

FLORIDA'S WEST COAST

# MODERNHOME™

COLLECTION 2016 | PUBLISHED BY SRQ MEDIA

**PUBLISHED  
WORK FROM**

DSDG, Inc  
The Risdon Group  
NWC Construction  
DWY Landscape Architects  
Del Vescovo Design Group  
Murray Homes

**Iconic Voice**  
THE LIFE AND CAREER  
OF SEMINAL ARCHITECT  
CARL ABBOTT

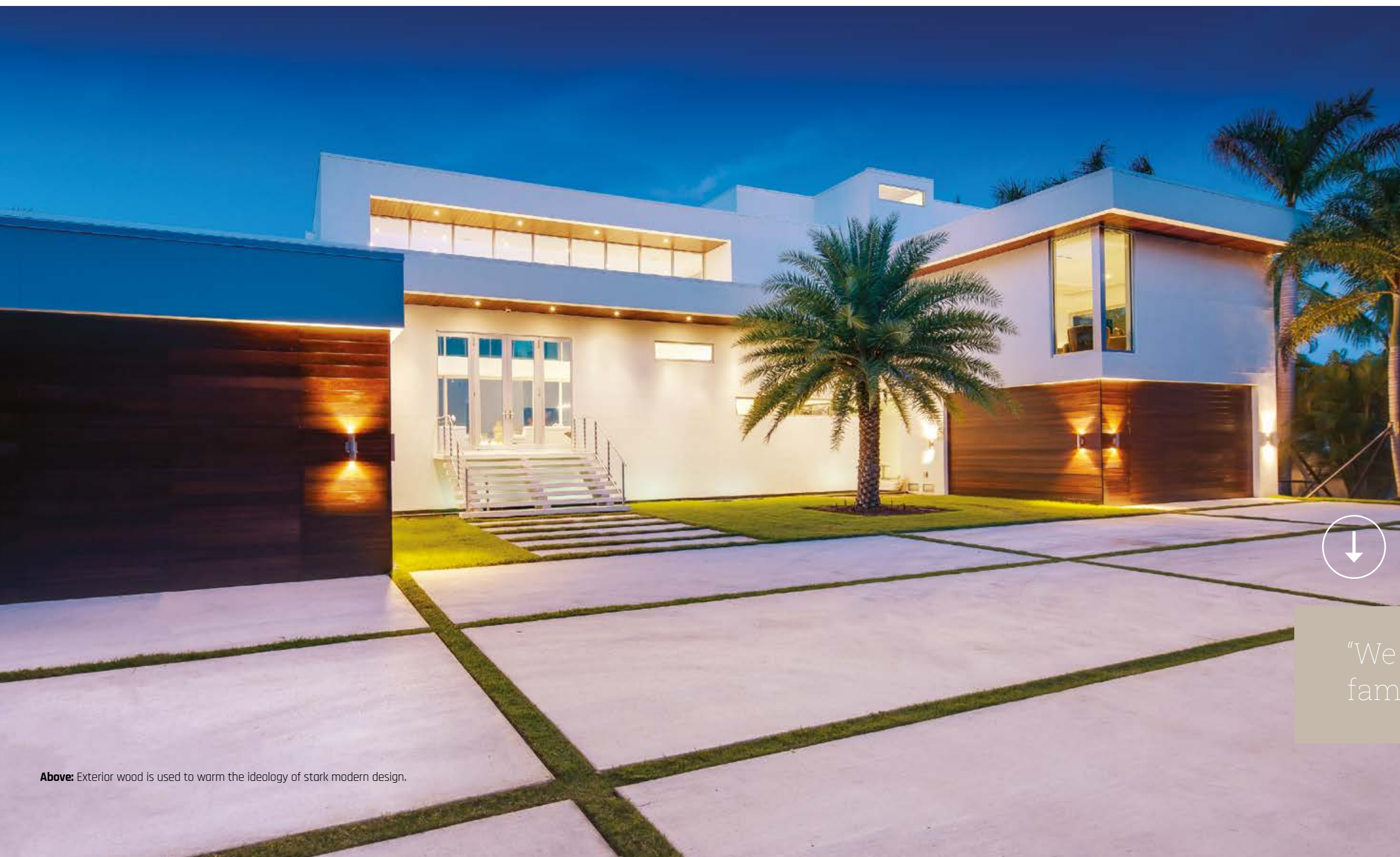
**Modern Spirit**  
TAKE A '50s TRIP TO  
THE FIRST ANNUAL  
MODERN SHOW

Nalluri Residence by Del Vescovo Design Group



# Warm Modern

Mark Sultana, a partner at DSDG, Inc. Architects in Sarasota, proves there's more to modern than white.



Above: Exterior wood is used to warm the ideology of stark modern design.



