

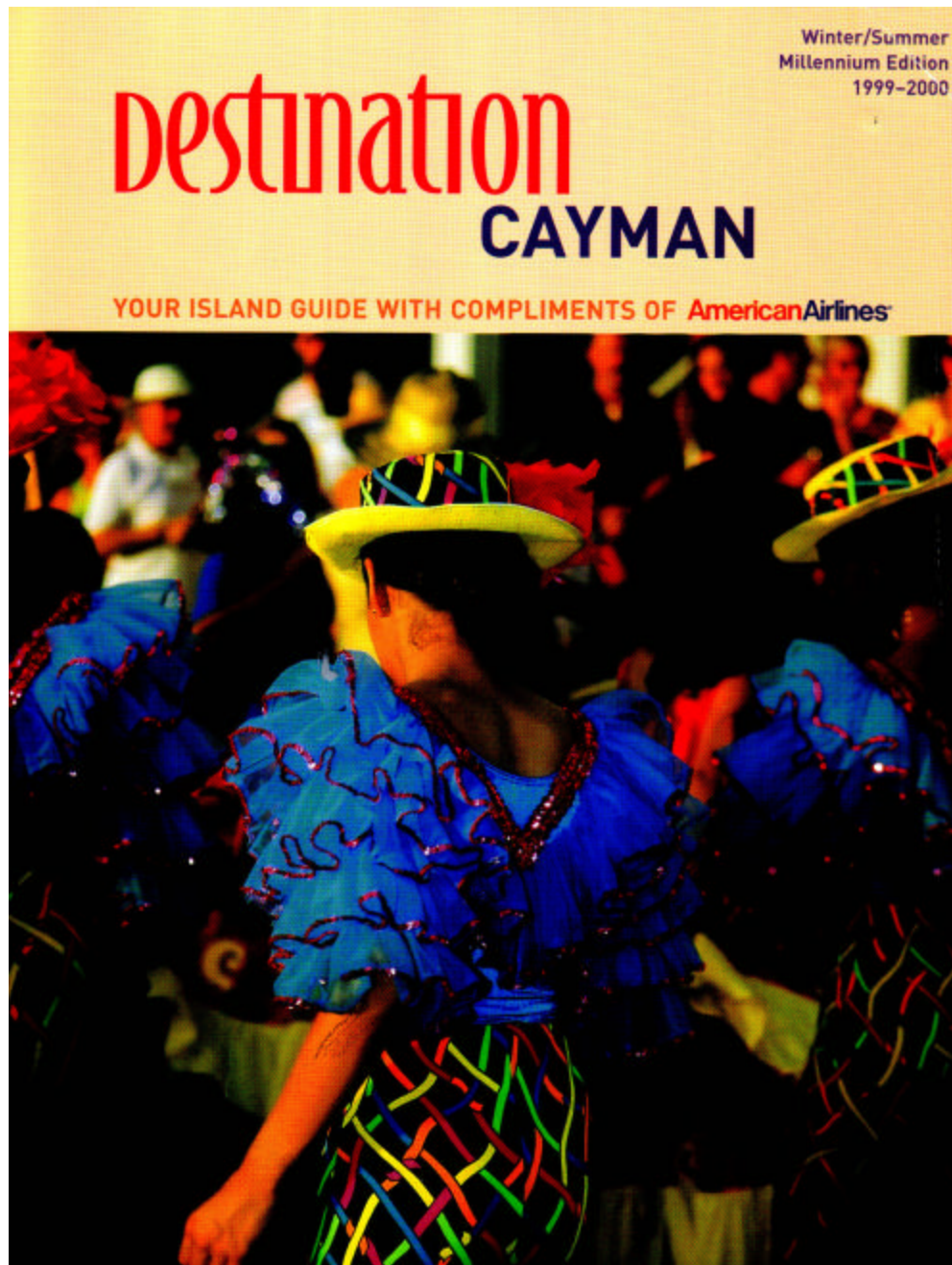
JOHN
DOAK

ARCHITECTURE

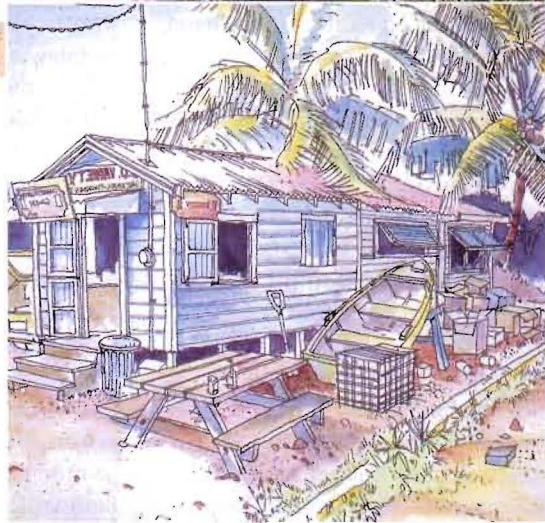
