

HOME, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

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Showtime

St. Maarten is known for great places to live and work. Lots of things have been happening in the real estate field and a need exists for relevant information.

Available options are highlighted in this Home, Design & Construction Special, with local professionals presenting their rel-

evant products and services, whether for the out- or inside of any building.

“The Friendly Island” certainly has a lot to offer in that sense and we wish you much reading pleasure, hoping that the supplement’s content can be of assistance in some shape or form.

The Publisher



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Managing Director Mary Jane Hellmund	Contributors Judy Fitzpatrick	Operations Manager Steven De Windt
Publisher Paul De Windt	Graphic Design Evadney "Eve" Henriques	Advertising Coordinator Moirra Marcelle
Coordinators Darlene Hodge Daniella De Windt	Proofreader Alyssa Bartlett	Calling The Daily Herald 54-25253/54-25597 54-20931/54-37236

PBK: A MATTER OF TASTE

PBK, offering a wide array of hotel- and restaurant-supplies, is first and foremost a human adventure – an adventure in taste, an epicurean adventure. Based in Hope Estate, the company carries top quality cleaning products, beautifully designed tableware, textiles and linens, and professional equipment for cafés, hotels and restaurants, as well as interior solutions adapted to all sorts of professionals.

PBK is proud to work with leading textile houses, major brands in the food & beverage industry, presti-



gious cleaning labels, top grade equipment (both small and large), and all variety of tableware. All products are designed with industry in mind, both in terms of strength and aesthetics – dependable products for cafés, hotels, restaurants and other organisations.

A must-know for any business in the hospitality field, this Hope Estate store makes island-wide deliveries. Don't hesitate to visit and discover products and solutions by Diversey, Kiehl, Standard Textile, Robot Coupe, and much more. Open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 12:30pm and 2:00pm to 5:00pm.



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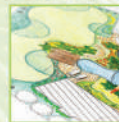
LES JARDINS DE LILOU



Garden center & nursery
Palms, fruit trees, shrubs, flowers, cactus...



Microgreens & aromatic plants



Landscaping & maintenance



Pebbles and stones



Pots & planters

Les Jardins de Lilou is the story of five friends, passionate about plants and beautiful gardens, who decided to take over the business of Landscape West Indies following the unfortunate death of its founder a year ago.

Today, Les Jardins de Lilou offers a wide range of plants, housed in its large Colombier garden centre/nursery, to brighten up your garden or balcony, and to transform your outdoor space. These include perennial plants, palm trees, cacti and succulents, flowering plants and fruit trees. Indoor plants are also a highlight, with varieties chosen for their ease of maintenance and ability to beautify your living space.

In addition to selling plants, Les Jardins de



Lilou specialises in landscaping. The mission is to transform your ideas into lush green spaces. For those looking to maintain the splendour of their garden, regular garden maintenance services are available.

Les Jardins de Lilou also offers a range of products for your outdoor landscaping, such as pots and planters, slate mulches, slate totems, garden tools, stepping stones, and a wide selection of stones and pebbles.

Explore the offers available at Les Jardins de Lilou conveniently online, at www.jardins-de-lilou.com, or pay a visit to Rue de Colombier #9 at 8:30am-12:30pm and 3:00-6:00pm on weekdays, or from 10:00am to 5:00pm on Saturdays.



9 rue de Colombier SAINT-MARTIN [French side]
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TRANSFORM YOUR LIVING SPACE WITH MOBALPA

Elevate your home with Mobalpa Saint-Martin, the epitome of modern kitchens, bathrooms, and storage solutions. For decades, Mobalpa has been synonymous with innovation and excellence, crafting spaces that seamlessly blend functionality with aesthetics.

ucts that are not only aesthetically pleasing but are also built to last. Mobalpa's commitment to quality can be found in every little detail, from the ergonomic design of the kitchens to the sophistication of the bathroom collections.

But Mobalpa is more than just furniture – it's a commitment to tailor-making living spaces that cater to your unique needs and de-

sires. From the choice of materials to the layout, every aspect is carefully considered to ensure your space reflects your personality and lifestyle.

Innovation is at the core of what Mobalpa does. The new collection boasts four stunning kitchen models, each incorporating the latest technologies to make everyday life easier and more enjoyable. From intelligent home automation to ingenious storage solutions, Mobalpa is constantly pushing the boundaries of design.

Sustainability is an important factor for Mobalpa. That is why the furniture



every step of the way of your home transformation. Whether you're revamping your kitchen, creating a luxurious bathroom, or optimising your storage space, Mobalpa Saint-Martin is the place-to-be.

Discover Mobalpa Saint-Martin and let yourself be inspired by the art of well-thought-out, beautifully designed living. Mobalpa is located in Bellevue and is open Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 6:00pm (with a lunch break from 12:30 to 2:00pm) and on Saturday from 9:00am to 12 noon. To contact Mobalpa, call +590-590-512-679 for more information.

store actively engages in eco-friendly practices, ensuring that their products not only better your home but also contribute to a greener planet.