Initial thoughts that come to mind when reflecting on modern architecture: stark white stucco, walls of glass, minimalism to the max. Yet, look at some of DSDG Architects Partner Mark Sultana's latest projects and you'll notice subtle notes that move in a different direction than the norm. The principle he calls "warm modern" invites the home's inhabitants to actually inhabit the space, rather than feel alienated from it. "There's the stark white box type of modern that you see all over the place," Sultana says. "We try to do a modern that is warm, family-friendly and easy to live in."

Some of those projects include the recently completed Infinity Condominiums on Longboat Key, the One88 Residences overlooking Sarasota Bay and the Park Residences on Lido along with a number of private homes. Sultana's take on Modernism reveals itself in each property immediately—natural wood-lined balcony ceilings, walls that spring to life with floor-to-ceiling windows that reflect nature and raw stone that adds an aspect of the elemental.



"We try to do a modern that is warm, family-friendly and easy to live in."

Bringing the outdoors in, and vice versa, plays a large role in Sultana's creative vision. "We use trees native to Florida, succulents like agaves and cacti, low-maintenance grass and shell aggregate or crushed limestone," says Sultana. "It really takes care of itself." When creating these warm modern homes, he keeps the natural world top of mind—when you stand on the balcony of an Infinity condo, the sense of being able to walk straight into the water is palpable, an overhang and transparent glass railings being the only barriers between you and the world. "It's not just about the architecture," says Sultana, "but how the architecture plays off the landscape."

The tropical greenery speaks to the clean and simple lines of modern architecture, the lush backdrop becoming just as much a part of the home as the raw materials, which take on a new meaning when applied to Sultana's work as he continues to move away from classic white stucco and play with a mellower aesthetic. Fixtures are made in warm metals including aluminum and bronze rather than gleaming silver, stairs become stacked slabs of reclaimed wood and kitchens are accented in rich wood tones. "I think people are just tired of the same old same old and they want something different. It's important to all of our clients that the house we're designing for them is one of a kind," Sultana says. "It's not like a development, where you drive down the road and you see the same house over and over and it's just a different color; that's not the lifestyle the clients want. They want something unique and we give them that."

Sultana's modern projects span the local map, from Pinellas County and Longboat Key to Punta Gorda; Sultana even created the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum-certified house in Charlotte County. Though Sarasota has been a destination for its modern architecture since the 1950s, Sultana says the style has only truly regained popularity in the last few years. Now people are demanding more from their modern homes, wanting to add an element of the outside world to their minimalist surroundings. To that end, Sultana says he is working on quite a few homes at the moment that will incorporate more texture into the architecture. Creating these innovative homes for people is what keeps him going. He has designed and constructed four of his own warm modern houses, the most recent being built last year. "It's been my passion," he says. "It's what I love to do more than anything else, so being able to bring it to more people so they can enjoy it is what I strive for." **MH**

**DSDG, Inc. Architects** | 1348 Fruitville Rd., Ste. 204, Sarasota, FL 34236 | 941-955-5645 | [dsdginc.com](http://dsdginc.com)

"It's what I love to do more than anything else, so being able to bring it to more people so they can enjoy it is what I strive for."



**Above:** Wood tones brought into the interior warms the modern color palette.





# Scaling Up

Designing a footprint for contemporary Sarasota (and the Rosemary District).

