

## Cruise Ship AZURE SEAS

Built in 1955 by Harland & Wolff in Belfast, Northern Ireland, the passenger liner SOUTHERN CROSS was originally based in Southampton, England, and operated an around-the-world service until 1971. As jet aircraft took over the trans-oceanic passenger trades, SOUTHERN CROSS entered the short-cruise trade, based in Europe and also in Miami. In 1980, under new ownership and renamed S.S. AZURE SEAS, the ship introduced 3 and 4-night cruises to the port of Los Angeles. The owner, Admiral Cruise Lines, carried out a major renovation to S.S. AZURE SEAS in 1988. Alan carried out the engineering for the newly created spaces: a casino, conference rooms, and 12 luxury suites. This project encompassed space arrangements (working together with ship's force and interior decorators), structural modifications, piping, HVAC, and electrical distribution. Alan analyzed and kept track of the vessel's stability, as impacted by the modernization, and by subsequent modifications and operational changes. AZURE SEAS was a great success in building up the short-cruise trade on the west coast. Due to a limited capacity (740 passengers) she was eventually replaced on the run by a larger, newer vessel. After Admiral Cruise Lines was merged into Royal Caribbean Cruises, AZURE SEAS was transferred to the Caribbean (1990) and eventually sold to Dolphin Cruise Line as OCEAN BREEZE. This fine ship, christened SOUTHERN CROSS in 1955 by Queen Elizabeth, was finally retired in 2002. Alan feels that it was an honor to have played a role in the life story of this proud liner.

