



SECOND TIME'S THE CHARM

A FOCUS ON OUTDOOR LIVING ON A STUNNING BEACH
MAKES KISHTI ON MEADS THE PERFECT FOLLOW-UP
TO THIS COUPLE'S FIRST ANGUILLA HOME.

Words: Orrett H. Wynter

A casual conversation over dinner ten years ago was all it took to pique the Bhallas' interest in Anguilla, described as "the Nantucket of the Caribbean" by a friend. A few short months later, not only had they taken their first trip to the island, but they had also closed on a property overlooking Black Garden Bay. That empty lot became the site of their stunning Anguilla home, Villa Kishti.

"Once we built it and started to live here, the island grew on us," Suresh smiles. "We like the people, and we like what the island has to offer." That growing affection led them to start looking at more properties—this time on the beach.

"We thought it might be interesting to look at building on the beach, and even possibly living there," Suresh explains. So, just around the time their home was being completed, they purchased some land on Meads Bay.

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“The objective was a villa with complete design harmony, providing guests tranquility and beauty in their living environment”
—SURESH BHALLA

PREVIOUS PAGE Large glass panels slide away to completely open the great room, creating a seamless transition from indoor to outdoor living.

LEFT, TOP AND BOTTOM Picture windows on the upper floors let in light and frame the view from each bedroom as well as bathroom.

RIGHT The design team created a range of outdoor spaces including a pool deck on the main level (this image) with lounge and dining areas, a private first-floor garden terrace with a cabana and chaises (bottom left), and an Asian-inspired garden just outside the main floor great room.

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Zoning restrictions for their one-acre beachfront property required them to create a minimum of 12 bedrooms. Initially, the couple considered creating a small community of two-bedroom cottages, but there simply wasn't enough room to fit them comfortably or cost-effectively.

“When we analyzed the cost of putting in the common areas that would have been needed, it made us go back to the drawing board,” Suresh points out. “We lost 12 to 18 months changing the concept, but it was worth it. We had a great team, which made it easier.”

In the end, the combined design teams at Toronto-based Taylor Smyth Architects and Cecconi Simone Inc. created two 6-bedroom villas, each on one half of the lot, staggered for privacy, but maintaining an indoor-meets-outdoor approach to living on the beach,

with the utmost attention given to outdoor living, dining and lounging spaces.

There are three main levels with two bedrooms on each level. The main ground floor space is an open-plan great room and kitchen with large floor-to-ceiling glass panels that slide away completely, opening the space on one side to the pool and beach, and on the other to an Asian-inspired garden. Additionally, there is a garden terrace on the first floor, and each upper-level room has a patio overlooking the ocean. The garden view rooms feature intimate garden spaces for private lounging and reading.

“Twelve people staying in one of the villas wouldn't feel crowded,” Suresh laughs.

Toronto interior architects Cecconi Simone Inc., who designed the couple's first home, were again called on to lend their expertise.

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TOP The upper level bedrooms each have ocean-facing balconies offering sweeping view of Meads Bay.

LEFT AND RIGHT Lounging options at Kishti include poolside and hot tub (left), as well as beachfront, with cabanas and chaises (right).

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Anna Simone, design principal, made numerous trips to the island to ensure impeccable execution of the details—finishes, landscaping, and every other aspect of the design and building process.

Much like the original Villa Kishti on Black Garden Bay, these two new properties embody a modern aesthetic with clean lines and a leisurely approach to island living. Inside, lots of natural materials and a very neutral colour palette—whites, taupes and beiges, and subtle earth tones—provide a nice contrast with all the shades of blue of Meads Bay. It's all tied together with minimal, Asian-inspired décor.

“The objective was a villa with complete design harmony, providing guests tranquility and beauty in their living environment,” Suresh explains. “We believe that we achieved that.”

The couple has no regrets about building another property on Anguilla. “It’s a beautiful island,” Suresh reflects. “The best beaches, great restaurants, and the people are phenomenal. I think this is an island that inspires a lot of loyalty.” He adds, “If we can develop those relationships with people who like the island so much that have been coming for so long, we’re pretty confident that our villas will do well.” AXA

Second Time's the Charm

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Orrett H. Wynter

A focus on outdoor living on a stunning beach makes Kishti on Meads the perfect follow-up to this couple's first Anguilla home.

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