



**Topaz Villa..A Caribbean Jewel With A Touch of Thai**

by Jonice Louden and Dionne Baxter

When asked what we like most about Topaz Villa, our whole family will immediately tell you, "sitting on the upper deck looking out into Sandy Ground and straight out into a vast blueness of the pool melting into the blue of the sky and the ocean." My son Robert and his wife, Dionne lived in Asia for 5 years and were married in a boutique spa resort on the island of Phuket, Thailand which they always wanted to go back to. For years they had been thinking about building on Anguilla. The land had been in the family for many generations, its original structure, Jonice's grandmother's home, was destroyed during Hurricane Luis in 1995. When the children finally visited the island they decided to partner with their parents and create a villa inspired by their travels.

The overall design of Topaz Villa was focused on maximizing the view. Our 3-bedroom 3-bath open plan resort home is furnished throughout with furniture imported from Thailand, all made from natural wood and bamboo. Located on quiet one way Back Street, in South Hill, overlooking Road Bay, it is at the center of an area designated a "Viewing Area of National Importance", enjoying one of the most photographed and representative Anguilla vistas.

As you enter the villa you pass through the living room and at the center of the dining room is a solid mahogany wood custom made dining table that seats 8 and is dressed with simple but elegant blue, white and brown table settings. The focus here is on natural materials and simplicity, characteristic of Asian design. Floor tiles were selected purposely to simulate the color of sand; the color scheme throughout focuses on light, bright, airy colors to create a calm, peaceful spa-like environment relaxing the senses and the mind.



A buddha graces the stairwell leading up to the entertainment area with its beautiful hand-carved Thai wooden wall hanging.



The view from the infinity pool (left) over Road Bay; a blue entrance gate (above) leads to ample parking and the master bedroom (below), features a king size bed, private outdoor shower and its own terrace with unobstructed Sandy Ground views.



The foundation was purposely built a full foot higher than normal to ensure views from even the first floor. The downstairs windows and doors are frosted to let light in and a clear view to the outside while still assuring privacy. The two guest bedrooms are downstairs to allow the upper level to be reserved for entertaining and the master bedroom with the most advantageous views of Sandy Ground. Guests can relax on the pool deck where a cool breeze comes in off the bay day and night providing year round comfort. In addition, Topaz has a 3rd level sun/spa/dining terrace accessible by a winding blue spiral staircase specially made for the villa. From here the 360 degree view includes St. Maarten and the western end of the Island.

"One of our most memorable experiences during construction was designing the master bedroom area," Dionne recalls. "During that phase we just were working with the architect on a flowing yet private entry way and an ample sized walk in closet. We were all in the Far East, looking at the drawings and trying to think of an alternate approach to maximize space and ensure enough natural light. After observing a number of structures in Japan and Thailand, we came across the concept of building a curved entry into the MBR. After conferring with the architect, everyone agreed it was doable and the revised plans were implemented."

During construction boatracing fans were often found on the unfinished property cheering on their favourites, taking pictures and thus solidifying what the family always knew was the property's advantageous view and location. Close to Sandy Ground with its numerous restaurants, bars and marine activities and a short drive to West End resorts and the Greg Norman golf course, Topaz is an ideal location for a relaxing holiday. Available for short and long term rental, Rates: \$499-\$599 per night. Email: answers@topazvilla; Website: www.topazvilla.com.

Jonice Loudon was born in Anguilla and left the island in 1960 for England where she trained as a nurse and midwife. She has lived in Jamaica, where she completed her BSc and MSc in Sociology; in Canada, where she obtained a Post Graduate Diploma in Regulatory Law Administration, Nigeria and the United States and has traveled extensively in Europe, the Far East, Latin America and the Caribbean. Her daughter-in-law, Dionne Baxter, has been coming to Anguilla with her family since 2004.