



# DESIGNS OUT OF THE BLUE

TEXT BY JO WERNE

Let one think that all designers do is fluff pillows, tag along with Timothy DuPont as he begins a residential installation for a wealthy client in Montego Bay, Jamaica. President of Blue, a design company, inc. in Miami Beach, DuPont doesn't blink if the client wants her 28,000-square-foot villa in the resort of Round Tree finished in time for Christmas — and it's after Thanksgiving. DuPont charters a 727 cargo plane, sends 22 containers of furnishings to the island, flies there with his staff, goes through tedious custom inspections, unloads the containers and does the installation. However, Madame Client finds that a few days before Christmas she needs a Christmas tree skirt and a few other things. DuPont leases a Learjet (Madame pays) and gets the items to her *toute de suite*. "We make it happen," says the 42-year-old designer, who has trained himself to stay calm and deal with the laidback lifestyle of the islands where he does a lot of work, both commercial and residential. "You have to shift gears when working in the islands because 9 o'clock means 11 o'clock the next day." Somehow DuPont goes with the flow while meeting the demands of wealthy clients, such as Bob Pittman, former president and COO of AOL-Time Warner, and Bo Polk, chairman of MGM Studios, both of whom have villas at Round Tree. They believe his firm's pledge to "design, manage and locally install your project anywhere in the world."

"Our clients have anywhere from six to 10 homes. One client has 13 homes and a fleet of jets," reveals DuPont, who has designed everything from ice cream parlors to public spaces in grand hotels. "We keep growing mainly because of the level of service we provide. We meet unrealistic deadlines."

DuPont says his firm's involvement in a project "is more than just dressing up a building. Our involvement is deep and extensive, starting with early intensive coordination with the lead architects and ranging over many other disciplines and associated activities, such as landscape architecture, master planning and construction. This allows us to create an entire space, whether it is residential or public — as opposed to simply designing an interior — that reflects, supports and enhances the lifestyle of the occupants." In 1989 DuPont came to Miami from Michigan, where he had graduated from the University of Michigan and the Kendall School of Design in Grand Rapids. He worked for a design firm for a few years, then founded his own after his employer went out of business. He has opened a second design studio in Cape Town, South Africa and has eyes on Barcelona, Spain for a third. Why Blue for a company name? "I had the idea of creating a company that didn't have people's name in it. I wanted something simple, basic, one word — and most people like blue." ■

