

FLORIDA'S WEST COAST COLLECTION 2017 | PUBLISHED BY SRQ MEDIA

MODERN HOME

**PUBLISHED
WORK FROM**

NWC Construction
Del Vescovo Design Group
Stofft Cooney Architects
Murray Homes

Modern Menagerie

MODERN SHOW
FESTIVAL CURATES
HOMES, FURNITURE
AND DESIGN

Brand New Bay

FORMER MAYOR OF
MIAMI MANNY DIAZ
ON REVITALIZING
THE BAYFRONT



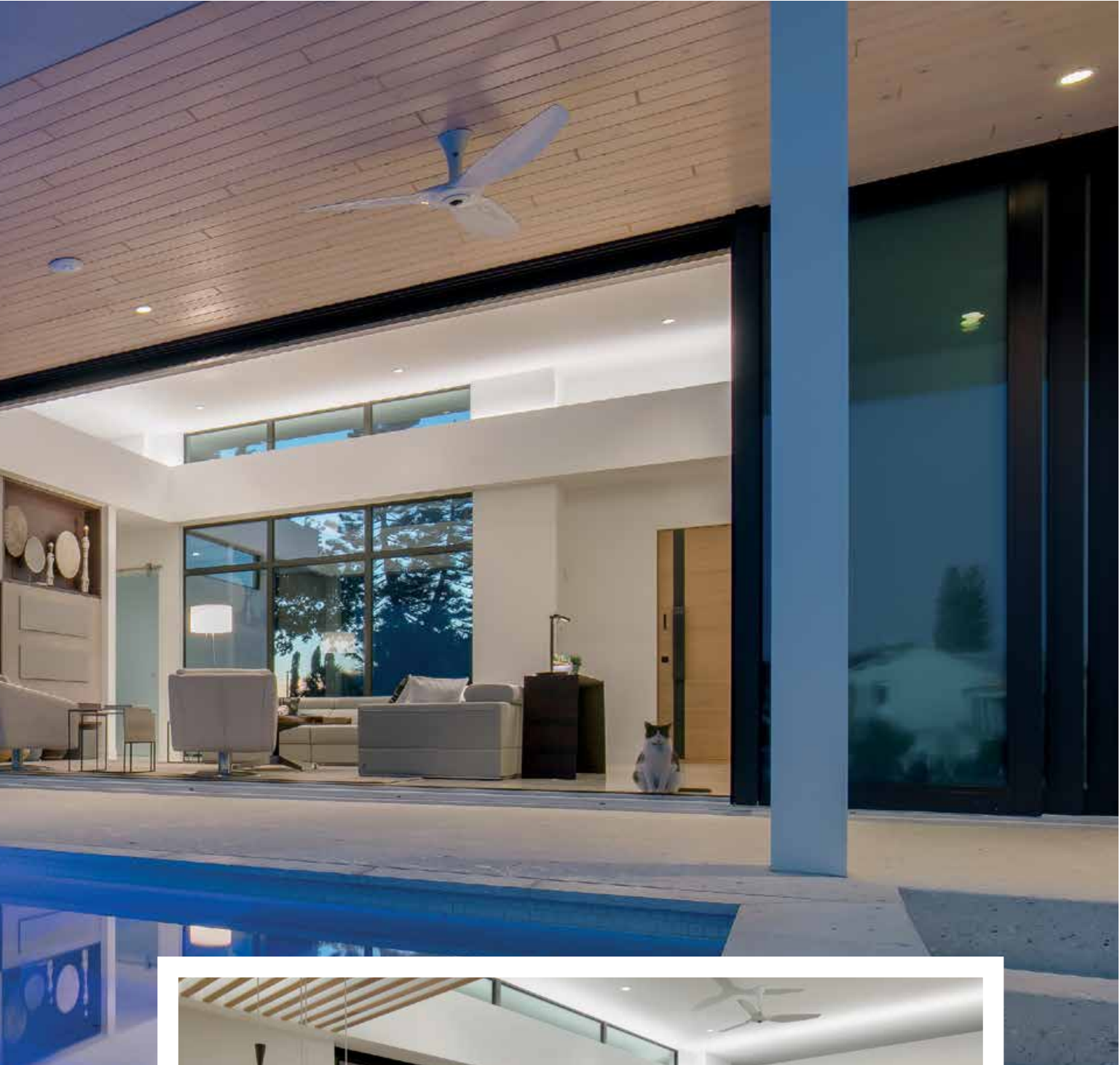


ONE-STOP MODERN

Murray Homes is a holistic resource for everything from realty to design to building, with modern as its most in-demand style.

