



BUILDING PRODUCTS FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IRMA TESTED
IRMA PROVEN







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# **BUILDING MATERIALS FOR THE CARIBBEAN CLIMATE - HOW TO SELECT FOR YOUR PROJECT.**



### WHO IS EUROCARIB AND WHY USE US?

Eurocarib located on Tortola is a supplier of building materials. Owned and operated by **Stephen Cooper** a professionally qualified Chartered Builder and Building Surveyor, Stephen brings a lifetime of practical experience to assist Clients to consider the many options available and assist in the selection of materials best suited for the specific project in mind. Providing the Client with an experienced overview of materials available, their strengths and weaknesses, cost comparisons, delivery timeframes, transport logistics and to provide post-purchase site support.

In addition to materials selection and supply, Eurocarib can arrange inward shipment, customs clearing and delivery to site, all at a pre-agreed firm cost, confirmed in a formal supply quotation.

If required, Eurocarib can arrange for the installation of supplied materials, ensuring the installation meets with the Manufacturers recommendations using the specified fasteners and sealants etc., of great importance especially when installing materials which need to resist hurricane forces.

Eurocarib's BVI location ensures a prompt response to any subsequent site issues requiring early resolution. Consolidation of materials in Florida prior to shipping, into full container loads can offer client project savings.

www.eurocarib.com provides some helpful text about selection of materials for the Caribbean climate.

This product range overview shows a selection of the more popular products, however we are experienced in sourcing and supplying other building materials on a project specific basis.











# **ROOFING**

From Prefabricated, factory made hardwood roof structures to a wide selection of roof coverings including novel synthetic thatches.

We also supply roof material "packages" which include roofing felts, insulation, hurricane fasteners and gutters.

# **DOORS & WINDOWS**

eurocarib

Hurricane Resistant Impact Rated frames









# **DOORS & WINDOWS**

# eurocarib

Custom made and Standard Door Designs













# **LOUVRES**

Popular to allow Trade Wind ventilation, Louvres are available in several designs, sizes and materials.









# **SHUTTERS**

Shutters can provide decorative style with practical storm resistance, we offer a wide range of options.













# **NATURAL STONE**

Coral stone quarried in the Caribbean is available in several surface finishes, equally beautiful externally or internally.

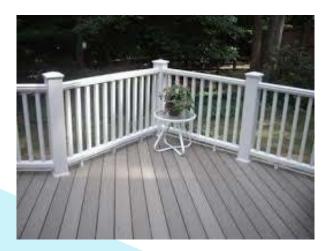




# **BALUSTRADES**

We offer a wide selection of materials and designs.







# **VENETIAN PLASTER**

Adds a touch of luxury internally or externally. Unique colours and textures can provide a very long life, low maintenance surface finish.











# **CABINETRY**

Kitchen design, supply and installation available with a range of construction options. Countertops in Granite, Quartz, Corian or Composites.

Cabinetry (Video link)





# **HURRICANE FABRIC**

Hurricane screens, rollers and shutters.

Fabric Shield Hurricane Protection (Video link)
Armor Screen Hurricane Protection (Video link)









# **INSECT SCREENING**

We offer a wide selection of materials and designs.

Insect Screens (Video link)





# **EXTERIOR DECKING**

With a choice of low maintenance and "green" composite deck boards or more traditional hardwood.









# **HARDWARE**

To resist the marine environment and hurricane wind pressures, in contemporary or traditional designs we have a terrific selection.





## **Roofing**

This is one of the most important areas of the external building envelope as it must resist the vagaries of the Caribbean climate.

In addition to providing an attractive appearance the roof covering must be fastened to the roof structure with the correct fastener specification. Roofs have "wind zones", higher pressure zones are found at the roof perimeters (eaves, verge, hips and ridge) which must be considered.

Metal roofs are favoured rather than individual concrete or clay tile which can become dangerous "flying missiles" in a hurricane. In recognition of the solar heat gain generated below metal roofs, High Temperature roofing underlay (felt) is recommended, this specialist product is not normally available "on-island".

1 ½" thick foil-faced solid bat insulation should be incorporated above the underlay and below the covering to both reflect solar heat gain (especially important if air-conditioned rooms below) and to deaden heavy rainfall noise transmission, which can become a nuisance at night.