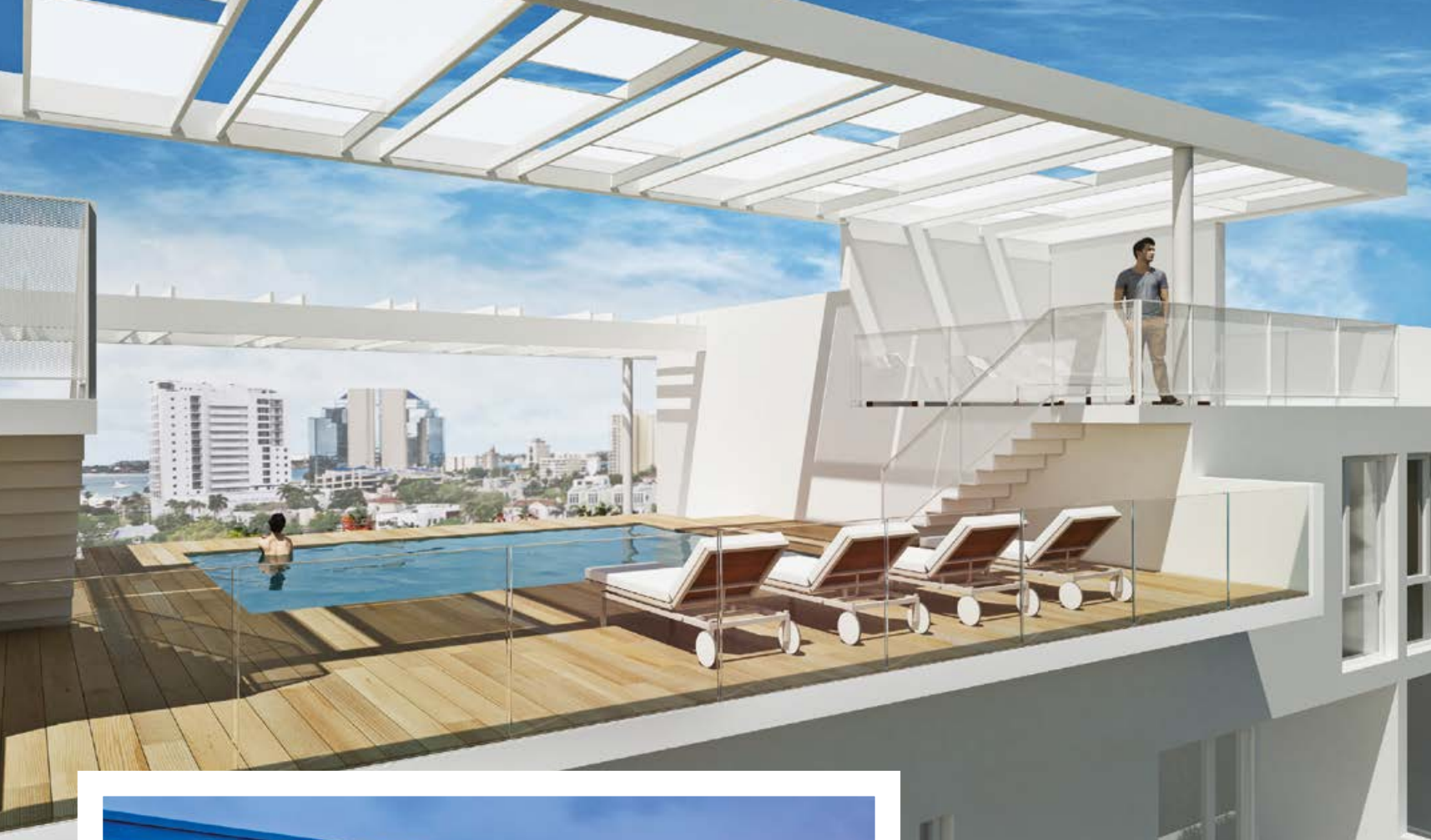
**T**he Risdon Group, in collaboration with award winning Halfants + Pichette Architects, produces projects that are as much about the neighborhood and the neighbors as the architecture itself. "Every detail is important, from how a design relates to its neighbors, adjoining units and even how a window opening relates to the expanse of the wall. Everything lies in a developed sense of place—a place where the built environment is sophisticated and eclectic, but also comforting and peaceful," says Steve Bradley, owner of Risdon Group. This ethos and the successful collaboration between a visionary developer and gifted architect are crafting a design platform in Sarasota's Rosemary District.

"I appreciate working with Michael Halfants, not only for his astute design ability, but for his sensitivity to me as a developer. He is an agile project partner and genuinely receptive to my ideas."

—Steve Bradley

Creating that environment comes from attention to both scale and spirit. "With good modern architecture, scale becomes appropriate and the space feels warm because you have the right dimensions," Bradley says. "The energy comes from the family that lives there and how they live there."

Risdon and Halfants' latest project, Risdon on 5th, emerged from a desire to make a positive impact on the burgeoning Rosemary District. The tagline for Risdon on 5th reads: "TROP I URBAN," a term that reflects the lifestyle presented by the residence. A modern piece of architecture in an urban setting, the building's environment connects the surrounding tropical oasis to a larger city feel.



The 28 condos, which include one and two bedroom apartments, three bedroom, two story lofts and penthouses, circle back to a vision of adding intimacy and coziness to modern living. The contemporary backdrop serves as the template while splashes of elements such as reclaimed wood create stunning visuals down a wall, across the floor or spanning the ceilings, giving a sense of earthiness and warmth. Glass, high ceilings and expansive floor plans make the interiors ideal places to experience the allure of Downtown Sarasota.

Halflants + Pichette continue to win acclaim at awards in regional and national levels for setting new and visionary standards for contemporary design across the state. **MH**

**The Risdon Group**  
1421 5th St., Sarasota, FL 34236  
941-365-1414  
risdongroup.com

**Halflants + Pichette**  
1383 5th St, Sarasota, FL 34236  
941-365-1820  
sfmarchitecture.com



“Steve Bradley of The Risdon Group is refreshing to work with, as he has clear vision for a project, yet allows me creative latitude to perform meaningful work.”  
—Michael Halflants

# Modern Dreams

Timothy Del Vescovo of Del Vescovo Design Group reveals his clients' passions by cultivating a design approach suited to their particular needs.