As the local marketplace shifts toward a more European-minded, modern sensibility, the award-winning Murray Homes is both wholly prepared and excitedly ready. Clients that desire high-end, custom waterfront residences enlist the firm, which includes British father-son team John and Steve Murray, as well as a staff of experts. The Murrays have more than four decades of combined homebuilding experience in the United Kingdom and Florida, and their globally-minded outlook helps them stay ahead of design trends.

FIRM // Murray Homes **CONTENT WRITER** // Abby Weingarten // **PHOTOGRAPHERS** // Ryan Gamma Photography and Mark Borosch





"We work with a multitude of architects to produce different styles and plans, and we have noticed that there has been a definite move toward a more contemporary, transitional style of house," Steve Murray says. "It may be because people were so fed up with the Spanish Med style that they reacted in a very strong way to push it to a new style. More than that, I think what we're seeing is a movement away from builders building spec houses determining what architecture should be. We're moving toward custom clients saying, 'This is my lot. This is what I want. And I'm going to find the best architects and builders to make it happen.'"

Those clients who want the best look to Murray Homes. The family-run firm (which has its own in-house realty department) uses the most cutting-edge, efficient technologies and building materials for renovations, investment properties and seaside homes. As a full-service resource, the firm identifies vacant land, negotiates lender financing, manages budgets, conducts feasibility studies, assists in design and construction, and even markets and sells properties.

"We're currently building a Guy Peterson design west of the Trail and there has been a lot of interaction with Guy and Damien to define exactly how the house should be built. The owner is an architect himself, so there is a lot of very high-quality discussion that goes into the minor, as well as the major, details," Steve Murray says. "We also have a 10,500-square-foot modern home we're doing on Bird Key with CMSA, set to be finished in 2018. It's the biggest house on Bird Key (very modern in nature) and the architecture extends from the main structure to the hardscape, pool-scape, landscape, fountains and ponds. It's a very integrated design."

Murray Homes is known for this type of integrated design, and perfecting the process has been years in the making. Steve Murray operated a construction company in London, England, in the 1990s before moving to Sarasota and launching Murray Homes. He then teamed up with his broker wife, Bev, and brought Murray Realty into the company. Steve Murray has since coordinated the bidding, billing and subcontracting for numerous new and remodeled homes.



MODERN HOME
PROFILE



Murray Homes

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"We stay within the Sarasota-Manatee area and have an operation in Lakewood Ranch, but the majority of our work is waterfront-based and around downtown Sarasota, Longboat Key, Lido Key and Bird Key," Steve Murray says. "A big part of our business is also the renovation of penthouses (from kitchen and bathroom remodels to the complete gutting and reworking of 5,000-square-foot condos)." Whether the job is a redo or something brand new, Murray Homes is well-versed in how to proceed. They are currently working with Chris Leader on an ultra contemporary design in Long Boat Key and have just completed a beautiful Michael Bade modern home working with Punit Patel of Sawa for interior design.

"Having a realty company in-house is a fantastic opportunity for us to understand the marketplace, be available for clients to find land, and recommend the best places to buy and tear down," Steve Murray says. "Really, what we have is the ability to find where clients want to build, help them design it and then build it. We cover all aspects." To stay timeless, Murray Homes is always evolving and building structures with longevity in mind. In less than a decade, Steve Murray has watched

the local marketplace develop a desire for the more modern look, which he has been happy to accommodate via angular, geometric designs. "There is a lot more awareness of European styles now—from appliances to tile to cabinetry to plumbing fixtures. Europe is a leader in most of those things and we're seeing a lot more of that now accepted in the designs and finishes of houses. Coming from England, it's nice to see that. I think it's a cycle," Steve Murray says. "I think there's a national cycle where modern is becoming more popular, but more so in Sarasota because of the history with the Sarasota School of Architecture. When people see modern, they like it and they want it."

And they want the leaders in the industry to build it.

