From serene water features to breathtaking bay views and green building techniques, the architects, builders and landscape artists that won in this year’s HOTY competition pulled out all the stops. Flip through and marvel at the stunning spaces being modeled along the Gulf Coast. COMPETITION PRODUCED BY MADELINE CROTT. MEET THE JUDGES ON PAGE 96.

THANK YOU TO PROGRAM SPONSOR TEMPUS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE SRQ MAGAZINE HOME OF THE YEAR COMPETITION.
COMPASSHAUS
JOSH WYNNE CONSTRUCTION

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HARBOUR HOUSE
DSDG ARCHITECTS

Nestled in a secluded cove on Sarasota Bay lies a 5,340-square-foot luxury home that dominates its surroundings. The Harbor House is eye-catching upon approach for its rigid form and precariously cantilevered third-floor room. The bold look of this home is conducted with repetitive linear windows that accent the vertical core of the residence. The home sits above water-feature pools on the front and rear creating additional height in its reflection. The main entry to the home is over an open-riser, cantilevered-concrete staircase that climbs over the water feature below. The second-floor living area consists of a double-volume great room, kitchen, library and bedroom suite. All rooms open onto a 15-foot-deep covered balcony living space with a 23-foot raked roof overhang for sun and rain protection. The great room features a 22-foot-tall space with 18 combined feet of glass for a two-story view out to the bay. A bridge element on the third floor connects the two sides flanking the great room. A master suite and private balcony occupy one side and three guest bedrooms the other. One guest bedroom is the dramatic cantilevered room protruding 10 feet from the building face. The outdoor oasis backyard is accessed by an open riser staircase from the second-floor balcony down to the pool deck. At the intermediate landing, a sheer waterfall spills into the pool and is visible through the glass-paneled tread. A live green wall evokes an Amazonian influence as a backdrop to the pool and bay view. The starkness of the white façade is warmed with the use of stacked limestone and thermally treated poplar wood ceilings. The reintroduction of warmer, metallic bronze metal fascia caps, door and window frames and glass railing uprights support the upcoming trend of the New Bronze Age to design.
The homeowner is a London-based developer with experience in building and renovating luxury residences in the West End of London. He understands the construction process and the requirements to achieve the desired results. The site required architecture that leverages the incredible views while overcoming the harsh exposure of the open bay conditions. The interior design package was integrated with the construction package and presented high complexity of products and installation. Murray Homes confronted several challenges with this home, including: changes to the plans throughout the construction process, outdoor conditions due to location of the lot and the extensive integration of interior design and architecture. In order to overcome these challenges, Murray Homes used coordination between architect, interior designer, engineer, landscaping and homeowners to ensure accuracy of implementation and superior quality of construction along with adaptability to the changing requirements and strong relationship between Murray Homes team and homeowners. In order to bring this home to life, the architects employed vigorous components investigation to ensure highest quality of craftsmanship, leveraged the proximity of the Murray Homes office to ensure immediate availability of team members and continuous post-construction warranty and service.

