

# Modern Twist To Traditional Home

A 350-year-old property receives a loving renovation to suit a young couple

In World War Two, John H. Young II and his wife Nelga opened their home to soldiers as a billet, sparking an idea that would shape the rest of their lives.

They would open The Ledgelets Cottage Colony, which would lead, in time, to the creation of The Lantana Colony Club.

The Ledgelets property consists of the main house and seven cottages. The main house dates back to the late 1700s; the cottages were developed over the years, as the Young's hospitality enterprise grew.

When Lantana closed in 1998 after 40 years, The Ledgelets cottages were converted into long-term residential rentals, but grandson John H. Young III and his wife Alison have been taking a step back in time and renovating the buildings to reopen them as a tourist destination.

They have almost completed the renovation of their private home, the Main House, which is central to The Ledgelets Cottage Colony and operation.

They currently have a one-bedroom cottage, named Pool House, in operation as a vacation rental. Mr. and Mrs. Young hope to have a three-



The Ledgelets Main House

bedroom cottage opened by May 2017, with a two-bedroom cottage to follow.

The Young's private home is a fascinating mix of the very modern and the very old—it used to be home to a ship's captain and dates back 350 years.

The couple have considerable experience in the tourism sector, having both been part of the management team that redesigned and developed Tucker's Point. They started renovating their home in 2014 and have finished the top two floors and are about to start on the ground floor.

The master bedroom is a great example of where old meets new. On one wall is a custom-made cabinetry unit with a flat-screen TV and gas fireplace. But look up, and you are

The Family Room



transported back hundreds of years.

Mr. Young wanted to make the room brighter, as it had small windows. Before he did any development, however, he was advised to look at what might be hidden by the tray ceiling.

He's glad he did. The original cedar beams were still in place, and now, after using gallons of oil to protect and restore them, they are the outstanding feature of the room.

"I wanted to remove the windows to install larger ones, but was advised to take a look above the tray ceiling first. I made a small hole and saw the beams," said Mr. Young.



The en-suite bathroom was painted pink and had a [mirror] glass ceiling but that has changed completely and is now, according to Mrs. Young, done in the “retro 60s Mediterranean” or “high-end Bohemia” style. The result is bright and light.

To honour the original quirky style, Mrs. Young reused some of the mirrored ceiling in the hallway and had the wood sashes painted Bermuda Pink.

The kitchen also has significant changes. Originally three rooms – the kitchen, a bedroom, and a bathroom – it has all been opened up with a laundry room cleverly disguised inside

**The Master Bath**





## INTERIORS

fitted cabinets.

The cabinets are a story in their own right. With no experience of measuring spaces for a kitchen renovation, Mrs. Young got out her tape measure and measured and then measured again, making sure every nook and cranny was accurate.

Those measurements were sent to D. A. Day Woodworking, Stowe, Vermont, where the cabinets were hand-made and shipped to Bermuda for fitting.

Because of the old Bermuda stone walls in the house, the back of each cabinet was designed to be fitted slightly away from the wall to protect them from dampness.

The ground floor has not yet seen the brush of restoration; here there are fascinating insights into how life was for guests when The Ledgelets Cottage Colony was operating.

A small but fully kitted-out bar is still there; behind it is a cabinet that looks like a fake bookcase. According to Mr. Young, rumour has it that guests such as James Thurber and Carol Burnett would write made-up titles and authors onto the binders.



Guest bath and bedroom





Hinson Room



Dining room looking out to the patio

Suffice to say, those titles are too rude to reproduce in a family publication. However, Mr. Young is going to restore the cabinet doors and make a feature out of them as an art piece.

Plans for the ground floor are to keep the huge French windows that lead out on a patio near the pool, refurbish the wide Bermuda cedar floorboards, update the bar – which will

be an honour bar – and turn it into a Club Room for guests, complete with games. The Bermuda cedar beams also will remain.

A small part of the ground floor will be split off to form a private entrance to the Young's home.

“My grandparents always had our house as their own and converting three cottages into tourism products, keeping them intimate, detailed orientated, and

Perfectly executing the vision of the most discerning architects and clients, our name has become synonymous with quality, value and accountability. We are so pleased to now offer this same commitment to quality and stellar craftsmanship to marine projects, via sister company, Atlantic Construction & Marine Limited.

We are honored to have been selected as the General Contractor for the Ledgelet project.

Truly our pleasure to work with such a talented team in the restoration of this beautiful Bermuda property with such traditional artistry.

Congratulations on the Ledgelets completion.



T.292.4452 







**Congratulations to Ledgelets on a spectacular transformation!**

**We are thankful you chose Escape for your lighting and home decor.**



4 Mill Creek Road  
Pembroke HM 02 Bermuda  
info@escbermuda.com  
www.escbermuda.com  
441 292 7269



**Congratulations to the Young family!**

We are proud to have built you beautiful custom doors, windows and shutters for Ledgelets.



Expert Craftsmen. Extraordinary Results

#99 Middle Road,  
Devonshire  
Tel: 236-2886  
Email: info@bsr.bm  
Web: www.bsr.bm



family style, will bring back a 1950's and 1960's experience.

"This type of old Bermuda is disappearing; it is magical. We want cocktails by the pool; we want it to be intimate and experiential," said Mrs. Young.

And Mr. Young added, "We just decided we would drop everything and do this full-time. We made the decision to make this our business, and we feel

optimistic with the America's Cup coming, but there is life beyond the America's Cup, and we have to use it as a platform.

"My grandfather, who swam for Bermuda in the Berlin Olympics, would travel the world, and he would sketch about what Lantana would look like. He brought these ideas back when he made Lantana happen," said Mr. Young.



The Master Bedroom



Main house kitchen at The Ledgelets



“We have been going through photographs from the 1950s and 1960s to get feel for what made it so successful then. We believe that the issue is about emotion and what people feel when they get here.

“I like the idea that my grandfather worked so hard and left this for someone to do something with. It would be great by me if it was still around in 350 years’ time.”

More details The Ledgelets is at: [www.theledgelets.com](http://www.theledgelets.com).

## Key Suppliers

Atlantic Construction Limited  
BAC  
BAE  
Benevides and Associates Architects Bermuda  
BS&R Group  
Escape  
ESC Limited  
Rowe Spurling Paint Company Ltd

The BAC Group are proud to have been a part of the renovation and building of two featured properties: *Ledgelets* for air conditioning, plumbing & solar energy solutions and *Serendipity Cottage* for plumbing fixtures.

BAC Group 

There's no  
**PLUMBING**  
job too big

or too small.

**AIR CONDITIONING  
SYSTEMS**  
for Bermuda's climate – all year round.

Bringing performance  
and value to  
**SOLAR ENERGY  
SOLUTIONS**

 **BAC**  
GROUP OF COMPANIES

 **BAE**  
297-3639  
[www.bae.bm](http://www.bae.bm)

 **EMS**  
298-6238  
[www.ems.bm](http://www.ems.bm)

 **BUE**  
292-5372  
[www.universal.bm](http://www.universal.bm)

 **BiL**  
292-0881

9 Mill Creek Road / Pembroke HM 05 / Tel: 441-292-0881 / Fax: 441-292-6887 [www.bac.bm](http://www.bac.bm)

## Benevides and Associates Architects Bermuda

Bamboo Gate, 11 Harbour Rd, Paget, Bermuda  
[www.benevidesarchitects.com](http://www.benevidesarchitects.com), 441-292-0971



The complete resource guide for property developers and construction decision makers.

To read the magazine online, go to [www.bermudamedia.bm](http://www.bermudamedia.bm)

**BERMUDAMedia**  
.....