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BUILDING & INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS



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Benjamin Moore



28TH ANNUAL **Building & Interior** DESIGN AWARDS

WRITTEN BY ANNABEL COOPER

The environment, nature and bringing the outside in are common themes that link the very different and equally unique winners of our 28th annual awards for outstanding architecture and interior design.

A contemporary home blended into natural rock, breath-taking views from offices at the top of Point House, and a glamorous waterfront property expertly built between road and water. This year truly celebrates the best of the best.

THANKS TO OUR JUDGES

Debbie Moura • Real estate agent, Keller Williams

Kevin Petty • Developer and project manager, Somers Management Ltd.

Sue Bendell • Owner and design director, Bendell Design

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WINNER

Residential Building Design

ANCHORAGE

BY CTX DESIGN GROUP

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANN SPURLING

In what can only be described as an act of architectural and engineering genius, Jacob Hocking, lead designer at CTX Design Group, has created a private, luxurious, four-storey, family home with sweeping views across Pitt's Bay, in what, from the road, looks like an unassuming modern take on a Bermuda-style cottage.

Situated in between the busy road and the bay sits serene Anchorage, owned by Karen and Carter Frith. The original water-saturated limestone cottage was demolished to create a three-bedroom, four-bathroom family home with an apartment, swimming pool and array of creative features.

Being right on the water is one of the main reasons the Friths love the property so much, and indoor-outdoor access as well as taking advantage of the views was a priority during the design process. "We wanted lots of sweeping views of Pitt's Bay and as much glass and as open as possible on the water side," says Karen.

With this in mind, there are floor-to-ceiling windows and sliding doors throughout the main level of the water-facing side of the house, and a central outdoor deck and entertaining area giving easy access to the pool and hot tub from both the family room and kitchen which are situated on either side. The "glass doors all retract so you can get in and out to the barbeque area conveniently," explains Hocking, adding "You can run and jump straight into the swimming pool."

The rectangular double infinity pool, which from inside the house looks almost as if it's flowing into Pitt's Bay, was designed by the owners, along with the black offset square hot tub which overflows on all sides. "The pool was pretty complicated," continues Hocking. "There's two quite different systems on the go here that have to connect into each other." The programming system, which is operated using a keypad, allows for the pool and hot tub to be heated together or independently. Both combined require four pumps. The complication didn't start and end with the pool, however.



Uncommon & Exceptional

At the waters edge of Pitt's Bay sits a family home filled with unexpected architectural wonder



Along the boundary at the road level is a wall and planters as well as a horizontal wooden feature on top of the wall and for the entrance gates. Made using Spanish cedar, this not only creates privacy but also blocks the wind. Parking areas have been created on either side of the house, both with entrance gates leading down the steps to the front door. On one side, the parking area has direct access to the kitchen and laundry side of the house making it particularly convenient for the family to use.

Karen was adamant that the front door, which is made of Bermuda cedar, not be on the bedroom level of her home and the result is a high-ceilinged, dramatic mid-level entrance foyer from which you can go up to the bedrooms or down to the main living floor, which includes the guest suite. Whichever route you take, you are greeted by the phenomenal view. If guests are arriving for an outdoor party, the glass doors at the bottom of the stairs open out fully so everyone flows naturally out to the porch and pool area.

The Friths have two young children, and

the inside of Anchorage is designed for family living and entertaining, and is full of interesting, fun contemporary characteristics. These include a glass-fronted and sided wine room under the stairs, with an insulated wine area behind. In the family room, a projector comes out of the ceiling which, when combined with the blackout blinds, takes "movie night" to a whole new level. At the back of the family room is a bar and off this is a flexible guest area which includes a bedroom and bathroom. When no one is staying it is open and can be used by the family, but large sliding pocket doors can close it off, making it a private en suite bedroom.

In the master bathroom, the tub isn't filled using any ordinary tap. Instead, it's filled up from the ceiling. "We couldn't figure out a good wall location for the tap because I thought any way sitting in the tub, your head was going to hit it," explains Karen. "Jacob suggested having it out of the ceiling. I thought it would splash a lot, but he said 'no.'" The way the water comes out is in a spinning motion, hence no splash

above:

Designed by the homeowners, the rectangular, double infinity pool looks as if it's flowing into Pitts Bay and it — as well as the adjacent hot tub — can be heated or cooled with the touch of a button.

opposite page, top:

The home features floor-to-ceiling windows and sliding doors throughout, and a central outdoor deck provides easy access to the pool and hot tub from both the family room and kitchen.

bottom, left:

To accommodate the homeowner's request that the front door not be on the same level as the family's bedrooms, CTX designed a stunning and dramatic high-ceilinged mid-level entrance foyer complete with Bermuda cedar door.

bottom, right:

Designed by Salt, the kitchen features an open plan and hidden pantry.



and there is a faucet on the wall for turning it on and controlling the temperature. The fun doesn't stop at the tub. There are his and hers showers, which include a steam, a three-zone rain shower, a waterfall shower and a pulsing neck massager. The under-counter lighting in the bathroom has a sensor, meaning it automatically comes on at night.