Metal sheet roofing such as Standing-Seam or Corrugated is popular and is available in many designs and colours, however care to select the best metal "gauge" or thickness and the depth of the protective coating is important to extend the roof covering life. For water-side locations, the use of aluminium rather than steel, (which carries about a 15% cost premium), should be considered to avoid corrosion of cut ends and unprotected edges.

For a tile, shake or shingle look we have found Decra Tile's range of products to be impressive. The multiple impression steel tile has an innovative metal coating which over time "self-seals" any site cutting enabling the manufacturer to offer a 50 year worldwide warranty. The Decra product has a pre-sealed, stone chipped top surface and is suitable for the collection of potable drinking water. The standard fastener specification must be enhanced for the Caribbean region to withstand wind loading.

Freight costs need consideration, Standing Seam does not "nest" or sit together tightly when packed for transport, so requires large crates, by comparison Decra Tiles pack tightly and a large surface roof area can be transported on a few pallets.

Please see: www.decra.com

#### Pre-Fabricated Residential Pitched Roofs.

Whilst on this topic, for prestige projects we have supplied complete residential pitched roofs, pre-made in off-site factories from selected hardwoods. Pre finished with the Clients preferred stains, these high quality roofs can significantly boost site progress times and provide a high specification and appearance roof.

### **Doors and Windows**

Another significant element of the external buildings envelope. Both frame and fastener selection along with the correct installation are of importance to resist hurricane forces.

CGI windows from Florida offer the strongest aluminium residential frames accredited by the independent "Miami Dade" test authority. Available in both budget and higher performance product ranges, they offer a wide selection of window and swing door designs. Custom made to size in a selection of both standard colours and custom wood grain finishes, they incorporate features to replicate traditional wood frame designs.

The higher quality "Estate Range" can for a small cost premium, incorporate an improved glass specification offering greater impact resistance.

The robust stainless steel three-point door locking systems provide good security whilst avoiding the over complexities of multi-point locking systems often found on plastic doors systems.

This companies products provided excellent performance during hurricane Irma. Click to see Eurocarib's "Post-Irma Client Testimonial sheet". See last page.

Please see: www.cgiwindows.com

## **Operable Louvres**

To obtain permanent cross-flow room ventilation, an attractive feature in a hot climate, Operable Louvres with insect screens in both doors and windows can be attractive. Normally aluminium frames with either wood, aluminium or glass blades in various louvre blade widths are available. The larger blades improve visibility when open.

This type of frame due to its construction, cannot provide hurricane resistance certification. If required additional storm protection measures such as hurricane fabric should be considered. (See more later).

Frame construction strength and ability to resist forced-entry varies, Eurocarib have several frame designs available.

### **Sliding Doors**

Specialist Florida aluminum sliding door manufacturer "Plaza Door" have been in business for over 50 years and make

impact rated sliding doors to any custom design. We have supplied and installed doors almost 12 feet tall in Virgin Gorda and 50 feet wide in Tortola. Retractable corner doors, exterior open-pocket park doors and more. When a project has large masonry openings to protect, Plaza Doors are a high quality, cost competitive option.

Slim yet strong door frame extrusions maximize light and view, several grades of impact resistance are available to allow selection to best suit the elevation and exposure of the individual site.

Plaza use the same quality components to make both their sliding insect screens and door frames, thus avoiding early screen frame failure often found in inferior sliding door designs.

The novel self-draining door threshold design provides excellent water resistance without providing a trip hazard.

Click to see Eurocarib's "Post-Irma Client Testimonials" which heavily feature thivs excellent door. See last page.

Please see: www.plazadoor.com

### **Other Aluminium Frames**

Several other frame options are available for consideration such as Fixed Louvres, Lift and Slide, Sliding Bi-Fold doors and windows. Please enquire for details.

### **Hardwood Frames**

Wooden doors and windows provide "The" traditional Caribbean look for a home, however the projects budget must be adequate to allow for these premier quality products.

Custom made hardwood frames are manufactured by specialist manufacturer Woodenbridge of Nicaragua who produce an extremely high quality product using environmentally sound lumber sources, offer a choice of several species, solar kiln drying, traditional construction techniques and the latest hardware technologies and wood surface finishes to meet the project requirements.