The concept for this 4,800-square-foot residential design was to provide the most encompassing views from as many areas of the new home as possible. The property is near the end of one of the canal streets in Country Club Shores, Longboat Key. Not completely on the end of the cul-de-sac with full exposure, it was apparent that some of the view-oriented areas of the house would need to “bend” in order to achieve that goal. The client wanted the house to have a native Florida feel on the exterior with a contemporary approach to the interiors. The challenge was the typical Country Club Shores-shaped lot created southern views towards the canal instead of southeast—capturing the direct view of Sarasota Bay and Downtown Sarasota. The client also wanted to get a view to the west of the Gulf of Mexico. Given the client’s program for encapsulating the views in three of the four sides of the residence, the shape of the home started out as a rectangle but with manipulated exterior walls so as to direct the views off of the typical front/back/sides orientation. The Gulf-view request could only be handled with additional height and a rooftop terrace exposure to the west. The client wanted wheelchair access to all levels, totaling five interior levels including the rooftop terrace. The solution as completed was to provide a “native” Florida exterior for the residence with the view-exposure segments of the home angled to match the desired view and to provide the “all-exposure” views from the roof terrace.
The concept for this home was to design a two-story coastal West Indies-style house with a contemporary open interior on an infill 75’ x 123’ lot. The idea was to create a home featuring glass walls with views of the private outdoor living areas with a linear fireplace, linear fire pit and a pool with water features and spa. The challenge faced was that the maximum lot coverage “footprint” limits ground floor square footages affecting living areas, garage, entry and outdoor covered areas. The architect solved this problem by wrapping the home around the outdoor living area, creating privacy and ambiance with views of the pool, water and fire features from the kitchen, dining, family, master bedroom and study—a seamless merging of the indoor and outdoor areas. The architect created an abundance of natural light while maintaining total privacy and views of the pool area from every room on ground level. Pool pavers were made with shell and glass for a contemporary look. The home has LED lighting throughout, a refrigerated wine cellar with double glass doors designed and wired to become an elevator if the homeowner desires. The vaulted groin ceilings featuring stained tongue and groove wood give height and volume to the family and master bedroom. The elegant master bath features his and her lavatories with contemporary wall sconces; a separate makeup area and European-style walk-in shower with hand-held and rain head incorporating a freestanding tub. As you enter the foyer, there are breathtaking views of the outdoor living and pool area with study and a private master suite to the right and dining, kitchen and family room to the left, all with views of the outdoor living area featuring a linear gas fireplace, fire pit, pool and spa and three water features. Durable wire-brushed engineered white oak flooring is featured throughout with spacious bonus room, balcony and three bedrooms and baths on the second floor.
Inspired by local mid-century modern architecture, the owner wanted a multi-tiered home reimagined with contemporary design technologies. The juxtaposition of multi-story imagery with a one-story, flat site drove an extended design phase with multiple iterations and plan changes, all with the goal of generating height and additional levels through cantilevered roof planes. The focus of the street-front elevation evolved by using the building as the visual buffer for an open courtyard-style house—the consequent plan unfolds behind the front façade. At 2,750 square feet, this modest-size home boasts high-end style and finishes; a central pool and landscaped grand oak courtyard garners the focus of every room. A detached two-car garage and 350-square-foot guesthouse anchor the rear courtyard. The perceived height comes from a clerestoried great room cascading down to a cantilevered roof recessed entry progression. A floating roof element is enhanced with ribbon windows atop an oyster shell-imbued tabby stucco feature wall. An iris-filled planter bed softens the austerity of white walls as the element wraps up to create the opposite roof plane. The interior space consists of two bedroom suites and a master suite radiating out from the central great room. A wine cellar and garage compose the rear of the main house. A white oak hardwood floor flows throughout the house with matching tile for bathroom areas to create an uninterrupted transition from space to space. White lacquered kitchen cabinetry opposes an aggressive marble waterfall edge island that transfers the warmth of the flooring up for daily interaction. Ten-foot tall sliding glass doors open from every major room onto the pool deck and bring the natural landscape portrait inside as a background to the pristine white livable space.

The scope of the work and design evolved over a two-year process; the original design comprised 2,000 square feet over parking, as the project was located within a flood zone. The flood zone elevation however, was not as high as a level over parking. Given this parameter and the extra square-footage that would have to be included in the budget underneath the first habitable level, the first design proved to be too expensive for the client's budget. As a result of the original design efforts, the architect offered an alternative, involving creating a split-level design approach. The main living level would be at base flood elevation, while the bedrooms would be located above garage level. The program for the residence included the requirements of a living/dining/kitchen space, three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and a home office for the client. Client-created ideas were often conveyed by software used in their own business; the site was important to the owner, the spaces and their adjacencies established early on by the client and the architect. The client, who was closely associated with architects in his own business, would produce massing and design studies to discuss how these spaces would interact with the site. It was the client's wish that the interior spaces and the site would, at times, appear as one. It was also important to the client not to create an over-scale design that would dwarf adjacent houses in an old established neighborhood. The main living level is located at base flood elevation providing for an open plan concept that accommodates all the living spaces of the house, flanked by a large porch overlooking the swimming pool, front porch and entry stairs. It is stitched together with the lower garage and ground levels and the upper bedroom areas by a central light-filled space with all-vertical circulation. The home office for the client tops the space off—designed with no enclosing walls, it occupies a space in the naturally lit second level. The residence was designed to accentuate the difference between the heavy massing of the bedroom/garage wing and the lightness of the living level—the glass pavilion of the dining room practically floats in its appearance. On the opposing side of the living level, glass sliding doors retract to join the porch and living room together.
LEWIS RESIDENCE
WESTIN HILLS CORP