There are two bedrooms on this third floor. The main bedroom on one end and the children's room at the other. Not only are these joined by the usual indoor corridor but an outdoor one as well, or as Hocking calls it, a "bridge," which has a patio area in the middle looking down on the pool and hot tub. At the very top of the house is the study, which has a nautical feel to it. It doubles as a library with lots of book shelves, 300-year-old cedar ceiling beams and teak flooring, along with incredible views.

Once you are through the front door, there is no hint as to how close you are to a busy road. All the living and entertaining areas are designed to draw your eye to the water. Wardrobes, utilities, kitchen pantry and IT closet, for example, are all reserved for the road side of the house. To further protect the house, there's an empty space the full width of the property. "We left this void as a buffer in case there was any dampness that came from the road into

the house," explains Hocking. "It helps with dampness, noise and structurally, the house isn't supporting the road because the wall does it independently."

The whole house is light, bright and open with a modern aesthetic. The rooms are spacious and the ceilings high. By using recessed lights, LED lighting strips, under-stair lighting and air-conditioning slots, the walls and ceilings are uncluttered. The basement, which is below the kitchen and porch, contains all the pump equipment for the pool as well as anything else the family doesn't want to see on a daily basis. Even the outside walls are sleek, clean and uncluttered. There are a few subtle outdoor wall lights, especially around the porch areas and entrances, but like the inside, the outside steps are also underlit and the wooden porch ceilings contain hidden lights.

The kitchen and living room are open plan and the former, which was designed by Salt, is predominantly white, but with a striking, dark-coloured island above which hang two stylish pendant lights. A large pantry is hidden at the back of the kitchen and houses an energy-efficient heat pump water heater, which releases dry dehumidified air and, laughs Karen, "acts as a natural crisper." Off to the far side is an office, mudroom, powder room, laundry and storage area and

the family entrance to the house.

The judges were amazed by what Hocking and his CTX team achieved in the space available and praised them for their ideas and imagination. They particularly enjoyed the different levels, the "gorgeous finishes," the glass in the stairs, the balcony on the second level and the fact there was parking on both sides of the house. They also love how the house looks from the water, a view summed up by Carter as "Bermuda cottage from the road and Miami from the water!"

Anchorage has very much been a labour of love for the Friths, who bought the house in 2017. They spent two years planning what they would build and then in August 2019 construction work began. Unfortunately, every single COVID delay that could affect them, did. "Whatever could have gone wrong, happened," says Hocking. They finally moved in in 2021 and not only was it all worth it, but they have no plans to move out—ever.

"I was conscious of trying to build a house large enough for four of us to live in comfortably, but when the kids move out, for it not to seem like it's too big and a chore to maintain," says Carter. "Also, the apartment is designed in such a way that we could knock into the guest bedroom and close off those doors and make the apartment bigger and rent out the rest of the house." In the meantime, the whole family is enjoying their beautiful new home.

"We love it," says Karen. "What we love the most are the views of Pitt's Bay. Having the pool for the family this summer was amazing. The indoor-outdoor access we have. We're spending most of our time in the kitchen and outside."

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HONOURABLE MENTION

Residential Building Design

BLUEBIRD COTTAGE

BY CTX DESIGN GROUP

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANN SPURLING

Nestled away but with breathtaking views across the waters of Ferry Reach is an architectural gem of a summer hideaway. Bluebird Cottage is versatile, modern, unique, but still in keeping with the traditional Bermudian design features we know and love. Lead designer at CTX Design Group, Jacob Hocking, has created a summer cottage, guest house, holiday rental and somewhere for adult children to escape to—all in one.

The property was previously an empty lot leading down to an inviting wooden dock, but the owners, who live further up the hill and have children living overseas, wanted a cottage they could use to enjoy their water access but one that was versatile and, crucially, delivered on a budget. "They really wanted to be able to hang out around their dock, so act like a summer home, but have the capabilities to work as a rental unit or a guest suite or for the kids when they come," explains Hocking.

The result is a light, bright, open, spacious, one-bedroom, two-bathroom, two-storey property that naturally flows out through glass-fronted doors onto a paved backyard, across the grass and down to the water. Light and space is enhanced by having the upstairs bedroom on an open mezzanine floor with see-through safety panels, high triangular ceilings and a light, open staircase. To maximise the view, as well as the natural light, the water-facing side is top-to-bottom glass windows and doors.