These superb quality products must be seen to be appreciated.

Please see: www.woodenbridgetrading.com

Eurocarib also offer a range of un-finished hardwood doors and frames in standard sizes and popular designs. Manufactured in Brazil using environmentally sound lumber sources this range provides a more cost competitive range of interior or exterior door designs.

### **Door and Window Shutters**

Door and window shutters can provide a decorative and practical method to provide storm protection for a Caribbean Home. Traditionally made from wood, they require regular maintenance and re-finishing.

A low maintenance, lifetime-warranted alternative material to wood are composites (comprising glass fibre, aluminium, resins etc. with factory applied colour finishes). Available in a selection of traditional shutter designs and in a wide range of standard or custom colours, we have found these to be a popular option.

Atlantic Premium Shutters from South Carolina offer a matching range of black finished stainless steel hardware accessories including several hinge and hinge pintol options, (needed to position the shutter when both open and closed in the desired position).

Available made to order within size and weight limits, these have been used in the BVI with great success.

Please see: www.atlanticpremiumshutters.com

### Floor and Deck Finishes

Tiles are available in an almost limitless choice of designs and base materials. Porcelain which are normally "through-colour" are a better choice than Ceramic which show the base colour if chipped. If using a manufactured rather than natural tile in outdoor or wet locations look for tile with a slip-resistant surface.

Natural clay or stone can provide a nice feel and a popular local Caribbean product is Coral Stone. Available in several grades, the "filled" or "filled and honed" tile avoids the problem of dirt-attracting surface cavities. Coral Stone is equally attractive both internally and externally as can be seen in the photographs.

If the project needs at least 5000 sq. feet of stone, considerable cost savings can be found by importing full containers directly from the Caribbean quarry.

If the budget allows, Jerusalem Stone from Egypt provides a beautiful natural floor covering much superior to the Mediterranean Travertines. See back cover for photo.

Externally if wood plank decking is required, consider low maintenance Composite Decking to avoid the regular cleaning and re finishing work associated with hardwood. *See later.* 

### **Balustrades**

Open air decks are a popular feature in a warm climate which need perimeter safety guards. Traditionally wood construction was popular, however as mentioned, wood requires maintenance.

Several alternatives are now available, from traditional look polymer railing systems, stainless steel posts and cable rails, to glass balustrades with a selection of anchor designs horizontally fastened through the glass sheet or horizontally embedded into the deck floor.

Decisions on the type of balustrade to be used should be made early as the positioning of concrete reinforcement within the floor slab to avoid conflict with balustrade post needs to be considered.

### **Wall and Ceiling Finishes**

A beautiful high quality alternative to paint which works well internally and externally in the Caribbean climate is **Venetian Plaster**. This material has been used for hundreds of years and is the material used on the intricately painted walls and ceilings of ancient Italian buildings.

Lime based, it resists mould and mildew and fine seismic cracking self-repairs. As the white lime is pigmented to the Clients colour preferences, it offers an extremely long life without the need to re finish.

Available in any colour or colour combination, and with optional granular additives for textured finishes, this natural product offers a beautiful and unique surface finish.

In high traffic areas, wet rooms or when applied externally, clear neutral sealants are lightly applied to increase the resistance to scuffs and scratches. We have used Venetian Plaster within shower stalls rather than wall tile with great success.

Please see: www.firmolux.com

### **Cabinetry and Countertops**

Factory made cabinetry provides a more professional finish and appearance than locally made alternatives. The huge range of specialist accessories available can enhance the performance of an individually designed kitchen or bathroom.

Eurocarib have designed, supplied and installed many kitchens over the years and today recommend the following manufacturers ranges which allow a choice of design and cabinet construction materials.

- European styling with a wide range of contemporary designs. Made from composites with a full five year guarantee. These are a really good quality range. Please see <a href="https://www.symphony-group.co.uk">www.symphony-group.co.uk</a>
- American more traditionally styled designs, plywood boxes with hardwood doors and accessories. Please see
   <u>www.jsicabinetry.com</u>
- Custom Made All Hardwood Cabinetry. Any style or design. All cabinet parts are made from environmentally sourced species. Supplied fully assembled. All finishes supplied to the Clients specification. Please ask for more information.