Step into Mobalpa Saint-Martin, where you can see the "signature" kitchen model in person. It is no wonder that this kitchen is

a bestseller: it is a testament to Mobalpa's craftsmanship and attention to detail. And fret not if your space is on the smaller side, Mobalpa's staff specialises in made-to-measure work, meaning any model can be adapted to suit your unique space.

Mobalpa's dedicated experts are here to guide you

MOBALPA

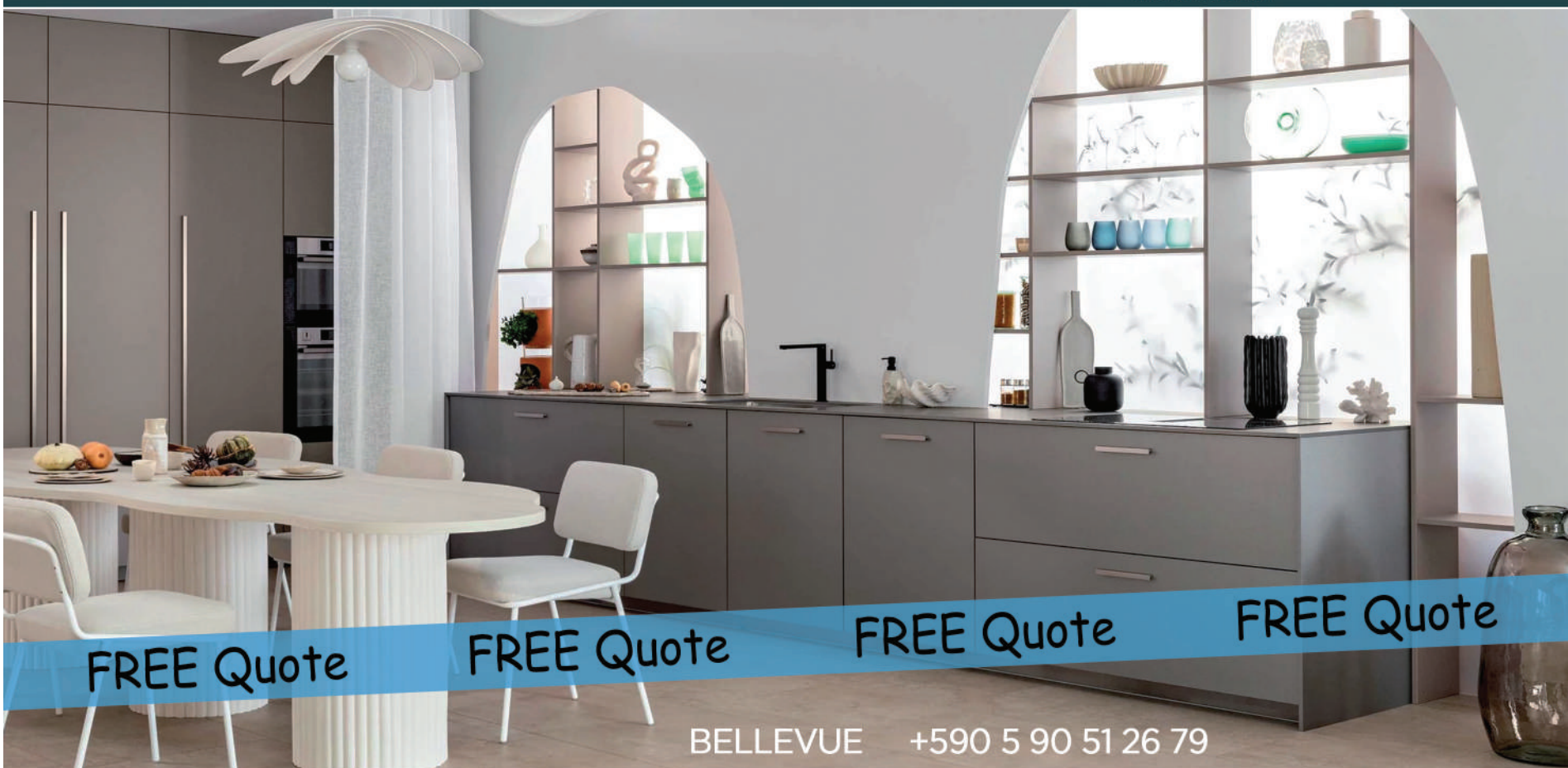
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Protecting materials against salt damage

Salt can be a common culprit for causing damage to a whole array of construction materials and household items, particularly for properties near beaches or coastline. On any small island in the region, that translates to it being quite the common concern. Even if you don't live near the shoreline, salt in the air can still be a concern, even if it takes a longer while for the effects to become apparent. From electrical appliances to fixtures and outdoor structures, you can take preventive measures to protect these items from salt-related damage.