From that angle, however, the sunlight into the house can get very bright, especially in the late afternoon. Electric wired, button-operated blinds work well for part of the window, but providing shade for the triangular section was a more difficult proposition. Hocking, who enjoys working with wood, found the solution in horizontal wooden louvres. "The triangular blinds are difficult to work with, but we recognise that with a lot of solar gained through the top, we use those louvres. In the late afternoon, when the sun comes through, that creates quite a bit of shade

High Functioning Hybrid

CTX marries traditional Bermudian architecture with contemporary design in a waterfront cottage at Ferry Reach





and then the blinds in those square areas work better and also cast some interesting shadows in the inside," he explains.

The way Hocking maximised the space in what is a small-sized lot particularly resonated with the judges. The total footprint is around 840 square feet, but when you are inside, it feels much larger. In addition to the mezzanine-style upper floor and high ceilings, the fact there is so much white adds to the spacious feeling, and what isn't white, such as the flooring, stairs and banister, is still very light.

Even though the house is versatile, it has everything you need for comfortable modern living and entertaining. The open-plan kitchen and living room are laid out in a way that doesn't interrupt the view when you walk in the front door. The kitchen, which was designed by Salt, is an open "galley style" with the oven, fridge, shelving and cupboards all lined up behind the staircase, and the kitchen island is aligned with the sofa, creating an easy walkway all the way through with lots of areas to relax in. On the north side of the house are the spacious bathrooms. One on the ground floor and one on the top floor. Walk-through wardrobe space has been cleverly built in, between the bedroom and upstairs bathroom.

Looking back at the house from the airport side of Ferry Reach, Bluebird Cottage has a

contemporary face with the more traditionally shaped remainder of the building, and this is particularly apparent at night when the lights are on inside. "It has that modern look to the front of it with all the glass and the wood, but from the sides it's a more traditional-looking building," says Hocking, and this theme seems to be catching on around the island. "During construction and even to this day we must get a call a week about it," he adds.

On the outside, attractive traditional elements include narrow buttresses, a butterfly-style roof at the back, a small but welcoming front porch and bright turquoise shutters, which are striking against the cream-painted walls. The paved backyard area is ideal for outdoor entertainment or enjoying the exceptional view. The inside is modern, clean and crisp. Traditional-looking ceiling beams have been painted white, and another interesting and traditional feature is the large porthole window at the top of the staircase.

Bluebird is a "great, cute little cottage," say *The Bermudian's* panel of judges who particularly enjoyed the "innovative one-bedroom with the loft." They also praised CTX for the way they fulfilled the owners' brief and agreed that it was a particularly "special" design for the amount of space available. "Impressed" was a word that kept cropping up!

left: While the front of Bluebird Cottage is traditionally Bermudian in architecture, the back of the house features a contemporary face with clean lines, large glass panes and wooden triangular blinds.

right: Hocking was able to maximize inside space with a mezzanine-style upper floor and high ceilings. The traditional-looking ceiling beams were painted white to add to the spacious feeling.

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WINNER

Residential Interior Design

WALSINGHAM ROCK

BY COOPER GARDNER AND RAD STUDIO

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANN SPURLING

Next door to Bermuda's very own jungle and overlooking Walsingham Bay sits a newly renovated home which not only blends in beautifully with its rocky surroundings but stands out for its distinctive, modern take on indoor-outdoor living.

The owners, who have two children, both grew up travelling and love being outdoors surrounded by nature. This is reflected in every aspect of their house. Every door, window, room and corridor has been designed with a view to the outside. The fixtures and features complement the natural surroundings, and every piece of furniture has a meaningful purpose.

In addition to working with Cooper Gardner's principal architect, Jonathan Castro, and senior interior designer, Eimeir Johnston, the owners turned to Aurora Porter and Douglas McClellan of US-based interior design company RAD Studio to achieve their goal. Porter had previously lived in Bermuda so knew the environment well. Together with the owners, the team created a house with a unique aesthetic that is colourful, bold and contemporary. And while Castro has brought elements of traditional Bermudian architecture into the structure of the house, it is the distinctive and contemporary aesthetic created by RAD that greets you on arrival.

To reach the front door, you walk through a courtyard created from circular-patterned breeze block, which allows light and interesting shadows in and gives those enjoying the space, views out. At the same time, it is a private area that feels very much a part of the house. The Bermuda equivalent to a UK-style conservatory. The courtyard is softened by a mixture of greenery, rock and a solid wooden trellis from which hang strikingly coloured swing chairs. All along the house side of the courtyard are floor-to-ceiling glass windows, one of which is actually a frameless pivot front door. "We wanted to create a very subtle, very serene aesthetic here, hence the pivot door which is very unusual for Bermuda," explains Castro. "It's a sheltered area but the AstroTurf means it's maintenance free."