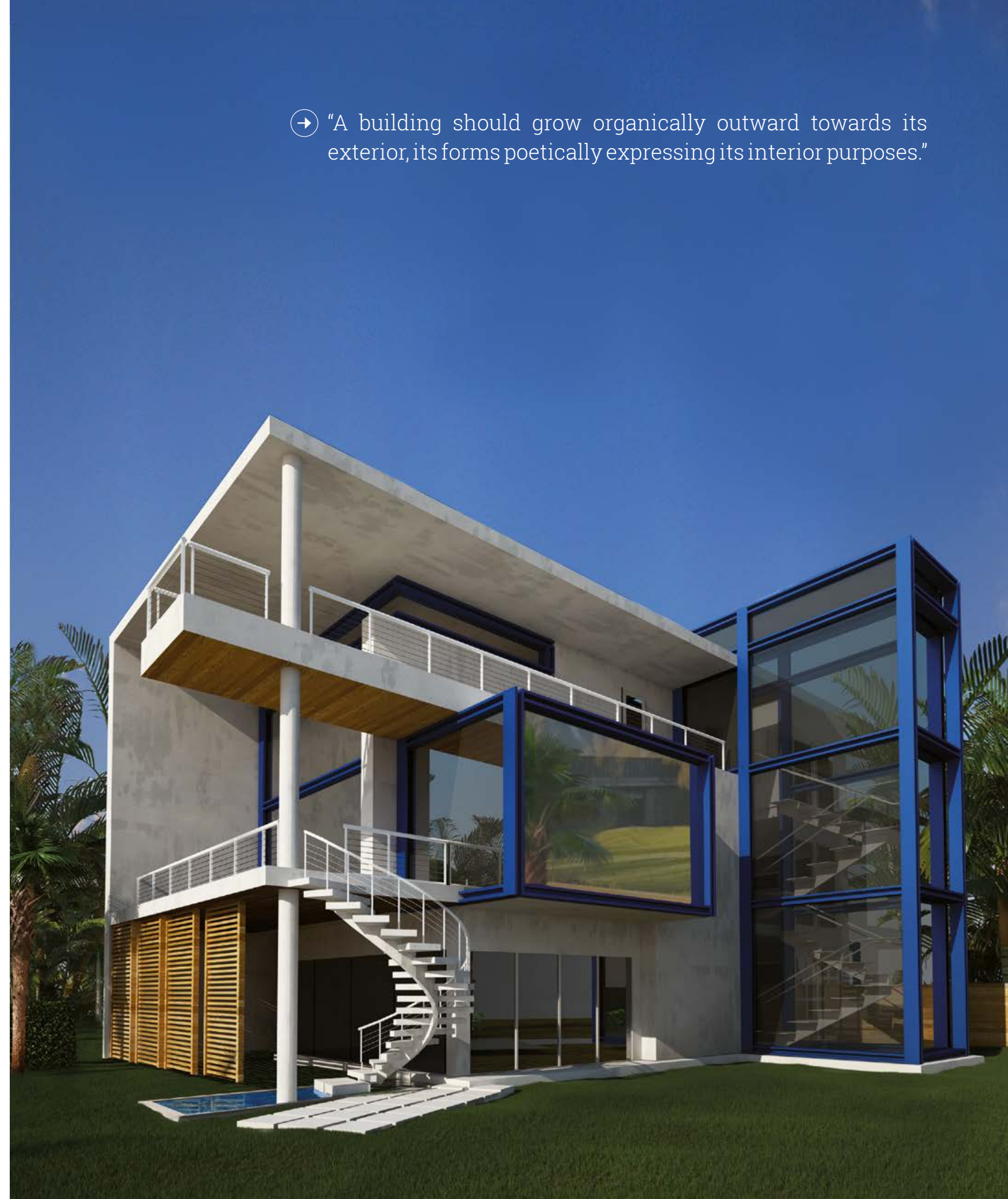


The homes conceptualized by Timothy Del Vescovo, owner of Del Vescovo Design Group, express the uniqueness of his clients' needs, styles and dreams. He endeavors to create homes that inspire emotions through a poetic interplay of form, light and material, while being cognizant of how directed light penetrates the interiors, affecting colors, textures and even defining space. Del Vescovo meticulously belabors proportions and silhouettes of how buildings meet the sky and relate to the site.

"At Del Vescovo Design Group, we have a passion for great design and for creating beautiful spaces that evoke emotion and inspire creativity while holding ourselves accountable for meeting budgets and schedules," says Del Vescovo.

The emerging architecture becomes a stage for daily rituals and creating memories, a refuge from the surrounding world, but also may willfully open to and connect with it. They are not static structures but ever-changing throughout the day passively and actively. Therefore, Del Vescovo is continually mindful of the dynamics between inhabitants and their interaction with the spaces. "A building should grow organically outward towards its exterior, its forms poetically expressing its interior purposes," says Del Vescovo.

→ "A building should grow organically outward towards its exterior, its forms poetically expressing its interior purposes."





