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plus
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BEACH
VILLAS IN
BARBADOS

SUMMER 2020

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PRODUCT SHOWCASES: OUTDOOR/INDOOR LIVING & APPLIANCES

There's no place like HOME

A safe haven to cocoon while we wait to behold a new world

Well the world is a very different place since our last issue came out in mid-March. Just as the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic and all events, including The Home Show, were cancelled. We watched the news almost in disbelief, and prayed the big, bad virus would not spread like wildfire here like it was in Italy at the time, the epicentre of the disease outside of China. We went from social distancing measures that lasted 72 hours, right into self-isolation and have remained inside our homes ever since – waiting for some good news, waiting for our online groceries to arrive, waiting for phase two of operation 'Flatten the Curve' – yet mostly waiting for a new world to emerge post-COVID-19 spread, when fears subside and we can assume somewhat free-roaming lives again.

In this Seinfeldesque bizarre world reality ... what was, just isn't right now. Even this issue's editor's letter is unexpected; instead of finding Cobi's always refreshing and delightful letter to readers, here I am swapping my usual *Sil's Pick* and *Sil Says* snippets in the decor pages for this forum to express my thoughts with you during this unprecedented time.

First of all, I hope you are all healthy and safe. I also hope you are making the most of this rare opportunity to slow down and spend time in your home with loved ones, despite the uncertainty. I find most people I talk to are reconnecting and rediscovering the ties that bind during this crisis ... and oh, the baking!



For the people who already underwent those major renovations once upon a time, I am sure you are ever so happy you took that plunge when you did! For the rest of us, the home improvement projects list has just been augmented and perhaps the impetus to execute them will be expedited as soon as restrictions are lifted.

Until then, it is a good time to plan your new-and-improved home, whether it be major, like a new kitchen or an entire addition, or a DIY project you can execute now. After an early and intensive spring-cleaning we all did this year, I am sure we all welcomed the yard work and patio-prepping in anticipation of summer's arrival. And now that it's here, I foresee many hours spent in our backyards and balconies ... just a guess.

We have some inspiring outdoor living spaces in this issue. Be sure to check out Jackie Glass' colourful garden studio she created on a budget in her verdant backyard. Jane Lockhart explores the various options of outdoor shelter that will keep the party going, rain or shine. And if you dare to dream of tropical getaways, during a time of indefinitely suspended leisure air travel, lose yourself in the article I wrote on The Crane Resort's newly constructed modern beach villas in Barbados. Fortunately, I visited the resort last November and I was struck by the beauty of the island and its people. It definitely has acquired happy-place status for me. We all need a spectacular escape now and then.

Make the most of this summer. We deserve a great one.◆

Sil

SILVANA LONGO, EDITOR

Feel free to write to me about your thoughts of home: sillongo@rogers.com

Want more decor, design, reno advice and inspiration in between issues?

Check out our website myhomepage.ca/renoanddecor All things home are just a click away.

We look forward to hearing from you and welcome your feedback. Do you have a reno or decor question for our team of experts? Email editorial@renoanddecor.com

EMBRACE YOUR

HAPPY PLACE

BY SILVANA LONGO

Modern beach villas in Barbados embrace simple elegance & spectacular views



CLASSIC CARIBBEAN

The natural, authentic beauty is largely untouched by the passage of time; it is the antithesis of the island's Platinum West Coast where there are no jet skis, celebrities, condominiums or night clubs.

Since 1887, the historic Crane Resort has been famous for the 'healing powers' of its spectacular beach, cooling trade winds and the surrounding pristine landscape of the island's less-travelled coast. Beyond the idyllic setting, the ever-growing resort and residential properties brought to life by The Crane owner, Torontonion Paul Doyle (he acquired the property in 1988), the resort's expansion has also been a journey in design. From the Marine Villa to the new suites, "We were very respectful of The Crane's place in history of Barbados," says Doyle. The iconic architectural details, such as the coral stone walls, mahogany vaulted ceilings and four-poster beds in all the colonial-style suites were deliberately kept faithful to the design of the original Crane Beach Hotel.



DO YOU KNOW HOW THE ISLAND GOT ITS NAME?

A Portuguese sea captain, Pedro A. Campos pondered over the island's numerous bearded fig trees, and decided the island needed a name which emphasized how much of a prominent feature those fig trees were. And so, Barbados, before it was known as Barbados, was called Los Barbados, which means "bearded one."