Residential Rock Star

Cooper Gardner partners with RAD Studio to create a new concept for an old home



left:
While Jonathan Castro of Cooper Gardner brought elements of traditional Bermuda architecture to the structure of the house, US-based interior design company RAD Studio created the distinctive and contemporary aesthetic found on the inside of the home.

right:
The homeowners and their children love the outdoors and being surrounded by nature, so it was important to them that every door, window, room and corner of their new home feature a view of the outside.

opposite page:
The downstairs can function as a games room, a TV room, or an office. Because it has its own bathroom, efficiency-style kitchen and pull-out sofa, it can also act as a guest bedroom.



As you approach the front door, you can see through to the ocean on the far side, and the corridors and entryways have been designed not just to connect the whole house but to draw you into the living areas, which take you straight through to the outside via large picture windows and sliding doors. In spite of the cleverly designed flow, however, you need to journey through the house slowly, otherwise you miss the artistic contemporary creation that is the kitchen, dining and living area, which is open-plan, bright and fascinating.

The downside of open-plan kitchen, dining and living areas is not just kitchen clutter but having your back to your family and guests when preparing meals. This is not the case here. Made by Italian company Boffi, the nuts and bolts of this custom kitchen are hidden behind doors which fold back

and away. The cooking area is in the centre, with a charcoal filter extractor that pops up and can be put away when not in use. If the washing-up hasn't been done by the time guests arrive, you simply close the doors and worry about it later...or the next morning!

Having spaces that were "hardworking and cosy" was a priority for the owner and everywhere is therefore flexible. The kitchen is also a dining room. It's a place for the children to do their homework and when they are done, the chairs swivel around and a television can be found hiding behind a wall unit. "I didn't want anything in the house that didn't have an everyday reason to be there," says the owner. "Even the blue sofa in the formal lounge—we chose a sofa that if you had friends over and having a few drinks, you could sit on the back of the sofa. We wanted all the furniture to work

hard." Separating the kitchen area from the formal lounge is a double-sided, wide, modern fireplace above a built-in bench. The large outside patio at the back has Armor Screen hurricane blinds so it can be enjoyed whatever the weather. The downstairs room can be a games and television hub for the children, an office or, because it has its own bathroom, efficiency-style kitchen and pull-out sofa, it can double as a guest bedroom as well.

The natural surroundings of Walsingham Rock are a nature-lover's dream but when the owners bought the property it was littered with invasive Mexican pepper and the natural Walsingham rock was hidden. The invasive species have now been removed and replaced with endemic and native plants and trees. The rock has been unearthed and is now a prominent feature around the outside of the



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Anyone expecting this home to be decorated in coastal colours will surely be surprised to see that the homeowners love bright colours and include pops of purple, yellow, turquoise, red and blue throughout their home.

house, even giving it its new name. Wooden decking was added close to the pool area and new tiles change the water colour to that of the cove beyond.

While the interior of the house has been connected to the outdoors through the huge windows and frameless doors, anyone expecting the usual coastal colours, will get a sensational surprise. The owners love bright colours and they pop up everywhere, but with care and consideration. "The grey was our canvas, the grey-blue and green of the surrounds, then we started throwing in purple, even yellow," laughs the owner. Around the swimming pool, in the courtyard and throughout the house is a grey, concrete-looking tile which is a nod to the volcanic rock outside and, continues the owner, is "forgiving for a family home. It's bomb proof!"

"Colour grew from a minimal palette of materials," explains McClellan. "Flooring, walls, all chosen to pull in the nature around the site. Tile is natural in its feeling and is contrasted with the warmth of wood throughout the home.

"Upon passing through the expanse of glass at the front of the house, you immediately catch the view of the water and the landscape beyond. This is framed in a faceted passage-way of walnut, again bringing in a contrast of

materials and textures." Then came the colours. Subdued green on a wall, but a vibrant emerald in some of the furniture. Purple chairs indoors and out with pops of yellow furniture thrown in, too. All the colours are cleverly connected through the house.

As well as creative colours, Walsingham Rock is also full of fabulous fixtures and fittings, especially the lighting and bathrooms. An upstairs powder room has circular wall lights above a cylindrical wash basin. The master bathroom tiling, while natural in appearance, is full of interesting textures, and light floods in through two huge, deep skylights. A chandelier going down the stairs complements the trees on the other side of a long window—each little hand-formed ceramic pendant is the shape of a calla lily. In the kitchen, minimal track heads have been installed in the ceiling which means the cooking areas can be highlighted, but this can be adjusted as needed. The outdoor lighting is all set in the ground creating a very different look at night. "All the lighting is soft and warm," says the owner. "Some focuses on lighting up the rock and circular breeze block. I love it lit up at night, it looks magical."