Electrical appliances

Salt can cause corrosion and rust on electrical appliances, leading to a shorter lifespan, malfunctions and even potential safety hazards. Protect electrical appliances by wiping down appliances regularly with a damp cloth to remove any salt residue, using appliance wax or a protective coating to create a barrier against salt damage, and ensuring

that outdoor appliances are covered when not in use to reduce exposure to salt.

Fixtures and fittings

Fixtures and fittings, such as handles and hinges, are especially susceptible to corrosion from salt exposure. Protect them by applying a rust-resistant coating or paint to metal fixtures and fittings, rinsing them with fresh water from time to time to remove salt residue. Try to use corrosion-resistant materials for fixtures and fittings if salt damage is of particular concern where you live.



Look up materials that you are interested in to see if they are resistant. Some are tricky, since it may depend

on base metals, finishes, or other factors. For example, polished chrome is a good option if used on a solid brass base metal, but not if used on a zamak base metal. Solid brass is a good option but only if unlacquered. Aluminium and plain cast iron are not recommended (painted cast iron being a popular option on the island). Note that stainless steel is rust-resistant, but with limits, and it comes in different grades. Grade 316 is good for use outdoors, but can still develop some rust. The other two grades commonly used for homes (201 and 304) should not be used for exteriors.



Wrought iron gates and outdoor structures

Wrought iron gates primarily need to be protected from moisture and oxygen, so protection needs to be in place whether they are exposed to high levels of salt air or not, however salt still accelerates corrosion, so we've included them on the list. Apply a protective sealant, such as marine paint or a commercial oil-based sealant, to create a barrier against moisture, oxygen, and salt.

Windows and glass surfaces

Salt residue can accumulate on windows and glass surfaces, leading to etching and

deterioration. To prevent this, clean them regularly to remove salt build up, apply a glass protectant or sealant to create a barrier, and use tempered or laminated glass for windows in high-concern areas.

Concrete Walls And Surfaces

Salt can cause concrete to deteriorate over time, leading to cracks and structural issues. Protect concrete walls and surfaces by coating the surface with a waterproofing sealant, and repairing cracks to prevent further deterioration.



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The art of hanging curtains

Curtains aren't just window dressings; they're an essential element in interior design that can transform any space. Whether you're looking to add warmth, privacy, fabric to hardware and in-stallation techniques.



Choosing the right size

Before you can hang your curtains, you need to determine the correct size. Start by measuring the width of your window frame. For a classic look, your curtains should be about twice the width of the window to allow for ample gathering when they're pulled closed. Measure the length from the top of the window frame to where you want the curtains to fall – whether that's just below the sill, to the floor, or pooling gracefully for a luxurious effect.

Selecting the ideal fabric

The fabric you choose for your curtains can significantly impact the overall ambiance of your space. Light, airy fabrics like linen or sheer voile are perfect for filtering natural light and creating a soft and romantic atmosphere. Heavier fabrics such as velvet or brocade add richness and depth, ideal for formal spaces or rooms where you want to create a luxurious atmosphere. Consider the functionality you need when selecting your fabric. For example, blackout curtains are preferable for bedrooms to block out unwanted light



and promote better sleep.

Adding hardware

Once you've chosen your curtains, it's time to select the right hardware to hang them. Curtain rods come in a variety of materials, including wood, metal, and acrylic, each offering its own aesthetic appeal. For

a modern look, sleek metal rods with minimalist finishes are an excellent choice, while ornate wooden rods can add a touch of traditional elegance. Be sure to select a rod that's sturdy enough to support the weight of your curtains, especially if you're using heavy fabrics or extra-long panels.

Installing your curtains

Now that you are done shopping, it's time to hang your new curtains with precision. Here are some tips for a flawless installation:

- Proper height: Hang your curtain rod at least 2-4 inches above the window frame to create the illusion of height and make the room feel larger.

- Ample width: Extend the curtain rod several inches beyond the width of the window frame to allow the curtains to hang freely when pulled closed, preventing light from seeping in through the sides.

- Even hemlines: For a polished and elegant look, ensure that the bottom of your curtains graze the floor. If you're using multiple panels, take care to align the hemlines for a seamless appearance.

- Secure mounting: Use wall anchors or brackets to securely mount the curtain rod, especially if you're installing it on drywall. This will prevent sagging or bowing over time.

- Finishing touches: Once your curtains are hung, consider adding decorative tie-backs or hold backs to keep them neatly in place when open, or opt for stylish curtain rings for easy gliding.



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Transform your space with the beauty and versatility of glass

~ Cole Bay Glass & Mirror ~

Cole Bay Glass & Mirror (CBG) is your go-to resource for all things glass – specialising in precision glass and mirror cutting. Now conveniently located in Cole Bay, CBG serves the whole island with quality and style. With a wide range of dimensions and glass types, along with expert craftsmanship, you'll be

able to make your project vision come true.

CBG's products and services are tailored to your unique needs, offering custom cutting solutions for glass and mirrors. The company takes pride in both its craftsmanship and innovation – providing top-notch glass solutions that meet and even exceed your expectations.

