

Porthole

Past Perfect

A gracious estate in Bermuda regains its historic luster

The Atlantic Ocean view is postcard-perfect from the verandah of Chelston, a 14-acre estate in Bermuda's Paget Parish. Built in 1941 by oil baron Carbon P. Dubbs, the home later became the residence of the U. S. Consul General. Notable visitors, including Presidents Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Sr., and Bill Clinton, have spent nights in one of the four guesthouses that dot Chelston's manicured grounds.

In 1999, Chelston was sold to its current owners, who renovated the property with help from architect William McHenry of Blue Hill, Maine, the Bermuda-based architectural firm Entasis and interior designer Michele Bouman. Built in traditional Bermudian vernacular, the main house boasts 18-foot tray ceilings and a "welcoming arms" entrance stairway. Pictured here, French doors open from the living room onto a wide verandah where guests can enjoy breakfast or afternoon tea overlooking Chelston's tropical gardens and lovely Grape Bay Beach. —Sharon Jaffe Dan



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