

West Vancouver Meets West Indies

Caribbean charm drifts to the shores of West Vancouver



Little more than a fleck on the map, the exclusive Caribbean island of Mustique is one of the most beautiful places on earth. With its perfect beaches, crystalline azure waters and romantic ambience, it's a place sure to have a lasting effect on any visitor.

One West Vancouver couple is so smitten with this tropical paradise that they've had their new waterfront home designed to

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Builder S. Currie
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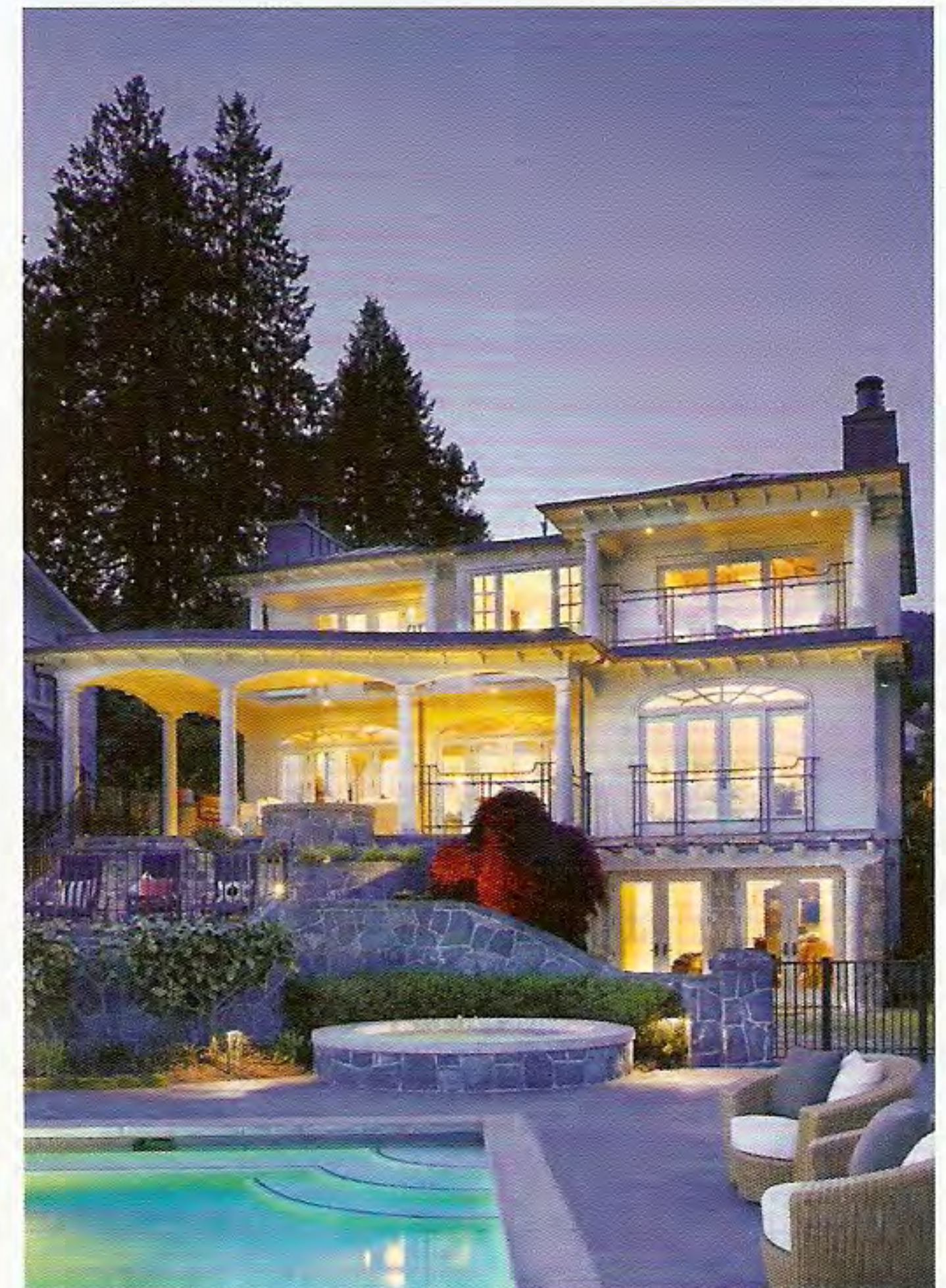
Architect Lamoureux
Architect Inc.