Whether you'll transform your home or business space with added functionality and style with a glass-mirror based project, CBG has got you covered from custom statement mirrors, to glass sliding doors, to shower screens and tempered glass doors with locks. Here's a quick overview of what's on offer.

Custom glasswork: From elegant LED mirrors designs to custom float and laminated glass pieces, CBG's work is tailored to your unique preferences and space requirements.

Shower screens: Elevate your bathroom with the range of shower screens, available in both clear and etched acid tempered glass, adding a touch of sophistication and functionality to your space.

Glass doors: Step into modernity with tempered glass doors, offering a sleek look in a variety of shades to complement your interior décor.

Suspended sliding shower doors: They elevate your bathrooms, finish them off with elegant black or chrome accessories.

Diverse hardware accessories: Personalise installations with CBG's selection of hardware in various



The team at CBG welcomes you in its surprisingly cosy meeting room, nestled above the warehouse. You'll be able to view samples that help you to visualise your projects. A custom frosted glass door is seen on the left.

finishes – from chic matte black and sophisticated chrome to luxurious gold, pristine white, and more.

U-Channels: Complete your projects with our U-channel accessories available in gold, white, black, and chrome finishes, ensuring a perfect fit and finish.

Feel free to visit CGB to explore these offerings and

discover how the team can transform your space with the beauty and versatility of glass. E-mail coleybayglass@gmail.com, call/WhatsApp 58-GLASS (45277), visit www.colebayglass.com or check out CBG at Well Road #9 in Cole Bay, in the Jobco Complex, unit 6 (next to MNA Auto-Parts) between 8:00am and 4:00pm.



Cole Bay Glass & Mirror is conveniently located in the Jobco Complex, next to MNA Auto-Parts.



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MORE CHOICE IN UPGRADING (OR PLANNING) YOUR PROPERTY ~ REALISE YOUR VISION WITH MODERN HOMES ~



Customising your home or commercial space, whether you're planning on building or renovating, is more in reach than ever with the help of Modern Homes. Co-owners Vaughn Bahadur and Marc Morand present not just a wide range of products, many of them fully customisable, but offer essential guidance when it comes to getting things just right – curated, to your style, and within budget. Our team was certainly impressed by the selection of products on display. An oasis away from your run-of-the mill home design store, Modern Homes has a stunning variety of products, a selection you wouldn't expect to encounter on the island. Modern Homes is a must-visit for anyone wanting to bring their dreams to reality, with truly unique possi-

bilities and excellent quality, to the likes of what you draw inspiration from on home design TV programmes and Pinterest.

The company can help to take the burden off of planning and designing. Key to getting the most of the offerings is to approach Modern Homes early in the process so that the vast catalogue of products – in all available materials, colours and sizes – is available to you.

The company lets you visualise, plan, and achieve your ideal spaces. This is an infinitely better choice than settling for "whatever is available" while shopping around on the island as your construction is nearing completion. Vaughn and Marc, who have years of experience in the trade, pride themselves on seeing to it that the local market is not forced to compromise between quality, selection and price. After all, these are long-term investments that have an impact on every day life.

The Cole Bay store displays a beautiful selection of products, so that customers can

browse and compare. However it's simply a sampling of the truly vast variety of products that are available – thousands of them shown in the catalogues, as well as custom options, are within reach.

Fully customisable items, such as doors and shutters, may take some eight to ten weeks to be shipped to the island – underlining the importance of planning ahead in order to get exactly what you envision. Modern Homes has direct contact with factories, which is essential for customisation, and translates to keeping overhead costs low. Customers with larger projects, such as outfitting a villa, also get extra discounts.

In store, you'll be able to browse a wide selection of floor-, wall-, and mosaic-tiles, hurricane shutters, interior- and exterior-doors, glass doors and windows, and an exciting new expansion to the product offering: a range of plumbing fixtures from Kohler. The company is also about to launch full kitchen ranges, both in American and European style lines.

continued on pg.9

KOHLER 150 YEARS

KOHLER

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The Statement™ showering collection with Anthem™ valves and controls features unexpected designs, indulgent spray options, and a range of universal forms. The versatile portfolios are meticulously crafted to fit all global plumbing standards, opening the door to truly seamless specification and unfettered creativity.



MODERN HOMES continued from pg.8

While taking on projects might seem overwhelming, in terms of planning, design choices, and budget, Marc points out that there's really no need to do everything at once. Especially relevant for home owners wanting to elevate their spaces, it's practical to break down projects into manageable steps, focusing for example on one area at a time.

If you have a holistic and realistic vision of what is possible, and can narrow down your design preferences, renovations over the years will still turn out harmonious and cohesive. That's the power of having professional guidance, and a real plan. This approach also reduces

the stress on finances, and gives customers confidence as they progress. The team at Modern Homes is dedicated to making your goals achievable, in the most practical and least stressful way.

