

# Innovative Designer Charts Own Course

## Spot Light



Working area, equipped with computers for in-house and walk-in customers.

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I've taken up a new hobby these days. I'm interested in buildings. Well, not just the building, but the idea behind the building. And, you'll have to agree that we have some uniquely designed buildings on St. Thomas. Take for instance, the other day I was at the new mini-mall at Lockhart Gardens Shopping Center. Now, that's an interesting concept -- a mall within a mall. I thought to myself: "Only a very creative person could have designed this." I was correct. It was one of the many tasteful jobs done by Stacy Bourne and the staff at Innovations By Design.

For someone who was not born or even lived in the Caribbean before, Stacy has surely got a good eye for what Virgin Islanders like in a structure. One might wonder how



Color copier attendant



Stacy Bourne



someone who was born on the mainland, went to college in New Orleans, Louisiana, and who has no relatives in the Virgin Islands would end up having her very own architectural firm in St. Thomas. It actually happened quite easily. Stacy studied at Tulane University in Louisiana, and that's where she met a young woman from St. Thomas.

When that young woman moved back home as a result of circumstances caused by Hurricane Hugo, she made some connections for Stacy, and the rest is her-story.

Her-story includes Mountaintop, one of the many projects Stacy has worked on. Some of her other projects include the Bordeaux Community Center, V.I. Resource Center, and the entire Caribbean chain of Colombian Emeralds. By far, the project I admire most is the St. Thomas Assembly of God Church. While one would probably expect the layout of a church to be conservative, this church is classy, yet has a certain sacredness about it.

Stacy says when it comes to architecture there is "never too much". Who would imagine having stage lights in a church? But aren't

plays and concerts presented in church? Then, why not? I suppose for a city girl to come to a little island and be forced to limit

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her scope is quite a challenge. Stacy says while she loves the islands, every now and then she has to get back to the hustle and bustle of the city. Coincidentally, one of her goals is to design a building that is more than three stories high. Our building code places limit at three stories.

The fact that she is a woman in a male-dominated industry says a lot about Stacy. But don't be fooled. Stacy says her femininity is what makes her work so good. She says women tend to be more passionate about their work, and they pay more attention to small details. Maybe it's because of these qualities that Innovations By Design can boast of its "hurricane proof" homes.

If you're not quite ready to have your home or office designed, Innovations By Design can still serve your creative needs. It also provides graphic design and color printing services.