



thecornerstone

Halfway through 2019, we're pleased to report that we've got a lot going on, not the least of which is the opening of two fabulous cafés – one in our PwC building and the other at Princes Court!

Not only will these new gathering spots be convenient places for tenants and their visitors to grab healthy breakfasts, lunches or pick-me-up snacks, they're also great for impromptu meetings over a cup of coffee. Read on to find out more about the cafés and their mouth-watering menus – and to get some inspiring quotes about "café culture".

Over the past few months, Princes Court has also been a temporary home for students and teachers of Holy Name Convent. The school suffered serious damage in the wake of the August 21, 2018 earthquake, to the point where it compromised the structural integrity of key buildings, making them unsafe. We'll share the story of how RGM got involved and where the school is at in its recovery process.

With our new flagship property, Savannah East, being the first ever LEED-certified building in Trinidad and Tobago, we're interested in all things related to green construction.

New research from the U.S. Green Building Council suggests that the general public is largely unaware of the role that green buildings can play in mitigating the climate crisis – and since island nations like ours will be the most at risk if the situation worsens, we'd like to share some of the report's findings and offer you concrete ways in which you can help to reduce the negative effects of global heating.

Together, we can and will make a difference.

A Safe Space for Students

AUGUST 21, 2018 IS NOT A DAY THAT ANYONE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WILL SOON FORGET. AN EARTHQUAKE, 7.3 IN MAGNITUDE AT ITS EPICENTRE IN NORTHERN VENEZUELA, WAS 6.9 BY THE TIME ITS RIPPLE EFFECTS REACHED TRINIDAD.

Miraculously, there was no loss of life resulting from the tremor, but the violent shaking, which lasted for a minute and a half, caused damage to some buildings in and around Port of Spain, Holy Name Convent included.

The school experienced structural damage to some staircases and various parts of the roof, making some areas unsafe to occupy. Students found themselves suddenly displaced from their classrooms, and the school's administration now had to figure out how best to create a comfortable learning environment under such space constraints.



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Holy Name Convent immediately sought financial assistance from the Ministry of Education so that it could attend to the most pressing repairs. When the new school year began in September 2018, pupils found themselves crammed into hallways for lessons; the school's chapel often doubled as a classroom. It was less than ideal.

Although the Ministry of Education agreed to begin the repairs by December, the strain on both staff and students had reached its peak a month earlier. The school held an open meeting with the parent body to update them on progress, present the proposed schedule of repair works and address the frustration that everyone was understandably feeling about the inconvenience.

It was clear that the repairs would take some time, so even as the principal prepared stakeholders for an extended period of disruption, she also appealed to them to offer alternative solutions to comfortably accommodate classes in the interim.

That's where RGM stepped in. Princes Court, one of the city's premier corporate office locations, sits a couple of blocks away from the school – and it happened to have temporarily vacant space on the fifth floor. It was air conditioned, well lit and most of all, safe and secure, with top-level HSSE systems in place. We were happy to offer it as a temporary location for classes and the school was pleased to accept.

We made Princes Court available to Holy Name Convent's entire Form VI cohort from the beginning of the second term, in January



2019. While repairs at the school were underway, the classes moved in with desks, chairs and whiteboards. Following the initial phase of the school repairs, the students eventually moved back to their regular quarters on April 6, 2019. Other repairs to the school are ongoing but progressing well, and should be completed during the July/August vacation.

It was a wonderful experience for us as a landlord and the building's corporate tenants were fully supportive of the initiative.

We were genuinely happy to have put our A-class commercial office space to good use by creating an environment in which the leaders of the future can work towards achieving their own A grades!

Make Way for the RGM Cafés!

RGM UNDERSTANDS THAT THE BEST BUILDINGS EVOLVE TO SUIT THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE WHO WORK THERE.

In the spirit of adding value for both our tenants and the wider communities in which we operate, we're pleased to announce that we've whipped up something wonderful with two amazing café brands – Roband Sidewalk Café, which has already opened at Princes Court, and the newest incarnation of Chaud Café, which will launch at our PwC building in August 2019.

Situated on the perimeter of downtown Port of Spain at the Corner of Keate and Pembroke Streets, Princes Court is the perfect location for **Roband Sidewalk Café**, which serves customers not only from within the building itself, but also from nearby businesses, the judiciary, government ministries and schools. The open patio space is also very popular with the café's customers.

Under highly qualified international chef Darryl Roberts, who has served at the residences of our country's president and prime minister and even cooked for heads of state like Queen Elizabeth II, Roband serves a refreshingly unique menu – gourmet food with a local twist.

Open from 6:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the week, there is always a wide choice of menu items: go totally local for breakfast, or indulge in more traditional fare like waffles and pancakes. Lunch-time favourites include the delightfully unexpected flavours of chocolate jerk chicken, passion fruit fish or anchar with provisions. For those with a sweet tooth, the café also offers an array of enticing cakes and desserts.