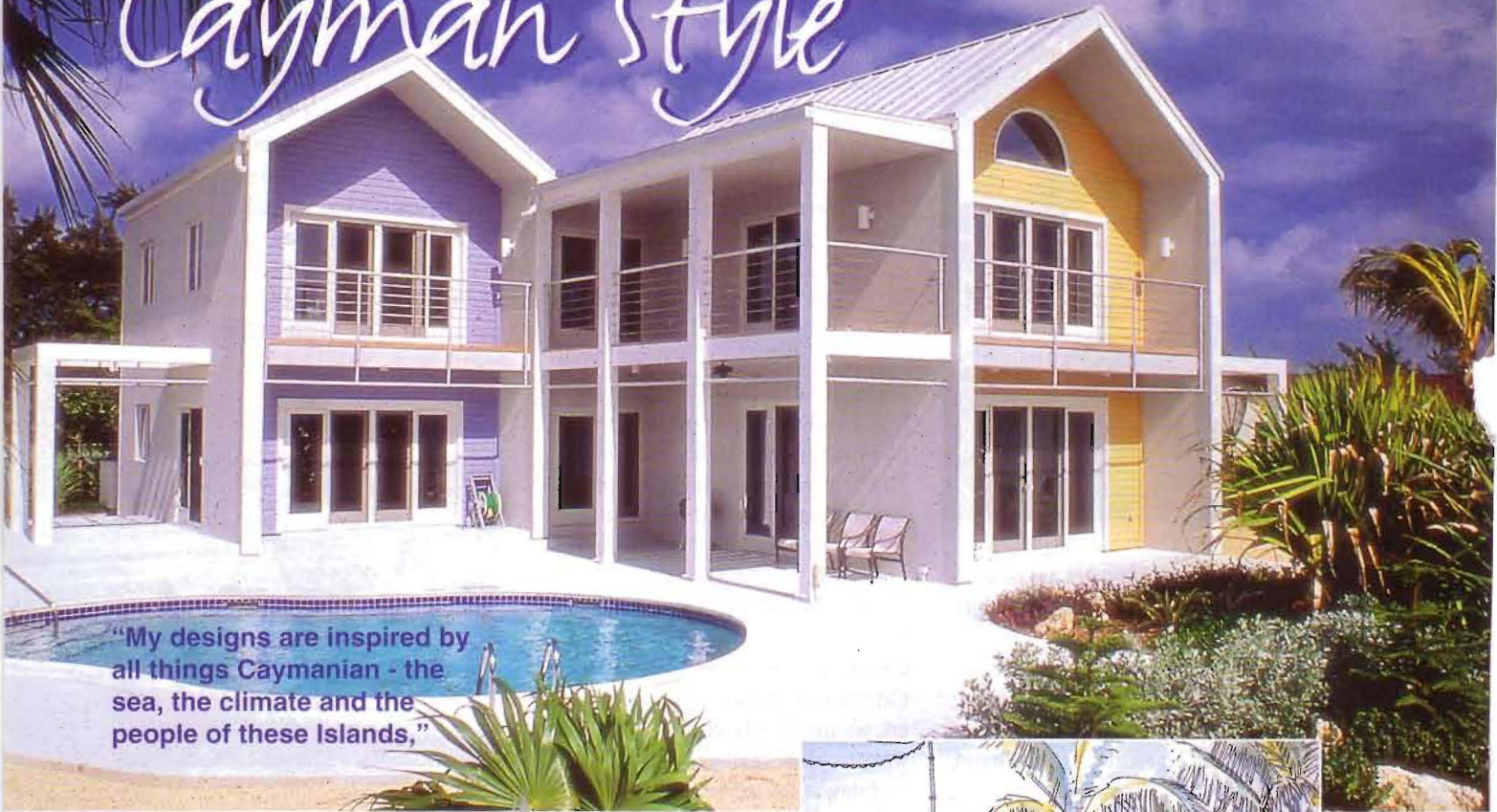
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Cayman Style