Kohler: bold & functional

The company recently expanded its selection of plumbing fixtures, and is now the regional supplier for Kohler, a brand known for its bold design and durability. Much of the showroom hosts a beautiful variety of Kohler plumbing fixtures, from faucets to sinks for both the bathroom and kitchen, to showers and toilets. There are styles

to fit every taste, whether you're traditional, eclectic, or modern. Select toilets and showers have smart features for ultimate convenience. And it's not all about looks – Kohler products are designed with function in mind, accommodate different budgets, and are made to last, covered by a limited lifetime warranty.

Stunning doors

One element of home design, which is unfortunately sometimes an afterthought during construction, are the doors. Something as straightforward as choosing great doors can have a stunning visual impact and instantly enhance the en-

tire property. At Modern Homes, you're spoiled for choice when it comes to both interior and exterior doors that come in a variety of materials, compositions, colours and security lock features.

Take selecting a great front door, for example. The team will guide you in terms of the best options listed above, which depends on your unique conditions, and you'll be able to get the perfect visual for your home. Send in a picture of your front door, including the

surrounding area, and you'll be able to pick from a plethora of options, instantly visualised, realistically and to perfect size, on the computer screen. The options are infinite when all is considered, so you'll have a unique front door that stands out, makes a great first impression, and fits your home perfectly.

The company serves many clients, from homes, to offices, villas and a number of luxury hotels, in neighbouring islands including Anguilla, Saba, Statia, St. Kitts,

Tortola, and St. Thomas. Shipping is no issue, and the company is the exclusive distributor in the region for some brands, including Kohler.

Modern Homes is located at #4 Orange Grove, Cole Bay. For more information, call +1-721-544-8820, +1-721-520-2171, or +1-721-554-2424; e-mail marc@modernhomesbv.com, vaughn@modernhomesbv.com; or follow the company on Facebook @modernhomesbv and Instagram @modern_homes_bv_sxm.



growth 
noun / grohth /

1. the process of growing; development; gradual increase

see also: *efficient financing, convenience (online banking), safe & secure payment solutions*

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Orco Bank tackles challenge to home ownership with 'Smart Savings'

Everyone wants to eventually step into a peaceful abode that they can call their own home one day, but many of us find it difficult to come up with the start-up funds needed to embark on this journey.

Orco Bank has stepped up to the plate to help address this issue by introducing a new product that can help residents with the discipline needed to build the start-up funds required to purchase a home.

Coined "Smart Savings," the product is tailored to help persons exercise self-control when it comes to keeping their funds in the bank to grow to the desired amount that they need. Orco Bank's Junior Account Executive Marvin Blyden tells us more about Smart Savings and Professional Savings Advisory.

Question: Can you tell us about Orco Bank's new initiative towards promoting savings in St Maarten? Marvin Blyden: Absolutely!



Orco Bank's Junior Account Executive Marvin Blyden.

At Orco Bank, we are excited to introduce our Smart Savings product, coupled with a Professional Savings Advisory service. This initiative aims to empower St. Maarten's residents, aiding them in achieving their dreams of purchasing their first or second home. It's a strategic approach to saving, designed with purpose and practicality in mind.

Question: What makes Smart Savings stand out from other savings products in the market?

Marvin Blyden: Smart Savings is uniquely designed to support the home ownership aspirations within our

community. Its distinctiveness lies in its flexibility, attractive interest rates, and the personalised assistance we provide. Customers benefit from dedicated advice, creating savings plans that are tailored to their individual financial goals and timelines. It's this combination of personalised service and advantageous product features that ensures a successful savings journey.

Question: Could you elaborate on the benefits and general conditions of the Smart Savings product?

Marvin Blyden: Certainly! Smart Savings offers several compelling benefits, includ-

ing attractive interest rates and flexible withdrawal options, which are critical for those saving towards significant goals like home ownership. Additionally, personalised assistance from our professional savings advisors ensures customers have support tailored to their needs.

In terms of general conditions, there are limitations to consider, such as withdrawal restrictions to three times per month, ensuring that the focus remains on long-term savings. The attractive interest rate is calculated on the minimum quarterly balance, encouraging consistent saving. The product requires a minimum start up deposit of NAf. 5,000.

Question: Who can benefit from Smart Savings and the savings advisory service?

Marvin Blyden: Smart Savings and our advisory service are ideal for anyone in St. Maarten aiming to purchase their first or second home. It's particularly suited for individuals at the begin-

ning of their savings journey or those looking to accelerate their progress. Our programme supports these aspirations with a structured, guided approach, equipping customers with the necessary tools and advice for informed financial decisions.

Question: Are there any success stories you can share from individuals who have benefited from this service?

Marvin Blyden: While specific customer details remain confidential, I can share that the impact of Smart Savings and our advisory service has been significant. For instance, we've had clients reach their goal of purchasing a home sooner than expected, thanks to the tailored savings strategies and ongoing guidance from their advisor. Such stories validate our mission and inspire us to enhance our offerings continually.