The house’s aesthetic responds directly to economic, environmental, habitat and phenomenological needs and desires rather than a particular style. It is designed for a retired university professor with two grown sons who often visit with their families; therefore, the home should provide for the personal needs of a single occupant while accommodating families at holidays. Situated on an oddly oriented lot—long, shallow and parallel to a dead-end road—the proportions of this three-bedroom, three-bath house demarcate requisite setbacks, the need to construct habitable spaces in the non-flood zone, all the while orienting the views to the secluded side yard with its pool and patio. Its stark white south and north walls tend to energy conservation, personal privacy and the desire to have walls animated by the play of shadows. Strategically placed windows, complementary white interior walls and double-height living room and screened enclosure along the west façade provide appropriate light throughout the day. The interior rooms are defined by the interplay between a limited footprint and gracious proportions and/or vistas—the indoor living room’s three dimensions are the same as the screen enclosure, while the second floor bedrooms have views below and beyond. Finishes are kept simple, light and of modest value; the stairwell guardrail and stair treads are built with contractor-grade maple butcher-block counter tops. The house is 1,433 conditioned square feet with 1,800 square feet under roof with a construction budget of $200 per square foot.
DONNELLY CONDO
HALFLANTS + PICHETTE STUDIO
FOR MODERN ARCHITECTURE

