

# TURKS & CAICOS

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# inside out

architect Ron Shaw blurs the distinction between out there  
and in here

*Mandalay photography by Steve Passmore*







**C**reating stunning architecture that incorporates the nuances of Caribbean living with a luxe style is a signature of R.A. Shaw Designs. This is evident walking along the quiet shores of Long Bay where the distinct symmetry between the homes R.A. Shaw Designs founder Ron Shaw has created, and the landscapes they encompass are easily spotted. However, it only takes a moment to realize Mandalay is something of an anomaly within his impressive portfolio.

The salient gate house at the entrance to the drive of Mandalay lets you know you are about to experience something extraordinary. "You actually drive through the house," Shaw says, eyes beaming as he walks through the property.

Stepping down the pathway leading through the orchard garden, it feels as if one has entered Shaw's own dreams. Peeking through arches that open onto what appears to be a waterfall streaming through the center of the home, it is as if someone is sitting in the center of the pool. Ron pauses for a moment, the sides of his mouth rising into a smile, and says softly, "Isn't that amazing? It looks as if he is sitting in the pool."

A few steps beyond the main entrance reveals the reality of the illusion: The man is relaxing on the sofa in a sunken lounge area centered on an open fire pit. It's precisely the effect Ron Shaw had in mind, when he dreamed up Mandalay.

Shaw has been designing homes in the Turks and Caicos Islands since 1998. His specialty: Designing luxury residences that capture the essence of open Caribbean living.

When most people decide to build their dream home, they seek out an architect who

**The view from the center of the home is a spectacular one of Caribbean sea and the architectural marvel of Mandalay.**





The pool flows under the house, reflecting the lights of the entry way under the living room and bedrooms.

acts more like a caterer who works from a set menu. "In most cases clients give me all the ingredients and I just bake it," Shaw says. But once in a while, someone comes along and challenges the architect to create the dream for them. Seemingly an architect's wish, this made for the most challenging assignment of Shaw's career. "The client gave me a completely free hand."

Shaw used the freedom to draw a home that encompasses the countless small but impactful details he has spent his career perfecting. Small things driven by a big passion for form and function.

Mandalay totals 8,119 square feet under roof, but that does not include the 4,114 square feet of outside space that's still part of the home. It begins as you pass under an outdoor living room when entering the

house. From this second-story perch, views of the sea become the central theme.

Arched pathways accented with lounge chairs and sofas feature prominently across the property, part of Shaw's approach to incorporating the natural topography into the design of the home. "The house flows naturally with the shape of the dune," a signature of Shaw's Long Bay designs.

With such spectacular natural beauty,



A server allows for a myriad of smart home features, including defined lighting and temperature control throughout the house.







Resembling a simple yet elegant palace, the front of Mandalay gives only a hint of the extraordinary environment within.



Aesthetics are considered even in the curve of an outdoor shower for rinsing sand and salt, echoing the arches throughout the house. Lines and curves offer beautiful visuals, such as this (center) in the sitting room. Lush vegetation is key in creating the synergy between indoors and outside. These two views (left, far left) of the open kitchen illustrate the stunning use of lighting to enhance modern living. Countertops — even in the baths — are back lit for a soft and subtle glow.





The living room chandelier echoes the lines of water flowing from a fountain.

Shaw takes care to offer the feeling of openness. In either of the two exterior bedrooms, someone lying in bed has unobstructed views of the water features.

"I wanted to create the feeling of being poolside from inside the bedrooms." A masterpiece unto itself, the swimming pool extends the complete length of the inside of the home covering 4,039 square feet. Beginning with shallow pools constructed beneath the second-story living space, the water features rise up over a sensational waterfall, interrupted only by the lounge with the central fire pit. On the upper level, the pool continues to flow under a bridge that connects the kitchen

to the second living room until it reaches an infinity edge, where it flows down towards the sea.

With a home so spectacular, entertaining is certain. A modern open kitchen is encased by windows that create the feeling of cooking beachside. "I wanted the kitchen to be open to the beach, but at the same time, on a windy day, you can close the doors and still feel like you are outdoors," Shaw explains.

Entry to each room is through archways that vary in size and height, giving the house an impressive telescoping perspective as your eyes wander taking in the expansive architectural wonder.

The open living room offers views of sky and sea, with a hidden projector that won't spoil the lines when not in use.





**A bridge over the pool connects the kitchen to the master suite, allowing residents and guests to enjoy the outdoors as they move through the house.**

*Provo Pictures Photography  
styling by Stacie Steensland*

Custom wooden doors more than eight feet high make for a grand entrance to the master bedroom, where the ocean is visible from every angle. The master bedroom also offers its own private get-away within the house, giving residents the choice of lounging Jacuzzi-side or enjoying the peace of nature in an outdoor shower that seems to rain tranquility.

Perhaps the most unusual room is the owner's office, which the client wanted ocean side. "One request he had was to be able to work remotely from the home." How one can work with the ocean calling you through the floor to ceiling windows is anyone's guess. If you ask the owner, he will tell you, "With a smile."

Stopping briefly on the terrace, Ron Shaw enjoys a moment deep in thought. Gazing at the marvel that is Mandalay, he admits, while he enjoys seeing his vision executed so beautifully, that isn't the point. "At the end of the day, the satisfaction of the client is the most important part for me."

## mandalay

- on Long Bay, Providenciales
- designed by architect Ron Shaw
- built by Projotech
- private home, managed and rented by Island Getaways





Architect Ron Shaw designs homes to showcase the most beautiful feature of living in Turks & Caicos.