Roband Sidewalk Café



We're thrilled that Chef Khalid Mohammed and his team have decided to open up an additional location on the ground floor of the PwC building! **Chaud Café Vite** will occupy a sizeable space with a sprawling patio that offers a real sidewalk café feel.

While there is seating, the café is primarily designed to be a take-away restaurant catering to the many working people in the area, who can start off their day with a sumptuous breakfast, pop in for lunch and if it's been a long day and the last thing they want to do is cook, there are wholesome choices to take home for dinner.

Chaud Café Vite will focus on healthy international fare that meets the brand's high taste and quality standards; it will also be eco-friendly with the food packaging. The new location is on target to be open by early August – and since workplace cafés have been known to increase productivity and social interaction, reduce stress and promote better health, working in and around **RGM buildings just got even better!**

Changing The Narrative of Green Buildings

ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL NEWS ORGANISATIONS, THE UK GUARDIAN, RECENTLY UPDATED ITS EDITORIAL GUIDELINES BY INTRODUCING TERMS IT FELT MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBE THE REALITY OF THE WORLD'S ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS.

While commonly used phrases like “climate change” and “global warming” are not prohibited, the Guardian now prefers to use words like **“climate crisis”, “emergency” or “breakdown”, and “global heating”** to describe the pressing environmental situation.

The Guardian's editor-in-chief, Katharine Viner, explained that the paper wanted to be “scientifically precise, while also communicating clearly [on this very important issue.” Interestingly, a new study by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) also underscores the importance of clear communication around sensitive environmental issues.

Titled “Standard Issue”, the April 2019 USGBC report revealed that the general public is uninformed when it comes to understanding how green buildings can help mitigate this impending environmental catastrophe. While most people acknowledge the urgency of environmental concerns, most have not changed their daily habits to benefit the environment and green buildings were not high on their radar when it came to planet-saving measures.

According to USGBC President Mahesh Ramanujam, this all points to the fact that the green building movement has “a messaging mountain to climb” in order to inspire behavioural change on a larger scale and promote the message that our planet is in clear and present danger. The best way in which to do this, they've found, is to base the messaging on a platform of good health.

If you start the conversation from a place of promoting well being, it's easier to connect the dots so that people can see the specific ways in which green buildings benefit them and by extension, the wider community. Those who work in green buildings can attest to experiencing the effects themselves: tenants of Savannah East, Trinidad and Tobago's first LEED-certified building, have noted how sustainability can seamlessly co-exist with a contemporary design and luxurious finishes, all while being in harmony with nature and not harming the environment.

Global accounting giant KPMG, which has its local offices at Savannah East, said, “In addition to the obvious environmental benefits of a green building, the improvement in quality of life and occupant health and comfort takes precedence for us. Our employees need to be comfortable and healthy. Green buildings aren't just about sustainable design and construction, the innovations in improved air quality and aesthetics create great physical and mental health benefits for all occupants. By being one of the first professional services firms to occupy a green building, we hope to encourage, engage and inspire our people, clients, suppliers and the community at large to pool our efforts and develop a more sustainable world.”

To read the USGBC report in full, go to: https://livingstandard.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/LS-_Issue01.pdf



Get Inspired!

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE CAFÉ CULTURE? GREAT GATHERING PLACES INSPIRE CONVERSATION AND IDEAS IN A UNIQUE ATMOSPHERE, WHETHER YOU'RE THERE FOR A BUSINESS MEETING OR A GET-TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS...

“ I'd much rather hang out in a café. That's where things are really happening.”

– Joe Sacco

“ The idea of just wandering off to a café with a notebook and writing and seeing where that takes me for awhile is just bliss.”

– J. K. Rowling

We've Got Space!

IF YOU'VE GOT A BUSINESS IN NEED OF A HOME, WE'VE GOT SOME GREAT COMMERCIAL SPACE AVAILABLE AT THREE OF OUR MOST IN-DEMAND BUILDINGS. THEY'RE ALL OPTIMALLY LOCATED, WITH GENEROUS UNDERGROUND PARKING AND WELL-MANAGED HSSE SYSTEMS. SEE WHICH IS THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU...

BUILDING	DETAILS	\$PSF	PARKING	EXTRAS	AVAILABILITY
 NEWTOWN CENTRE Maraval Road, Port of Spain	4th floor, 2,648 sq. ft. Excellent location, close to business districts, support services and restaurants	\$13	5 assigned spots (more can be made available)	Use of rooftop meeting and entertainment facility	Immediately
 PRINCES COURT Corner Keate and Pembroke Streets, Port of Spain	1st floor, 11,372 sq. ft. Top-class facilities and panoramic views of the capital	\$12	16 assigned spots (more can be made available)	Use of rooftop meeting and entertainment facility	August 1, 2019
 SAVANNAH EAST Queen's Park East, Port of Spain	5th floor, 13,040 sq. ft. Modern, energy-effi- cient, LEED-certified; offers long-term cost benefits and boosts employee productivity	\$14	26 assigned spots (more can be made available)	Use of rooftop meeting and entertainment facility	Immediately

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