COLLABRATIVE DESIGNER // Del Vescovo Design Group and Cucine Ricci's Collaborative Kitchen Design



Texture, materials, colors, furnishings, scale and lighting all work together to create the ambiance of your space—whether it is an exquisite Manhattan apartment, chic restaurant or Florida waterfront estate, the selections required to complete your vision are a delicate balance between style, budget, beauty and durability.

Del Vescovo strongly believes proper lighting affects the mood of the space and creates the desired drama that makes yours memorable. The Del Vescovo team continuously refines their lighting design, fixture types and placements to enhance your space, offering flexibility for creating different moods throughout the day and into the evening.

Del Vescovo Design Group's team understands the importance of how the detailing of a room impacts the overall feeling of the space. That is why the philosophy of "the essence is in the details" permeates how materials join together and relate to each other. The resulting space is truly the spiritual dimension of its architecture, creating a cohesive and harmonious environment. Whether your preferred style is Contemporary, Warm Modern, Traditional or Mid-Century Modern, Del Vescovo's attention to detail assures your spaces embody the proper character, proportions and details expected. "We are devoted to producing innovative buildings and memorable spaces that celebrate our client's visions", says Del Vescovo. **MH**



"We are devoted to producing innovative buildings and memorable spaces that celebrate our client's visions."

**Del Vescovo Design Group** | 451 North Orange Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236 | 941-321-9507 | [deldesign.com](http://deldesign.com)

# Sustainable Modern

David Young describes his passion for his profession, design, and connecting with nature.



Rain gardens, natural pools, proper shading, drought-tolerant plants and pervious paving materials play an important role in both residential and commercial designs.

**D**WY Landscape Architects Founder and Principal David W. Young describes his profession with incredible enthusiasm—it is clear that his passion goes beyond simply shaping the natural environment. Young has a deep appreciation for design and architecture, especially showcased when browsing his extensive portfolio. Nature seems to be edited in a way that achieves a sense of order, defining the purpose of each outdoor space, while his use of hardscape materials add punctuation and create continuity with every home's architecture.

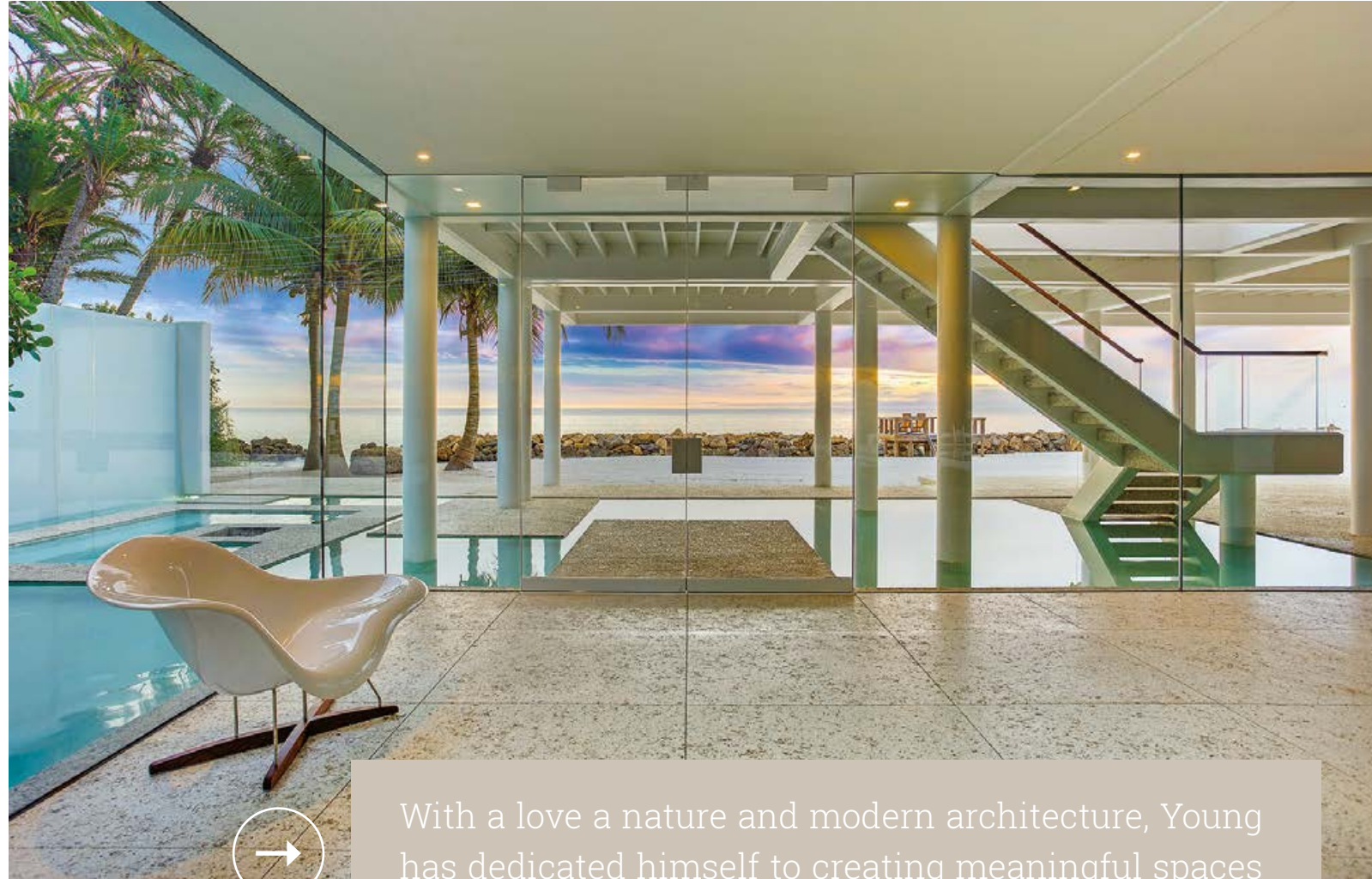
Young lives and breathes landscape architecture and design with inspiration coming from the most unexpected sources. "We were out on a new job site recently verifying live oak locations, surrounded by sandy patches of crabgrass," Young recalls. "In the middle of it all I see a beautiful tuft of our native soft rush: *juncus effusus*. It struck me that this would be the perfect species for another one of our residential projects with a small low-lying, wet area."

