



# NEWS FROM SCHOONER BAY

JUNE 2011 • ISSUE NO. 12



## SCHOONER BAY HARBOUR OPENING COMPLETE!

*“Those who live by the sea can hardly form a single thought of which the sea would not be a part.”*

*–Hermann Broch*

The sea has come to Schooner Bay! After excavating hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of material and completing 6,000 lineal feet of seawall, Schooner Bay engineers have successfully removed the plug from the harbour entrance and the harbour is now fully tidal. The harbour at Schooner Bay is the

lifeblood of the community, creating a place of refuge along the wild South Abaco shoreline and allowing boaters access to the best sport-fishery and clearest waters in the Caribbean region.

As the only navigable port along the 50-mile Atlantic shoreline of South Abaco, Schooner Bay's harbour will be an important recreational and commercial hub. Due to its strategic location along the well-traveled cruising route between the Abaco Cays and points south, we expect Schooner Bay will become a welcome port of



## HARBOUR OPENING COMPLETE! CONT'D



call for sailors, and the harbour will eventually sustain a local fishing fleet, creating jobs for the community and giving residents access to fresh, local seafood. The establishment of a working harbour at Schooner Bay will permit easy exploration of one of The Bahamas' last untouched coasts and perpetuate the cultural traditions of this seagoing nation. We have no doubt it will become a major unifying force for the Schooner Bay community and a significant asset for the South Abaco region.

Consistent with Schooner Bay's overall approach to development, the harbour has been designed and engineered to the highest environmental standards. Specifically, the harbour was designed to comply with the Blue Flag Criteria, an environmental management system for marina operators intended to protect the integrity of the fragile marine ecosystem. Blue Flag was developed by The Foundation for Environmental Educations (FEE), a private, non-profit organization

based in Denmark and committed to promoting sustainable development through environmental education. Now that the first phase of harbour construction is complete, Schooner Bay will apply for Blue Flag certification for both the harbour and beaches.

The next phase of harbour development is pier construction. Vessels belonging to Schooner Bay property owners will be able to moor later in the summer, and facilities will be in place for visiting vessels by the end of the year. Depth approaching the harbour will be no less than eight feet at low tide. The sand on the harbour seabed is the same powdery white sand as found on the beaches at Schooner Bay, enhancing the harbour water's crystalline clarity. Furthermore, the harbour was designed to be completely flushed by the tides every 96 hours, ensuring the highest water quality inside Schooner Bay's harbour and making it an attractive and inviting haven for residents.





## **SCHOONER BAY SPRING FESTIVAL: “A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!”**



On Saturday, April 16th, Schooner Bay hosted the 2011 Spring Festival in South Abaco, a day-long charity event, open house and art expo benefiting REACH Bahamas, an autism awareness organization, and Every Child Counts, an education initiative for special needs children. The inaugural event was a resounding success, with upwards of 700 people participating including 320 arriving from Nassau on Bahamas Ferries' high-speed catamaran, M/V Seawind. The day began with an 18-mile bike race from Sandy Point to Schooner Bay along the scenic Ernest A. Dean Highway, with bike transport and servicing graciously provided by Cycles Unlimited of Marsh Harbour.

Upon arriving at Schooner Bay, visitors were treated to an art exposition featuring more than fifteen local and international artists, including Schooner Bay's own Artist-in-Residence, Antonius Roberts, who opened his on-site studio to the public for the event. Other local participants included Bahamas National Trust, Rotary Club of Abaco, Friends of the Environment, Ricky Johnson's Abaco Nature Tours, Black Fly Lodge, Abaco Animal Rescue Coalition and We The People. Participants operated information booths along the ridge at Schooner Square, where children flew kites and played in the fields overlooking the ocean. Local farmers and artisanal food producers also participated, and a marching band from Centerville Primary School performed.

Other events included a 10K bike & walkathon on the Earnest Dean Highway and a 5K fun run/walk within Schooner Bay. Event participants were also treated





## **SCHOONER BAY SPRING FESTIVAL: “A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!” CONT’D**

to a barbecue lunch and DJ music inside the harbour village. Visitors were also treated to an open house at one of the community’s first homes. The traditional Bahamian style cottage, which switched off its air conditioning and was naturally cooled by the sea breeze, was a popular destination as the day grew hotter, and visitors also took advantage of Schooner Bay’s two stunning beaches to cool down in the surf. Other popular activities included walking the iron shore, a large relic reef and historical shipwreck site, and touring the coppice, a preserved swath of old-growth forest within the village that is home to the Abaco parrot.

