

Greetings all,
Happy New Year!!

It has been a while since our last newsletter and no excuses, we should have had one out by New Year but we have been involved in numerous projects these last 6 months.

In the last newsletter we discussed the steps one could take in developing a tent site, be it private or for tourism, this newsletter will follow the last steps in this discussion. The first part can be seen here.

Light Footprint, assets and dangers

In developing a new site one needs to determine all the natural assets available on the property and how to utilize/encompass trees, rocks, ravines, hills streams etc., into your tent environment so that at the end of the day one has created a marriage between the living space and the surrounding natural environment.

In looking for these assets also try to determine if there are any dangerous elements to these assets that may need to be taken into consideration when situating ones tents. These could be dangerous animals. Reptiles or even insects that could negatively impact the tent site or intended living space and need to be dealt with one way or another, but in the least intrusive way possible in an effort to create a harmonious natural atmosphere.

In taking all of the above into consideration, the most important objective is to create a living space with the least invasive impact and producing the lightest footprint possible. Trees and bushes could be allowed to grow through the decking. Rock outcrops could be partially incorporated into the deck or living space, that the less natural assets that are removed, the closer to nature the ambiance will become. Another example would be using rocks or stone from the immediate terrain if one is planning on building a splash pool or outdoor shower, and so forth.

The most important point to remember is to keep it simple, elegant, close to nature and done with leaving the lightest footprint possible.

All natural assets must be clearly marked, and the contractor advised to avoid the markings so, that none of them get inadvertently destroyed or damaged.



Flexibility to change

Most plans never quite work out as one intended them to be, and in designing and developing a tent site the same applies. Even the best planning and visioning will most likely need to be changed. Allowing some flexibility in plans, leaves room to move things around to accommodate for the natural assets and the terrain itself. All of which could have been originally looked over in the beginning.

This is not by any means a negative, it just means that one needs to be flexible and malleable enough to change the plans to better blend the site with nature, to create and realize a dream.

The flexibility is not as hard as one thinks, so long as one keeps things simple, and the big picture always kept in mind, the end result will surprise you.

Construction and crew

This part can make life so easy or make one's life a total misery. It is imperative that you find a contractor and crew that are not only good, but they will live up to their promises. Particularly when it comes to 3rd world countries, where many good contractors are not licensed, it makes the selection that more difficult in finding the right people to do the job, and sometimes their references are not all that accurate. It would be best to actually go and look at the other work the contractor has done in the past. From our past experiences in such situations, once a contractor is selected, be aware of all the short cuts they will try to take to make the job easier for them, but will not be necessarily good for you in the end. Also shrinkage and wastage is a big thing to keep an eye on, where building materials are left out and not used, and tend to disappear from the work site never to be seen again.

Another point is where the contractor has one order raw building materials that at the end of the day never get used, and one has to get rid of or find storage.

There is no easy answer to avoid this, one can only do the due diligence and research, and someone must keep a keen eye out on all work and be on-site everyday to keep an eye on things.

The Mess

When the dream and the vision is complete, one seldom thinks of the day when all construction is over. One has a beautiful structure on hand and there is a mess of wasted and cutoff building materials everywhere on looks – this is a nightmare. Be sure to try and keep your contactor on at least a weekly clean up schedule that

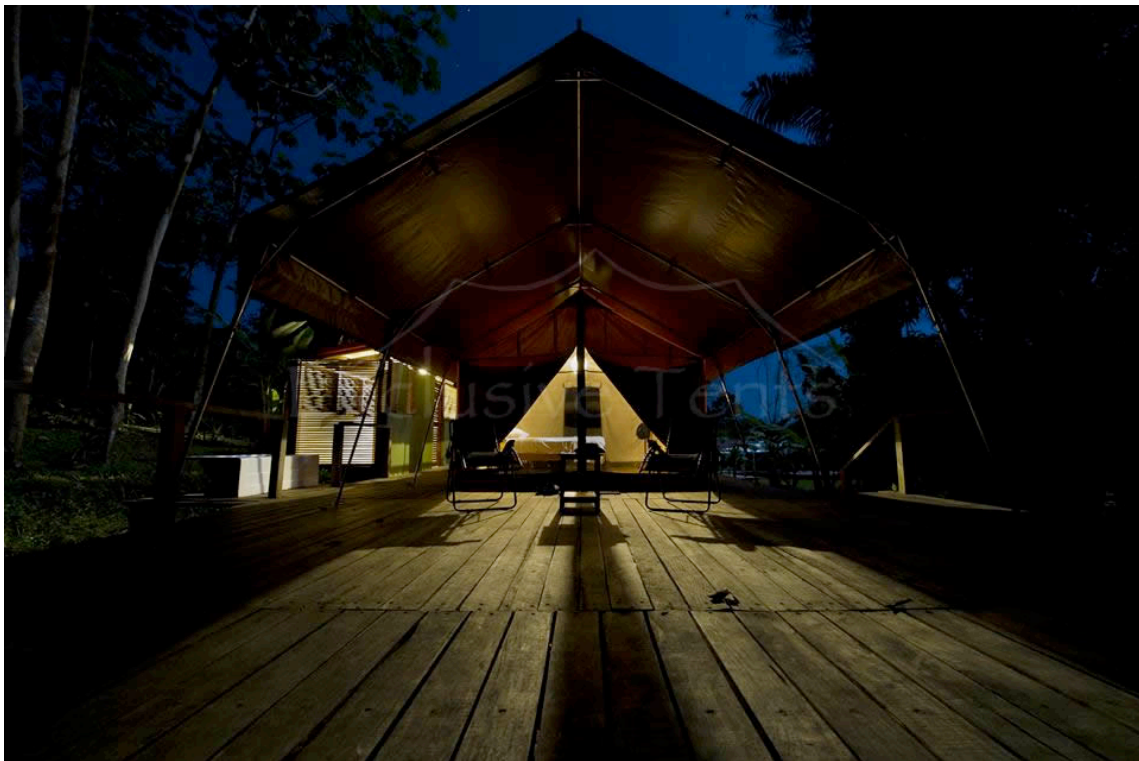


gets maintained throughout the construction phase, or at the end of the day there will be so much to clean up that one will barely know where to start. Also make sure that there are trash bags in numerous places around the trash site, to discourage littering, as well as either supplying or having the contractor supply adequate toilet facilities, be they portable or not.

In conclusion, it's important to remember that it's the small details that make up the bigger picture. Stay involved in every aspect of your project, keep it simple and enjoy the process. If things seem to be getting confusing, overwhelming or you just need something as simple as some advice, rest assured the Exclusive Tents Team is always here to help you!



We are proud to announce Canopy Towers ([link to Canopy Towers website](#)) were able to bring in their first guests to stay on January 19th. Canopy towers is home to eight Serengeti tents placed in the Darien Province of Panama. To learn more about their tents, and what they have done, please check out our February 2013 newsletter, and their website.



We have an exciting year of projects ahead of us. Please be sure to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to find out more about recently finished projects, and other news from Exclusive Tents.

Wishing you all well until the next newsletter.

The Exclusive Tents Team

Add the Sinya video [See the newly released video of the tent at Sinya on Lone Man Creek, Texas](https://vimeo.com/79941681) <https://vimeo.com/79941681>

[Exclusive Tents in Bali, Glamping Sandat has just opened](http://www.glampingsandat.com/) <http://www.glampingsandat.com/>