Today most popular countertops are solid surface.

Competitively priced "Corian" from DuPont provides a practical and attractive surface in a huge choice of colours and designs. Where budget is especially important, we have access to a limited colour range of Corian at very good prices. The European cabinet manufacturers offer several laminate tops at very competitive prices, these are featured in all their promotional cabinetry photographs.

Quartz which is similar in price to Granite needs less surface maintenance and offers better stain resistance than Granite so is perhaps the most popular counter top surface in use today.

A wide range of complimentary sink tops (including the European integral draining board options) can be supplied including a selection of nice faucets.

### <u>Hurricane Protection for Doors, Windows and Open Decks or Verandahs</u>

To improve storm resistance of the buildings external envelope additional protection can often be helpful. Existing frames may not be storm rated, or may contain operable louvres. Wood frame surfaces near beaches can become abraded by wind driven sand.

Open decks or verandahs may need to be enclosed, often to provide secure temporary storage areas for out-door chairs and plant pots.

Several custom made aluminium protection systems are available as well as simple plywood sheets, temporarily nailed across openings, however all are visually unattractive, heavy and cumbersome to handle and a nuisance to store.

Hurricane Fabric is a fully certified, lightweight and clean alternative to the traditional alternatives. Daylight penetrates through the fabric allowing visibility within the protected rooms, especially helpful during power outages.

Custom made to size panels are installed using proprietary fasteners externally mounted over door and window openings. For larger verandahs, several alternative fastener designs, allow for the secure installation of the larger custom made protection panels.

Horizontal aluminium 2"x6" tubes, temporarily positioned across large glass doors or windows can be used to "distance" the fabric away from the external glass surface to better deflect air-bourne missiles.

Eurocarib will design, measure and install the fabric and fastening systems, the panels are then folded or rolled and stored in tubes or bags until needed. Visible stainless bolt heads in the masonry around the openings can be painted to disquise.

For direct wall surface mounted installations please see: www.wayne-dalton.com and see fabric shield.

For more customized requirements please see: www.armorscreen.com

### **Insect Screening**

Typically in the Caribbean insect screens are located only at door and window positions. Where possible the screens should be purchased together with the original door and window frames to ensure they are compatible and work well together.

Sliding screens provide a robust and low maintenance option, however are unsuitable for some applications such as sliding / bi-folding doors.

Roller retractable (either horizontal or vertical) or Pleated "concertina type" screens are popular, but are unsuited for use in short term rental properties as care in operation is essential. Roller screens can be manual or motorized and are available for very large openings above 20 feet wide. In high wind, they can be pushed out of their perimeter tracks.

These types of screens should where possible be located inside the door frame to reduce the build-up of salt laden air fouling the mechanism. Pleated screen cassettes can more easily be replaced than the more complex roller screen parts.

Other options include swing screen doors (popular with French Doors) which can be fitted with self-closing hinges or lightweight automatic door closers, care to ensure adequate space to operate is required.

Hanging screens which can be a little unsightly offer a fairly robust and cost effective screening method. These are custom made to size and are supported on a top horizontal rod. Attached to the perimeter of the frame with double sided tape, have weights sewn into the bottom hem and magnetic tabs at the central vertical opening.

### **Exterior Decking**

Exterior decking is a popular feature in the Caribbean. Traditionally wood has been the preferred deck surface material with hardwood providing a longer life. IPE has been widely used, today a greater selection of species are available.

Composite boards are now taking greater market share due the their maintenance free qualities and termite resistance. They are broadly comparable in cost with hardwood decking.

Composite deck boards are available in 2"x 6" and 1" x 6" nominal sizes, standard lengths of 16, 20 or 24 feet are available to minimise off cut waste-age. 2" thick boards can span 24" joist centres, 1" normally needs 16" centres.

Care should be taken to check what material is used in the boards centre body. Some use a cellulose or wood flour filler within a UV resisting exterior wrapper. We have seen this wood filler absorb moisture and support mould growth which then needs bleach cleaning.

Our preference is for Tandeck which incorporates recycled plastic bottles in the core with a co-extruded exterior UV skin. Offering the "green-est" material option.

