albany private resort tailors luxury architecture paradise in the bahamas

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ALBANY REDEFINES LUXURY LIVING IN THE BAHAMAS

Albany is a 600-acre luxurious private resort crafted for the world's elite, nestled in an exclusive corner of New Providence, The Bahamas. Since 2010, Albany has been more than a tropical getaway; it is an evolving community for A-listers shaped by starchitects, including Morris Adjmi Architects, Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), and OOAK Architects, among others. Surrounded by turquoise waters and lush landscapes, Albany's visionary architecture and bespoke interior design transform the island experience, offering residents a sanctuary where privacy meets unparalleled beauty.

designboom visited Albany to tour the resort's unique architecture and interiors, speaking with Damien Michelmore, COO of Albany, and Mohammad Rajab, Director of Design of Albany.

one of the first three residences around the marina, Orchid by Morris Adjmi Architects, was inspired by the facades of New Orleans
image courtesy of Albany, Bahamas (top image credit Romain Reglade)

RESORT FOR STARS, BUILT BY STARCITECTS

From the outset, Albany embraced architectural innovation to elevate luxury. The resort's marina, capable of docking 71-slip yachts, was designed by Robert A.M. Stern. Originally featuring three residences – Orchid by Morris Adjmi Architects, Gemini by HKS Architects, and Charles by Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects – the development has expanded with new additions: Lantern by Morris Adjmi Architects, Honeycomb and Cube both by BIG, Tetris by OOAK Architects, and Squire by Squire and Partners. Coral by BIG and Cirrus by Squire and Partners hand over first units at the end of 2024 and end of 2026 respectively complete the marina development. These world-renowned firms tie into the ethos of Albany, proposing new perspectives on luxury while embracing the natural beauty of its surroundings.

BIG collaborated with the team at Albany to create the Sanctuary recording studio, Honeycomb, Cube (pictured

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here), and Coral residences, with the latter set to hand over first units at the end of 2024
image credit Dana Hoff

Collaboration is key to Albany's architectural success. Architects were selected through flexible decision-making to ensure the best fit for each phase of development, whether inviting firms or holding design competitions. For instance, BIG presented multiple designs for Honeycomb so that the final choice resonated with the resort's aesthetic while pushing the boundaries with its sunken pool façade. This approach guarantees that each structure adds to the cohesiveness, creativity, and luxury of the community.

The marina residences are united by sleek white lines and expansive glass that open to sweeping views of the Bahamian waters. Over-water apartments blur the boundaries between indoor and outdoor living, with spacious balconies and floor-to-ceiling windows welcoming natural light and sea breezes. Sustainable design elements, like natural ventilation systems, deepen the connection between architecture and the island's environment.

sunken pools in the Cube's balconies connect residents with the sea views across the marina
image credit Romain Reglade

BESPOKE INTERIOR DESIGN DECISIONS

While Albany's architecture captivates, its customization options truly sets it apart. The resort offers residents the ability to tailor their homes to their exact specifications, making each unit a unique reflection of its owner. Whether it is a modernist, minimalist or maximalist style, residents have full creative control over the finishes, furnishings, and layout to create their home in The Bahamas.

Customization at Albany goes beyond just choosing fixtures or paint colors. 90% of homeowners work with Albany's in-house design team in Orlando, Florida, to ensure their homes align perfectly with their lifestyle and taste. For those seeking even greater personalization, Albany allows the option to bring in external designers so that no detail is overlooked, from custom millwork to high-end plaster.

owners can tailor the finishes, furnishings, and layout of their home to fit their lifestyle and tastes (living room in Orchid pictured here)
image credit Julian Abrams

The construction process is designed to be seamless. A standard 4,000 sq. ft. home typically takes 12-16 months to build, while larger, more customized projects may take up to two years. Despite the logistical challenges of island construction, Albany well-established relationships with local subcontractors guarantee that every residence meets the highest standards of quality.

The in-house architects and designers, led by Mohammad Rajab, are constantly refining their approach and incorporating new ideas. The putting green atop one of Tetris' penthouses is just one example of the innovation born from dynamic dialogue between designers and residents. This exchange keeps the resort at the forefront of luxury design.

a standard 4,000 sq. ft. home typically takes 12-16 months to build, while larger, more customized projects may take up to two years (living room in Tetris pictured here)
image credit Maria Nixon

LUXURY AMENITIES SUPPORT YEAR-ROUND RESIDENTS

As Albany has grown, so too has its masterplan. What began as a community of 20 beachfront villas has expanded into a thriving enclave with diverse amenities, catering to a growing population of celebrities, entrepreneurs, and elite families. In the early years, the focus was on creating a critical mass to support amenities, including multiple restaurants, a coffee shop, recording studio, financial center, and other communal spaces that fostered a sense of belonging among residents.

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Albany's team work with proven local contractors to ensure every residence meets the highest standards of quality
image credit Romain Reglade

Post-COVID, the resort has seen even greater demand, particularly as remote work has become more acceptable, making Albany an ideal choice for those looking for a luxurious escape while still staying connected. This shift has led to the development of a 25-acre campus complete with educational facilities, a sports complex, and a golf academy that complements its golf course that hosts Tiger Woods' PGA Tour event. These additions have turned Albany from a vacation destination into a year-round haven where families can live and thrive.