Travis Lewis was the contractor and his father, Frank, the foreman, and the owner can't

speak highly enough about their work. Not only are they a "wealth of knowledge," she says, but they were also prepared to take on "a more contemporary approach." The frameless doors, bathroom skylights, drainage and courtyard tiles added some challenges, but nothing that couldn't be overcome. "We had a lot of fun, a lot of laughs," she adds.

Walsingham Rock is Castro's first project since taking over as principal at Cooper Gardner and the judges enjoy the way he managed to combine traditional Bermudian architecture with the more contemporary features, especially the "simple book ends," "horizontal design" and "really deep porch." They also love the unique nature of the kitchen, the wonderful flow throughout the house, the "interesting façade" created by the front courtyard, and generally praise all the amazing detail in the interior design work.

While the owner loves every aspect of her new home, the views are her clear favourite. "Through every single wall is a view. Every time I look out, I can see what's going on and there's something happening in nature," she says. "It's also about celebrating Bermuda's beauty. We've been hiding from hurricanes and building our houses to protect us from them, but technology has moved on. We have glass that can protect us now."

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Separating the kitchen from the formal lounge is a double-sided fireplace above a built-in bench.

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WINNER

Commercial Interior Design

CONVEX RE

BY COMMERCIAL INTERIORS GROUP

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANN SPURLING

Heading up in the lift to the top floor of Bermuda's latest trophy building, Point House, it is hard not to have high expectations, and the Convex Re Ltd (Convex) office space certainly doesn't disappoint.

Occupying the entire sixth floor and the eastern end of the fifth floor is 13,900 square feet of work space designed not just for the more flexible way in which offices are now used, but also to embody inclusivity, diversity, visibility, openness and style. "There are no visible barriers," says Darcy Robertson, design director at Commercial Interiors Group who was responsible for the entire interior design process.

In addition to Bermuda, Convex has office space in The Scalpel building in London, and Robertson's brief from Lisa Robinson, head of HR at Convex, was to generate a recognisable Convex experience with first-class greeting areas which create an excellent first impression. In addition to this, Robertson was asked to reflect life at Convex which, he says, is modern, open, inspired and joyful.

As the lift doors open, it is immediately clear that Robertson has achieved his client's brief. Before you even get a chance to notice the phenomenal, almost 360-degree City of Hamilton and harbour views to your left and right, you are distracted by a unique, custom-made, branded, LED light wall right in front of you. Oak-panelled, the wall encompasses 700 Perspex rods all of which are backlit by an LED light grid which is remotely programmed. On a usual day, it will display the Convex "wave" logo, but colours and patterns can change according to a theme. Pink for breast cancer awareness month, for example, or a heart for Valentine's Day. At night, the glow can even be seen from the street far below. This bespoke fixture is the work of California-based, large-display LED manufacturing company Pangaea Technology.

Once you have managed to tear your eyes away from the lights, you are drawn into the spacious open-plan, flexible work space which has spectacular views through the floor-to-ceiling windows in every direction. There is



Penthouse Point of View

Darcy Robertson takes on the top floor of Point House and designs an open, modern and inspired office for Convex Re



room for 55 employees, but the existing layout is designed to move and shift to accommodate more work space should the need arise, and there has been a concerted decision to move away from being “too corporate,” creating a more relaxed, home-away-from-home feel. There are a variety of distinct “areas” designed to accommodate any which way employees choose to work and anything they or their clients may need.

The first area you are led to on both floors is the sleek, central coffee bar which provides entertaining and meeting space and includes all the latest beverage technology, an integrated wine fridge and hidden garbage disposal. As an indication of the attention Robertson has given to detail, there is a single, specialised tap which produces sparkling, cold and even hot water on demand, meaning staff can make their tea away from the coffee area. “You never like tea coming out from where coffee is made,” laughs Robertson.

The downside of open plan is a lack of privacy, so custom, acoustical phone booths have been installed which allow for private telephone conversations. Banquettes, recessed booths, bar-table seating and more informal “living room”-style seating arrangements have also been created and can be

used for meetings or get together. The phone booths came from Hushoffice and the collaboration booths and banquettes from Orangebox, both of which are based in the US. There are also individual swivel chairs, which can be turned towards the outside view for a more comfortable, scenic workday or to help make that conference call a bit more enjoyable. “There are little collaboration areas,” continues Robertson. “Lovely views of the harbour. They can have informal meetings, come here for lunch, have a meeting with a client.” Employees can also enjoy city views from the fully stocked kitchen and enjoy their break on a large outdoor terrace when the weather allows. Early risers or late workers will be rewarded with dazzling sunrises and sunsets.

