with the design team at Trio Architecture on the award-winning One GT project. Grand Cayman's first luxury urban residential resort will feature 100% handmade rugs that were custom designed and sourced by Ledger & Looms. The design team at Trio worked closely with the experts at Ledger & Looms to create bespoke high-quality rugs that are both functional and striking. [www.ledgerandlooms.com](http://www.ledgerandlooms.com)

**MAREA ALMOST FULLY SOLD**

MAREA, a development of luxury villas on Little Cayman, is now 80% sold. Designed to offer a level of convenience and elegance not previously available on Little Cayman, MAREA features ten 4 bedroom villas, a shared pool and dock, full management and concierge services. Currently under construction, the first villas are slated for completion by the end of 2025. [www.MAREA.ky](http://www.MAREA.ky)



**PROVENANCE PROPERTIES' TOP PERFORMERS HONOURED**

Ewelina Cimring and Antonette Baptist, real estate agents at Provenance Properties, have been added to Christie's International Real Estate's 2025 Masters Circle. Established in 2019, this prestigious nomination is reserved for the top-performing agents

within the Christie's International Real Estate network. A testament to their exceptional service and industry expertise, this is Ewelina's third consecutive year receiving the designation, while Antonette proudly earns her place for the first time. [www.provenanceproperties.com](http://www.provenanceproperties.com)

**REED CONSULTING ENGINEERS CELEBRATES TEN YEARS**

This year RCE marks a decade of delivering reliable engineering services to residential, commercial and institutional clients. The team, which has grown to 17 professionals, offers integrated Structural, Civil, MEPF, and Geotechnical expertise, with a continued focus on quality, collaboration, and client success across the Cayman Islands. [www.reedconsultingengineers.com](http://www.reedconsultingengineers.com)



**RTA CAYMAN CELEBRATES DOUBLE WIN**

RTA Cayman has been honoured with two prestigious International Property Awards for *Seas the Day* – winning in both the Architecture Single

**ROBERT TOWELL**  
Architect Ltd.



Residence and Residential Property categories for the Cayman Islands. This stunning home showcases Robert Towell's visionary design, blending refined modernism with the natural beauty of island living. [www.roberttowell.com](http://www.roberttowell.com)

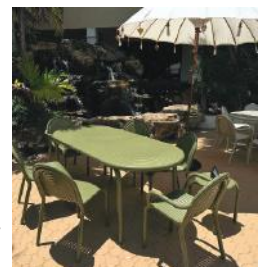


**TOMLINSON FURNITURE LAUNCHES CUSTOM INTERIORS**

To mark 50 years in business and a continued commitment to serve customers, Tomlinson Furniture is adding a custom interiors division to its suite of services. In-house designers will be on hand to assist with all aspects of interiors, from mood boards and furniture selection to spatial planning and kitchen design. [www.tomlinsonfurniture.ky](http://www.tomlinsonfurniture.ky)

**DON'T MISS STICKS & STONES POP-UP FURNITURE STORES**

Explore unique furniture and décor made from reclaimed wood, teak, rattan and other natural materials at Sticks & Stones' pop-up shops, held in the courtyard of the Grand Pavilion. The family-run furniture store regularly partners with other local small businesses to display their wares in a spacious, open air setting. [www.sticksandstones.ky](http://www.sticksandstones.ky)



**LIVING.KY**

**LIVING.KY BRINGS ADRIANA HOYOS AND ROTPUNKT KÜCHEN TO THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

Living.ky proudly announces the addition of two prestigious luxury brands to its offerings: Adriana Hoyos and Rotpunkt Küchen. This expansion introduces Adriana Hoyos' sophisticated Latin American-inspired furniture and Rotpunkt Küchen's innovative German kitchen designs to the Cayman Islands, enhancing Living.ky's commitment to providing exceptional home solutions. [www.living.ky](http://www.living.ky)

**VINTAGE CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF LUXURY SALON EXPERIENCES**

Vintage Salon marks a decade of redefining elegance in Grand Cayman. Founded by British stylist Sean Power in 2015, the salon is renowned for its bespoke services, from precision cuts to bridal styling. Now located at Harbour Walk, Vintage continues to deliver timeless sophistication and personalised care. [www.vintage.ky](http://www.vintage.ky)



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Dreamscape Design and Build .....	(345) 938 7826
Edie's.....	(345) 949 6348
Elite Marble and Granite .....	(345) 945 9028
GE Café, Cayman Islands .....	(345) 623 5000
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Living.ky .....	(345) 233 8700
Martlet Design .....	(345) 916 7583
Monogram, Cayman Islands .....	(345) 623 5000
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Robert Towell Architecture.....	(345) 946 6681

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TenzoPhotography.....	(345) 939 0243

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