



1

Benevides & Associates

About 8 years ago, **David Benevides (M.Arch.89)**, a newly registered architect and graduate of TUNS, started a small architectural firm in his native country of Bermuda along with his wife **Georgia Benevides**. Initially, as with all new firms, work trickled in, but through word of mouth, and with the good fortune to win second place in the national architecture competition, the reputation of the firm grew. The demand for buildings, especially houses, by the firm soon outgrew the ability of two people to keep up.

It became apparent that new staff would need to be recruited. David contacted a former classmate from his *alma mater* and asked him to look through the school and see if there were any graduating students who would be interested in working in Bermuda. As a result of that search, **Troy Harper (M.Arch.96)** was hired.

The following year, the firm again won an award in the annual architecture competition, and again the reputation of the firm grew. Three more gifted young Canadians, **Stephen Conger (M.Arch.91)**, **Lorin Brehaut (M.Arch.90)**, and the late **John Watson (M.Arch.90)**, each of whom had previous Bermuda work experience, came on board. Again the common connection was TUNS, and the additional talent allowed the company to expand.

In 1999 Benevides and Associates managed to win all three awards in the residential category, including second place for their own newly built house, and third place shared between Troy and David for a renovation of an old, historically significant house. That year David also won a National Trust award for his sensitive restoration of the Old Devonshire Post Office.

The success of the firm derives from an understanding of Bermuda's unique architecture. This tradition dates back to the early 1600s and has evolved over the centuries into the

buildings that are in demand today. Earlier great Bermudian architects such as **Will Onions**, who worked in the middle of the twentieth century, were able to develop the simpler patterns of traditional living into the context of a more contemporary lifestyle. David has tried to carry on that practice. The company's design philosophy shows a knowledge and respect for the history of the country without living in the past. It is this willingness to modernize and allow the country's unique architecture to renew itself which has commanded the respect of their clients.

Currently with a staff of nine, the company works out of an office in the downtown of the capital, Hamilton. Troy still works at the firm, and in keeping with its Atlantic Canadian connection, a draftsman from PEI (coincidentally also named Troy) also works with David. Over the years, faces in the office have changed, but the same design principles are what still guide the firm today.

Benevides and Associates is located at 31 Queen Street, Hamilton, Bermuda, tel: 441 292 0971, fax: 441 296 0091, URL: www.benevidesarchitects.com



2



3

1. Benevides and Associates. Seated, front: David and Georgia Benevides. Standing, left to right: Peter Schienning, John Watson, Troy Harper, Lorin Brehaut, Stephen Conger, Anne Pedro
2. Stentaway residence
3. Blueskies residence