Schooner Bay’s Public Relations Director, James Malcolm, said the event went off without a hitch. “The Spring Festival had a great turnout and a good time was had by all,” said Malcolm. “As the largest employer in South Abaco, Schooner Bay plays an important role in the local community and economy, and we were pleased to see such high levels of community interest and involvement. The talent, diversity and creativity of Abaconians was on full display as visitors strolled through the various booths run by local artists, farmers, businesspeople and volunteers. This is a dynamic and healthy community and we are very proud to be a part of it. We intend to make the Schooner Bay Spring Festival an annual event, and planning has already begun for next year’s festivities!”





## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

During the past three years of environmental renewal projects, infrastructure build-out, site preparation and grading and harbour excavation, we have had to rely on design renderings and a bit of imagination to visualize the built environment at Schooner Bay. But, with vertical construction now in full swing and some thirty houses completed or nearing completion, it has become very exciting to see the years of planning and design begin to come to fruition. Construction activity is busiest on the island, where ten houses are currently underway, with three more set to commence mid-June and the remaining awaiting final permitting approval,

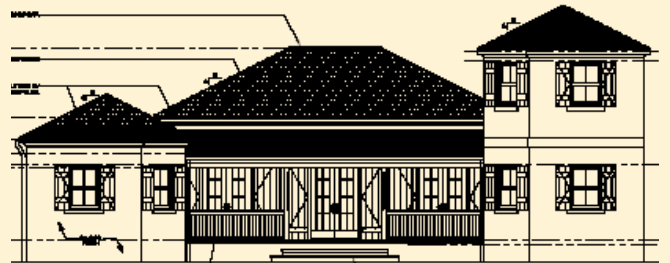
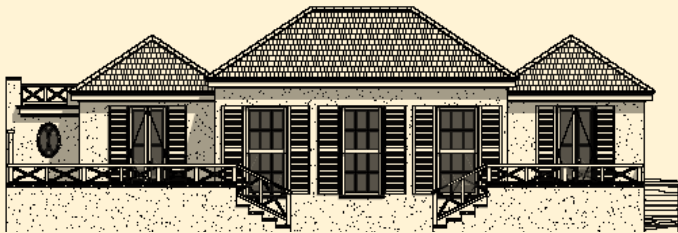
which is expected shortly. A newly completed home in Block S, which fronts the harbour and features 180 degree views of the ocean, was open to visitors during the Schooner Bay Spring Festival in April. As you can see in the following pictures, the house is a charming example of functional, traditional Bahamian design.



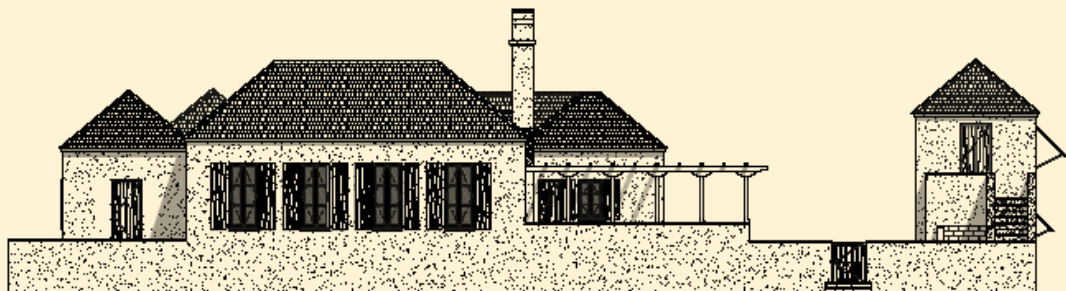
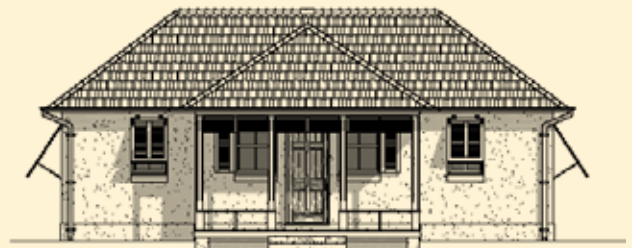


## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE CONT'D

### NEW HOMES AT SCHOONER BAY \*



\*THE DRAWINGS DEPICTED  
ILLUSTRATE HOMES THAT  
ARE CURRENTLY OR WILL IN  
THE NEAR FUTURE BE UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION AT SCHOONER BAY.





