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"My passion and great enjoyment for
architecture, and the reason the older I
get the more I enjoy it, is because I
believe we — architects — can affect
the quality of life of the people"
— Richard Rogers

THE 全球共賞
**GLOBAL
ISSUE**



Imagine a day in tropical paradise. Nature enthusiasts take long hikes through hilly, tropical forest terrain here in Quepos, a small town on Costa Rica's west coast. Bird and animal lovers revel in the stunningly diverse ecosystem of nearby Manuel Antonio National Park. Sun lovers absorb brilliant rays on the sandy Pacific Ocean beaches, while surfers ride some of the best waves on the planet.

The houses at La Reserva Resort Community sustain the love of nature that brings people to Costa Rica. Their contemporary, organic architectural style incorporates many vernacular characteristics indoors and out. No two homes are alike, because each design is unique to the topography of its lot. Trees and gardens have been incorporated into each home's interior architecture. Generous outdoor living spaces and terraces allow homeowners to optimise their enjoyment of the tropical weather.

"The 18 lots are divided between ocean, mountain, and jungle views. Nine are located on the ridge-line of the property, which sits atop the mountain and has breathtaking ocean views. The other nine lots have partial ocean, mountain, and/or jungle views," says Donielle Fish, general manager of the residential development.

These views and a natural, native feel were integral to the 11-acre development's design. Developers from North America and Europe have all but turned Costa Rica into a neo-colony, and brought a range of architectural types that have threatened to eliminate the country's character. That's antithetical to American developer Mike Carter's desires.

"Carter has travelled around the world and he loves to be on the water. When he was

originally designing this, he said he wanted a property that blended into the landscape when viewed from the ocean. He didn't want things to stick out, but to be conducive to the natural terrain," Fish said.

Carter met his equal in Costa Rican (or Tican) architect Andres Brenes. Brenes, respects the local architectural vernacular of the town of Quepos. On almost every outdoor nook is some form of relaxation. There is a barbecue or dining area, a wading or swimming pool, a quiet reading nook or meditation space, an exercise space or rooftop sunning corner. Inside, bountiful bay windows bring the outdoors in by framing outdoor views. Wide, airy rooms have high ceilings for natural ventilation and ample natural lighting.

There are hand-cut hanging light sculptures that decorate some of the residences, and also chicharron, a pot used to cook pork that's prominent in Central and South America – these have been repurposed and fitted into the design as a bathroom sink.

Other interior touches include native luscious fruit and plant hues on the walls and furniture, cool tile floors, and expansive glass or local wood doors. Natural wood and stone further help to bring in the outdoors, to help owners remember where they are.

"The finishes are everyone's favourite. We like to tie in the local flair to remind the owner that they're in another culture. We have pigment-dyed plaster walls, split-bamboo cane ceilings, oiled-rubbed bronze hand-crafted railings, and custom-made granite floor tiles," Fish says. "We work with many local artisans to create a unique style that embodies international standards with Costa Rican artistry touches."



Native & Natural

Costa Rica's vivid colours and culture provide ample inspiration for the design and architecture of La Reserva

TEXT: NICHOLE L REBER
PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF LA RESERVA RESORT COMMUNITY



應天從地

哥斯達黎加文化豐富且色彩奪目，為 *La Reserva* 的建築設計提供源源不絕的新靈感

撰文：NICHOLE L REBER
攝影：LA RESERVA RESORT COMMUNITY 提供

試 幻想一天身處在熱帶天堂中。熱愛大自然的，可以在哥斯達黎加西邊沿海的小鎮 Quepos，到山巒起伏的熱帶森林漫遊遠足；喜歡雀鳥動物的，會被鄰近的安東尼奧國家公園物種豐富的生態深深吸引，樂而忘返；而愛與陽光作樂的，可在太平洋沿岸迷人的沙灘上沐浴於融融日光之中，又可滑浪享受一番，挑戰全世界最刺激的浪濤。

La Reserva Resort Community 內的房屋保留天然氣息，哥斯達黎加引人入勝的自然美態都盡在其中。當代的建築風格散發天然氣息，裡裡外外都融入不少本土特色。這裡沒有一色一樣的房子，皆因每間屋的設計都是順應其地勢的地勢而生。所有房屋的室內建築設計都包含樹木和花園，充足的戶外生活空間和偌大的平台則讓屋主能盡情享受熱帶氣候。

Donielle Fish 是這個住宅發展項目的總經理，說道：「18 個地段分別享有海景、山景和風景。當中九個在選址的山脊位置，坐落山頂飽覽逼人海景。其他九個地段則局部享有海景、山景或林景。」

發展項目佔地三英畝，這些醉人景緻和本土天然的感覺，對設計來說是不或缺的。從北美和歐洲來到哥斯達黎加的發展商，都把這裡變成殖民地似的，引進他們的各種建築風格，威脅到哥斯達黎加本地特色的存亡。美國發展商 Mike Carter 的想法卻恰恰相反。

Donielle 說：「Mike 周遊列國，熱愛待在海面上。起初他設計 La Reserva 時，他希望從海上眺望過來，房子能與四周景色融為一體。他不想有任何伸延開來的東西，只想設計能加強天然地形。」

Mike 認識了與自己氣誼相投的哥斯達黎加建築師 Andres Brenes，都尊重小鎮 Quepos 當地的傳統建築設計。戶外幾乎每個角落都讓人難得偷閒，也許是燒烤或用餐區，也許是淺水池或泳池，又或者是閱讀或靜思用的寧靜一角，甚至是運動空間或曬太陽的天台角落。至於室內，則有多個凸窗把戶外環境帶進屋內，儼如鑲上畫框的天然風景畫。房間寬闊通風，樓底又高，空氣自然流通之餘，又有充沛日光。

部份房子飾有手工切割的吊燈雕塑，而放在浴室中充當洗手盆的，是用來烹飪中美與南美傳統佳餚 Chicharron 炸豬肉的鍋子。

房子內還有不少特色設計，例如一室從傢具到牆壁都灑上土生植物和水果的豐富色調，地板用上清涼的地磚，門窗則是大片玻璃或當地木材。室內亦以天然木材和石頭點綴，進一步把戶外帶進室內，時刻提醒屋主自己置身自然之中。

Donielle 說：「我們使用的飾料人人都喜歡。我們希望能配合當地的氣息，提醒屋主他們身在另一文化之中。我們有染上色彩的灰泥牆、竹條天花、人手製的油擦青銅欄杆，以及特製的花崗岩地磚。我們與當地許多工匠合作，合力塑造出獨特風格，既符合國際標準又散發哥斯達黎加的工藝風采。」