

N°482 - November 30, 2023

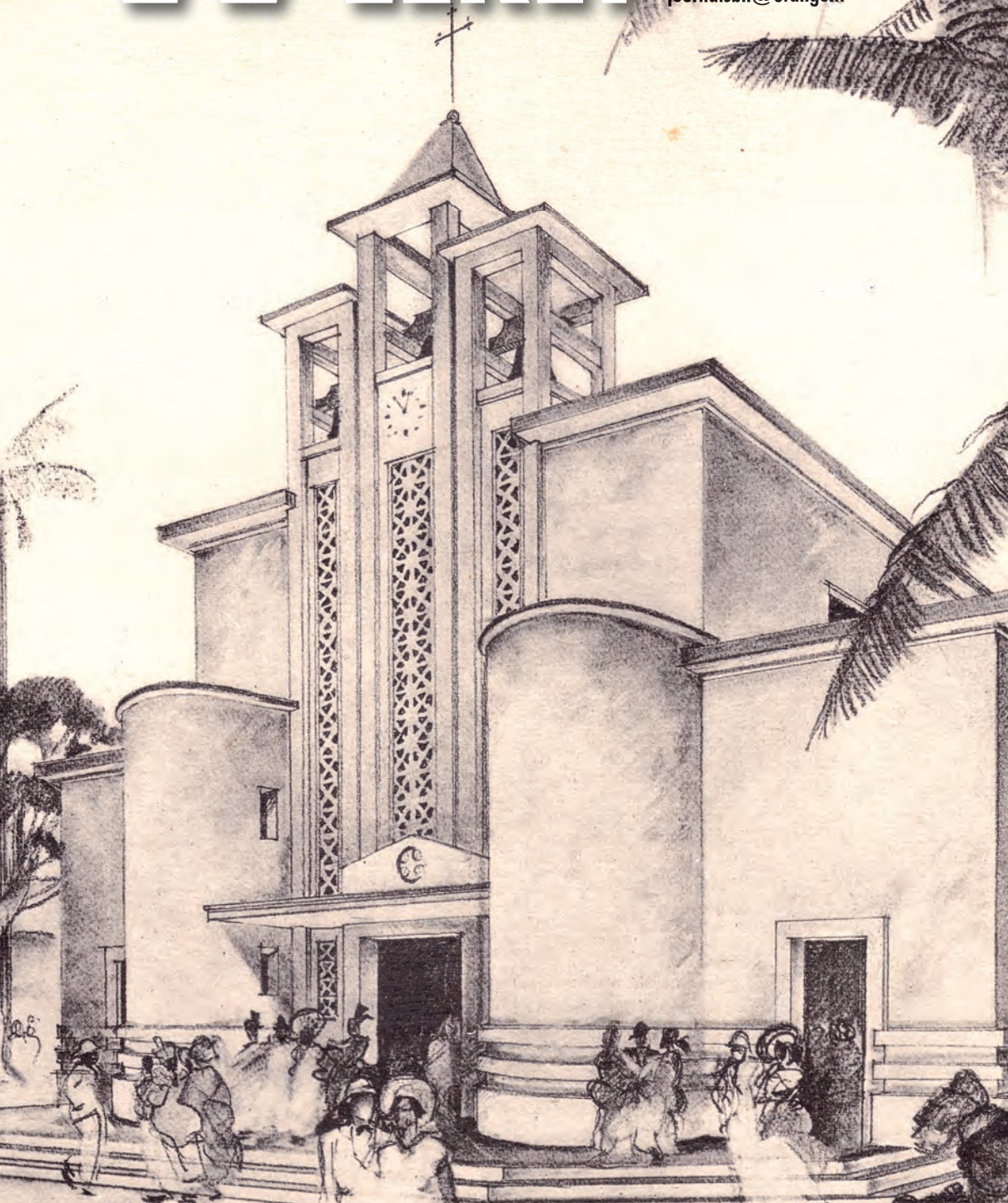
Local News
in English

FREE



St-Barth WEEKLY

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journalsbh@orange.fr





Island Architecture

The current exhibit at the Wall House Museum celebrates the work of French architect, Ali Tur, who was invited to Guadeloupe after a devastating hurricane hit in 1928. He embraced the popular Art Deco style of art and architecture and infused it into 100 or so public buildings. He never made it to St Barth, or if he did, he doesn't seem to have designed any buildings, or left his imprint. Check out the article about him in this issue of The Weekly.