Interior Design
Lamoureux Architect
Inc. and Home Owner



significantly echo the architecture of Mustique. The particular style they were seeking was that of the late Oliver Messel (1904-78); noted English stage designer turned house designer, whose innovative work can be seen across the island. Reflective of both their tropical location and the trademarks of Messel's stage work, his creations blend colonial tradition with flashes of theatrical flamboyance.

The architect presented with the challenge of designing a Mustique home-from-home on the West Vancouver shoreline was Brad Lamoureux.



In conjunction with builders S. Currie Construction Ltd. and landscape architect Paul Sangha, he has contrived a classic.

The buildings on Mustique are typically pavilioned; many residences comprising of several pavilions with double-pitched roofs. This was just one aspect of Messel's signature style that Lamoureux set out to emulate or reinterpret.

"We sought to take the spirit of the general style that Messel was known for and transport it as best we could to this site," he says. "We created a roof landscape - or 'roofscape' - that's comprised of several roofs to give the appearance of a pavilioned building."

Further exterior evidence of Messel's inspiration is seen in the wide elliptical-style arches around the skylighted

porch area overlooking the swimming pool. The arch is a popular feature of Messel's homes, a concept derived from stage sets he created for elaborate productions. So aesthetically pleasing is its sweep that Lamoureux has employed the arch throughout the home.

The design of the sumptuous interior is attributed to the owner in tandem with Lamoureux Architect Inc. Needless to say, they have reverentially favoured Mustique and other generic tropical themes. As Lamoureux explains: "There's a millwork package in the house that's fairly consistently applied, with decorative fruit elements like pineapples and other tropical references being made in subtle ways."

It is perhaps the master bedroom that most succinctly captures the essence of Mustique that the owners and Lamoureux were striving for. It's a beautiful room, facing due south with a panoramic view of the Burrard Inlet and West Point Grey, with Stanley Park and the city of Vancouver to the southeast.

With such a backdrop to protect, Lamoureux' powers of invention were tested, and prevailed. One solution he formulated to meet this and other needs was to site the fireplace in the corner of the room, nearest the sliding deck doors.

"One of the often difficult things about designing homes with extraordinary views is that when you get into rooms that require fireplaces, televisions – focal elements – they're often in direct competition with the view itself," he explains. "We positioned it there because there was a requirement for storage and display, as well as a fireplace that could be seen from the bed, that would actually support the view they'd have from it. The bed was positioned to optimize the view, and the fireplace was put nearest to the view to contribute to it."

Another stunning feature of the master suite is its pyramidal ceiling. Crafted primarily in hemlock wood, the effect of rafters succeeds entirely in its aim to evoke the tropics. The pale wood and cooling white crispness of the décor clearly suggest a colonial style.

Downstairs, the rooms all flow together, remaining defined by such as beams and Tuscan-style columns. To counterbalance the freshness of the white walls,





a warm, Tung oil-coated black walnut flooring runs throughout.

Its positioning ensures that it act as a natural division between the halves of the main floor. One of the house's many attractive design elements is the burl walnut bar. To the east of it are the dining area and living room, while to the west is the great room with family room, kitchen and a custom built-in banquette.

This beautifully subtle piece of design, the gently curved banquette is complemented by the couple's choice of furniture. The oval dining table's custom-made top repeats the black



Black walnut floors accentuate the pale tropical tones illuminated by the large bare-all window, giving bathers a close up view of West Vancouver's shore.

walnut with Tung oil seen on the floors, while the base is crafted by the infamous Finnish-American designer, Eero Saarinen (1910-61). The seating capacity is further increased by three striking crystal clear Philippe Starck Louis 'ghost chairs'.

Epitomizing the highest standards of design in this house is the stunning kitchen. Integrated appliances have been selected so millwork aligned to the overarching tropical theme can be applied to the appliance faces.

Oliver Messel would have been very pleased to see how his visionary creations live on in this luxurious West Vancouver home. ❁

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Pure bedroom bliss can be found here with its panoramic view, intriguing beamed ceiling and pale Mustiquian color palette.