Synopsis:
The diverse and varied histories of the Caribbean have given rise to an eclectic architecture. Colonised by French, English, Dutch and Spanish settlers and inhabited by an ethnically mixed and diverse population, the architectural cultures of the different territories reveal a wide range of colonial and contemporary cultural influences and a compelling and challenging context for architectural and urban cultural production.

Whilst culturally diverse Caribbean cities still share many features and characteristics, most cities were generally developed from the ordinances set out in Laws of the Indies. Like many post colonial cities and cultures the emergence from the colonial and post colonial periods through the cipher of modernism presents architects with a particular and unique cultural context. The integration and assimilation of architectural culture has given rise to a diverse range of responses and models for both the urban and rural landscape.

The talk will present an overview of the history and context of contemporary Caribbean architecture, outlining the various historical narratives which inform the present strategies for contemporary production together with examples of some exciting contemporary works by architects from Spanish, Dutch, English and French speaking territories.

Biography
Mark Raymond is an architect in private practice in Trinidad and Tobago. Mark studied architecture at the Architectural Association School of Architecture (AA) where he was the recipient of the Michael Ventris Award. After graduating from the AA he worked in the offices of Conrans, Norman Foster and DEGW on architectural and urban planning projects in the UK and Europe. In 1993 he returned to the Caribbean where he established his own practice and has worked independently and in collaboration with other architects throughout the Caribbean.

He is a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Architects and is currently Chairman of ACSAC - Association of Commonwealth Societies of Architects in the Caribbean. Mark has lectured on his work and architecture and urbanism in the US, the Caribbean and the UK and has been actively involved with the Caribbean School of Architecture in Jamaica over the past ten years both as a visiting lecturer and as Chairman of the Academic Advisory Committee. He is the author of numerous articles in architectural journals and publications on Caribbean architecture and urbanism and professional practice issues as they relate to the region. Current projects include the design of the new administrative centre for the Government of Anguilla, a resort in Anguilla, a residential development in Maraval, Trinidad, and a number of private residences in Trinidad and Tobago.