



A NEW TAKE ON A CLASSIC MAKE

By Nicola Garcia Photography by Dan Christaldi

WITH A GENTLE NOD TO THE PAST, WINDWARD SHINES BRIGHTLY INTO THE FUTURE

There are some houses that attempt to impress their guests with imitation grandeur, and then there are houses that don't need to rely on 'hat tricks and gimmicks.' The home on the corner lot of Cooper Hill, Sandy Lane, veiled behind ornate iron gates and coral stone walls is one of the latter; as distinguished as it is subtly reserved. Welcome to Windward.

The new owners, Nic and Nina Williamson, acquired Windward house in 2010, the house catching their attention with its understated charm. "We liked the lot, edged by the spectacular ravine cliff, but most of all, we liked the feel of the house" comments Mr. Williamson. When they took over the property, his goal was to turn this classic house into a contemporary home. He was particularly set in making Windward not just a beautiful feature, but also with a convenient living layout. "To me, a house must be, first and foremost, built for those who live there. The ideal house blends practicality with feel and impact."

Designed by Architect Bruce Jardine, the new Windward is now a two storey, five bedroom manse, if it was a suit and tie before it is now a tuxedo. The enormously tall front doors open inward and guests step straight into a vision, the entrance hall sets the tone for the rest of the house; elegant and refined luxury. A dual iron staircase arches around the room in a majestic fashion framing the first glimpses of the spectacular home. Here in the foyer presides a silvered bronze cheetah statue, the 'lady of the manor,' her regal pose casting an air of distinction while just behind her a full view through to the living room is like a welcoming gesture inviting guests in.

Four guest bedrooms are located on either side of the entrance, two on the ground floor, and two on the second floor. All en-suite, they have been uniquely decorated and although their layout is similar, each room has its own personality. The decor is



Formal dining area with view to garden

modern, combining English country style quaintness with lively Caribbean colours. The owners were keen to portray an even mix of vibrancy and calm, “not too busy but never boring.” This was accomplished through the meticulous attention of famed interior designer Lynne Pemberton and every room represents her signature style of blending intricate patterns with bold colours.

The master bedroom, its own oasis within the house, has all the additions of a luxury suite; a private study room with mini fridge, a spacious walk-in closet and bathroom with a stunning black and white marble-clad shower and a luxurious stand-alone tub. Off the master suite a private veranda overlooks the stunning pool and gardens, the perfect place for a respite to enjoy morning coffee or afternoon tea.

Downstairs, guests at Windward will be torn between spending time outdoors or lounging in the cool and inviting living area. This expansive room has two lounge areas, with plush couches and armchairs, the soft colour palette is in muted shades of crème, off white and egg shell. In contrast the furniture is accentuated by an array of patterned throw pillows in bright colours while ornate lamps and elaborate vases liven the tranquil mood. The seating arrangement is intimate and perfect for relaxing in comfort with a good book or entertaining company.

The media room was specifically built to indulge in the latest entertainment technology and offers a 56 inch smart TV and a wireless Sonas sound system. This room however is not all gadgets and gizmos: the built in bookcase displays an inspiring variety of collector’s edition hardback books, engaging in all sorts of interests - from the latest trends in fashion to a history of war - there is enough variation to suit any guest’s taste.

In the formal dining room an antler chandelier illuminates a country style table with seating for ten, fine meals can be enjoyed here or in the garden-side gazebo where guests can sit around a circular coral stone table and be charmed by the scents and sounds of a tropical evening.

For the interior decoration, Nic and Nina Williamson were keen to portray an even mix of calm and vibrancy - “not too busy, but never boring.” This criterion was accomplished with meticulous care by UK based interior designer Lynne Pemberton. Every room represents her signature style of blending intricate patterns and texture with bold colours.



Garden and pool view from the upstairs verandah



Windward at night



Master Bathroom



Lynne Pemberton designed the luxurious master bedroom in varied tones and textures of grey with vibrant pops of red. Avid art lovers, Nic and Nina carefully selected all of the art in the house themselves. The pictures seen in this room are fish prints on silk that show incredible detail and were purchased on one of the owners trips abroad.

Downstairs living space opens on both sides to allow cooling breezes to flow



Beautifully showcased throughout the home the owner's art collection holds pride of place as the couple are avid collectors, this adds another dimension to the cosy atmosphere. French doors open onto an airy veranda and this style of open plan design was part of the essential charm of the old Windward that Mr. Williamson did not wish to lose in the reconstruction. He comments "Though not built by Messel, the old Windward had a likeness about it - open and airy indoors but with an outdoors feeling." There is a similar ebb and flow to the new Windward's layout; the eye runs placidly from the living area onto the veranda and trickles down the steps into the garden scene.

Just like a family home the kitchen is the heart of the house. Thoughtfully outfitted with commercial grade equipment, spacious countertops, and an oversize island with countertop seating, perfect for casual family gatherings. The Williamsons wanted the kitchen used as a social area rather than just a place to prepare meals and its warmth comes not just from the stove but also from the well lived, inviting atmosphere.

A separate building houses an air conditioned gym equipped with cardio machines, free weights and an impressively versatile cable machine. For more leisurely pursuits a beautifully tiled pool is serviced by its own bar and bathroom for convenience while a mix of loungers and seating areas offer guests plenty of space for repose or larger gatherings with friends and family.

The terraced landscape contains a Koi pond, majestic trees and brightly coloured tropical plantings with meandering garden paths designed by Dr. John Webster. Viewing Windward from a distance reveals her beauty in its entirety, from its grand stature to its beautiful grounds and when lit at night, exudes an otherworldly charm.

Windward is managed by Dalmeran Property and is available for holiday rental. Interested persons can contact them on (246) 432-1120 or visit Dalmeran Property online at dalmeranproperty.com

Windward's kitchen is the heart of the house. Containing commercial quality equipment, it also has countertop seating; perfect for early breakfast or late night snacks. Compared to the old Windward, the new kitchen is a significant turnover.



Comfortable modern kitchen