Although design is his passion, Young notes that the role of a landscape architect is also one of stewardship. "Sustainability is ingrained in us as students. My professors at University of Florida stressed the importance of natural resources as much as site planning and innovative design," explains Young.

Rain gardens, natural pools, proper shading, drought-tolerant plants and pervious paving materials play an important role in both residential and commercial designs. Water, especially in Florida, is a valuable resource that Young takes care to conserve. A favorite example is a residential project in which the design hid a 6,000-gallon cistern below a ribbon of natural limestone that mimicked the architecture, creating an impressive motorcourt. The water collected by diverting run-off through a series of rain gardens irrigates the entire beachfront estate including a second story terrace.



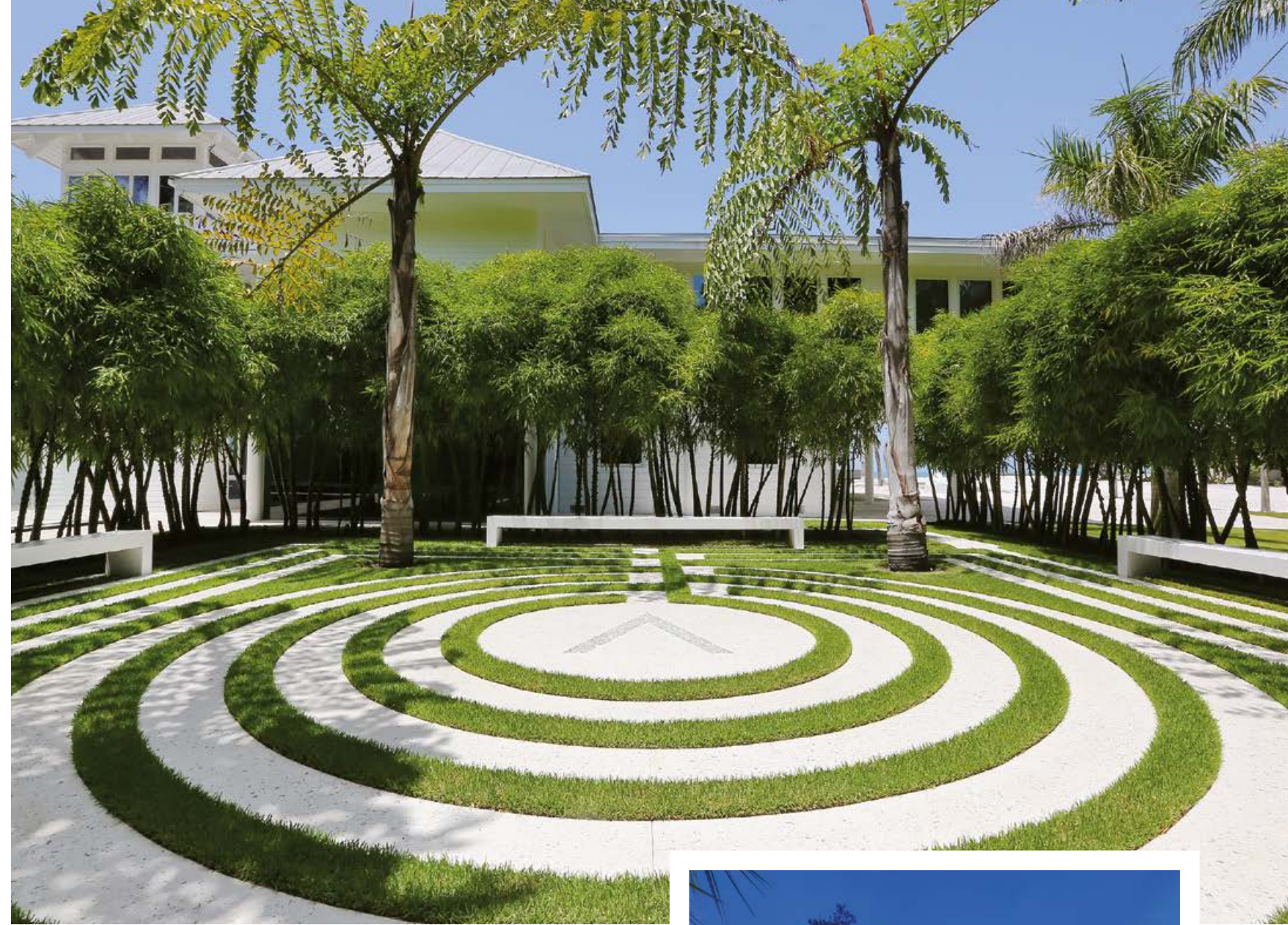




With a love a nature and modern architecture, Young has dedicated himself to creating meaningful spaces and connecting each client to their surroundings.

Large cisterns, glass cubes, water features that double as art, labyrinths and cantilevered pavilions are not possible without professional collaboration and an adventurous client according to Young. He credits his success to Sarasota's design-centric community and incredible local talent. Sarasota has always celebrated creativity but appreciation for Modernism continues to flourish in large part due to its rich architectural history. From waterfront estates and parks to streetscapes and museum grounds, DWY Landscape Architects has helped transform much of Sarasota since opening its doors in 1999. With a love a nature and modern architecture, Young has dedicated himself to creating meaningful spaces and connecting each client to their surroundings. He discerns that in an age of technology, it is important for people to reconnect with nature. With limited time to read for pleasure between work and keeping up with two active teenagers, Young revealed Richard Louv's books *Last Child in the Woods* and *The Nature Principle* can both be found on his nightstand. **MH**

**DWY Landscape Architects** | 300 South Orange Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236 | 941-365-6530 | dwyla.com





# MURRAY MODERN

Murray Homes stays ahead of the modern home curve, using global inspiration to create local masterpieces.