Question: How can interested individuals sign up or learn more about Smart Savings and the Professional Savings Advisory

service?

Marvin Blyden: Those interested in Smart Savings can learn more by visiting our branch in St. Maarten or by exploring our website at <https://www.orcobank.com/>. We recommend scheduling an appointment with a savings advisor to see how Smart Savings aligns with your financial objectives. Our team is eager to provide the assistance and information necessary to start your journey toward smart saving for a home.

Closing thoughts:

Orco Bank remains dedicated to enriching the St. Maarten community through financial education and innovative banking solutions. With Smart Savings and our expert savings advisory, we're poised to support numerous home ownership success stories on our island.

Orco Bank N.V. is located at Union Road 139 F, Union Plaza in Cole Bay. Reach out to them at tel: +1-(721)-544-4744.



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Design inspiration: Colours of the Year

Looking for a whimsical or trendy way to refresh your home? The “Color of the Year” announced by various design and paint companies, is a great way to see what colours are set to influence everything from home design, to fashion, to graphic design and marketing campaigns. Influential companies, especially The Pantone Color Institute, famous for its colour-matching system, announce every year what colour they predict will have a significant dominance in design trends. The colour is often chosen based on its perceived relevance to today’s societal attitudes, trends, and events.

It helps artists, designers and marketers alike to stay up-to-date and work within current sensibilities, why not use it as inspiration

yourself? This year, it seems a wide range of soothing blues and earthy tones have been chosen as colours of the year, by different companies. Here are some of the picks we’ve found.

Pantone: Peach Fuzz

“Peach Fuzz captures our desire to nurture ourselves and others,” says Pantone. “It’s a velvety gentle peach tone whose all-embracing spirit enriches mind, body, and soul.” According to Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute “In seeking a hue that echoes our innate yearning for closeness and connection, we chose a colour radiant with warmth and modern elegance. A shade that resonates with compassion, offers a tactile embrace, and effortlessly bridges the youthful with the timeless.”

Sherwin-Williams: Upward

Referred to as a hint of silver lining, Upward is introduced by Sherwin-Williams as “a breezy, blissful blue. The colour found when we slow down, take a breath, and allow the mind to clear.” Also described as “relaxed and carefree”, Upward is “a sunny-day shade for spaces brimming with positive energy, creative thinking, and total contentment.”

“Upward represents the gentle forward momentum in all of our lives,” says Sue Wadden, director of colour marketing at Sherwin-Williams. “It brings to life that carefree, sunny-day energy that elicits a notion of contentment and peace. With this colour, we invite our consumers to take a pause and infuse a new sense of ease and possibil-

ity into their spaces – one that doesn’t overwhelm, but rather establishes meditation and tranquillity.”

Use it as you would any neutral, for walls or ceilings, and accenting with light, earth-tone accents. Pairs well with: Snowbound, Drift of Mist, Gale Force, Tricorn Black, Honeydew, Palm Leaf, and Antiquarian Brown.

HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams: Persimmon

Cheery Persimmon is designed to bring lightness and energy to the gathering spaces of your home. It’s bright without being overwhelming, thanks to neutral, pastel-like undertones that provide a warm, welcoming feel.

“Persimmon balances the energy of tangerine with grounded neutral undertones, making it perfect for spaces like living rooms and kitchens as it promotes positive relationships and conversation,” According to Sherwin-Williams’ Colour Marketing Manager Ashley Banbury. “The beautiful shade helps rejuvenate a space while bringing unique design visions to life.”

HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams also released a colour collection featuring nine additional shades, which were designed to be effortlessly mixed and matched. It features bright citrus shades like Persimmon and Friendly Yellow, and calm neutrals, such as Cyberspace, Pearly White, and Softer Tan.

Rust-Oleum:

Satin French Blue

A calming mid-tone blue was chosen as the brand’s spray paint colour of the year. Rust-Oleum’s Creative Producer Lindee Katdare said that Satin French Blue serves as a “tranquil oasis” that can revitalise tired furniture pieces, or transform everyday objects into works of art.

Benjamin Moore:

Blue Nova

“Violet and blue come together in this elevated, sumptuous hue” is how Benjamin Moore describes this rich, grounded blue. According to Andrea Magno, the brand’s colour marketing and development director, “Blue Nova 825 is an alluring mid-tone that balances depth and intrigue with classic appeal and reassurance.”



Benjamin Moore: Blue Nova. Brand photo.



Sherwin-Williams: Upward. Brand photo.



Rust-Oleum: Satin French Blue. Brand photo.



Pantone: Peach Fuzz. Brand photo.

Benjamin Moore also released a 2024 colour trends report with other colours that complement the mix of modern and traditional if you’re looking for more

inspiration. Blue Nova also matches well with Paper White, Mount Saint Anne, Quincy Tan and Monterey White.