Architecture in Saint Barth is a bit of a tricky issue. From the tiny wooden Creole cottages—or “kaz” in Creole—where families with six, eight, or even ten to twelve kids lived with outdoor kitchens and out-houses to today's luxury villas with six bedrooms, eight bathrooms, several swimming pools, media centers, fitness rooms... you get the picture. Needs, or desires, have changed. I get it, but perhaps the prevailing winds need to blow in the other direction, a bit of an architectural rewind, as it were. Not that a family of eight needs to live in two rooms, but houses that consume enormous amounts of electricity and water could become problematic, as energy consumption becomes a hot topic. The past year has seen occasional electrical and water outages so it will be interesting to see how we all fare this season.

In the meantime, if you are on the island, stop by the Saint Barth Yacht Club for an open-house on December 2, check out the Sunday Market and Christmas Village on the dock in Gustavia on December 3, and keep an eye out for events that are steeped in local tradition.

It's time to start getting in a holiday mood!

Ellen Lampert-Gréaux

After A Crazy Year In 2022, Airport Traffic Still Sky High

After the first ten months of 2023, the director of the Rémy-de-Haenen Airport reports a slight decrease in air traffic compared to 2022. But the overall numbers are still close to 2019, the prior record-breaking year.



Since the beginning of the year, the Rémy-de-Haenen Airport has seen a total of 158,436 passengers. A number that comprises 122,035 international passengers (4.3% fewer than the same period in 2022) and 36,401 national passengers (-1.7%)—which represents a global decrease of 3.7% compared to 2022. However, as the director of the airport of Saint Barthélemy points out, the net result for the first ten months of 2023 meet their forecast, with traffic returning to levels close to those of 2019, the island's benchmark year in terms of airport traffic.

An Increase of 157% In January and February

If 2022 was unusual to say the least, due to something that specialists call “revenge travel,” which continued into 2023. In fact, air traffic continues to be sky high last January and February, with an uptick of 157% compared to the same time in 2019. This was due to alternating peaks in

traffic during the months of January (+11.5%) and February (+11.3%), with more moderate months from March to July. In fact, the data analyzed by Rémy-de-Haenen's management shows a lower level than in 2022, but still higher than in 2019. July and August, on the other hand, were less busy,» notes airport manager Fabrice Danet. “The trend towards greater seasonality until the summer was reversed from July onwards, with a drop of 8% compared to July 2022 and a decrease of 21.2% compared to August 2022. That's 8.5% less than August 2019!»

Puerto Rico Up, Sint Maarten Down

On the other hand, the airport notes that the connecting airlines saw an increase in traffic from San Juan, Puerto Rico (+3.8%), with a 5% increase in market share since 2019. At the same time, flights to and from Princess Juliana Airport in Sint Maarten have slumped by 7.7%. “The major renova-

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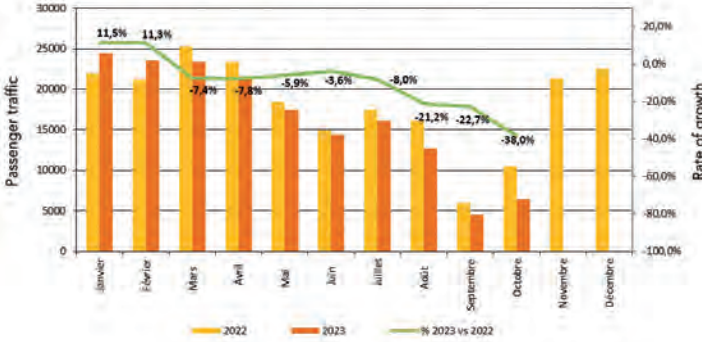
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Monthly evolution of passenger traffic



tion work at the terminal in Sint Maarten is still not completed and the delicate management of arrivals and departures means that at the height of the season, passenger transit to and from Saint Barthélemy is likely to be disrupted, especially for those not benefiting from end-to-end check-in to the US and Europe.» Fabrice Danet anticipates.