## BLACK FLY LODGE TO PARTNER WITH NERVOUS WATERS



**B**lack Fly Lodge at Schooner Bay is excited to announce a pending partnership deal with Nervous Waters, the world's premier destination fly-fishing group. The partnership will allow Black Fly to leverage Nervous Waters' extensive industry contacts and booking portfolio, helping put Black Fly on the map of elite global fly-fishing destinations. Nervous Waters believes that great fishing is an overall experience involving far more than the actual fishing itself. It is a combination of sporting excellence with the highest level of total service: lodging and cuisine provided at the most exacting standards of excellence, guiding in the hand of experienced and fully dedicated professionals, and careful planning and organization which takes even the slightest details into account. The eight Nervous Waters lodges around the world – located in Argentina, Chile and The Bahamas - operate at 93% occupancy on average and 82% of guests are repeat customers. Argentina-based Nervous Water is the clear industry standard-setter for high quality fishing travel experiences and we believe we've found a perfect strategic partner for Black Fly Lodge at Schooner Bay!

**N**ervous Waters also owns Abaco Lodge, a property 65-miles north of Schooner Bay that focuses on fishing the famed Marls region of Abaco. The alliance is expected to create numerous synergies between Abaco Lodge, whose primary fishery is the Marls, and Black Fly Lodge, whose main fisheries include the vast southern flats and wild blue-water. In fact, Black Fly Lodge is one of the only guide services in The Bahamas that also offers blue-water fly-fishing opportunities, an exciting and challenging option for guest anglers.

**I**n addition to putting the finishing touches on the partnership deal, the Black Fly team will have their hands full in the months to come with the impending construction of the lodge itself. Ground-breaking on the harbour-front lodge in Schooner Bay is expected next month and the facility should be open for business by early 2013. The lodge will feature an open-kitchen restaurant, bar, garden courtyard, guest rooms and generous porches with prominent views of the harbour and Atlantic Ocean. It will no doubt be an active summer for the folks at Black Fly Lodge!



## LANDSCAPING UPDATE



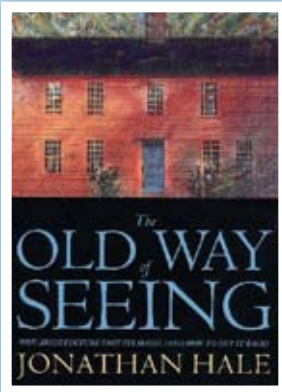
A thick, rich layer of locally-sourced topsoil has been laid over the entire building site at Schooner Bay and landscaping efforts have commenced in earnest. Keith Bishop, Schooner Bay's head of landscaping, recently announced the goal of planting 200,000 trees over four years. Bishop concedes that this pace of planting and propagation is "unheard of" in The Bahamas, but says the area's vibrant biodiversity and rich, loamy topsoil - in addition to Schooner Bay's reliance on entirely

indigenous flora for landscaping - are all reasons to be optimistic. The landscaping program continues to gather momentum, with 17,000 coconut trees and 6,000 other indigenous species - including mahoganies, seagrapes and sapodillas - all currently under cultivation this quarter. The prodigious efforts associated with such a program will ensure that Schooner Bay remains a lush, thriving and self-sustaining ecosystem.





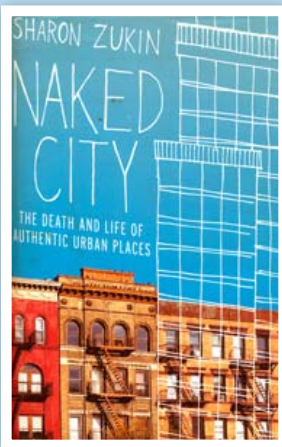
## SCHOONER BAY LIBRARY BOOKS



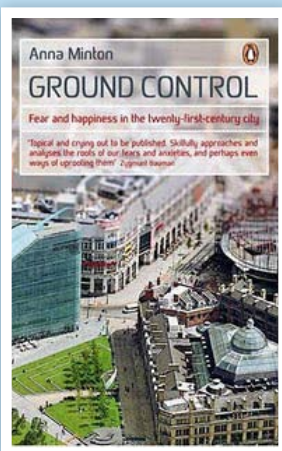
### **THE OLD WAY OF SEEING: HOW ARCHITECTURE LOST ITS MAGIC AND HOW TO GET IT BACK** *By Jonathan Hale*

Intended for the lay reader, this primer on design explores a number of interesting byways, from symbolism to scale, context, regulating lines, and pattern languages. Practiced New England architect and architectural writer Hale offers a paean to the past, more specifically a preindustrial past when, in his words, “one could walk down any street and be surrounded by harmonious buildings.” It all began to fall apart in the 1830s, according to Hale, when the Greek Revival replaced substance with symbol. Hale revolts at the prospect of a rampant industrialism and everything else Modern Architecture implied: internationalism, uniformity, and universalism. Gentle, wise, and perceptive, he is a child of postmodernism.

