

JAMAICA: VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

ALIA HENRY | ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN V

The island of Jamaica is one of the well known island's in the Caribbean. With it's popular all-inclusive resorts, topography, culture and magnificent brightly colored architecture.

- The Jamaican flag consist of three colors green, black and gold. Where the yellow represents the sunshine in Jamaica, black symbolizes the hardship of the people and the green is for the lush vegetation and landscape of the island.
- Some Jamaican worship Rastafari which consist of three colors green, gold and red. Which shows loyalty to the Ethiopian state. However, the more common colors of red, black and green represents the activist Marcus Garvey.
- According, to the Arawakan Tribe who first lived on the island stated that Jamaica represented "rich in springs".

The people of Jamaica are highly creative, hardworking and athletic people. One of the great Olympic gold medalist from Jamaica is Usain Bolt.



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The heart of Jamaica also known as the capital Kingston, is a representation of the island's colonization era and it's more recent contemporary era. The architecture in Jamaica varies based on the owner's aesthetics or wealth. Kingston, Jamaica has a numerous amount of Georgian style architecture, with characteristics of baroque and neoclassical styles. These architectural styles are more common in Kingston because the structure must be able to adapt to the climate conditions there.

Georgian style is the most popular architectural style in Jamaica, specifically Kingston. The style is throughout various domestic homes and public assemblies. The architecture is beautifully assembled with balustrades, contrasting lattices, deep fascia boards, cornices, verandas, porch roofs and other unique characteristics. This style is very adaptable, not only does it withstand humidity, but other natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes. This adaptability is enforced by purposely not connect the house's roof beams to the beams of the porch. The homes are typically elevated by pilings creating a good circulation of air flow throughtout the design layout, keeping the floor cool and preventing the foundation to rot. Majority of home layouys in Jamaica were specifically positioned to prevent kitchen smoke from reaching the living areas. Which was criticized as being smart interior layout design.

The architect Vayden McMorris, is well known in Kingston, Jamaica for his influence on upcoming younger architects and local talents. McMorris developed many architecture in Kingston, Jamaica such as the Panjam building and the Doyall building.

Jamaican Resorts:



The Caves



Sandals South Coast



Source: <http://www.frommers.com/destinations/jamaica/in-depth/art--architecture>

JAMAICA: LANGUAGE & MUSIC

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The language commonly used in Jamaica is called patois, pronounced as patwa. Patois is originated from the slavery era, then to the Spanish Occupation of the island and was continued through British colonialism era. The rich language was developed in the 17th century, when slaves from the origins of west and central Africa were taught the vernacular forms of English.

Although, the native language of patois is frequently used in Jamaica. The language has a major influence on the island's music. The styles of music that originated from Jamaica are reggae, mento, ska jazz, rocksteady, folk, dancehall, dub music, and reggae fusion. These genre of music are inspired the neighborhoods, and the living. Jamaican music describes the lifestyles from the poor, all the way to the wealth. One the well known artist from Jamaica is Bob Marley. He was a hero figure, in the classic mythological sense. Bob Marley was music and beliefs were influenced by Rastafari. His motto was "One World, One Love", the idea of peace and coming together as one nation. Sadly, Bob Marley passed away on May 11, 1981, since his departure his legacy and beliefs still lives on from his family and supports around the world and Jamaica.



Source: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0271530916301069>



JAMAICA: CURRENCY

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The currency in Jamaica is measured in Jamaican dollars(JMD). Jamaican currency was the only British West Indies territory to use sterling coinage, which was also know as pounds. Sterling coinage is the fourth most traded currency in the foreign exchange market. Jamaican possess a unique characteristic other currencies may not have, which is that the Jamaican dollar have special symbols on the front to aid the visually impaired expect for the \$1,000 and \$5,000 bill. Jamaican coins except for one cents are marked with a national hero of Jamaica, while the one cent displays the national fruit of Jamaica which is ackee.

Jamaican Coins:



1¢



10¢



25¢



\$1



\$5



\$10



\$20



JAMAICA: SUSTENANCE

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The island of Jamaica is well known for its national iconic dishes or fruits. Since the 1400s many tribes such as the Arawaks tribe grew various nutritious food such as papayas, guavas, potatoes, peppers, sugar cane and callaloo which is like a spinach like substance. Jamaican food incorporates various types of species and seasonings to give the meals more flavor and a home-cook meal affect to the consumer. The most popular meals and beverages of Jamaica are jerk chicken, curry chicken, beef patty with coco bread, bun and cheese, porridge, ackee and saltfish, and ting. Jamaica is home to lots of fruits such as guavas, coconuts, mangoes, pineapples, and papayas. The national fruit of Jamaica is ackee. Ackee is bright red tropical fruit that bursts open when ripe, and has a soft yellow interior. However, the national fruit can be toxic. When the fruit is not ripe as of yet, but is forced open it releases toxic gas poisonous enough to kill someone.



Jamaica's National Fruit: Ackee



Source: <http://countrystudies.us/caribbean-islands/33.htm>



JAMAICA: TRADITIONS

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Jamaican traditions help in defining the island, which makes it unique. Traditions are acted upon a representing a specific person, era, or event. For instance, some Jamaican traditions consist of drinking sorrel on Christmas, eating bun and cheese on Easter. The traditional drink sorrel is made from dried parts of the sorrel (a meadow plant), cinnamon, cloves, sugar, orange peel, and the optional addition of rum. Other popular traditions Jamaican enforce is celebrating Jamaican Independence Day on August 6th, 1962 and carnival which is a street festivity including dances, mas costumes, colorful floats, and numerous island foods.

Sorrel Drink



Source: <http://www.getjamaica.com/Jamaican%20Culture.asp>

JAMAICA: ART

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Jamaica is home to various well known artists. One prominent and respected artist in Jamaica is Alexander Cooper. Mr. Cooper was born and raised in Enfield Kingston, Jamaica. His paintings are heavily influenced by the lifestyle and hardship of the people in Jamaica. Alexander Cooper paintings became relevant to the presidential election win of Barack Obama who was the 44th President of the United States from 2009 to 2017. Alexander relates his art pieces to “Yes We Can” motto Barack Obama stated during his campaign. Since, Jamaica as an island has had many hardships and poverty felt by the people, but they still have that “Yes We Can” mind set.



Source: <http://http://www.alexandercooper.com/gallery.html>