



JENNY BLANC

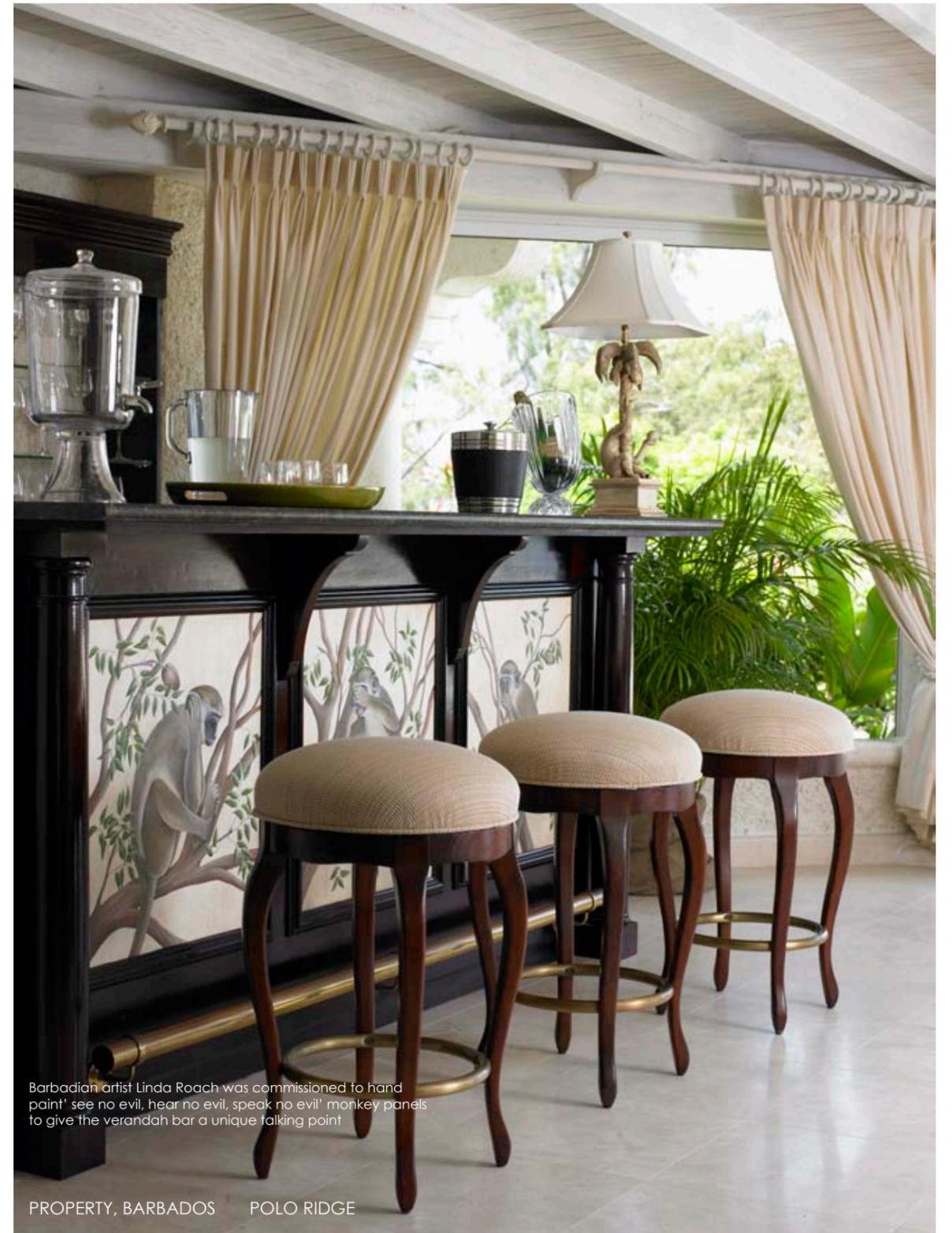
Tropical living is a luxurious lifestyle experience which is for most, about realising a long-held dream to live on a beautiful tropical island in the sun.