Two corner units were combined into a single condo, with all interior partitions removed. The ceiling finish was stripped to expose the slab’s concrete formwork and the bathrooms, storage and kitchen are laid out in a wood-clad central core. Bi-fold glass doors opening out from the corners replaced the windows. Ten-foot-wide steel and wood folding partitions allow the owner to transform the space and to isolate the office from either the living or the master. The partitions fold back into the wood core to reconnect the private suite with the rest of the unit to form one continuous space. The master bath borrows light from an adjoining circulation. Speakers, vents and air return are all accommodated through discrete cuts and perforations in the wood veneer.
Situated in Siesta Key’s Sanderling Club, the home was designed as a primary residence for a local business owner and his family. Our goal was to take an aging home and transform it into a contemporary resort-style estate. It was important for the home to feel open and airy with cohesion inside and out. We increased the bearing height and created a ceiling designed around three converging vaults that peak at various angles, allowing for a maximum amount of windows. The result is a sunlit interior space that amplifies the surrounding waterfront beauty. We kept the finishes simple and let the architecture remain the focal point. The L-shape plan allowed us to create distinct public and private spaces that open to the same patio. Outside, hard edges were met with fluid landscape to complement the modern direction of the home. The pool uses stepped geometric forms to create a unique sculptural effect from every angle. Repeating the same execution on a smaller scale, the guesthouse and garage were done to the same level as the main home. A unique outdoor bath and a breezeway form a connection to the main house. Working with FEMA guidelines proved to be challenging especially when executing at this level. To do this, most of the exterior walls were retained and the plan reworked within the existing footprint. With clever space planning, we were able to repurpose many existing features and spaces, add new soaring volumes, create ample storage and package it all into an estate-level residence. None of this could have been achieved without the skilled and dedicated group of craftsmen headed up by owners Nick and Tracy Melone. Without the Melone’s inexhaustible energy, diligent and creative problem-solving this home would not have been possible.
This historic renovation at 422 Burns Court was a unique opportunity to work with our client in reviving a run-down home on an iconic Downtown Sarasota street and bring it back to its former glory. To us, this project—although small—is a feather in our cap. We are very proud to be a part of the most well-appointed Downtown Sarasota historic renovation to date. The key features of this house include: all new Loewen aluminum-clad wood push-out windows with old-fashioned wood-framed hinged screens, a phenomenally designed kitchen, master bedroom built-in wardrobe, totally reconfigured master bath and all new courtyard walls (front and back). We matched interior trims to the profiles that were used originally and reused the interior doors and hardware with minor refurbishment along with refinishing the walls and ceilings throughout to a level-5 finish. The client, interior designer Ellen Hanson of Pansy Bayou and the architect worked together with Elite Woodwork for about three months prior to commencing with the renovation. We made revision after revision to make sure that we had thought of every possibility. Hanson was perfectly suited to this project and understood how to take this 1,000-square-foot home and maximize every aspect of it without it feeling cluttered.
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A massive, exposed concrete radius wall greets you at the entry, alongside a long easterly bay view, giving scale and perspective as well as juxtaposition. The stair treads “float” off of this wall. Terrazzo floors, flush base and casings and a level-5 finish serve to offer no visual distraction and allow light to flood the spaces evenly. There are generous outdoor living spaces on each level of the home, each offering a unique experience depending on the weather and the time of day. The rooftop deck features an outdoor kitchen and a hand-crafted concrete fire table. The pool is elevated to relate to the living level, offering a stunning relationship to the form and to the natural environment. The home has a relatively large volume, which was required in order to comply with the many applicable codes. As such, every effort was made to reduce materials, waste, energy and water. This home is LEED Platinum Certified, EnergyStar Certified, EPA Indoor Air + Certified and Certified Zero Energy.
Located centrally within this 4,300-square-foot home, the kitchen was designed as the spine of the house out of which all the main living areas unfold. The challenge was to maintain an open flow between the living room, dining room and kitchen while still creating a separation of functions. To achieve the sense of openness, the kitchen was designed as an extension of the living area. There are no walls to obstruct the connection between each space while the selection of finishes continues seamlessly from room to room. When viewed from the entryway, the appliances are kept out of sight, maintaining the perspective of one cohesive, livable layout. Unencumbered doorways, multiple vistas and transom windows grant natural light throughout the course of the day and maintain the visual connection with the interior and exterior spaces. Placement of windows was studied to maximize privacy while providing the owners desire for openness. Quartzite countertops further the unembellished aesthetic while a mosaic of glass tile adorns the backsplash. Clean-lined cabinets hide any undesired clutter. The layout of the kitchen counters, breakfast bar and appliances maximizes user efficiency. When preparing food, the owners’ experience is intimate and easy. Similarly, the openness enables them to host large gatherings and still be at the center of the activities. Sliding glass doors lead directly to the pool and covered terrace where an outdoor sitting and dining area encourage indoor/outdoor living and entertaining. A sliding window above the kitchen sink doubles as a pass-through for easy serving and cleanup for family and group functions. Green aspects include energy-efficient sealed-combustion water heaters, LED lighting and Energy Star appliances. The result is a kitchen area with a multitude of ideas woven into a single experience, ideal for individuals or entertaining.

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**GARDEN RESIDENCE**
SOLSTICE PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE

