



December 2008

## INTRODUCING SWA Architects.

*Since 1995 Simon Wood Associates Ltd has been operating exclusively in the Turks and Caicos Islands.*

This newsletter is being issued to announce the start of a new phase in our company's development as we expand into the larger marketplace within the Caribbean basin. With directors based in the US as well as the Turks and Caicos we are now well positioned to offer our design and master planning knowledge, long proven in the home islands, to customers throughout the Caribbean and beyond.

Our three directors, Simon Wood, Simon Hutchings and Rory Stevens have combined their design knowledge and skills to great effect along the shores of world famous Grace Bay in projects such as Point Grace, Villa Renaissance, The Regent Grand, West Bay Club and Wymara all of which were taken from concept to completion in our offices here in the Turks and Caicos. We have also secured a niche in the local high end private villa market as well as displaying our love of the urban landscape in a number of the islands premier commercial projects and town master plans.



From Left to Right:

Simon Wood  
Simon Hutchings  
Rory Stevens

*BA (Hons) Dip Arch RIBA TCASE*  
*BA(Hons) MA Arch RIBA TCASE*  
*BA (Hons) Dip Arch RIBA TCASE*

## NEW NAME - NEW LOOK



As an integral part of the growth of the company the full name Simon Wood Associates Ltd will be retired in favour of the abbreviated 'SWA Architects'. As a part of a fresh marketing approach we are launching a new website in the New Year which will better represent the quality and diversity of the work we specialise in. Our web designer Elena Longo has plenty of experience in the unique problems of designing for architects being the daughter and website designer for the now retired Sao Paulo architect Eduardo Longo, famed for his elaborate spherical house prototypes featured in TV programs such as channel fours 'the worlds craziest houses'.

# CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to project architect Rebecca Huggins for tying the knot in the summer and becoming Mrs Rebecca C Davies. A registered UK architect Rebecca joined us 4 years ago from a major architectural firm in London and has since spent much of her time ensuring that one of Provo's latest hotels, the West Bay Club (pictured this page), received the level of attention to detail that SWA has become known for over the years. We wish Rebecca and Chris all the best in their life together as a family.

SWA is also pleased to welcome two new junior family members Joshua and Sasha.

**Joshua Thomas** was born on August 15<sup>th</sup> 2008 to proud and loving parents Simon and Alexandra.

Close on his heels **Sasha Blue** came into the world on September 2008 30<sup>th</sup> weighing 8lbs 12oz to proud and loving parents Tina and Rory.



## Quinten Ely Lightbourne



The directors and staff at SWA would like to congratulate Mr. Quinten Ely Lightbourne for recently completing his Masters degree in Architectural studies at Florida International University in Miami. Ely is among an elite handful of Turks and Caicos Islanders to reach such a high level of education in the field of architecture and we are proud to have played our part in helping Ely achieve this status. Since joining the company from school over 10 years ago Ely has worked with us both full time and part time whilst training, learning all aspects of life as an architect through a wide range of experience on many of our projects. Becoming an architect is similar to becoming a doctor in the length of time and stamina required so we would therefore like to wish Ely all the best as he pushes on to complete his professional practice exams in his bid to gain admittance as a member of the American Institute of Architects.

# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

We are always proud to see one of our projects completed then watching and listening to the end users who we see as our ultimate clients. Good or bad we learn to refine our craft from the critical judgement of those who buy, live, work or vacation in one of our properties. Our attentiveness to their thoughts is what allows us to grow as a design team and change our own preconceptions to suit moving trends of the travelling public.

Some SWA designs recently commencing resort operations are The Regent Grand (pictured right), a follow up to the smaller Villa Renaissance (also designed by SWA) and West Bay Club (pictured previous page).

The Regent Grand follows on the clients wishes to create an elegant Mediterranean master plan with three similarly styled resort projects and a large commercial village on Grace Bay; the premier beachfront land in the Turks and Caicos.

For more information on these stunning resorts please visit their websites:

[www.villarenaissance.com](http://www.villarenaissance.com)

[www.theregentgrand.com](http://www.theregentgrand.com)

[www.thewestbayclub.com](http://www.thewestbayclub.com)

West Bay Club is also featured property in a recent Real life magazine.