All the workstations are “free address” so employees can work from anywhere at any time and the office is completely wireless allowing them to move and work freely. “There are no computers on any desk. It’s a clean desk policy at the end of the night. It looks like the day they moved in,” he adds. To this end, staff lockers have been subtly incorporated into the office space, close to the workstations.

Flexible work space even extends to

above:

Tasked with designing an office without borders, Robertson created a more relaxed, flexible and inclusive work space where employees can move around freely and work the way they want to.

opposite page:

Taking into consideration the importance of employee well-being, the fifth floor at Convex is home to a multi-faith room, wellness room, two shower rooms and a coffee bar.

the state-of-the-art boardroom on the floor below. The large round boardroom table, which on its own is an award-worthy component, means everyone can be seen clearly during meetings and the size and shape can change for different purposes. The table is a custom-designed, configurable, white ash durable laminate, which is 16 foot in diameter at full size. It can be reduced to a 10-foot diameter table for smaller meetings, and when not in use the perimeter sections can be moved to other parts of the room and used for a catering setup. They can also be arranged into a classroom format for training purposes. Each section even has its own power outlet. The table was supplied by Furniture Flair



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Immediately upon entering the Convex office space, you are greeted with a sleek, central coffee bar that acts as a meeting and entertainment space for employees. It includes the latest beverage technology, a wine fridge and hidden garbage disposal.

but built by US furniture manufacturer Halcon, who were initially unconvinced that what Robertson wanted could actually be done. Thanks to his determination and creativity, however, they managed to produce a boardroom table the likes of which they had never produced before. "The furniture manufacturer said 'no, it cannot be done,'" says Robertson, who wouldn't take no for an answer and designed and drew it anyway. "It's a big table," he adds. "It was fun craning it up. It couldn't fit in the elevator."

In keeping with the theme of employee wellness and inclusivity, the fifth floor is also home to a multi-faith room and a wellness room as well as two shower rooms, including one that has ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility. To complement an office layout that embodies openness and freedom, the fixtures, fittings, materials and flooring are all durable, have a natural, environmental theme to them and incorporate fun colours. The Convex turquoise pops up in some of the seating areas but isn't too dominant and is offset with reds and different shades of blue and green. There are planters around the coffee bar as well as dotted around other areas of the office space, which add attractive

natural greenery. The walls are slatted white oak panels, which not only creates warmth but also gives the office a residential feel. This is further reflected in some of the flooring and seating. The carpet tiles, for example, resemble the texture of weathered rock or a pebbled garden path. "There are three carpets of the same pattern," explains Robertson. "It's visual interest, texture and it also creates the pathways and gives you that organic, natural look. It's not too corporate."

"Finishes that reflect nature add to increasing well-being by bringing the outside in," he continues. "As designers, we know that [by] following nature's example this space ignites our senses through light, colour, texture and detail." Adding to the visual interest is the clever use of certain lighting and ceiling patterns. Circular ceiling features above the round coffee bars and again above the circular boardroom table are very effective at making these areas stand out from the rest of the space. Down the length of the corridors, however, the lighting is linear, further enhancing the flow. The lighting is LED throughout and in the phone booths, meeting rooms and other less-used rooms, they operate on sensors. This means the lights are only on when the room is in use.

While open plan is the dominant theme, there are a number of enclosed meeting spaces; however, they are glass panelled so views, light and visibility are not obstructed. They are also completely soundproof.

As you would expect for a world-class reinsurance company, technology plays a huge part throughout the entire office space, and in addition to wireless Internet access, the latest AV technology, sourced by Sound Decision, is available in the collaboration spaces and meeting rooms, including LED TV screens, BlueJeans Video Conferencing and Apple TV.

When reflecting on the expert job Robertson and his team have done at Convex, *The Bermudian's* panel of judges agree that the top floor was particularly impressive, especially the relaxed, open spaces and the fact the office didn't feel too commercial. Additionally, they commend Robertson's effort for getting Halcon to build the boardroom table exactly how he wanted it, and they particularly enjoyed the story about having to crane it into the office!

"Darcy is professional level," they agree, adding that the custom finishes, office flow, furniture design and general attention to detail were "excellent."

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top:
The large custom boardroom table was designed for everyone to be seen and can be reconfigured in a variety of different ways for different purposes. It is 16 feet in diameter and had to be lifted by crane up to the fifth floor.

bottom:
Employees can enjoy city views from the office's fully-stocked kitchen and enjoy lunch out on the terrace when the weather is agreeable.