There's a two-word phrase you'll hear time and time again when you visit these islands - it's 'Cayman Style'. When you're lost for words to describe the way things are done or appear in the Cayman Islands, feel free to adopt this universal saying. For an even more emphatic version try 'Cayman Style, mon'.

John Doak's been using the phrase ever since he arrived in Cayman in 1979. Indeed, this self-described Architect and Imagineer has earned an award winning reputation for his 'Cayman Style' buildings and artwork, which have been honored by the Commonwealth Association of Architects, Cayman National Trust and international art collectors.

Through his work as design director for the Caribbean wide architectural

firm OBM, Doak's building designs have become a distinctive and permanent feature of Cayman's landscape. Look around George Town and along Cayman's shores and you are sure to see examples of John's 'Cayman Style'. His more visible works include the recently completed UBS House for Swiss Bank, and the Cayman National Bank Building on Elgin Avenue while his designs for Wikborg House and the Doak Residence, which were awarded 1998 National Trust Preservation Awards, are just two gems to be discovered down Cayman's delightful side roads.

There's no denying the Caymanian charm of his houses, such as the Bigelman House on Queens Highway with its wrap-around verandas, or the

bright tropical colors of the Davies House in Governors Sound, both capturing the traditional character and scale of the islands whilst satisfying the contemporary lifestyle of their owners.

"I'm very much a contextual designer", says Doak, who has designed projects throughout the British West Indies and in Spanish speaking Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. He believes that



"buildings should respect the domain in which they are placed. Here, my buildings are Cayman Style - designed and built for the Cayman Islands."

"My designs are inspired by all things Caymanian - the sea, the climate, the people of these Islands," says Doak of his architecture. "Every homesite has its own unique character and climate, inspired by the breeze, the direction of the sun, the natural vegetation and the views. For my clients, I try to provide them with not just a dream house - but actually something they never dreamed that they could have!"

For the last two decades, John has tried to refine his 'Cayman Style' through research of the Island's history, its people and its geography.

In 1994 he received an American Express Preservation Award for his research which he now teaches in the schools and through local magazine articles which he authors. In a recent lecture at the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands he noted, "Cayman's legacy was not to wholeheartedly ADOPT offshore influences but rather, to ADAPT them to suit the Island's climate, topography, and the building skills of its people."

In today's sophisticated and technological world it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain that cultural tradition when international business and technology promote a global way of thinking and sameness."

In his three-dimensional paper artwork, Doak also demonstrates his passion for All Things Caymanian. Produced entirely in white papers, his delicate folds and cuts capture the gingerbread decoration of Cayman's early homes, the shadows created by the sunlight and the movement of the swaying palm trees along the shoreline.

Contributed by Casper Diamonti