# SWA PRIVATE VILLAS.



The success of the Leeward residence Amazing Grace (pictured above) designed by SWA and built by TDMG for a Connecticut family has prompted a small trend in Barbadian great house style designs rolling off the drawing boards at SWA. The material mix of limestone and weathered cedar shingles mimics perfectly the colour and texture palette of the Turks and Caicos, add to this a hint of soft pastel blues and greens in the timberwork and you have a styling that is not only beautiful but totally at home in the local environment here in the islands.



Earlier this year the owners moved in to their new courtyard villa on the North shore of Thomson Cove (pictured above). Designed by SWA and built by Norstar Group Ltd this residence has since grown into its surroundings and now looks as much a part of the Thomson Cove landscape as Highlands, one of our original Barbadian style villas just across the canal entrance (an S<sup>3</sup> featured property.)

Still receiving finishing touches, SWA's latest venture has been constructed by CCC on Long Bay beach (pictured below.) adding a graceful air to the built environment along the shore.



# AMBERGRIS CAY

Turks and Caicos Sporting Club at Ambergris Cay was Voted a 2007 “Best of the Best Private Resort Community” by Robb Report magazine. Pandering to the refined elite who prefer private jets and complete seclusion, the sporting club recently launched their SWA designed Calico Jack restaurant. The restaurant follows the rest of the 1100 acre islands architectural villa styling with refined detailing in appropriate materials designed to age naturally and gracefully.



We have worked with the DPS team from the conceptual start of the project providing a wide range of services from advising on the nuances of true Turks and Caicos style architecture to producing a set of signature villas for the Calico Jack neighbourhood on the Cay, the latest of which has just been released to the sales team and is already proving popular with potential homebuilders. Throughout the relationship we have found DPS to be a thoroughly knowledgeable client whose perseverance to exceed expectations and produce a product of true quality and lasting appeal makes designing with them a true pleasure. The ability of their built product to weather a direct hit from category 4 ‘Hurricane Ike’ is true testament not only to the architects, engineers and builders involved but also to the team that manages the product from start to finish.

We are currently involved in the design for two custom homes on the Cay and hope that our involvement in this top quality development will continue to increase as more and more owners look to realise their dreams.

[www.Ambergriscay.com](http://www.Ambergriscay.com)



# COMING SOON!!

Currently on site and nearing completion Provo's latest offering in hip hotels 'Wymara' is already starting to turn the heads of anyone passing the construction site next to the West Bay Club on the Lower Bight Road. Wymara is an extension of our passion for exploring a contemporary take on Turks and Caicos architecture. This unique style which we affectionately refer to as Turks Island Modern was explored in earlier examples such as Scotiabank's main branch building, Graceway House and various residences including 'Luna Sea' on Turtle Tail. At Wymara, working alongside award winning Miami based interior designers 'DADA' we have combined traditional texture and colour with contemporary forms and materials to produce what we think is an exciting island architecture for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Along with the intuitive room arrangement that allows multiple condo and nightly room sales configurations for realtor and operator respectively, the key to Wymara was finding a way to make spaces as flexible as possible whilst maintaining enticing aspects from every angle. Wymara boasts a remarkable array of amenities for a project of this scale, largely arranged around a signature courtyard pool which ensures a true resort experience at all times. For more information on the project please visit their website [www.wymara.com](http://www.wymara.com)

## COMMERCIALLY SPEAKING



Over the past 20 years the directors of our firm have been contributing to the commercial sector with designs for some of the more prominent businesses on the island. Buildings such as the law offices of Misick and Stanbrook', IGA's Graceway house and ancillary office buildings, Scotiabank's main branch and corporate offices, Ports of Call shopping village, Tropicana Plaza and the refurbishment and expansion of Neptune Court have contributed greatly to the development and styling of the internal built fabric of the island. This trend has continued over the last couple of years and currently nearing completion on site currently are KPMG's new corporate offices (pictured above), The Regent Village and it's Western neighbour Venture House (future home of Sotheby's TCI). We consider it a matter of civic duty in providing architecture that enhances the day to day lives of not only the end users of our buildings but also the wider general public.

