

VILLA STONECREST



The home overlooks Taylor Bay in the Turks and Caicos.



The style blends elements of U.S. Southern and Colonial architectural styles.

GIL STOSE, PHOTOGRAPHY
WRITTEN BY SARAH JANE MILLER

When white columns and a gabled roof rise from behind the lush bougainvillea and palm-lined driveway, it might seem as if one is approaching an antebellum house in the southern United States. Go a little further, though, and the sweeping views of turquoise waters and the sugar-white sand quickly belie that first impression. Villa Stonecrest is a



The living room is accented with artwork from Indonesia, lamps from China, and other pieces collected by the owners on their extensive travels.

departure from the typical primary-color-and-white-wicker beach house. The owner, a native of Atlanta, recreated the feeling and charm of Southern architecture while maintaining tropical West Indian details in this home in the Turks and Caicos. The narrow front door with fanlight, louvered shutters, and double-galleried veranda all blend the best features of both Southern and Colonial architecture styles. Island ingenuity literally laid the foundation, with stonework for the façade coming from limestone excavated from an underground

cistern, cut into bricks by hand, and stacked with only limestone dust as mortar. Known as "dry-stack," this method of construction is the only one of its kind on the islands, and is more commonly found in the Dordogne region of France and in the meandering stone walls of York, England. A spacious and comfortable living room receives the trade winds through French doors that overlook breathtaking views of Taylor Bay. The well-traveled owners accented the tropical ambiance of the room with artwork from Indonesia, glazed balustrade

continued



The Indonesian theme continues into the open, breezy bedroom where a magnificent panel of carved hardwood serves as a headboard.

table lamps from China, and pieces from their own collection. The coffee table, a unique composite of iron and bamboo, is large enough to act as a secondary table when the temperatures dip below 75 degrees and the cocktail-hour needs to be moved from outside to inside. The Indonesian theme continues into the bedroom where a magnificent wooden panel serves as a headboard. It originally came from a room constructed entirely of carved Indonesian

hardwood. Another carving hangs frieze-like over the veranda doors, and pulls attention towards the panoramic views outside. Color tones on the walls and linens are muted to allow the vibrant palette of the seascape to take center stage. Regardless of whether one is enjoying these brush strokes of nature from the inside or from the private terrace, there is a harmonious blending of the architecture with the beauty of the setting in which it is located.