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RUNNER-UP

Commercial Interior Design

HOMESTEAD

BY OBMI

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANN SPURLING

Turning a run-down Bermuda stone building into a modern, attractive, accessible, multi-use, world-class medical facility, including a full surgical suite to rival some of the best hospitals around the world, is not a project for the fainthearted.

Dr Ramon Arscott, who is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon, and his wife, Christie Hunter Arscott, are certainly not fainthearted, so they turned to the inimitable Michele Smith, managing director and interior designer at OBMI, in order to make this ambitious project happen.

In spite of pandemic-related complexities, in the space of three years, this Bermuda stone house became offices, consulting rooms, a studio apartment, surgical space, retail area and reception room. Separately, through the use of attractive planting and permeable pavers, the outside of the building was transformed into a tranquil haven by OBMI's landscape architect, Jennifer Davidson. What greets patients, clients and visitors on arrival, therefore, is not an intimidating hospital-like facility, but a warm, welcoming and stylish home atmosphere.

There have been very few, if any, projects of this exact nature in the history of Bermudian renovations, so how much did Smith have to learn to successfully complete this development? "Pretty much everything," she laughs. She has experience designing doctors' offices, but she had never done a surgical suite before. In addition to relying on Dr Arscott's expertise, she turned to a number of local and international experts who did have the relevant medical facility experience, a process that turned her into a project manager as well as interior designer. "I had 10 to 12 consultants and vendors to deal with at any given time," she says. "General contractor, engineers, medical consultants, gas, internal design consultants for the medical facility."

While Smith had to research and source the international vendors, at the top of the project was the Arscott husband-and-wife team: He with his medical knowledge and vision and she with the design sense and vision for a patient-centred, boutique-style facility. The successful way in which all the teams worked together is what Smith is most proud of. "Every single person we had on board was



New Lease on Life

OBMI takes a traditional limestone Bermuda home and expertly transforms it into a world-class medical facility



the right person," she says emphatically. "Donald's knowledge of electrical equipment, AIRCARE separating the main house with the medical facility, the guys in Ireland who made the medical doors. Everybody's expertise. I'm so proud of how it came together and the care and attention that everyone took to make it right."

The whole building had to be gutted to a shell of Bermuda stone. The basement floor had to be excavated by two feet to create the necessary ceiling height for the surgical suite, and further excavation was needed for a staff and IT room around the side. All the interior floors were removed and replaced with new concrete slabs and, where necessary, walls were furred-out with non-paper products. "We've reinsulated the side of the building with foam to deter the heat gain inside as much as possible," Smith explains. "We used non-mould paint on the back of the wall and we used a mould repellent paint before we even built out so it's very, very clean." All the electricals were put underground and there is a separate generator and air-conditioning system just for the surgical room, which has large medical operating lights anchored into the ceiling. This area is also a positive-pressure room as well as being an antimicrobial space. The medical flooring is vinyl with heat-welded



top:
While the whole building had to be taken down to the Bermuda stone, the basement floor had to be excavated by two feet to create ceiling height for the surgical suite, which was built to be a positive-pressure space and antimicrobial.

bottom:
The top floor not only houses the Arscott's offices but also consultation rooms, and a studio apartment for visiting locums or for when Dr Arscott must work late.

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Pre-renovation, the building was a Bermuda stone home, aspects of which Smith chose to keep like the fireplace in the reception area and the natural wooden beams throughout the upstairs.

seams and covered base boards, and Smith used ultra-white rock on the walls which is an antimicrobial wall finish. Next to the surgical suite is a negative pressure "dirty room" for cleaning the medical gear.

The layout of the various rooms on the ground floor has been carefully thought through, with a pre-operation area, patient bathroom, post-operation area, separate staff bathroom and doors that open at the touch of a button. While certain rooms had to look (and be!) sterile, that did not need to be the case throughout. To make the other areas more welcoming and warmer, Smith used natural-looking furnishings, fittings and fixtures. As well as being warm, metals such as brass, copper and bronze are also naturally antimicrobial. "We wanted a warm feeling, so stainless steel for the lower operating area but warm materials everywhere else—handrails, doorknobs and bathroom fittings," she explains. Wooden furniture and fittings in the reception, retail areas and bathroom and the Bermuda cedar front door also create a warm, welcoming feel. And although vinyl flooring was used for hygiene purposes, the flooring on the upper levels has a "wood plank" appearance. Even in the sterile areas, Smith managed to create some warmth by using a tile backsplash.

