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FANFAIR

My Own Private Island

DELLIS CAY—AN ARCHITECTURAL HAVEN FOR SUN, SAND, AND SURF







Carl Ettensperger

The Dellis Cay architects and their seaside projects.

Zaha Hadid

Kengo Kuma

Piero Lissoni

A view of Dellis Cay.

Marlou Brando sought refuge on his isle of Tetairoa, in French Polynesia; **John Wayne** sunbathed on Taborcillo, his island off the coast of Panama. **Diana Ross** had an island near Tahiti; the **Disney** family has one in the San Juan chain, off Washington State. **Mel Gibson's** is in Fiji; **Johnny Depp** and **Nicolas Cage** each have one in the Bahamas; **Richard Branson** has a Caribbean hideaway where, in December, Google co-founder **Larry Page** was married; and **Leonardo DiCaprio's**, Blackadore Caye, Belize, is soon to open as an eco-resort. Often hot, arid, and low-lying, with only lizards for company, desert islands nonetheless afford a sense of privacy and an expression of personal nationhood that stars enjoy—and where they lead, others follow.

One of the latest is **Dellis Cay**, a small island in Turks and Caicos that aims to unite the worlds of celebrity, fashion, art, and architecture. "I want it to be the sexiest island in the world," says **Dr. Cem Kinay**, the master strategist and owner of the 560-acre island. Kinay, with the help of an expert design panel, selected some of the world's most renowned architects to conceptualize and build luxury properties that would help civilize the flat island.

Architects such as **Piero Lissoni**, **Zaha Hadid**, and **Carl Ettensperger** have designed some of the 71 waterfront villas, while Japan-based **Kengo Kuma** has submitted his plans for the tranquil, 30,000-square-foot spa, which has reflecting pools, courtyards, and generous decks. High-end restaurants and shops will be part of a second stage of development. And a small luxury hotel, managed by the Mandarin Oriental, offering organized concierge luxury and that great sartorial equalizer of humankind, swimwear, will open in 2009.

If you haven't the funds to own an entire island, Dellis Cay provides an opportunity to own a piece of one, and to benefit from a dream team of cultural icons. "People are looking to fulfill a Robinson Crusoe fantasy, but they still want the amenities they're used to," explains **Alexis Pappas** of the brokerage firm Private Islands Inc., in Toronto. And, as it turns out, most customers don't want to be alone, deserted, or even private—they want to be comfortably semi-secluded. With easy access to the best of everything.

—EDWARD HELMORE



Dellis Cay is part of the Turks and Caicos archipelago.

Map labels: North Caicos, Parrot Cay, Stubbs Cay, Pine Cay, Fort George Cay, Water Cay, Little Water Cay, Donna Cay, Mangrove Cay, Providenciales, Florida, Cuba, Haiti, Atlantic Ocean, Area of detail.

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