All Photos courtesy of Jenny Blanc



Jenny Blanc opened her high-end interior design practice and lifestyle showroom in west London in 1996. Fifteen years later and with four interior design awards to her name Jenny is establishing her taste and style for interiors in Barbados. Having created luxurious interiors for prestigious homeowners both in the UK and the Caribbean, Jenny felt it was time to open up her services to everyone with a glamorous, unique showroom in Barbados.

This will put the company in the unique position of having bases and showrooms in both London and Barbados so clients have the flexibility to visit either location. Barbados also serves as a portal for many other Caribbean islands. ►



Barbadian artist Linda Roach was commissioned to hand paint 'see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil' monkey panels to give the verandah bar a unique talking point

PROPERTY, BARBADOS POLO RIDGE



This classic/contemporary blue chaise lounge graces the master bedroom in Polo Ridge. The colours, fabrics and style of furniture chosen throughout the house create an air of relaxed elegance.

Her design Partner, Sue Thomas-Richardson who was born and brought up in Barbados brings her intuitive approach and knowledge of what makes living perfectly idyllic in the Caribbean and together they create interiors that are both elegant and comfortable.

To achieve this tropical luxurious lifestyle experience for her clients, Jenny Blanc has selected six of the top international outdoor furniture collections including Manutti and Ego Paris for their quality, style, versatility and resilience to all tropical climates.

Jenny also collaborates with renowned island artisans to create unique bespoke furniture designs which are exported across the Caribbean to increase inter island economies. ▶



This vignette in the front hallway demonstrates Jenny's eye for bringing together interesting materials for a cohesive whole.



When the sun goes down, the first floor living area is perfect for entertaining friends and family. Sharp splashes of colour contrast beautifully with the white architecture

PROPERTY, BARBADOS ROYAL WESTMORELAND

“From a designer's point of view the starting point to any project is to understand how the property relates to its surroundings and how the interiors are configured”.



With views out to the sea, the traditional verandah has been created with entertaining in mind. Beautifully crafted furniture creates a relaxed atmosphere

PROPERTY, BARBADOS POLO RIDGE

What was Jenny's first project in the Caribbean?
Our first client in the owned an imposing family home in Sugar Hill. At the time this had just become a very exclusive area with David Lloyd, Sir Cliff Richard and tennis attracting high-end clients.

So what does tropical living mean to her and how does jenny incorporate that into her designing?
Tropical living is a luxurious lifestyle experience which is for most, about realising a long-held dream to live on a beautiful tropical island in the sun. It is an exciting prospect where the climate and the culture of the place play such an important part. Life takes on a different, slower pace and homes need to reflect this more casual, sunny approach to life. Areas where family and friends congregate are all important.

How does she approach a project? Listening to the client is the first, very important, step. There will be key words they use to describe their dream property and this will give us an understanding of how to interpret their aspirations. How the client wants to live in the property is another huge consideration, as tropical living is quite different- large spaces are given over to relaxing and entertaining. Some homeowners also want to consider the rental aspects of a property and this is important to be aware of at the beginning of a commission.

Although, it has to be said that many clients who think they will rent decide not to once they walk into the finished property! From a designer's point of view the starting point to any project is to understand how the property relates to its surroundings and how the interiors are configured. So the plans need to be considered in some detail right at the beginning. We often see these before signing up a commission so the clients get a feel of how we think and can assess our recommendations at a very early stage. ►

How does the relationship work between her, the architects and the clients? The time at which we are introduced to a property can vary from one client to another. In some cases any architectural aspects of the property have been completed when we are instructed.

The very best scenario is for us to be part of the design process from day one. This provides two sets of professionals- so the architect and the interior designer- working together for the same common goal. This is particularly relevant to door and window sizes and details together with air conditioning positioning and electrical layouts.

