

# *Exquisite Living in Anguilla*

Design, Build and Decorate with Style



**SUNSET HOMES**



Sunset Homes is pleased to launch *The Sunset Homes Newsletter*, which is the first of what we hope will be a regular stream of letters.

We hope to share valuable insights about designing, building, furnishing and landscaping exquisite homes in Anguilla. So join us as we hear personal tips and suggestions from various resource persons resident on the island that work professionally in an area of the residential home arena or have an ardent passion for their art. We aim to bring interesting, practical insights that are feasible for your home, whether you already have a home in Anguilla or hope to have a dream home here sometime.

We all like to live and relax in beautiful spaces...it uplifts the soul and spirit. Let's make the most of living in the lovely Caribbean!

We'd love to hear your feedback. Email us at [sunsethomes@anguillanet.com](mailto:sunsethomes@anguillanet.com)

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## **Bamboo ...an Elegant Floor Covering Option**

by

**Ian "Sugar George" Edwards**  
Chief Designer and Builder, Sunset Homes

In March of this year I attended a huge tradeshow in Florida - Coverings 2004 - where vendors showcased a myriad of options of floor coverings from natural stone tiles, to ceramics to clay to wood tile selections. Bamboo flooring is a premium choice to consider for special areas of your home interior like bedrooms and living/dining rooms.

Bamboo is stronger and denser than hardwoods and is much better able to withstand moisture due to its tropical characteristics. Bamboo canes naturally



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have a high density and a straight grain. As a result, bamboo flooring has excellent advantages such as stability, strength, elegance, and a soft color. They add a special warmth and coziness to a room that exude from the natural look and feel of wood. Bamboo is also quite easy on the feet. You can choose the vertical or horizontal grain planks and can select from a variety of colours. The natural flecks and varied patterns make each floor unique.

See on the right a photo of a bamboo floor using two shades of bamboo with a matte finish creating an interesting pattern.

(Floor location: Living room, Spyglass Hill Villa ([www.spyglasshillanguilla.com](http://www.spyglasshillanguilla.com)). We first designed the floor space according to the pattern we sought to create, and then we purchased the bamboo in finished planks. Then we glued the planks onto the concrete using a special urethane-based glue. An alternative would be to nail the planks on to wood floor panels.

Questions? [sugargeorge@anguillanet.com](mailto:sugargeorge@anguillanet.com)

***SUNSET HOMES is active in the creation of fine residential homes on Anguilla. The company specializes in Architectural Design, Construction and the Procurement of select cabinetry, tiles, countertops, windows, doors and other unique items. The company's has received recognition for its attention to detail and fine craftsmanship and finish work. For more details check:***

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## **Decorating with Colour**

by

**Michelle Ower-Vasilis, Palm Garden Art Studio**

Colour is the foundation of interior decorating. From fabrics to wall paint or flooring to furniture, colour sets the tone of the interior. When choosing a colour scheme for a room it is essential to remember that colour plays an important role in creating the interior's atmosphere.

As it is in nature, different colours can evoke different moods. Take for instance, the yellows,

reds and oranges found in sunsets or fire. These colours have the ability to warm an environment where as the blues and greens of the sky and sea tend to feel cool and breezy.

The shade of a colour can also play a role in an interior's atmosphere. Bright vivid colours add drama and vibrancy to a room. However, the same colours in muted tones can have a soothing, calming effect.

Colour combinations also help to create an interesting décor. When contrasting colours such as blue and red are used in combination they become more noticeable and can even change in appearance when placed together. When using varying shades of one colour this indicates a monochromatic interior. Monochromatic colour schemes are simple to create in an interior and are usually "easy on the eye."

When selecting a colour scheme for a décor it is important to consider the lighting in that space. Colour, particularly on the walls, can vary in tone depending on whether the light source is natural or incandescent. Therefore, the mood of an interior space can alter from day to night.

Ultimately, selection of a colour scheme for an interior space should be based on what is pleasing and comfortable to the individual. Although white is the easiest choice sometimes when decorating, embracing different colours can lead to a more beautiful atmosphere in an interior space. Just remember, when decorating with colour the possibilities are endless!



[www.bellamare.ai](http://www.bellamare.ai)

**MICHELLE OWEN-VASILIS, B.A., Dipl. Interior Design, is a local artist/Interior Designer working out of her studio, Palm Garden in North Hill, Anguilla. For more information on Artwork, murals or Design services, you can contact Michelle at (264) 497-5705/ (264) 235-8492 or at [owenvas@anguillanet.com](mailto:owenvas@anguillanet.com).**



Wall Murals by Michelle

## **Materials to Consider when Buying Outdoor Furniture**

By

**Peter Holleran, Kobbe Design Ltd.**

An evening aglow with another glorious sunset, the delight of dining alfresco, a relaxing afternoon by the pool.... these are the rewards of Casual Island living.