On a national level, traffic to and from Pointe-à-Pitre in Guadeloupe is lower (-6%), while liaisons with the Grand Case Airport in Saint

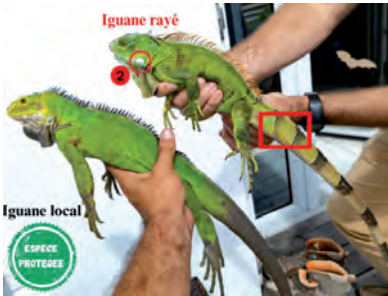
Martin have increased (+11,5%). «The cancellation of Air Antilles flights to Pointe-à-Pitre, and the reduced capacity on that same route operated by St Barth Commuter, means that travelers to Pointe-à-Pitre have to transit via Saint Martin Grand-Case airport to travel via Air Caraïbes, which currently operates only two out of three ATRs,» explains the management at Rémyde-Haenen Airport. For the record, the new Air Antilles company, created by two entities—the Collectivité de Saint-Martin and CIPIM,

after the sale of part of the assets of the CAIRE company, does not intend to resume direct flights to and from Guadeloupe until early 2024. This timeframe is necessary to obtain new approvals from the French Civil Aviation Authority and to establish new air-worthy management and aircraft maintenance.

In October, the airport’s activity report confirms a chute in terms of traffic to and from Guadeloupe (-79.57% compared to October 2022), primarily linked to the termination of Air Antilles flights. Another notable decrease is that of traffic to and from Princess Juliana (Sint Maarten), with a drop of 27.03%. In fact, with the exception of the sharp rise in connections with Anguilla (+135% compared to October 2022), passenger traffic in October showed an overall drop of 38% compared to 2022. Evidence of a return to a distinctly more seasonal pattern.

WATCH OUT FOR STRIPED IGUANAS

Striped iguanas have been spotted on the island, according to the Territorial Environmental Agency (ATE). How to recognize



a striped iguana? Its tail has black stripes and there is large, round scale under its tympanum, or ear. This species is native to South and Central America, and was imported to the West Indies. However, it is an invasive species and helps cause a reduction in the local iguana population (iguana delicatissima), endemic to the Lesser Antilles. The local iguana is on the endangered species list and thusly protected. “Saint Barth is one of the last islands where the local iguana still exists, and we ask your help in preserving them,” notes the ATE. If you see one of the striped iguanas, please quickly alert the ATE at +590 690 31 70 73 or via email: contact@agencedelenvironnement.fr.

CORY SILKEN, FIRST PRIZE IN GUSTAVIA YACHT CLUB PHOTO CONTEST

The winners of the third edition of the international photo contest organized by the Gustavia Yacht Club were announced on Saturday, September 15 at the



Cory Silken with Sir Stelios Haji Ioannou and Jean-Pierre Hennequet. Monaco Yacht Club. The Awards Ceremony was presided by the commodore, Sir Stelios Haji Ioannou, and the president of the international jury, Miléna Modigliani Perini. First-prize winner, Cory Silken, is an acclaimed American photographer from Newport, RI. His photo won over that of second-place Erick Brin from Nantes (France), and that of German photographer Jöran Bubke, who completed the podium in third place. The theme of this third edition of the contest was “Wind In The Sails,” with professional photographers from 11 countries participating. Cory Silken, a regular visitor to Saint Barthélemy, will undoubtedly compete next time as well.

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Wall House Exhibit: Ali Tur, Art Deco Architect In Guadeloupe

In 1928, after a hurricane ravaged Guadeloupe, Ali Tur was commissioned by the French government to rebuild many of the administrative buildings. Of the 100 art-deco edifices designed by the architect, 80 still exist today. An exhibit about his work runs through December 9 at the Wall House Museum.



