

A heavenly estate on St. John

"I like a house that is not just a cold box, I like it to have interest so that everywhere you look you 'ohhh' and 'ahhh'," says designer and owner Rick Lametty.



Coyaba, which means "heavenly" in Arawak, certainly does illicit its share of 'ohhh's' and 'ahhh's'. Lametty designed the house in collaboration with a team of three architects and has spent the last three years building the house which features a towering stone entry and stone towers.

"The previous house was destroyed by hurricane Marilyn," he explains. "It had two sugar mill towers – both reproductions – so we rebuilt one and went on from there." That tower was turned into the distinctive foyer and provides a focal point for the structure from both exterior and interior viewpoints.

After three years construction Coyaba is just now nearing completion and readiness for sale.

"I wanted the house all on one level," continues Lametty. Situated on a rare piece of flat land one acre in size, the house consists of a vision of Bali-style homes comprised of six individual structures all interconnected by expansive terraces. It features a 280 degree view of the ocean, the south shore of St. John, Chocolate Hole, Dever's Bay and on to views of St. Thomas and St. Croix. Perhaps equally impressive is one additional feature rare on St. John: a garage.



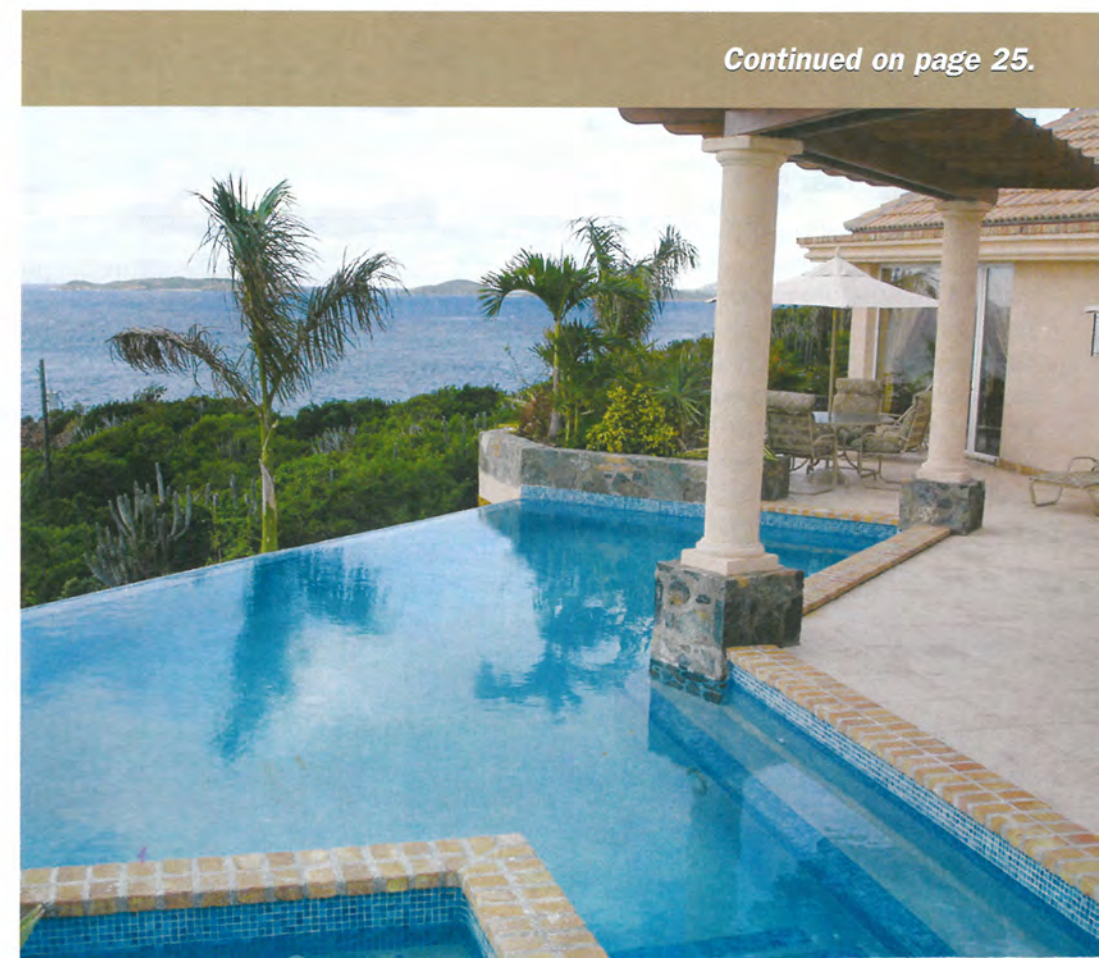
C
o
y
a
b
a



Mindful of the past stormy history of the property, Lametty built Coyaba with 14.5" thick poured reinforced concrete walls and 2.5" of insulation inside and out. The entire house rests atop an enormous 100,000 gallon cistern.

The interior is comprised of three to four separate bedroom suites, each with a full bath. The master retreat consists of a den/office, bedroom with large walk-in closet, bath and laundry facilities. Cypress has been used in the cabinetry and doors throughout. Paddle fans and air conditioning are installed throughout Coyaba. Stainless steel appliances grace the kitchen.

Continued on page 25.





A heavenly estate Continued from page 23.

Inside, the house has been professionally decorated. Extensive use has been made of native stone. Even indoors the sound of the surf in Dever's Bay can be heard. Distinctive columns and archways lend a special air of elegance in the main rooms. Two leather elephants and a brass crocodile provide a whimsical touch. "I found them in Sarasota, Florida," says Lamettry, "I thought they were fun."

The attention to detail and richness of design does not stop with the interior however. Private expansive stone terraces beckon you outside. The grounds surrounding Coyaba are lush and feature professional organic landscaping. "I wanted the house to have its own private tropical forest despite being on the dry side of the island," comments Lamettry. Mindful of water supply an eco-conscious Lamettry installed cistern sprinklers that utilize grey water for the garden.



Coyaba truly lives up to its Arawak name. During the day the views go on forever and if you are lucky you might just possibly sight a whale. At night, as the sun sets and the sky darkens, cruise ships march across the ocean, dotting the horizon with a string of lights. Maybe not Heaven but certainly a real bit of paradise. 🌴



For more information about Coyaba please contact:
Islandia Real Estate
P.O. Box 94, St. John, VI 00831
(340) 776-6666 • Fax (340) 779-4216
www.islandiarealestate.com