

Barbados showroom
opening
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It's one thing buying a
property in the Caribbean...
it's quite another turning it
into a luxurious home

JENNY BLANC
LONDON BARBADOS

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• INTERNATIONAL INTERIOR DESIGN • PROJECT MANAGEMENT • COMPLETE INSTALLATION

Barbados bound

This Christmas, award-winning interior designer Jenny Blanc will be jetting off westwards to put the finishing touches to her exciting new interiors showroom in St James, Barbados. We catch up with her to find out more about this exciting new venture

Since Jenny Blanc took on her first commission in the Caribbean 12 years ago, her interior design practice and showroom based in west London has gone from strength to strength. The company's commissions have included period properties in and around the London area to palatial residences on the west coast of Barbados. The team has also worked on other Caribbean islands including Turks & Caicos and, in 2012, The Grenadines will open up its design work territories still further.

Creating a home in the sun certainly sounds like a dream job and in many ways it provides an interior designer with the best of every world, as Jenny Blanc explains, "It is so rewarding working in the Caribbean because many clients are fulfilling a lifetime dream of owning an amazing property in the sun, and we work with them to make their aspirations a reality. It's also about creating a real home in tune with the environment, using the location and the surroundings to inspire ideas. So wonderful colour and natural harmonious materials guide the design decisions for what will be, in every way, a very beautiful home."

Yet creating an island home is certainly fraught with challenges so project management is one of the most important links to making the company's International Interior Design Service such a success. As Jenny explains, "It has taken some time for us to fine tune every aspect of creating a home on an island. We have built up amazing contacts in the Caribbean so that anything the client requires can be achieved through a network of architects, artisans, contractors and professionals. And then the design team oversees and organises everything every step of the way."

Another important link in the chain is Sue Thomas-Richardson. Born and brought up in



Barbados, Sue trained under one of the notable interior designers on the island and when the typical Barbadian wandering lust took hold (Barbadians love to travel), Sue decided to make England her home. A chance meeting with Jenny over a mutual client's project and the two formed a design partnership that works like a dream. As Jenny says, "It's what makes our offering unique. Not only do we have knowledge across different continents, but we have bases in both London and Barbados so clients can travel between the two to liaise at any time during the design process." This Caribbean connection works on many different levels too. Understanding the climate and the demands it puts on interiors and knowing about how people really live a tropical lifestyle creates homes that not only look stunning, but live up to the client's vision of a holiday home in the sun."

The shipping and installation makes up another large part of the service. "We find most clients want to create a seamless combination of international style with Caribbean influences, so the importing aspects of any project are detailed and considerable. The design team gives clients the confidence to know they can walk into their finished home without having to be party to all the detailed work that goes on behind the scenes," assures Jenny.

Knowledge also underpins the bespoke collections the company is now developing. As Jenny explains, "The Outdoor Furniture Collection was a natural progression using our experience in the Caribbean. I am collaborating with six high-end, international outdoor furniture brands whose collections work in the Caribbean, not just design-wise but, most importantly, because of the suitability of the materials. We can offer private clients, hotels, restaurants and realtors our design advice to

choose what will work for their project. Then we deal with the ordering, importation and the installation."

This and other new collections will be on display at Jenny Blanc Barbados from this Christmas. At the end of a long search Jenny has found her perfect Caribbean 'window on the company' with a lovely traditional style showroom property in St James, Barbados. The casual verandahs and stylish potted palms will give visitors just an inkling of the interiors wonderland created inside. Jenny takes up the story, "We have made such wonderful connections in Barbados with our design work, that a showroom demonstrating everything we love about creating a home in the Caribbean seemed the next natural step. Prospective clients can get a real feel for our design work in this relaxed environment. It will also display all the beautiful items we search for worldwide together with the new accessory collections we are launching in 2012. The showroom will also showcase bespoke furniture designs which the company creates in collaboration with local artisans." Jenny feels sure that corporate and residential clients from other Caribbean islands will also be able to use the showroom as an excellent point of contact in the future, so its appeal is wide and far reaching.

"We do believe it will be the first of its kind in the Caribbean," says Jenny, "and we feel sure it will provide something really special for holiday homeowners across the Tropics. We are really looking forward to welcoming visitors with a cool drink and a wonderful interiors experience." ■

Further information

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