POOL PERFECTION WITH MISTER POOL

Nestled in the picturesque Nettle Bay, Mister Pool is a hub dedicated to all aspects of swimming pools and jacuzzis. The expansive showroom spans over 200 square meters and showcases a diverse array of pool maintenance essentials, from state-of-the-art robotic cleaners to invigorating outdoor showers. But it does not stop there! Mister Pool also boasts a selection of garden furnishings, spa amenities, and there is even a demo pool to inspire your outdoor haven.

Are you struggling with water quality? Let Mister Pool handle it. The expert staff provide comprehensive testing and analysis services to pinpoint any issues. Utilising premium Bayrol products, Mister Pool can transform any pool into a crystal-clear oasis.

Recognizing that each customer has different wants and needs, the team at Mister Pool offers a variety of wooden swimming pools

in varying shapes – be it circular, square, or rectangular – and sizes, catering to diverse backyard dimensions.

Not only will Mister Pool sell you your dream pool, the staff specialises in seamless installation and landscaping solutions – tailored to your budget while upholding unwavering quality standards.

Last, but certainly not least, Mister Pool now extends its expertise to pool maintenance services. Entrust the experts with the ongoing care and upkeep of your pool or jacuzzi, ensuring optimal performance and longevity. From routine cleaning and chemical balancing to equipment inspections and repairs, the dedicated team stands ready to preserve the pristine condition of your pool.

Imagine diving into your very own perfect pool just two weeks after entrusting Mister Pool with your vision. Mister Pool aims to make that dream a real-



ity – and before you know it, you will be able to take the plunge to beat the Caribbean heat in your own backyard.

Discover Mister Pool at 87 Rue de Sandy Ground in Nettle Bay or contact +590-690-378-845 for a transformative outdoor experience.



Spring Cleaning 101

~ Your checklist to a clean home ~

Decluttering

Donate or discard unused items.
Sort through clothes, shoes and accessories.
Clear out kitchen cabinets and pantry of expired items.
Streamline bookshelves and entertainment centres.

Dusting

Dust surfaces including shelves, tables, and picture frames.
Clean light fixtures and ceiling fans.
Wipe down blinds and curtains.
Dust electronics and computer equipment.

Deep cleaning

Vacuum carpets and rugs thoroughly.
Sweep and mop hard floors.
Clean baseboards and trim.
Wash windows and mirrors.
Scrub kitchen appliances inside and out.
Clean behind and underneath furniture.

Kitchen

Wipe down counter tops and back splashes.
Clean inside cabinets and drawers.
Degrease stove and oven.
Sanitise sink and drain.
Defrost and clean refrigerator and freezer.

Bathroom

Scrub tiles and grout.
Clean and disinfect toilet, bathtub, and shower.
Organise and declutter cabinets and drawers.
Replace shower curtain liner if necessary.
Wash bath mats and towels.

Bedroom

Wash bedding, including sheets, pillowcases and comforters.
Vacuum and rotate mattresses.
Organise closets and drawers.
Dust and polish furniture.
Clean under the bed.

Outdoor spaces

Sweep and hose down porch, patio, or deck.
Clean outdoor furniture.
Prune bushes and trees.
Plant flowers or vegetables.
Clear gutters and down spouts.

Miscellaneous

Wash pet bedding and toys.
Dust and vacuum upholstery.
Clean and sanitise trash cans.
Check and replace batteries in smoke detectors.
Schedule professional services like carpet cleaning, gardening services, or pool maintenance if needed.

Finishing touches

Freshen up the home with air purifiers or natural air fresheners.
Add indoor plants for a touch of greenery.
Rearrange furniture for a new look and feel.
Treat yourself to a well-deserved break and admire your freshly cleaned home!



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How to keep flowers fresh

There's something uplifting about adorning your house with fresh flowers. Their vibrant colours, pretty petals and sweet fragrances have the power to transform any space into a beautiful sanctuary. However, the relatively short lifespan of flowers often leaves us wondering how to prolong their freshness and enjoy their charm for as long as possible. Fear not, for with a few simple tricks and mindful care, you can extend the life of your colourful floral arrangements.

Fresh flowers: The key to longevity lies in selecting the freshest blooms. When purchasing flowers, choose those with firm stems, unblemished petals, and buds that are just beginning to open. Avoid wilted or bruised flowers, as they are likely to deteriorate quickly.

Preparation: Before arranging your flowers, trim the stems at a 45-degree angle using sharp scissors or a knife. This allows for better water absorption. Remove any leaves that will be submerged in water to prevent bacterial growth. Additionally, clean your vase with soap and water to eliminate any bacteria that could harm the flowers.

Water: Proper hydration is essential for maintaining the freshness of your flowers. Fill your vase with

clean and lukewarm water and change the water every two days or whenever it starts to appear cloudy. Re-cut the stems each time you change the water to ensure optimal water absorption.

Feed: Just like us, flowers benefit from proper nutrition. If you don't have floral preservative, you can make a home-made solution by adding a teaspoon of sugar and a few drops of bleach to the water. The sugar provides nourishment, while the bleach helps prevent bacterial growth. Alternatively, you can use aspirin, two tablespoons of white vinegar or a copper penny in the water to help prevent bacterial growth and prolong the life of your blooms.