The Territorial Wall House Museum features a major exhibit dedicated to the work of one man, architect Ali Tur. A name that might not ring a bell, yet he designed and orchestrated the reconstruction of many of the official and governmental buildings in Guadeloupe after a devastating hurricane, Okeechobee, on September 12, 1928. He designed and built 100 buildings, of which 80 remain standing today.

Born in 1889 in Tunis, Ali Tur was raised in Nîmes, France. In 1910, he attended the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, studying in the atelier of French architect Victor Laloux. Four years later, with his diploma in his pocket, he was drafted when World War I broke out. In 1918, having survived the war, he continued his studies and became an official government architect. In 1925, his name appeared on the list of architects drawn up by the Colonial Ministry, and his professional star continued to rise in Paris until the events of September 1928 would impact his destiny.

A Devasted Island With 1,200 Victims

In Guadeloupe, according to the records at that time, the 1928 hurricane claimed 1,200 lives. Many dwellings, the large majority constructed of wood, were swept away. Close to the governor, Ali Tur was called upon to lead the reconstruction effort, arriving in Guadeloupe on March 25, 1929. “With his Citroën and his staff,” points out architect-author Michèle Robin Clerc in Guadeloupe, who is a specialist in the work of Ali Tur. In fact, one of her books was the inspiration for the current exhibit which remains at the Wall House through December 9.

Several years ago, she offered a copy of her book “Guadeloupe, The 1930’s, Ali Tur, Architect Of A Reconstruction,” to Bruno Magras, then president of the Collectivité. A book which found its way into the collection of the Territorial Library. When Charles Moreau, director of the museum, came across the book he was intrigued and came up with the idea for the exhibit. “Similar to the exhibit we mounted about the

Rockefeller Villa, this exhibit also includes many documents. Photographs, plans, designs, original tiles, a short film, etc,” explains the director. “As well as furniture designed and constructed by Ali Tur that is on loan from the departmental council in Guadeloupe and the town hall of Lamentin.”

Introduction Of Reinforced Concrete

Michèle Robin Clerc insists on the importance of the work done in Guadeloupe by Ali Tur. “We are talking about someone who rebuilt all the municipal and governmental buildings,” she notes. “We can even talk about the construction, because there wasn’t a lot available in Guadeloupe at that time.” As a result, the architect brought his expertise to the butterfly-shaped island. “It was he who introduced reinforced concrete,” adds Michèle Robin Clerc. “His architectural studies were very complete and he transmitted his knowledge to the Guadeloupeans. He also worked with Italian masons, and solicited bids, but it did not happen like it does today.”

TIME OUT

Where to go dancing? See an art exhibit? Listen to live music?
Time Out keeps you up to date on local happenings. Let's party !

Saint Barth Too Poor

When Ali Tur solicited bids, he set his own prices for materials, profiting from goods resulting from the war debt imposed on Germany, which had been defeated in 1918. "They sent him tiles made in France, and rebar, all paid for by Germany," Michèle Robin Clerc points out. With a contract for 40 million francs, Ali Tur put all his knowledge of art-deco into the design of the courthouse, the governor's palace, hospitals, infirmaries, post offices...

There was an additional 36-million-franc loan from Crédit Foncier to build local town halls, churches, rectories, markets, sepulchral chapels, and schools. The Second World War (1939-1945) exempted the municipalities from all repayments. It is worth noting that Saint Barthélemy did not have access to these funds as the island was considered too poor... and by extension, unable to repay the loan. "I looked anyway, without success, as Saint Barth does not bear any traces of work by Ali Tur," assures Michèle Robin Clerc.

Today, as the specialist in the work of her illustrious predecessor points out, Guadeloupe boasts an art-deco architectural heritage that is unique in the world. At least on such a small island.