One key to enjoying years of great outdoor living is comfortable outdoor furniture. Many of us are so concerned with decorating the interiors of our homes we forget the exterior!

With today's technologies you have available to you a myriad of materials that will guarantee you years of maintenance free enjoyment with your patio furniture. Quality design and craftsmanship are readily available when selecting patio furniture.

**Aluminum:** The most popular is aluminum and the thing to look for is "powder coated". This process of finishing, whereby the paint is heat-sealed and treated with a coating, prevents rusting and corrosion. It is resistant to scratches, and stands up to the harsh climate of the Caribbean. In most cases you can get a three-year warranty on the finish and five years on the frame durability.

**Teak:** This a most popular wood but it does require maintenance. Of course many like the aged, grey patina look that teak will eventually turn. If this is not the look that you are seeking, teak oil will have to be applied at least three or four times a year.

**Plastic:** There are as many choices in plastic furniture as there are types of automobiles! Be very careful and don't shop for PRICE! Buy a high

quality, commercial grade resin furniture that will not only last but will give support and comfort.

**Resin wicker:** A relatively new material that looks and feels like real wicker. With the plastic resin finish, there will not be the unraveling of the "wicker" and it will not fade or deteriorate in damp weather. It is available in many colors as well as natural.

Now decorate your patios and enjoy years of outdoor pleasure.

Remember your outdoor living is an extension of your indoor style!



**Contributed by PETER HOLLERAN, Sales Director, Kobbe Design, Ltd. George Hill Landing, Anguilla, B.W.I., [holleranp@anguillanet.com](mailto:holleranp@anguillanet.com)**

## **Fun Tips for Beautiful Interiors**

by  
**Janine Edwards, Sunset Homes**

Sometimes tiny details add so much to an interior space. Here are a couple of ideas you can consider for your home.

Choose different colour schemes, bedding, curtains and even accessories like lamps and furniture pieces for each bedroom to make each one unique with its own feel. All too often when we're purchasing items for our home...it is easier to say – “OK we need five lamps for the house” and we end up buying five of the exact same lamps to outfit our home. While this may be easier and sometimes a bit less expensive, sometimes putting the extra time and thought into the process will be well worth the effort in the special ambience we can create in each area of our home.

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Invest in large, quality soap bars for your villa or home. People really appreciate being able to have a shower with a soap bar that doesn't slip and melt between their fingers. Also a nice soap bar with grain, a pleasant scent or a nice label adds a certain elegance to a bathroom. Some of the home décor shops in St. Martin have lovely soaps at a pretty penny, but I've managed to get some good soap from Canadian and US companies online.

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On your pool deck, a large oversized wicker basket filled with carefully selected and rolled fluffy towels are practical and handy for swimmers and also acts as a décor piece. It gives the feeling of soft plushness and pampering and can add a pleasant touch to a deck space.

*Janine's background is in Tourism and Marketing, and has a MBA in marketing from York University in Canada. She is currently involved in an interesting mix of projects including villa management and rentals, travel writing for Bob Green's News.ai and other tourism publications, baby equipment rentals and she is part of the Marketing Team at Robelle, Green's Canadian software company. Janine also heads up the administration and marketing of Sunset Homes. She dabbles in interior decorating in her leisure time.*

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Spyglass Hill Villa

## Selecting Fabrics for Outdoor Cushions

by  
Stanya Peacock, Peacock Design

*Ahhh! Living in the tropics...  
Sun, sea and sand.....*

Wonderful living that has its challenges. The intensity of light, the effects of moisture and salt air – all should be considered when selecting fabrics and decor for living in the tropics. Especially where outdoor living is concerned. Most cushions, for example, are left outside, exposed to sunlight and moisture. Therefore a careful consideration should be given to the selection of materials.

There are a vast number of fabrics available, designed specifically for outdoor use. Acrylic materials are a prime example. The latest technology is able to supply us with fabrics that are comfortable, as well as durable. Many are fade resistant, mildew and rot resistant and have a stain resistant finish. These fabrics come in variety of colors, textures and patterns. With some help, one should be able to choose, depending on individual taste.

The best product for the inside of outdoor cushions is an open cell (EZ Dri; DRY FAST) foam. Unfortunately, this is very expensive and not readily available. Densified cushion fiber is the next best thing. It is mildew and rot resistant, far out-performing the traditional foam. However,



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depending on preference, even standard foam, properly wrapped in polyester batting will give its owner a number of years of good service.

*Contributed by Stanya Peacock of "Peacock Design". "Peacock Design" is a custom-decorating workroom specializing in design and fabrication of Soft Furnishings and Window Treatments.*

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