**W**hat builders do with tens of millions of dollars in Miami, Murray Homes accomplishes in Sarasota-Manatee on one-tenth of the budget. Modern homes are one of the firm's fortes, and it takes a kind of expansive-minded expertise to live on the cutting edge of this trend. "We're at the other end of the alley from Miami, where the average price for a home is \$24 million," says Steve Murray, the Sarasota company's president. "We've got to give that Miami perception here in town for \$2 million, but the quality of the work really isn't any different. My job is to think outside of our geography to offer different imagery locally. It's about evolving the thinking." Clients seeking custom, luxury waterfront residences enlist Murray Homes because of this highly evolved thinking. John and Steve Murray are a British father-son team with more than four decades of combined homebuilding experience in the UK and Florida.





Extremely well travelled, the duo has familiarized themselves with new design techniques for years in every corner of the globe, thinking far beyond the Florida box. “We’ve got a very well-rounded understanding and experience of the marketplace, and that’s vital for understanding our customers when they walk through the door,” Steve Murray says,

“When I initially meet with clients, I like to get to know them on a personal level: who they are, where they live, their lifestyle, their family... then I like to understand their preferred architectural style, home designs, budget... I usually show them pictures of various home styles and watch closely how they react to each. Asking the right questions is critical to fully understanding my clients’ needs so I can help them achieve their vision of a dream home.” Steve Murray’s family-run firm (which has its own in-house realty department) is famed for using the most efficient technologies and building materials for historic renovations, office buildings, investment spec houses and individual dream homes. A full-service resource, the firm can identify vacant land, conduct feasibility studies, negotiate lender financing, manage budgets, assist in design and construction and even market and sell a property.

Steve Murray previously operated a construction company in London, England in the 1990s before moving to Sarasota and starting Murray Homes. He joined forces with his realtor wife Bev and brought Murray Realty under the company umbrella.

Steve Murray has built more than 130 new and remodeled homes coordinated the bidding, billing and subcontracting for each project. “We’re a boutique realty company that specializes in waterfront homes as well, which is unique. I’ve been a realtor since 2000. My wife is my broker,” Steve Murray says. “We do upper-end construction and, for clients who want that, we really do everything for them.”

To maintain this one-stop identity, Murray Homes has amassed a rock-solid database of recommended subcontractors. The main entities the firm collaborates with are: Michael A. Gilkey Inc. Landscape Architects & Contractors, Pool Design Concepts, Ferguson Showroom (kitchen and bath), Architectural Marble Importers, Cucine Ricci (kitchens), Mullet’s Appliances and Wicked Smart Homes (home theater systems).

