

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

MARCH 2008



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According to our readers, *Houston* magazine introduces them to retailers, restaurants, boutiques and designers that are new and off the beaten path. That was the inspiration for last month's big story on what's new in town, "Best of the City '08," as well as for our first cover featuring a Houston location. The feedback on the issue has been tremendous—a great way to wrap up our third successful year of publishing.

Of course, I'm even more excited about the future. This edition looks great, with our features on local home design and fashion trends. And the editors tell me next month they're focusing on travel. Our readers want to know about the next

hot destination. I recently had the opportunity to visit Huatulco, Mexico—with my buddies Hedley Karpas and Mark Anawaty as the guest of my friend Shaun Wymes, CEO of Atlantic Communications—to see his fantastic oceanfront Cosmo Condominium project. It was a great trip.

Huatulco is the latest resort developed by Fonatur, which previously developed resorts in places like Cabo San Lucas, Ixtapa and Cancun. Huatulco refers to the resort area Bahías de Huatulco, or the Bays of Huatulco. Some 300 miles east of Acapulco, it's an easy two-and-a-half-hour flight from Houston, and located along the coast of Oaxaca in a stunning mountain and jungle setting. Huatulco consists of secluded bays and lovely beaches along a pristine coastline with 70 percent of the land set aside for ecological protection.

There are no high-rise hotel strips or casinos, just soft sands, clear Mediterranean-blue ocean, striking cliffs and dense jungle.

Once I got used to how nice Shaun's house is, we got a great tour of the town. Huatulco offers everything you could ask for without the traffic, congestion and expense. In one direction are the mountains and the other is the Pacific Ocean. The sound of the sea was all around us at this "yet to be discovered" retreat.

Shaun Wynes is building a condominium project that seems to be a great investment opportunity. There are 71 condos with three and four bedrooms fully furnished, down to the pots and pans. Cosmo is fully equipped with a beach club, gym, spa, restaurant and three pools. Somehow he secured waterfront property that must be seen to be appreciated.

Scooping up beachfront property is getting harder and harder. (I have friends in the northeast who are going all the way to Nova Scotia to buy some.) For Houstonians—who are already known to love Mexico—Huatulco is a much closer alternative.

Hope you enjoy this third-anniversary issue. I can't wait to see what Year Four brings.