This paper reflects on the concerns and influences that underlie my architecture and its attempts to be sustainable and relevant in the Jamaican environment and culture.

Vernacular architecture is almost by definition sustainable, made of local material, built for the local conditions. Much can be learned from the form and detail of the Caribbean vernacular architecture of lime, stone, timber with hurricane resistant forms, cooling features which developed right up until reinforced concrete construction became widespread in the mid 20th century. There is a need to record and learn from the craftsmen who still practice these crafts and training. There is also a need to by example influence and adapt the design of new generation of concrete popular construction to make it more sustainable and to improve the public realm.

ANN HODGES
Partner, Kingston 10 architects
Kingston, Jamaica

HOW I LEARNT TO BUILD