### **NAKED CITY: THE DEATH AND LIFE OF AUTHENTIC URBAN PLACES** *By Sharon Zukin*



As cities have gentrified, educated urbanites have come to prize what they regard as “authentic” urban life: aging buildings, art galleries, small boutiques, upscale food markets, neighborhood old-timers, funky ethnic restaurants, and old, family-owned shops. These signify a place’s authenticity, in contrast to the bland standardization of the suburbs and exurbs. But as Sharon Zukin shows in *Naked City*, the rapid and pervasive demand for authenticity--evident in escalating real estate prices, expensive stores, and closely monitored urban streetscapes--has helped drive out the very people who first lent a neighborhood its authentic aura: immigrants, the working class, and artists. Zukin traces this economic and social evolution in six archetypal New York areas and shows that for followers of Jane Jacobs, this transformation is a perversion of what was supposed to happen. Indeed, *Naked City* is a sobering update of Jacobs’ legendary 1961 book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*.



### **GROUND CONTROL: FEAR AND HAPPINESS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY CITY** *By Anna Minton*

Britons are increasingly aware of living in a society plagued by fear and unhappiness. Could our towns and cities be the cause? *Ground Control* is an in-depth and passionate exploration of the state of Britain today, revealing how the market place has taken control from the local electorate. Now, untested urban planning has transformed not only our cities, but the very nature of public space, of citizenship and of trust. From Liverpool to Manchester, London to Newcastle, more and more streets are owned by private companies with the sole aim of making money and homes are left to deliberately fall into dereliction so the land can be bought cheaply, imposing skyscrapers and fortress-like developments which not only provide physical barriers, but engineer fear and mistrust. Yet there is another way. Offering some surprising solutions, Anna Minton argues for an alternative, continental approach that celebrates a socially cohesive and shared public space and will reinvigorate our civic engagement.



## SCHOONER BAY LIBRARY QUOTES

THIS EDITION'S QUOTES PAY TRIBUTE TO THE HISTORIC  
OPENING OF SCHOONER BAY'S HARBOUR!

*"My soul is full of longing  
For the secret of the Sea,  
And the heart of the great ocean  
Sends a thrilling pulse through me."  
-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

*"Why is it that almost every robust healthy individual with a robust healthy  
soul becomes at some time or other crazy to go to sea?"  
-Herman Melville*

*"The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever."  
-Jacques Cousteau*

*"I could never stay long enough on the shore, the tang of the untainted,  
fresh and free sea air was like a cool, quieting thought."  
-Helen Keller*

*"The winds, the sea, and the moving tides are what they are. If there is  
wonder and beauty and majesty in them, science will discover these qualities.  
If they are not there, science cannot create them. If there is poetry in my book  
about the sea, it is not because I deliberately put it there, but because no one  
could write truthfully about the sea and leave out the poetry."  
-Rachel Carson*

*"The cure for anything is salt water - sweat, tears, or the sea."  
-Isak Dinesen*

*"It is an interesting biological fact that all of us have in our veins the exact  
same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and therefore,  
we have salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the  
ocean. And when we go back to the sea - whether it is to sail or to watch it -  
we are going back from whence we came."  
-John F. Kennedy*



## SCHOONER BAY GALLERY

*In keeping with the fundamental philosophy of Schooner Bay and his own deepest beliefs, Antonius Roberts, Resident Artist, continues his commitment to nurturing and growing an active and sustainable art community bound to the principles of environmental preservation and conservation.*

<http://www.antoniusroberts.com/artist/projects/schooner-bay/schooner-art/schooner-bay-gallery/>

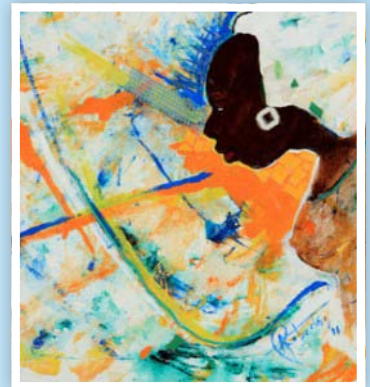


^ Fish Series 1 & 2



< Seascapes Series 1 & 2

Caribbean Rhythm 1 & 2 >



Turtle Series 1 & 2 >

