

# THE BILL BROOKMAN FOUNDATION

CONCEPT PAPER Nouvelle Vague sml

CONCEPT PAPER  
– pour –  
*NOUVELLE VAGUE*  
- DESIGN CONCEPT FOR PUBLIC UTILITY BUILDINGS  
CAP HAITIEN

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Date :	16 octobre 07	Receveur Principal :	FA, IOM, Task Force, GsF autres.

## Context

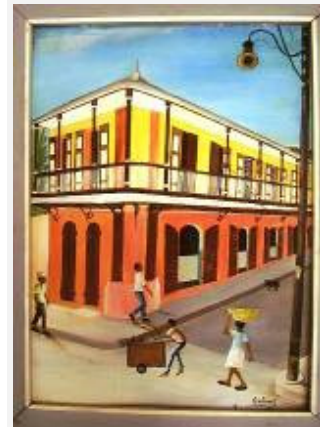
**Cap Haitien – The Jewel of the Antilles**, has a 10 year plan to return to the tourist capital it once was. The town already is blessed with beautiful – but decaying – ‘gingerbread’ style architecture. This French influenced style predominates and is the ‘high art’ of the city.

**But another aesthetic exists:** The wonderful indigenous world of the *Tap-tap* bus and decoration, the *tôle découpé* {painted steel}, the naïf painting, the voodoo *vevé* and figurative murals.

## Contexte

**Cap-Haïtien - Le joyau des Antilles** - a dix (10) ans de planification pour retourner la capitale du tourisme qu’elle était jadis. La ville est déjà heureusement belle- le délabrement - de l’architecture coloniale. L’influence française prédomine le style et est le grand art de la ville.

**Mais une autre esthétique existe:** Le merveilleux local monde du Tap-Tap, décoration d’autobus. La tôle découpée (fer peinturé), la peinture naïve, le voodoo (Vèvè) et les peintures figurées sur mur,



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**There is a depressing reliance** on the ugly unadorned *bloc* [breeze block] and *profilé* square tubular steel for barring windows and doors against the present *insecurité*.

**Il y a une triste dépendance** sur le fâcheux bloc modéré des tubes carrés en fer profilé pour la défense des fenêtres et des portes contre l'insecurité

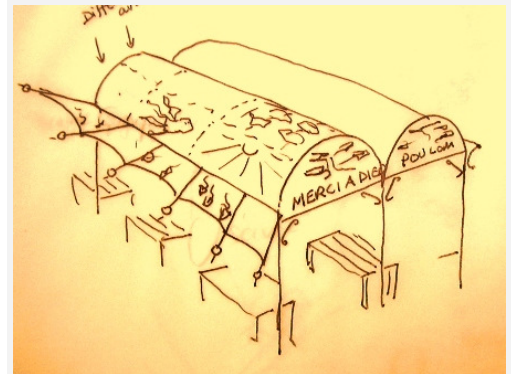
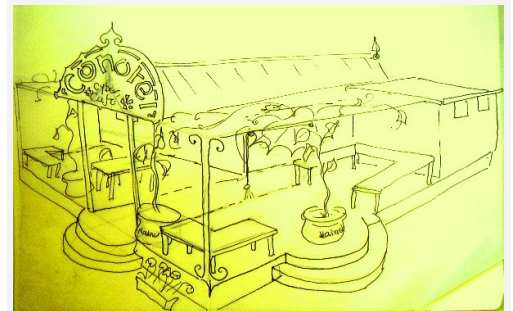


## Justification

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**Now we have an opportunity** to use skilled and unskilled artists, artisans and labour to create a new aesthetic design concept for public utility buildings in Cap Haitian. The town must be cleaned up and buildings must be prepared for the future. The combination of a willing work-force, local government drive, international funding and professional local, national and international implementation team provide a unique combination of factors to make this possible. The new style must complement the existing gingerbread style. And if the gingerbread already exists it must be renovated not destroyed.

**Maintenant nous avons une opportunité** d'utiliser des artistes habiles et non habiles, artisans et ouvriers pour créer une nouvelle conception de plan esthétique pour la construction publique utile au Cap- Haitien. La ville doit être nettoyer et construite, doit être préparée pour le futur. La combinaison de la force de travail volontaire, l'appui du gouvernement local, le fonds international, le professionnalisme local, national et le groupe de complément accordent une unique combinaison de facteurs pour rendre cela possible. Le nouveau style doit être le complément du style colonial existant. Et si le style colonial existe déjà, il doit être rénover et non être détruit.



## **Aims and Objectives**

1. Seek acceptance for the *nouvelle vague* concept:
  - a. Fondation Avenir/Bill Brookman Foundation to lead preparation of sketches and plans.
  - b. Plans to be presented to Cap Haitien 'Task Force' and stakeholders
  - c. Popular opinion sought
  
2. Seek practical applications in Cap Haitien:
  - a. La Fossette parc et gare-routière
  - b. Rehabilitaion écologique du Bande du Nord
  - c. Parc Arsenal (future)
  
3. Establish design criteria for *nouvelle vague*:
  - a. Philosophy
  - b. Aesthetic
  - c. Constraints
  - d. Building techniques
  - e. Materials
  
4. Allow the style to develop
  - a. Crafts-people engaged own the projects should be able to increase their skill base and contribute their own creativity and ideas

## **Results**

The result should be employment of local people; a pride in their own culture, a beautification of Cap Haitian and the preparation of noteworthy and beautiful architecture for the proposed return of tourism.

## **Evaluation/Documentation**

The project will be documented visually and opinions sought of the broad cross section of society involved in its creation and living within its spaces.

## APPENDIX

### Design considerations, terminology:

By 'public utility buildings' we initially mean:

Bus stop

Covered market

Park architecture

Foyers and approaches to existing or planned public building

Kiosks

Public space furniture

Chairs, Mural space, Lamp stands, Litter collection points  
Fountains, etc.

1. Structures will be built from a frame of *fer profilé* or trellis (sic).
2. Corners will be strengthened and decorated with *arabesques* of *fer ronde*. Welded and saddled.
3. *Fer 'flat'* (sic) should not be used for decoration as it is inferior.
4. Roofing will be as much as possible trained vegetation affording shade.
5. If this cannot be maintained then similar dappled shade devices should be found.
6. *Tôle découpé* should be used to barrel-vault. This may need replacing over a course of years.
7. The colour-schemes of out-side surfaces should be complex; like the skin of a lizard.
8. The inside surfaces should be primary colours, like red and white representing blood and bones.

### Breeze-Block [Eng.] bloc [Créole] fâcheux bloc modéré

Used as little as possible.

If used it should be covered (plastered)

If used at all it should feature beautiful patterns created from filigree *bloc*.

### Concrete

Used as little as possible

If used it should include low-relief sculptures of indigenous designs (Mermaids, Fish - voodoo?) and sayings, proverbs, religious or Sensibilisation exhortations in Creole; For example in *basins* at fountains.

### Units of measurement

Units of measurement should be 'imperial' i.e. feet [poids] and inches. [peauce]<sup>1</sup>.

Modular units will be used relating to the crafts and materials. For example the *Tôle découpé* technique uses oil barrels opened out. Therefore a unit of 48"(?) by 66"(?) (Possibly 66" x 71"(?)) should be incorporated.

This allows vernacular Haitian creators to relate to them. However official plans will be converted to metric at a late stage in design.

### Building Regulations

Building regulations may be eased if the structures are classified as 'art installations' or temporary.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Yards' are unknown in Haiti