Before the renovation, the reception area was a living room, and that calm feeling remains. The fireplace has been kept as a design feature, with wall lights on either side. Wooden ceiling beams and comfortable furniture help to make patients feel relaxed and "at home." The top floor not only houses the Arcscotts' offices but also the studio apartment for visiting locums or occasions when Dr Arcscott must work late. As well as a bedroom, a kitchen, bathroom and seating area have all been neatly squeezed into this efficient space.

Hunter Arcscott, who is a leadership advisor and researcher specialising in gender and generational strategies, has her own, separate business. Her office has its own entrance for her clients, and her bright and refreshing workspace is an inspiring gallery of Bermudian artists and creations by local carpenters.

When reflecting on the amount of skill involved in the renovation of Homestead, our judges heap praise on Smith for the way she handled all the technical and medical aspects of the renovation, as well as her ability to manage such a diverse team of contractors and vendors.

"So much work went into that," they say. "It was all about the project management and the technology and that's impressive."

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When a kitchen has its own custom cabinetry for the four-legged member of the family, you know that no detail has been overlooked and every aspect of the most important room in the house has been carefully, and in the case of Bonnie Brae, imaginatively thought through.

The owners turned to the artistic expertise of Patti Crouch and Jill Henneberger, design directors at By Design Ltd., for their renovation, asking them to create a big working kitchen in an open-plan, family home. They also wanted a friendly atmosphere for house guests and visitors, and to take advantage of the magnificent view across Mid Ocean.

The result is a light, bright, stylish and expansive kitchen that spills out onto a new covered patio which has dining for ten, a relaxed seating area, a built-in hearth style barbeque and stunning views. "The client wanted to have a modern open-concept cooking environment, but with a classic yet elegant coastal styling," explain the designers. It was also important to the owners that their kitchen look clean and free of appliances.

Extensive custom cabinetry supplied by Andy Chiappa and a large pantry hidden behind the panelled fridge make the kitchen a cooking enthusiast's dream, while at the same time completely clutter-free. In addition to shelving and drawers, the pantry also serves as a mini breakfast or beverage preparation area with toaster, kettle, coffee machine, small sink and even a tile backsplash which matches the main kitchen. "When you go in there, on the right there's a sink so you can do your coffee, clean your dishes and not be in the way," explains Henneberger.

There is a serene, coastal feel to the kitchen, created through the choice of colour and materials. The light stone tile floor, ice blue cabinets, blue-grey backsplash tile, matching chair and blind fabrics, white quartz countertops, high tray ceiling, polished nickel accents and elegant nickel and glass pendant lights above the large kitchen island all combine to achieve this. Wide, floor-to-ceiling glass doors lead out to the patio where an outdoor version of the indoor floor tile has been used to bring the two areas together and ensure the new patio feels very much like a part of the kitchen. "The kitchen is the heart



Heart of the Home

Interior designers Jill Henneberger and Patti Crouch create a light, bright and inviting coastal-style kitchen



top:
While the patio flows freely from the kitchen, it does have a distinct feeling of its own, thanks to darker tiling behind the barbecue and recessed spotlighting above.

bottom, left:
The kitchen was designed to feel serene and coastal and the wide, floor-to-ceiling glass doors lead out to the patio.

bottom, right:
The pantry serves as a place where the family can make tea, coffee or toast and features a small sink and tile backsplash that matches the backsplash in the main kitchen.



of the home, but it's also where the party ends up," continues Henneberger. Space was therefore crucial along with lots of comfortable seating and entertaining areas.

With both indoor and outdoor entertaining in mind, a wine fridge and drinks area has been strategically placed on the inside of the sliding doors, and at the other end of the doors is the aforementioned pet cabinetry, which stylishly hides the dog flap that allows its owner to get in from and out to the patio. The canine of the house is picky about who she likes, so Bonnie Brae's owners wanted to make sure she could come and go as she pleased. If someone comes to the house she isn't too sure of, they can lock her either inside or outside as required. While the patio flows easily from the kitchen, it also has a distinct feeling of its own. Darker, more striking tiling has been used behind the barbecue, and

this outdoor cooking area has its own spot lighting above. Wall lighting on either side of the hearth, along with wooden cabinets and a wooden patio ceiling are interesting and warm. Hidden in the wooden ceiling are more spot lights.

A separate, self-contained laundry area was added off the kitchen with matching cabinetry and flooring so even when the sliding pocket doors that separate the two rooms are open, the area still looks sleek and elegant. The doors can, of course, be closed to keep the room hidden—particularly useful when entertaining guests.

"The interior design shone bright," say the judges, who particularly loved the "awesome pantry," the inside-outside aspect to the kitchen, the "great" barbecue area, the way the coastal colours were "carried through beautifully" and the flow of the whole area. "The dog hatch won it for me," adds one.

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