Often left behind in the 'poor' heap of architectural styling we believe that the commercial sector contributes hugely in defining the urban framework in which we all live and work. A well defined and stylish urban landscape greatly enhances the public's sense of place and encourages civic interaction. Our designers' collective European training and experience in urban design has encouraged a number of clients to appoint us as master planners for large tracts of land. In doing so a broad overview has been realised before focusing in on the architecture of a particular building thus enabling the designs of future buildings to be directed within a definitive framework and vocabulary. SWA master plans presently in various stage of development include the Graceway development to the East and south of IGA, the area including and adjacent to ScotiaBank, Grace Bay Village and Provo Golf Club.



# NEW CLIMES.



Several of our designs have been prepared for the developers and owners of a growing numbers of exclusive island resorts around the Turks and Caicos such as Ambergris Cay, Salt Cay and West Caicos. Despite the recent economic downturn we feel that the continued eco-sensitive development of these fragile out-islands will ultimately set the Turks and Caicos apart from much of the rest of the Caribbean market by offering an appropriately unique experience in a controlled environment. We are extremely proud to have contributed our local experience and knowledge to these prestigious projects to date and are looking to take this experience into the rest of the Caribbean in the future.

We were recently appointed by the owners of the world class Montpelier Hotel on the island of Nevis to design a private villa. Nevis, located in the Eastern Caribbean, is a beautiful green gem separated from it's larger sister island St Kitts by a deep channel. Unlike Turks and Caicos Nevis presents mountainous terrain offering a welcome new challenge for our team. Like Turks and Caicos however, Nevis is steeped in History. Ruins of sugar mills and their accompanying great houses scatter the landscape that once played host to colonial fleets. The island was a haunt of the famous Admiral Horatio Nelson whose first marriage took place in the gardens of the villa that once stood on the site where we are now tasked with designing a new structure.

Our time tested approach of studying the local land, culture and history at the concept stages will enable us to produce a product which will hopefully be revered and accepted as an inclusive part of the historical and architectural landscape of this tiny but rich island nation.





## THE BIGHT PARK ON GRACE BAY

We have recently taken on a less familiar role; that of designers and project managers for the Government's new public park and botanical gardens on the Lower Bight Road at Sculpture Junction. When complete, the park will include a children's playground, car park, a beach volleyball court, a craft market and public washroom facilities in addition to new signage walls signifying entrance to Grace Bay & the Bight. Also and maybe most importantly the park includes an acre of land that is dedicated as a native botanical garden to showcase and promote the beauty and variety of the flora and fauna in the Turks and Caicos Islands. We believe that this is an extremely progressive use of this stretch of beachfront property and congratulate the TCI government in having the foresight to make sure that a piece of Grace Bay was retained for the enjoyment and education of the local population and visitors alike.

## SWA SHARKS season 2008-09

SWA Sharks football (that's soccer to some of you!) team was set up ten years ago by two enthusiastic staff members who loved to kick a ball around once in a while. In the first season playing predominantly on Club Meds sloping pitch the Sharks won the inaugural 5-aside trophy, ten years later and having been managed by two of the three directors of SWA with (as well as several others), the team are still going strong and play as a part of the official 11 a-side TCIFA men's league. Now managed by Lee Coulton of CSE Ltd, the Sharks have had an uneasy start to the 2008-9 season and currently have a W0 - L3 record. A recent addition to the SWA staff Mr Syed Hassan is the latest in a number of SWA staff members to pull on Sharks shirt. We wish Syed and the team all the best for the rest of the season and look forward to receiving some more winning match notes shortly.



## Merry Christmas 2008!!

The Christmas party was held under the beautiful Palm canopy at Coco Bistro, which has weathered the recent storms well and is as beautiful as ever. Despite a slight sprinkle of rain which promised but never delivered the dreaded downpour, the evening was a huge success with staff and better halves enjoying Chef Stuart's wonderful cuisine, some fabulous wines and even better conversation. The annual 'secret Santa' brought the festive evening to a close with much hilarity and even more booze (enjoy Rebecca!!). Many thanks to the organiser Samantha and also to Mafil for once again putting on his Santa hat for the occasion...note that next year we will be expecting the white beard and reindeer!

**SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**