Live Music

Thursday November 30

- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel
- Live Music with Michelee Paris from 7pm at Arawak
- Live Music with Laura de Shamans, 7 :30 pm - 10 :30 pm at Amis St. Barth Le Barthélemy

Friday, December 1st

- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel
- Funky Friday, mixed by DJ Jeremy M & Sebastien Roche from 7pm at Arawak
- Live Music for dinner at Pearl Beach, St Jean

- On the beach, DJ Set by Laura de Shamans, 1pm - 4pm at Amis St. Barth Le Barthélemy

- Live Music with Laura de Shamans 7 :30pm - 10:30pm at Amis St. Barth Le Barthélemy

Saturday, December 2

- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel
- Chess Hour, 3pm-6pm with Jeff Follner @ Arawak
- Live music by One Love from 7:00pm @Arawak Café
- Musical weekends at Manapany Hotel from 2pm - 5pm. with the sound of the locals musicians

- On the beach, DJ Set of Laura de Shamans, 1pm - 4pm at Amis St. Barth Le Barthélemy

- Live Music with Laura de Shamans, 7 :30 pm - 10:30 pm at Amis St. Barth Le Barthélemy

Sunday, December 3

Monthly Market
in Gustavia
Rue Général-de-Gaule .
Open from 8am to 12pm.

- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel
- Amazing Sunday. A jour-

SAINTE BARBE AND THE FIREMEN'S BALL ON DECEMBER 2

The traditional celebration of Sainte Barbe, the patron saint for firemen, will be held on Saturday, December 2, at the fire station in Saint Jean.

At 8pm, the traditional firemen's ball, with drinks available. The next day, Sunday, December 4, the firemen will parade in Gustavia, starting at 9am, to the delight of kids of all ages!

ney through the rhythm of live music under the sun!
12pm - 7pm @ Nikki Beach
- Musical weekends at Manapany Hotel from 2pm - 5pm. with the sound caribbean
- On the beach, DJ Set of Laura de Shamans, 1pm - 4pm at Amis St. Barth Le Barthélemy
- Live Music with Laura de Shamans, 7 :30 pm - 10:30 pm at Amis St. Barth Le Barthélemy
- Monday, December 4
- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel
- Hora Feliz, come dance Salsa, Bachata, kizomba and other dances cubaines from 7 :30pm @ Arawak café,
- For an Italian Aperitivo, Soley will be entertaining us with lyrics and guitar like. 07.30pm-10.30 pm at Al Mare Ristorante, Sereno
- Live Music with Laura de Shamans Soley, 7 :30 pm - 10:30 pm at Amis St. Barth Le Barthélemy
- Tuesday, December 5
- Orange Vibeswith DJ Set, from 5 to 7pm at Christopher St Barth
- W.T.F. Rooftop Asian night with live music or Dj from

7 :30 pm to 10:30 pm at the W.T.F Rooftop Bar

Le Barthélemy

Wednesday, December 6

- Orange Vibes with DJ Set, 5 - 7pm at Christopher hotel
- W.T.F. Rooftop Asian night with live music or Dj from 7 :30 pm to 10:30 pm at the W.T.F Rooftop Bar Le Barthélemy

Night Club

@ Modjo St-Jean
@ Casa Night Club

Exhibitions

- Preserve the Heritage and History of St-Barthélemy @ Le Brigantin, Gustavia.
- Ali Tur at Wall House,
- Hannah Polskin solo exhibition: Infinity at Space Gallery St Barth, Gustavia
- Work on view by Hugh Arnold, Nadia Fanelli and Dirk Braun at La Kala restaurant by Space Gallery
- Selection of work by Marco Glaviano, Isabelle Lindbergh, Giorgio Pasqualetti and Nadia Fanelli at Jacques Zolty Boutique and Le Sereno by Space Gallery
- Paintings : Alain Le Chate- lier, Karoline Arcana, Gery Langlais, Tony Caramanico, at Les Artisans
- Bronze Sculptures @ The Collectivity
- Artist's Collection
- Hannah Moser, Cul de Sac
- Kay Quattrocchi, Pointe Milou
- Art Galleries
- Antoine Heckly ArtGallery
- Camaruche Gallery
- Clic Gallery, Gustavia
- Eden Fine Art St Barths
- Fergus McCaffrey
- Galerie Asie, Gustavia
- Les Artisans, Gustavia
- Space Gallery St Barth
- Spirit Space Gallery



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