Creating warmth, serenity and spaciousness, this master bath was designed as both a refuge and extension of the living experience within this 4,300-square-foot contemporary home. Located on Phillippi Creek, the challenge was to maintain an open flow between the interior and exterior while still creating a separation of functions and addressing the need for privacy. To achieve this, the bathroom was designed as a counterpoint to the rest of the house. While the public spaces of the home pivot around the pool area, the master bath was designed to stand apart, connecting with the creek while at the same time creating an introspective experience. An open shower and soaking tub define the bathing area. Windows to the exterior present views of nature while electric smart glass changes the opacity level, creating privacy but still allowing for natural light. A cleft travertine wall creates visual interest and snow-white marble furthers the unembellished aesthetic. The layout of the master bathroom places it in between the master bedroom and outdoor pool terrace. After a refreshing swim, the owner can enter the master bath directly from the exterior. Once inside, a distinct delineation is made between the wet area, vanities and his and her walk-in closets. Separate vanities articulate his and her spaces and serve as the transition from the bath to dual walk-in closets. Custom-designed cabinets provide ample storage and hide any undesired clutter. Throughout the course of the day, windows capture and direct natural light into all rooms, including the closets. This daylight harvesting is one of the green aspects of the house. Energy efficiency is achieved with low-flow plumbing fixtures, a sealed combustion water heater, LED lights and extensive use of natural daylight. The outcome is a simple, serene environment—a master bathroom that transforms the everyday experience.
The landscape, as it is situated within the context of the home, is meant to encompass and reflect the importance of co-existing with the natural environment. In this sense, landscape is perceived not as a separate entity but as a crucial threshold between inside and out. Once inside the estate, familiar architectural forms clearly delineate the boundaries between natural and artificial edges. Patches of soft grasses and shrubs are met with crisp concrete surfaces; chipped cypress trails lead to stepped wood planks; water canvases bleed onto corrugated limestone. Rather than relying on pre-determined notions of detached landscape, our goal was to unite all parts of the property, including the house, guest suite, garage and pool, with walkable surfaces. In fact, the homeowners urged visitors to walk shoeless throughout the property in order to engage with all materials. This unique playfulness between body and landscape complements the pool itself, molding geometric forms on a blank canvas. Centralized on the great room, the pool acts as a mirror while reflecting both the glass façade and the sky. Yet, the movement of gently moving clouds suspended above the water brings into realization that the landscape is not static but fluid. As opposed to a traditional pool spa, the homeowners implemented an elevated fire pit overlooking the pool toward the home and out toward the canal. Seen through this fashion, the landscape is more than scenery; it is both observed and participated in.
Our clients’ vision was that of a minimalist structure, built beyond the code in terms of structure, systems and performance. The goal was to create the home in such a way that we could reduce our dependency on human infrastructure and also reduce risks related to hurricanes and other storms. The primary views of the master and common spaces focus north, up the Intracoastal Waterway. The rear elevation opens up to the Sarasota Bayfront. The landscape was critical to this project. The minimalist goals of the architecture translated to the landscape design. Several of the larger species were in place and nursed to health during construction. The rest of the landscape was intentionally set to lend scale and soften the rigid forms of the architecture, all while ensuring that views were not obstructed, but rather enhanced. Only Florida-friendly, drought-tolerant plants were used and site permeability was maximized. All of the roof run-off is diverted to the basement where rainwater cisterns can capture enough water to service the irrigation needs. Only brass-bodied, LED landscape lighting was used. Rainwater on the site is managed through low-slope swales with “fluffed” earth to speed absorption and minimize bay impacts. A bay-friendly maintenance program is in place to help maintain the integrity of the local waterways.

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BEST SUSTAINABLE / GREEN PROJECT

COMPASSHAUS
JOSH WYNNE CONSTRUCTION

Our clients’ vision was that of a minimalist structure, built beyond the code in terms of structure, systems and performance. The goal was to create the home in such a way that we could reduce our dependency on human infrastructure and also reduce risks related to hurricanes and other storms. The home features great works of modern art so it was imperative that much thought was given to natural and artificial light, as well as a controlled indoor air environment. The home had to be Net Zero Energy and LEED Platinum Certified, reduce water consumption to a minimum, take advantage of all of the incredible views that the site offered and offer a great indoor/outdoor lifestyle. The home is elevated well beyond FEMA’s requirements to reduce flood risks, and the structure was engineered to minimize risk of wind damage in any storm. These efforts will reduce the risk of future repairs and ongoing maintenance. We balanced the need for views, passive lighting and passive ventilation with that of conserving energy by using ultra-high performance windows and glass. The HVAC system is engineered and tested to its maximum performance and efficiency using the latest technology. Indoor spaces feature easy to clean, seamless finishes such as terrazzo floors, flush trim and level-5 paperless drywall, adding durability as well as reflective surfaces to bounce natural light. One hundred percent automated LED lighting picks up where nature leaves off. The envelope is ultra-insulated. Performance testing showed it in the top 1 percent of all Energy Star homes. Only Water Sense fixtures were used to conserve water. All of the roof run-off is plumbed for capture in cisterns located in the crawl space for use in irrigation. An optimized solar array is in place to pick up where our conservation efforts left off. This home is LEED Platinum Certified, EnergyStar Certified, EPA Indoor Air + Certified and Certified Zero Energy.