Tandeck is available in a variety of colours all with a wood grain textured surface. The new 1" thick board has a really nice grain surface finish on all four sides.

Boards should be fastened with proprietary 316 stainless steel screws. There are several fastener designs available some with novel discreet methods.

Tandeck can be provided in larger section sizes, we have supplied 6"x 6" to provide a maintenance free alternative to wood.

Please see: www.tandeck.com

### **Hardware**

Custom made wooden doors, windows, shutters, cabinetry etc. all need hardware. Locally available materials tend to be of poor quality and design and can quickly fail in the aggressive Caribbean climate.

Eurocarib represent the UK's "The Bath Knob Shop" a specialist supplier of hardware which has been used in this region for over 40 years.

Traditional materials such as un-lacquered brass or solid dark bronze will perform well in this environment and many attractive designs are available. Where a more contemporary look is desired, polished or satin finishes applied over brass provide a much better performing and wider design selection than stainless steel.

Recognising the growing hurricane strengths in recent years, a new range of increased strength door bolts has been introduced for the Caribbean which have proven to be of great interest in the region.

Please see: www.tbks.co.uk



On September 6th, 2017 Hurricane Irma, the worst Atlantic Hurricane in history ravaged the BVI causing billions of dollars of property damage.

Recorded as a Category 5 storm (the highest category), calculations show that wind speeds were category 7 or 8 with additional tornadoes.

Hear what our Clients say:



My house roof, door and windows all stayed intact apart from a few bruises from flying debris. I believe your windows saved the day for me and people have been asking where I got them from and I have been recommending you.

~ Peter Vanzoost, Tortola



We feel very grateful and blessed that our home survived the storm, we are now firm fans of Plaza Sliding Doors which even though over the maximum tested panel size, withstood Irma.

which withstood Hurricane Irma.

~ Larry and Beverly Nuckols, Nail Bay, Virgin Gorda



As suppliers of high quality building materials, selected for their suitability for use in the

Caribbean Climate, we have been delighted to receive so many supportive messages from

our past Clients, thankful that they paid the premium for higher quality doors and windows

And of course I need to buy you a large drink as you saved our house with the hurricane doors and windows.

~ Dr. Nick Lee, Long Bay, Tortola



I am pleased to report that our new Plaza sliding doors purchased last summer survived Irma, despite a direct hit on our home on Great Camanoe, our other sliding doors downstairs purchased from another company did not.

I want to order more Plaza Doors.

I want to order more Plaza Dool

~ Professor Enrique Lavernia



We have already contacted Brett about new hardwood doors and windows, we lost them all, except the Hardwood sliding doors we bought from you which faired very well.

~ Barry Ritter, Virgin Gorda





Despite losing the roof, these commercial glass walls in central Road Town, supplied and installed by Eurocarib withstood Hurricane Irma.



Your Hurricane Fabric is the "Bees Knees", I am telling everyone about it. I watched lightweight garden furniture, inside the protected patio hardly move during the storm.

~ Phil Aspinall, Tortola



The Condo Owners are delighted that the Atlantic hurricane shutters from Eurocarib held up and prevented damage to the windows.

~ Stephen Martin, Project Manager, Nanny Cay



The eight Plaza sliding doors in our house at Leverick Bay, North Sound, saved our house when Irma hit. During the first half of the storm, when the wind blew from the north directly at our house, all the Plaza Doors held, our house remained dry, and most importantly, our roof remained in place. After the eye of Irma passed, extremely low pressure caused one of the sliding glass panels to pop out on to our deck, without breaking the glass! Your technicians were able

to place it back in the track and it operates perfectly as if nothing happened. We are truly thankful that we went with your firm and Plaza Doors. To repeat, Plaza Doors saved our house.  $\sim$  Sincerely, Daniel Ogden



The new Hotel wing stood up extremely well with only one Plaza Door with cracked glass pane, the old wing is a different story.

~ Julia Dawson, Maria's Hotel

If you want doors and windows you can rely upon, and are prepared to pay the premium to get the best, then call Eurocarib today.







TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US AND OUR FEATURED PRODUCTS

**CET IN TOUCH 284-499-8432**stephen@eurocarib.com
www.eurocarib.com

