FOCUS ON DESIGN

LIGHTING

In the first of a regular series about design features at Camana Bay, ***Nathalie Rozot of L'Observatoire International Lighting Design Consultants****, talks about some of the lighting concepts in and around the Town Centre and the process behind the design.*

Decorative pedestrian lighting may not be a new idea, but the lights created for Camana Bay take a new spin on the concept. It all began with the "design vision" of lanterns that would gently sway along sidewalks and bike paths in the Caribbean breeze. A complex process of design, co-ordination and fabrication ensued, which led to the installation of the custom light fittings that now project

dynamic patterns of light and shadows as they march down the Esterly-Tibbetts Highway and Camana Way.

Design concepts in general, and lighting design in particular, are often broken down into areas of focus before the design development, prototyping and fabrication phases can start. In this case, the concept as a whole consisted of three nested parts that needed to be custom designed - namely the pole, the luminaire (with the light source) and the decorative shade.

Several profiles for the pole and bracket assembly were studied for their structural integrity before the two final designs were selected. A simple standard swivel, such as those used for traffic lights, was added to allow for the sway of the lantern.

The light fixture itself underwent a two-fold design process. The design of the luminaire, which houses the light source, was based on the street lights that are used throughout the Town Centre (their highly efficient optics translate in 39 Watt and 70 Watt lamps, whereas conventional street lighting commonly uses 100 Watt and 150 Watt). A 39 Watt lamp was selected for the lanterns on the basis of lighting calculations, and a new housing had to be engineered to allow the connection to both the swivel and the decorative shade.

Like many of the Town Centre amenities, the design of the decorative shades took its inspiration from Cayman's native flora and landscape. Collaboratively, the landscape architects, client and lighting designers reviewed a selection of native plants before settling on the iconic Silver Thatch Palm and two flowers, the Birds of Paradise and Frangipani. L'Observatoire then generated a series of sketches of stylised patterns which were translated digitally into CAD files for the laser cutting process. Flat sheets of highly durable marine-grade stainless steel were then laser-cut, rolled to their final shape, welded and polished, before they received a protective clear sealant that maintained their natural brushed-steel appearance.

Over one hundred fixtures were fabricated in Montreal and shipped to Camana Bay. In the meantime, the alternate patterns were carefully blended on the general masterplan to provide installation instructions to the construction team for the implementation of the first phase.

Eighteen months lapsed from the start to the end of the making of the lanterns; the process involved multiple design meetings and reviews in New York and in Montreal with all parties, and required a close collaboration with the two lighting manufacturers involved (Schreder Inc. for the poles and luminaires, and Lumid for the decorative shades). Two rounds of full-size prototypes were reviewed by the project team to fine tune the design before a final approval could be issued.

As they swing along Camana Bay's paths and sidewalks, the new lanterns exhale a new blend of lighting in unison with the Town Centre's unique sense of place. They unassumingly combine state-of-the-art engineering and energy efficiency, while celebrating the island's native flora and the Caribbean breeze.