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NEW FURNISHINGS
BY GEOFFREY
BEENE

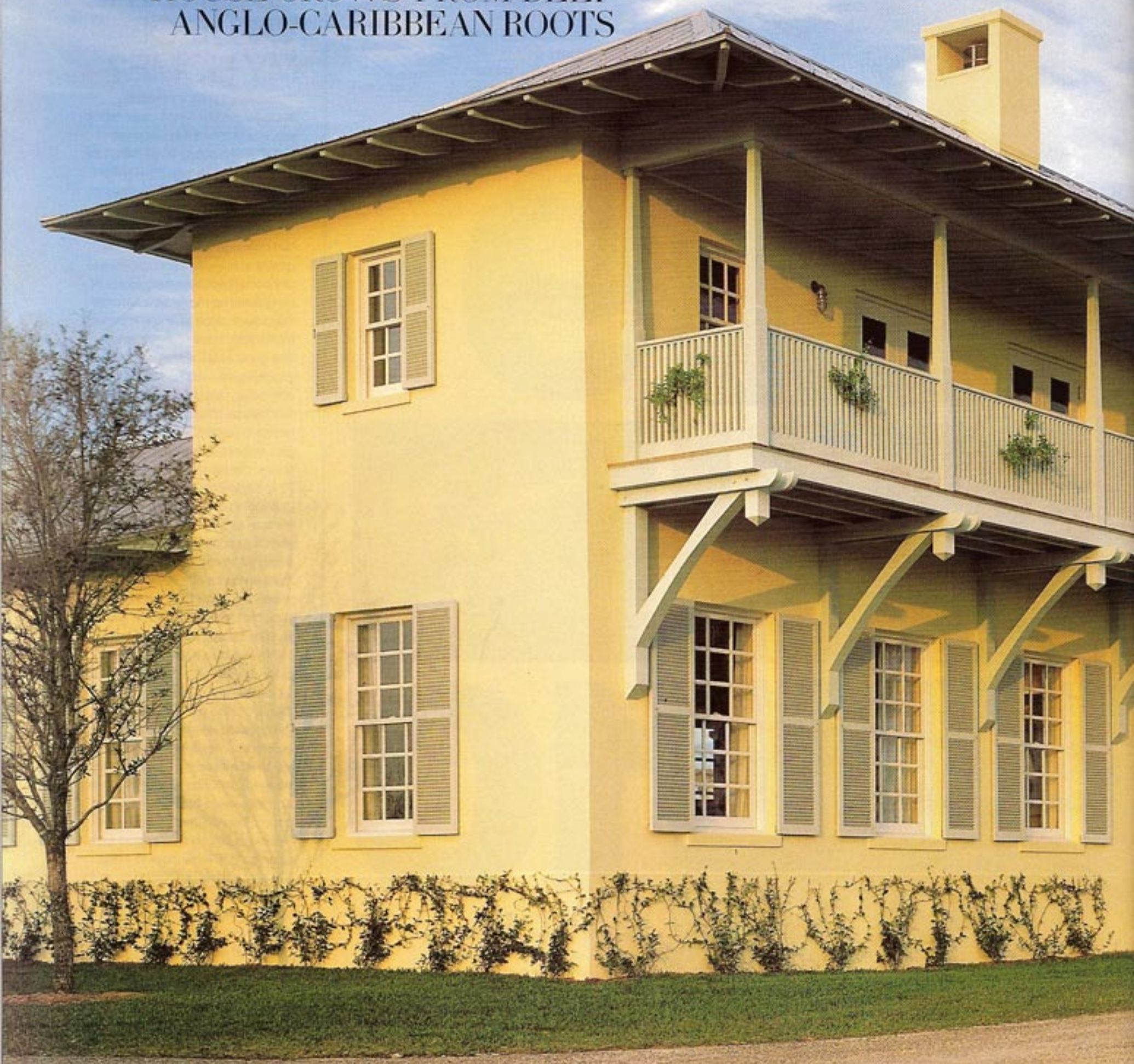


ARRAY OF LIGHT

IN SOUTH FLORIDA, A NEW
HOUSE GROWS FROM DEEP
ANGLO-CARIBBEAN ROOTS

Driving north out of Miami, Andres Duany surveys the glitzy buildings that hug Florida's shore like a tropical depression. "The elegance of simplicity has been completely lost," the Cuban-born architect laments. "In Palm Beach, it's all marble and mirrors." Only when he gets to

Windsor, outside Vero Beach, does he relax. Duany and his wife, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, created this upscale town, basing its zoning code on the mellow Anglo-Caribbeanism of Florida's past. Then they designed this "beach house" just a shell's throw from a palm-lined main boulevard.



Seventy miles north of Palm Beach, two architects created beauty not with overt ornament but with the repetition of simple West Indies motifs. The facade benefits from the absence of garage doors—one reason the planners made sure almost every house in Windsor is accessible from a back alley.





THE BEST ROOM IN THE HOUSE IS A COURTYARD WITH A LAP POOL CENTER

Confident without grabbing for attention, the 4,000-square-foot house uses the materials Duany and Plater-Zyberk chose for the whole town—pale stucco, metal or cedar-shake roofing, double-hung windows. “We didn’t want a ‘masterpiece,’” says Duany of the house’s restrained style. “A masterpiece wouldn’t fit in.”

Best known for their design of such enclaves as Seaside, also in Florida, Duany and Plater-Zyberk consider themselves town planners first, architects second. Indeed, this is the first house they’ve designed for one of their own communities. Built near the entrance to what will someday be a 416-acre town with 300 homes (designed by other architects), the house does not stand aloof in the middle of its lot. Rather, it meets the street on three sides of its 90-by-100-foot property, leaving the center open as a private “yard.”

And yet, like a person who finds inner peace by helping others, the house got better inside as it reached out sociably to its neighbors. By massing the house along the edges of its site, the architects created a C-shape only one room deep. Every room opens onto the street and onto the inner court, giving the house cross breezes and enough sunlight to turn cotton slipcovers transparent (top).

Part pool deck, part dining terrace, part hallway from which every other room is

reached, the courtyard, Duany says, “forces you outside, which is the best way to live in this climate.” From the pool area, an outdoor stairway leads up to the second floor, where a pair of identical guest rooms overlook Windsor’s polo fields



(formerly a grapefruit orchard). “The house may not be a masterpiece,” Duany concedes, “but the town may be a masterpiece someday, and this house is ready to be part of that town.” **MI** Produced by Timothy J. Ward, Nisi Berryman; Written by Fred A. Bernstein; Photographs by Steven Brooke.

Every room has a view of the courtyard, where a 40' lap pool doubles as a reflecting pond. See Resources.

