

Tranquility Reigns At Ritz-Carlton Club® St. Thomas

Impact-Resistant Glazing Systems Offer Peace of Mind



WITH THE SAFETY AND COMFORT OF THEIR OWNERS A TOP PRIORITY, DEVELOPERS OF THE PRIVATE RESIDENCE RITZ-CARLTON CLUB® ST. THOMAS, DECIDED TO USE THE MOST ADVANCED GLAZING TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO ENSURE THE CLUB'S WINDOWS COULD WITHSTAND REPEATED IMPACTS FROM WINDBORNE DEBRIS SOMETIMES HURLED BY TROPICAL STORMS AND HURRICANES. OLDCASTLE GLASS' STORMGLASS™ GLASS WINDOWS, MADE WITH SOLUTIA INC.'S ENHANCED SAFLEX™ PLASTIC INTERLAYER, WERE USED THROUGHOUT THIS PROJECT TO HELP PROTECT THE RESORT FROM HIGH WINDS AND EXTREME WEATHER.

While nothing can completely subdue the wrath of Mother Nature, windows and doors made with impact-resistant laminated glass have been proven to be far less susceptible to object penetration from high-wind storms than windows and doors manufactured with other types of glass. In a violent storm, flying debris can be one of the major threats to life safety and property. Rigorous testing has shown that if laminated glass is

broken, its tough plastic interlayer is designed to keep the window intact rather than breaking into fragments and creating dangerous shards like ordinary glass. With its ability to remain intact within the frame, laminated glass can help protect a building's exterior "envelope" by preventing strong winds from rushing in creating internal pressurization that can push out the walls and roof and eventually cause complete destruction of a building.

The Ritz-Carlton Club® St. Thomas is part of a burgeoning trend in vacationing known as "vacation clubs." Vacation clubs are resorts designed to meet the needs of travelers who can afford a second home but don't want the burden of full ownership of a retreat they may visit only a few times a year.

Adjacent to the Ritz-Carlton St. Thomas hotel, The Ritz-Carlton Club St. Thomas offers its members spacious luxury accommodations with a personal-

PROJECT FACTS

PROJECT

The Ritz-Carlton Club® St. Thomas

LOCATION

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS

Nichols Brosch Sandoval + Associates Inc, Coral Gables, FL
William Karr + Associates, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

LAMINATOR

Oldcastle Glass, Tampa, Florida

INTERLAYER MANUFACTURER

Solutia Inc., St. Louis, Missouri

WINDOW AND DOOR SUPPLIER

WinDoor, Inc., Orlando, Florida

COMPLETION DATE

Summer 2004

project profile (cont.)

ized array of services, including requested pre-stocking of kitchen and bar, maid service, child care, catered meals and valet service along with a dedicated concierge. Club members also have complete access to The Ritz-Carlton hotel restaurants, as well as a new full-service spa and recreational facilities on the 15-acre, estate-like grounds.

The Ritz-Carlton Club St. Thomas was built as four separate buildings and offers the same Mediterranean elegance as the hotel, including 80 two- and three-bedroom residences. Orlando-based WinDoor, Inc., a manufacturer of high quality windows and doors, was selected as the window supplier for this exclusive private residence property.

WinDoor began the Ritz-Carlton project using a glass-clad polycarbonate laminate that experienced 100 percent de-glazing failure during construction. The company had to go back and replace all the windows and doors in the first three buildings. "That's when we reassessed our product and decided to use StormGlass™. It's an absolutely wonderful product, and it's easier to obtain," notes Frank Lukens, president of WinDoor, Inc.

"Fortunately, windows in this region must now be Miami-Dade certified, which means they must adhere to the

most stringent standards in the country," according to Lukens. "Architects and owners prefer products that meet AAMA standards as well as Miami-Dade protocols, and they are engineered for a lifetime of protection from hurricane force winds and flying debris, not to mention intense tropical solar UV rays. That's why we installed

StormGlass glass windows for the Ritz-Carlton project."

StormGlass, Oldcastle Glass' laminated, high-performance product, was developed to resist high design pressures for both small and large glass openings in residential and commercial building markets. These windows utilize an enhanced Saflex® protective interlayer that can sustain greater wind pressures. This gives architects and designers the flexibility to use large glass sizes while satisfying hurricane-related building code requirements.



Today, owners and guests of the Ritz-Carlton Club St. Thomas can take comfort in the fact that their windows and doors provide an added safety measure around the clock. That peace of mind leaves time for enjoying the beautiful beaches and sun-kissed days that abound in this island paradise.



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CONTACT THE SOLUTIA ARCHITECTURAL GLAZING SUPPORT TEAM AT ONE OF THE WORLDWIDE LOCATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS.

NORTH AMERICA
Corporate Headquarters
tel: 1.877.674.1233
tel: 314.674.1000
fax: 1.877.674.1236
email: glazin@solutia.com

EUROPE/AFRICA
Solutia Europe N.V./S.A.
tel: 32.10.48.1227
email: Films-archi@solutia.com

SOUTH AMERICA
Solutia Brasil Ltda
tel: 55.11.3365.1806
fax: 55.11.3365.1816

ASIA PACIFIC
Solutia Singapore Pte Ltd
tel: 65.6.357.6100
fax: 65.6.357.6201

www.vanceva.com

www.saflex.com

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