The masterplan has adapted over time, remaining flexible to evolve with the needs of its residents rather than building all at once. New amenities are added based on member feedback, maintaining Albany's place at the pinnacle of luxury, privacy, and exclusivity.

the over-water marina residences are united by sleek white lines and expansive glass that open to sweeping views of the bahamian waters
image credit Golden Dusk Photography

ALBANY COMBINES DESIGN AND LIFESTYLE IN THE BAHAMAS

Privacy is paramount at Albany, given the high-profile nature of many residents. Strict policies prohibit photographs and autographs, ensuring a sanctuary-like environment. Residences are spaced to maximize privacy, with lush landscaping and secluded balconies enhancing the feeling of retreat. However, communal spaces such as restaurants, pools, and sports facilities still allow organic interaction within an exclusive, yet relaxed, setting.

both the BIG-designed Honeycomb (left) and Tetris (right) feature sunken pools in the balconies
image credit Golden Dusk Photography

Albany is not just a resort; it is a living, evolving community in paradise. Its architecture, shaped by world-leading firms, blends seamlessly with the tropical surroundings of The Bahamas while offering limitless opportunities for personalization. This unwavering commitment to privacy, luxury, and innovation cements its status as the ultimate destination for those seeking a lifestyle that transcends elegance. For its A-list residents, Albany is a sanctuary in The Bahamas where design and lifestyle unite, creating a space as unique as they are.

amenities foster a year-round sense of belonging among residents, ranging from educational and sports facilities to restaurants, shops, and financial offices (Sanctuary recording studio pictured front) / image credit Golden Dusk Photography

the spacious balconies in Squire embrace the tropical setting, extending the living area outdoors
image credit Ronnie Archer

the sunken pools of Honeycomb illuminate at night to highlight the building's unique façade / image credit Golden Dusk Photography

Tetris by OOAK Architects features 25 residences configured on multiple floors between 2,500 to 15,000 sq. ft.
image credit Dana Hoff

development info:
resort: Albany | @albanybahamas
land: 600-acre
architecture firms: Morris Adjmi Architects, BIG, Geoffrey Siegel & Associates Architects, HKS Architects, OOMK Architects, Squire and Partners, and Robert A.M. Stern
management: NEXUS Luxury Collection | @nexusluxuryco
date of launch: 2010

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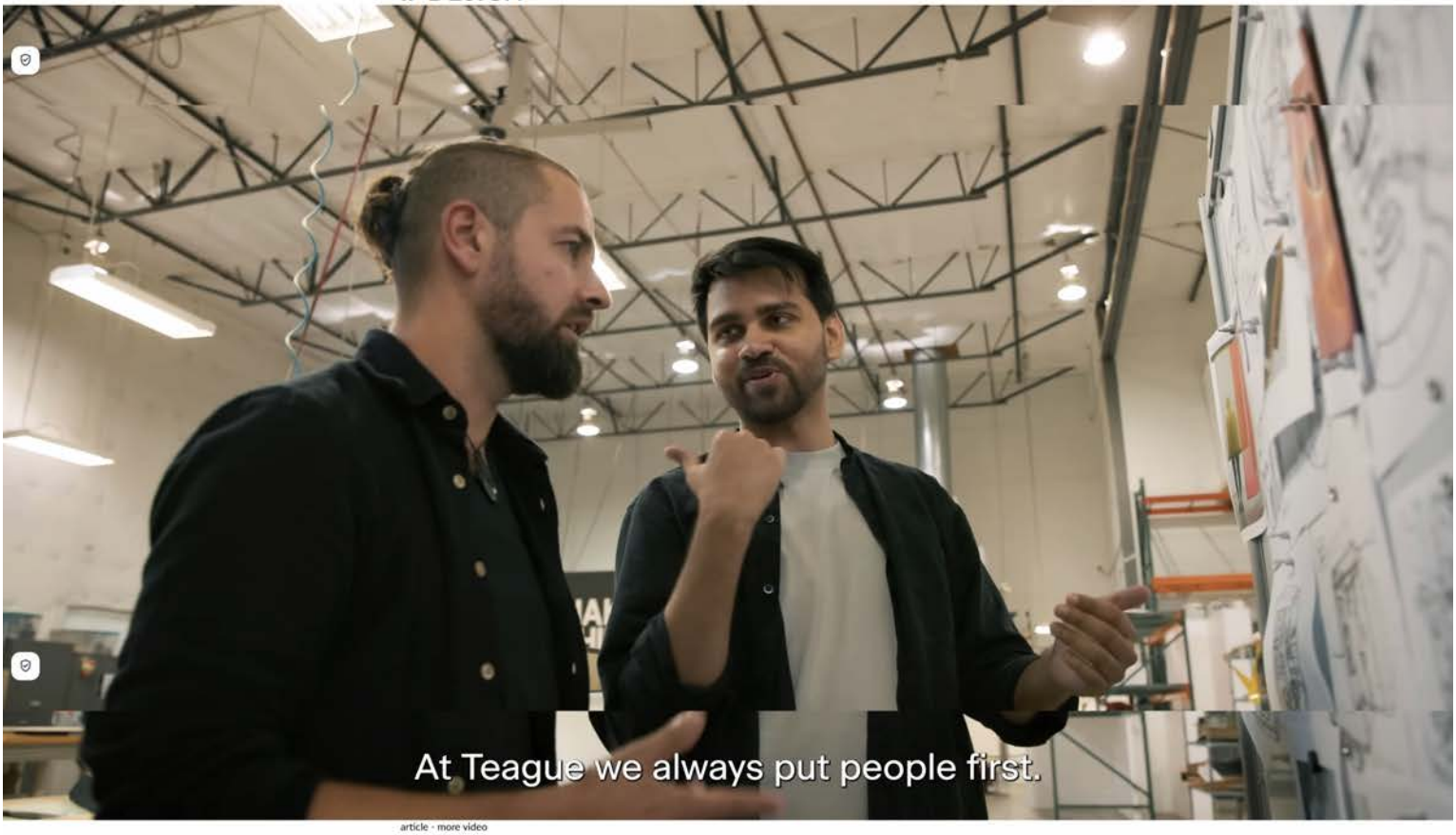

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