What difficulties does she encounter as an international interior designer? We have been working in the Caribbean for some twelve years now and this has resulted in the company creating an International Interior Design Service in which any problems we encountered in the early days have been ironed out to create a service that is fine-tuned and highly professional.

Is there a 'Jenny Blanc' signature? Yes there is, and many clients truly recognise it when they walk through the door to view their finished home. Time and again clients say, 'It's beautiful and it feels like home already'. This comes not just from the bigger ideas, but from the thoughtful accessorising and attention to detail.

Through experience coupled with intuition I know how to read a client and then aim to deliver interiors to a brief, but I also care passionately about comfort and in certain aspects, practicality. The design team think through all these aspects to create living spaces that not only look luxurious, but are also a pleasure to live in.

I also feel passionately that a home in the Caribbean needs to endure in the climate and have a timeless look and feel that can be added to as and when in the future. The Caribbean light adds a very different dimension to our design work, so I love to use the colours that look so right in the bright tropical sunshine.



Bedrooms in the Royal Westmoreland property are individual to each member of the family. The couple's master bedroom is inspired by the Orient.

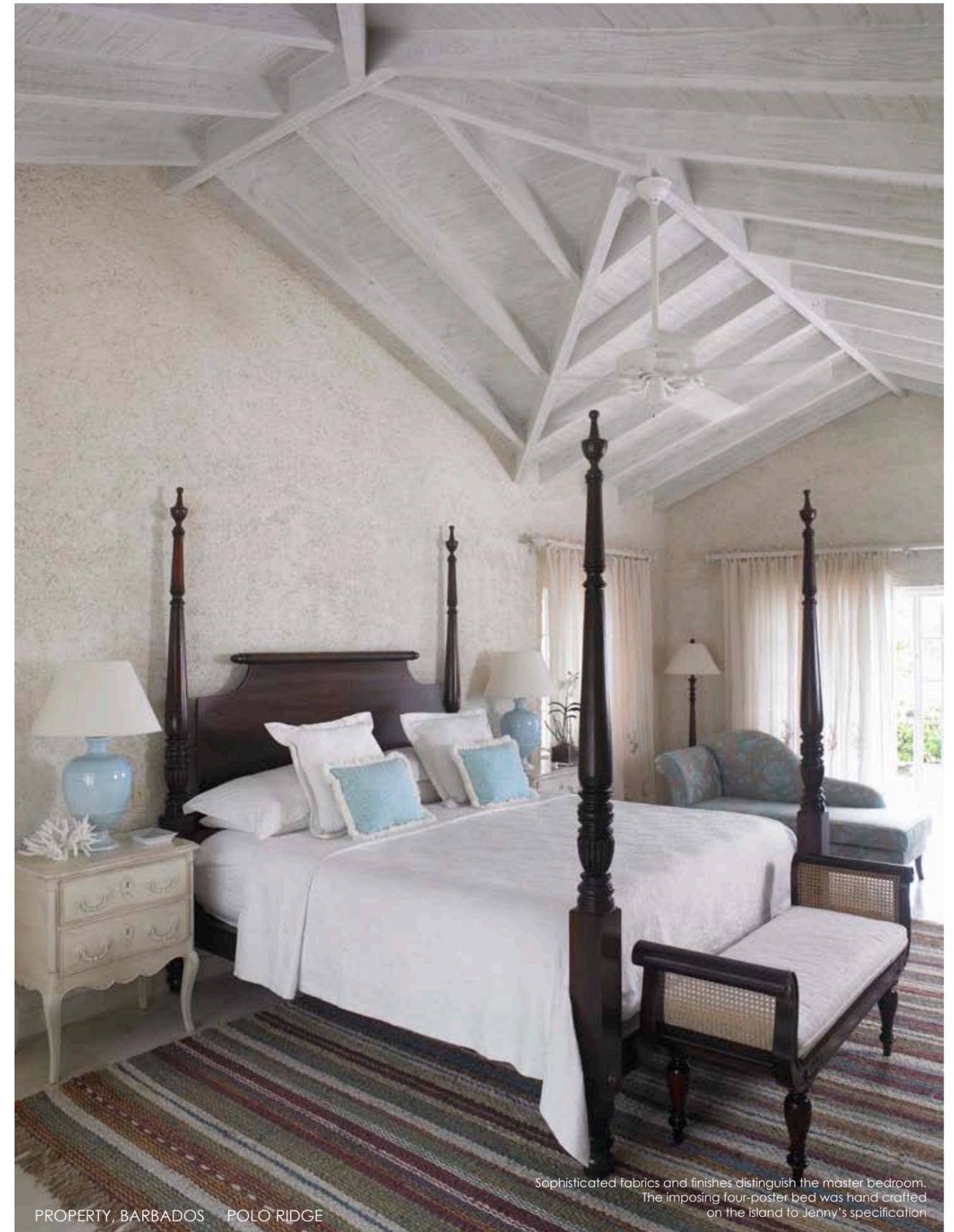
Furniture and accessories were sourced from America and England to complete the look.

