

RENDERING AND PLASTERING TECHNOLOGY AT OLD MILL VILLAS

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Rendering, or plastering, is one of the most important aspects of constructing a high quality building as it is the render that completes the finish of each wall surface and corner; a good render gives an even and straight finish giving the property a high end finish. Regular sand and cement render has various drawbacks giving it an uneven finish. Poor quality of sand is common in Mauritius as there are no natural pit sand sources; sand is created by crushing Basalt rocks. Mortar made of this material is difficult to apply, smooth and level giving it an uneven finish. If the blockwork onto which the mortar is applied is not thoroughly wet before application, the render will develop hairline cracks. With standard rendering techniques, the reveals are difficult to get straight and consistent so workmanship is of utmost importance when working with these products.

After much research for an alternative solution, we managed to source a product manufactured by N & B Knauf in Belgium from raw materials that are mined in Tunisia. It has been tested and approved and meets the EU standard with confirmation certificate 305/2011. Before rendering, 90 degree corner strips of PVC are secured to all wall corners, window and door reveals. This allows for perfectly formed reveals with a protective edge to prevent chipping. The mortar product is added to water and mixed in a screw pump which pumps the mortar down a hose to a nozzle to spray it on to the wall. The walls are then smoothed and finished by artisans which provides a smooth and level finish with perfectly straight reveals. We have found this method and product very effective and are pleased at the excellent results that it delivers. The quality of the rendering done at Old Mill Villas, we believe, is a cut above the rest in Mauritius.