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ISLAND TIME

Development in the Caribbean heats up

There is an allure to the Caribbean islands that continues to draw travelers back to its deep azure waters and white sand beaches season after season, making it a prime landscape for hospitality developments. At the end of 2021, the 369-key **Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman** emerged from a \$50 million renovation led by New York-based Champalimaud Design, which was followed by the opening of nearly 30 new hotels to date, according to Q4 2023 data from Lodging Econometrics.



The Strand, shown in a rendering, will open in Turks and Caicos with 41 beachfront villas and residences



An indoor-outdoor space at the Strand, shown in a rendering, maximizes views of Cooper Jack Bay



A rendering of the spacious great room in the grand residence at the soon-to-open Strand

The Strand

Further east across the Caribbean Sea in the Turks and Caicos archipelago, two new developments are touching down this fall, one of which is the Strand in Providenciales. Nestled in the heart of Cooper Jack Bay, the property will open with 41 beachfront villas and residences.

Brought to life by Fort Lauderdale-based studio Modus Operandi and RAD Architecture's Miami office, the hotel's design is kept clean and minimal to draw eyes to the water. Coral stone cladding and pavers in natural sandy tones mimic the rugged coastline, while deep brown pergolas take cues from driftwood, creating "a color palette inspired by the contextual beauty of the land," says Peter Christensen, project architect at RAD Architecture. The accommodations maximize both indoor and outdoor spaces via large sliding doors that extend living areas out onto views of the bay, along with terraces equipped with outdoor kitchens, plunge pools, and hot tubs.

About 80 percent of the property's power runs on solar, with many of the buildings designed to conceal panels that harvest and store energy in a Tesla Powerwall. "[We are] striving to be as sustainable as possible without detracting from the rustic elegance," Christensen adds.