Inside a Murray modern structure, state-of-the-art green features are standard, and nontraditional acute and obtuse angles (instead of typical right angles) are signatures. The modern, abstract, angular, geometric look is evident throughout the Murray Homes footprint, especially in the cabinetry and kitchen islands.

“We do timeless contemporary designs—modern homes that aren’t fad houses—so that, for investment purposes, they would still be marketable and sellable in 15 to 20 years. You can’t pigeonhole yourself so far in left field that you can’t sell it,” Steve Murray says. These days, Murray Homes clients are buying houses in areas like Bird Key, Longboat



“My job is to think outside of our geography to offer different imagery locally. It’s about evolving the thinking.”

**Murray Homes**  
25 South Osprey Ave.,  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
941-906-7000  
murrayhomesinc.com

Key and Harbor Acres, spending upwards of \$2.5 million per lot, and they need houses that will have longevity. Murray Homes is also expanding into Lakewood Ranch with a warm, universally appealing British West Indies-style prototype that will likely be beloved for years to come. Murray Homes has found a way to do modern without alienating any client bases and to roll with the ever-evolving décor tides. “In the past six or seven years, the local marketplace has gotten a bigger desire for modern. Pre-recession, 95 percent of all architecture going up was what people had seen before. There was the Spanish Med, the traditional, a little bit of coastal, some Key West,” Steve Murray says. “Then there was the occasional modern house. You’d see this beautiful house go up and it would sit on the marketplace because there were no buyers for it.”

Inferior designs were rampant for years. Then the bubble burst, the developers had to hand the keys to the banks and the vacant buildings begged for transformation. Murray Homes took over. “The recession affected the desire for modern enormously. Before that, every piece of land was being picked up by a developer or a buyer with money,” Steve Murray says. “It used to be investors were mainly looking for cheap quick builds with a maximum number of bedrooms but that has all changed. Architectural styles and quality of the design are now critical, modern construction requires excellent craftsmanship, solid designs, and a strong attention to detail.” Now, design is in demand. Modern is leading the movement. And Murray Homes is ready. **MH**

# Custom Life

Nathan Cross of NWC Construction builds homes that are an extension of your lifestyle.



**A** true custom builder, Nathan Cross says his company, NWC Construction has never done the same thing twice. “We build one-of-a-kind houses for one-of-a-kind clients,” he says. As a second-generation builder with close to two decades of experience, Cross takes an individualized approach to each house he builds or remodels: “We don’t build step-up homes,” he says. “We build ‘This is the last home I ever want built’ homes.”

And according to Cross, it all starts with choosing the right builder. “You have to be comfortable with the builder first,” he says, “because the builder is ultimately the one who puts this all together. You can hire the best architect in the world, but if your builder doesn’t come through, the house won’t come out the way you envisioned it.” As such, NWC has the recognition to back up its claims of being the best—over 30 awards to be exact, including Florida





“I can build anywhere, but Sarasota is a great place to live and raise a family—we wanted to take advantage of Florida’s nature.”



Remodeler of the Year, Professional Remodelers 40 under 40 and HOUZZ’s Best of Design and Best of Customer Satisfaction awards several years running.

“We’re really proud to be the number 1-rated contractor in the area on HOUZZ,” says Cross. “It means that we’ve been tried and we’re tested. We have the management and the experience and award-winning knowledge to build a masterpiece.” Not only is NWC recognized for the work, but HOUZZ users also continually add NWC’s pictures to their “idea books,” a resource that lets people compile inspirations for their dream home. “It’s not an award, but it’s really cool,” says Cross. NWC’s clientele reflects their commitment to excellence and attention to detail, having catered to executives of Fortune 500

companies, Emmy winners and platinum record producers and managers—essentially Central and South Florida’s A-list clients. Originally located in Orlando, Cross recently moved his business to Sarasota. The newcomer says the area has much more to offer than his previous Orlando residence. “I can build anywhere,” he says. “But Sarasota is a great place to live and raise a family—we wanted to take advantage of Florida’s nature.” Sarasota’s coastal locale has allowed Cross to take more advantage of the natural world, playing with the expansive water views offered along Sarasota’s waterfront—“One size doesn’t fit all,” he says. “Each view is different and every body of water is different. We try to blend these homes and the surrounding nature as one.”

Though NWC builds every style of home, Cross is most known for the West Indie-style and Transitional Modern Beach-style, which is especially popular in Sarasota. His philosophy lies in staying true to the architectural form of where the style originated. “I appreciate architecture for its true meaning,” he says. “If we were to build a Tuscan home, it would look like it came out of Tuscany.” Cross takes into consideration your good habits and bad, your likes and dislikes to create a dwelling specifically tailored to your family. “We’re a little bit like the conductor in an orchestra,” Cross says. “We take a beautiful design (the music), and take the vendors and trade partners (the band) and make it all a beautiful performance.” **MH**