A PIECE OF PARADISE

A hybrid design approach where contemporary style pays homage to Bajan classics was Doyle's inspiration for The Crane Private Residences, which debuted in 2017. A master-planned luxury development of condo-style units spread over five acres feature clean architectural lines and finishes that reflect the Crane Resort's signature use of coral stone.

However, it is the latest property development of 63 beach villas at Skeete's Bay where Doyle plunges wholly into modern design. "In the Skeete's Bay villas, we take another leap and aren't worrying about history at all, it is completely modern."

Generously scaled and beautifully appointed, each villa sits on approximately 1/5 of an acre and offers breathtaking 180-degree ocean views, floor-to-ceiling glass windows, infinity-edge private pools with hot tubs, private patios and gardens with "no tan-lines levels of privacy," hammocks and barbecues. This secluded, low-density and eco-friendly development truly delivers on the Beach Houses' tagline: When you really want to get away.

If ever there were a time when thoughts of a happy place are what help get us through challenging moments in life, collectively, that time is now. With practically the entire world embracing the new reality of self-isolation and social distancing, just as we were wrapping up winter 2020 and welcoming spring, the screeching halt to our day-to-day lives sent us in uncharted waters, gifting us the time in our homes we never thought possible. As we reflect, recharge and redefine what we value most; we all imagine the world post-COVID-19, (albeit post-vaccine) when we can frolic once again carefreely in the world, with a renewed appreciation of all the pleasures and beauty we once took for granted. During the lockdown experience, with fears in full bloom, the restrictions to daily freedoms to roam while managing the anxiety of what overall effect this plague will have on the world, I found my mind floating back to my time last fall at The Crane Resort on the South East coast in Barbados. The sweet memories from my trip sparked that much needed joy factor during this global crisis and reinforced my resolve to return to this jewel in the Caribbean once the health crisis comes to an end.



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF THE CRANE RESORT



“THE BATHROOMS OPEN UP TO THE PRIVATE GARDEN WITH SLIDING GLASS DOORS, SO THE ENTIRE WALL DISAPPEARS AND OPENS INTO A LANDSCAPE COURTYARD.”

SERENITY NOW

Modern design principles are put into action to create a feeling of Zen throughout the home. From the open-concept floor plan, muted tones, to the seamless cabinetry, which keeps fixtures out of view and also serves to protect from the harsh salt air. The paradisaical component to this design is most definitely the blurred lines between indoor and outdoor living spaces as it allows for complete sensory connection with nature. “The bathrooms open up to the private garden with sliding glass doors, so the entire wall disappears and opens into a landscape courtyard. The shower is outside adjacent to the garden space... It’s an amazing experience that you just don’t get in Toronto,” says Doyle.

SUSTAINABLE & LUSH

Sustainable design is also an important component of the beach villas’ construction. Every home includes a living rooftop. The displaced verdant landscape from each of the 63 building’s footprint has been thoughtfully moved to the flat roofs, revealing clear sight lines. “When we started, there was very little landscape, it is a very intense environment on the East coast with winds and strong breezes coming in,” says Doyle. The solution was to add landscape plants that thrive in the environment to the perimeter of the flat roof, as well as solar panels in the middle, with the goal of going off the grid as soon as testing permitted.



BEACH HOUSE CHIC

Naturally, there is also a casual beach vibe accentuated with the decor touches in the villas, including sisal rugs, rattan chairs and avocado-coloured lamps. It echoes the casual comfort of the island in a spectacular setting. “For hundreds of years, Barbadians look to the East Coast as a place to get away.” Doyle says. Then draws a local comparison to depict the location accurately. “The Skeete’s Bay area is what Muskoka represents to Torontonians.”

The result of The Crane’s latest East Coast Barbados property development is the ideal tropical luxury retreat for those who prize peace, tranquility and natural beauty. I am grateful to have experienced the magical place first-hand. I truly believe that inner peace starts at home and as homeowners, we are naturally drawn to add some of the design elements that resonate with us from our travels into our own homes. I relish the thought of returning to Barbados (the island of the flying fish) once it is safe to do so; a glorious way to indulge the senses in real time and build up that reservoir of happy place memories and moments for years to come. ♦



➔ For more information on the beach houses in Barbados Skeete’s Bay Beach and Culpepper Island, go to beachhouses.bb