Whilst we try to source various aspects of a project locally, we also have to import from various countries. The importation of goods is complicated and requires careful handling. The installation is another very important aspect of a project.

The company has developed good working relationships with local contractors so a project will run to schedule. This is where Sue's experience and local knowledge is enormously helpful – Sue is able to get anything done across the Caribbean!

Does she have a favoured style? Unlike some design houses, we do not favour one style, preferring to adapt ideas to the client's wishes. That said in the Caribbean we love to incorporate contemporary interpretations of classic Caribbean furniture design for a look that is at one with its surroundings.

What influences her design choices? Our client's vision definitely influences and guides our design choices. We also need to be so aware of the climate and the effect it has on materials. ▶



Sophisticated fabrics and finishes distinguish the master bedroom. The imposing four-poster bed was hand crafted on the island to Jenny's specification

PROPERTY, BARBADOS POLO RIDGE

The heat, humidity and sunlight play havoc with fabrics and many materials used to create furniture. Thankfully we are experienced in what works so steer the client towards the high quality choices designed to weather tropical climates. How a property is to be lived in also affects our design choices. Clients are always keen to merge the sounds, colours and atmosphere of the Caribbean within their tropical paradise, and it is our job to direct the client with the best ways to achieve this.

What is next for Jenny Blanc? There is so much happening in the company- all ideas we have been developing over the last five years. At the end of 2011 we will have opened a fabulous new Jenny Blanc showroom in St James, Barbados. We are so proud of this achievement as it will be the culmination of our design work in the Caribbean. It will offer a really exciting mix of stunning items for the Caribbean home, and we hope it will become a hub of design for the many islands surrounding Barbados. It's also the place on the island for clients to find out more about our design work and in relaxed surroundings with plenty to inspire.

We are also in the process of creating the Jenny Blanc Collection – key pieces of high end furniture crafted using our now extensive knowledge of what makes a truly exceptional, stylish verandah chair or sofa. We have also just recently launched the Outdoor Furniture Collection. I've collaborated with six of the top international furniture brands to put together a collection which covers every outdoor living requirement.

We hope hotels, realtors and restaurants will see the advantage of this service, and private clients will also find the selection both desirable and accessible with any order delivered and installed by the company. As to our design work, we are currently working on prestigious commissions in The Grenadines.

Jenny's Barbados based luxurious showroom housed in a traditional style property in St James will provide a one-stop destination for discerning homeowners in the Caribbean, is due to open mid December 2011. ■

www.jennyblanc.com



PROPERTY, BARBADOS POLO RIDGE

A few key antiques sourced in Barbados welcome visitors into the imposing hallway. At one end space has been given over to a cool, comfortable seating area