Placement: Position your floral arrangement away from direct sunlight and sources of heat, such as radiators or appliances. Sunlight and heat can cause flowers to wilt prematurely. Instead, place them in a cool area with good air circulation to help them stay fresh longer.

Removal: Unfortunately, as flowers age, they may start to wilt and fade. Remove any old blooms and trim any decaying foliage to maintain the vitality of the arrangement. This not only keeps the arrangement looking fresh but also prevents the spread of bacteria to healthier blooms.

Revival: If your flowers start to wilt prematurely, you can place the entire bouquet in cold water for a few hours to rehydrate the blooms. You can also re-cut

the stems and place them in warm water to encourage water intake. Additionally, misting the petals with water can help revive the flowers.



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Organising for bathroom bliss



In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, the bathroom serves as a sanctuary – a place for relaxation and self-care. However, it can be somewhat challenging to maintain a serene atmosphere amidst the clutter and chaos. But with a few simple strategies, you can transform your bathroom into an organised oasis where relaxation and rejuvenation reign supreme.

Step 1: Decluttering

Begin your journey to bathroom bliss by decluttering with purpose. Channel your inner Marie Kondo by assessing each item in your bathroom and ask yourself, “Does this spark joy?” If not: time to say your good-byes. Dispose of expired products, empty bottles, and items you no longer use. Simplify your space to create a serene environment for your self-care moments.

Step 2: Storing

Effective storage is essential to bathroom organisation. Invest in storage solutions tailored to your needs, such as drawer organisers, under-sink cabinets, or floating shelves. Utilise vertical space to maximise storage without sacrificing your

precious square footage. Clear containers can corral smaller items like cotton swabs and hair accessories while maintaining visual harmony.

Step 3: Designing

Opt for sleek, streamlined designs in fixtures and accessories to create an uncluttered ambiance. Choose neutral colour schemes and natural materials to evoke a spa-like atmosphere. Remember, less is more when it comes to fostering tranquillity.

Design your bathroom layout with functionality and accessibility in mind. Arrange frequently used items within easy reach and prioritise accessibility for all family members. Install hooks for towels and robes, place essentials within arm's reach, and ensure adequate lighting for self-care tasks.

Step 4: Enhancing

Enhance the tranquil ambiance of your bathroom retreat by incorporating relaxing elements such as aromatic candles, soothing essential oils and plush towels. Consider adding greenery or artwork to personalise your home-spa experience.

Step 5: Maintaining

Consistency is key to maintaining an organised bathroom oasis. Establish a daily maintenance routine to keep clutter at bay and preserve the serenity by dedicating a few minutes each day to tidying up counter tops, wiping down surfaces, and returning items to their designated spot.

Step 6: Refreshing

As your needs and preferences evolve, so too should your bathroom organisation strategy. Regularly edit your belongings by discarding expired products and donating items you no longer use and refresh your space with updates, whether it's swapping out linens or introducing new decor elements that suit your mood.



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Business World Aluminium opens April 4 in Grand Case

Persons in the building and construction industry as well as persons building and renovating their homes or businesses will have a new option in the market to get their high-quality materials from when the company 'Business World Aluminium' (BWA) opens its doors in Grand Case, behind the Grand Case Airport in French St. Martin on Thursday, April 4.

Business World Aluminium (BWA) is a distribution company and wholesaler of aluminium profiles and hardware for building professionals. They offer a range of doors, windows, sliding 2, 3, 4 leaves, louvers, glass and aluminium railings supplied with certification, 2-leaf gate or sliding with decorative aluminium plates, fences matching the gate, which are in stock in the colours grey 7016 and white 9010.

"Construction in St. Martin is enjoying a new boom, and customers investing on this beautiful island today are demanding quality products that respond to climatic constraints. BWA and its partners offer certified aluminium products tested for wind and rain, and manufacturing accessories that meet the new demands of architects and customers worldwide," the company said.



Bioclimatic Pergola profiles. Stocked in the colours white and grey (175 x 175 beams).

Business World Aluminium will have a wide range of items in stock including tubes and corner profiles in the colours grey and white (100 x 100 x 2; 90 x 90 x 2 with cap; 40x80x2; 50x100x2; 50x29x2 and 30x30x2).

They will also have Nord System Tubular motors for rolling shutter in 50Hz and 60Hz on 50 Newtons; 100 Newtons; 120 Newtons and with radio controller option.

Additionally, a workshop punch machine will be available upon request.

Business World Aluminium (BWA) is located at Route de l'Esperance No. 12 Parc Phenix – in Grand Case (behind the airport). It is located near Sunny Dom. Call or WhatsApp them at tel: +590-690-476-423 or e-mail contact@bwa-distribution.com or check out their website at: www.bwa-distribution.com.

Check them out as of April 4!



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