"I think experience goes a long way. Working with the best professionals that produce the best-quality designs and architecture is important. Employing the best people to make those houses come together in the best way is important," Steve Murray says. "There is a sense within our company of who we are and we take a lot of pride in what we do." **MH**



MODERN HOME
PROFILE

FIRM // NWC Construction CONTENT WRITER // Abby Weingarten

Boutique Chic

Nathan Cross of NWC Construction, Inc. creates two ambitious modern homes (a West Indies-style structure and a Sarasota Bay spec project) and takes a boutique approach to both.





“Boutique” is a prime adjective to describe the approach behind NWC Construction, Inc.—a state-certified general contractor with two decades of building and remodeling experience. The man behind the coveted brand is Nathan Cross—the company’s owner and president, who is a second-generation builder, a certified local, state and national award winner for custom building, green building and remodeling.

Cross believes in high-caliber construction that does not fit the cookie-cutter mold. He is committed to staying ahead of the building curve, project by delicately-designed project. Two of Cross’ latest custom residences exemplify his quality-over-quantity philosophy: a West Indies-style structure and a project on Sarasota Bay. Both are ultra-modern. Both are intended to garner attention from passers-by and generate buzz.

In July 2016, Cross began building his modern home on Sarasota Bay, and it will be completed by the end of this summer. Architect Johnathan Parks, of Sarasota’s Solstice Planning and Architecture, first introduced Cross to the project.

“The structure is really unique. It pushes the envelope of structural design,” Cross says. “We also enjoyed the owners of the home when we were introduced to them.” The 4,735-square-foot residence has three stories; a three-car garage; and an additional 3,164 square feet of outdoor area. The third-story loft features a balcony with a stellar view of New Pass and downtown Sarasota.

“There are so many unique features. The home has a really great, modern design and has several cantilevers, a suspended staircase, an infinity edge pool, and many other areas that make it unique and one-of-a-kind,” Cross says. “There is a cantilevered beam on the third level that the roof trusses connect to. The master bathroom also hangs out into space with no support underneath.



"... We build the luxury custom home that is tailored to our client's needs and wants."



The staircase hangs from the ceiling and is metal that will be finished with wood treads and a glass railing."

Cross' modern West Indies-style home—a 4207-square foot structure—is one of his fully-completed stunners. It includes a split plan, multiple suites, a flex space, a gym, a four-car garage and a private courtyard. The project took a full year and was finished in November 2016.

"For this home, these clients came to us with a design-build project. They needed to stay within their budget, so it was important for them to have a design driven by not only their style but also by their budget," Cross says. "This home has a great outdoor feeling to it. The courtyard is private, with hardscaping and artificial turf for low maintenance. The back porch is positioned so that the whole rear of the home opens up to it."

These two projects are equally representative of Cross' style and method as a builder/remodeler. They embody his vision, his calculated attention to detail and his forward-thinking philosophy.

"Both of these projects showcase our commitment to being the best contractors we can be and working with

the clients to give them what they want," Cross says. "Listening is an important part of what we do, and also knowing the mechanics of building so that we can turn that listening into reality for our clients. When a client needs something, they call me. They don't start from the bottom up. They call the guy who has the license, who signs the contracts and checks. We are strictly client-based and staying the size we are allows us to do that."

Cross stays closely connected to his longtime clients and they trust his individualized method. He has been a builder for 19 years and depends on referrals for his success, he says. NWC Construction specializes in custom home building, on-the-lot construction, home additions, and full or partial home remodeling services throughout Southwest Florida areas.

"Because we are not developers of subdivisions or communities, we are free of buildout commitments and other timeframe constraints that can compromise a project," Cross says. "You will never see us in a subdivision, building spec homes. We are what is becoming a lost art in construction. We build the luxury custom home that is



tailored to our client's needs and wants." The industry has certainly taken notice. Cross is the recipient of the 2011 Florida Home Builders Association "Remodeler of the Year" Award and the 2009 Home Builders Association of Metro Orlando "Builder of the Year" Award.

"If it is dream-able, we can build it. We tell our clients that we do not just want them to love us for a day or until we get the next draw; we need them to love us forever," Cross says. "The main thing that sets us apart from 95 percent of builders in the area is that we are for quality, not quantity. We do not want to get bigger in the numbers of projects we do each year. We do hope that the projects get bigger and more challenging. We want to work on projects that people drive by and say, 'Wow, that is a great home.'" MH



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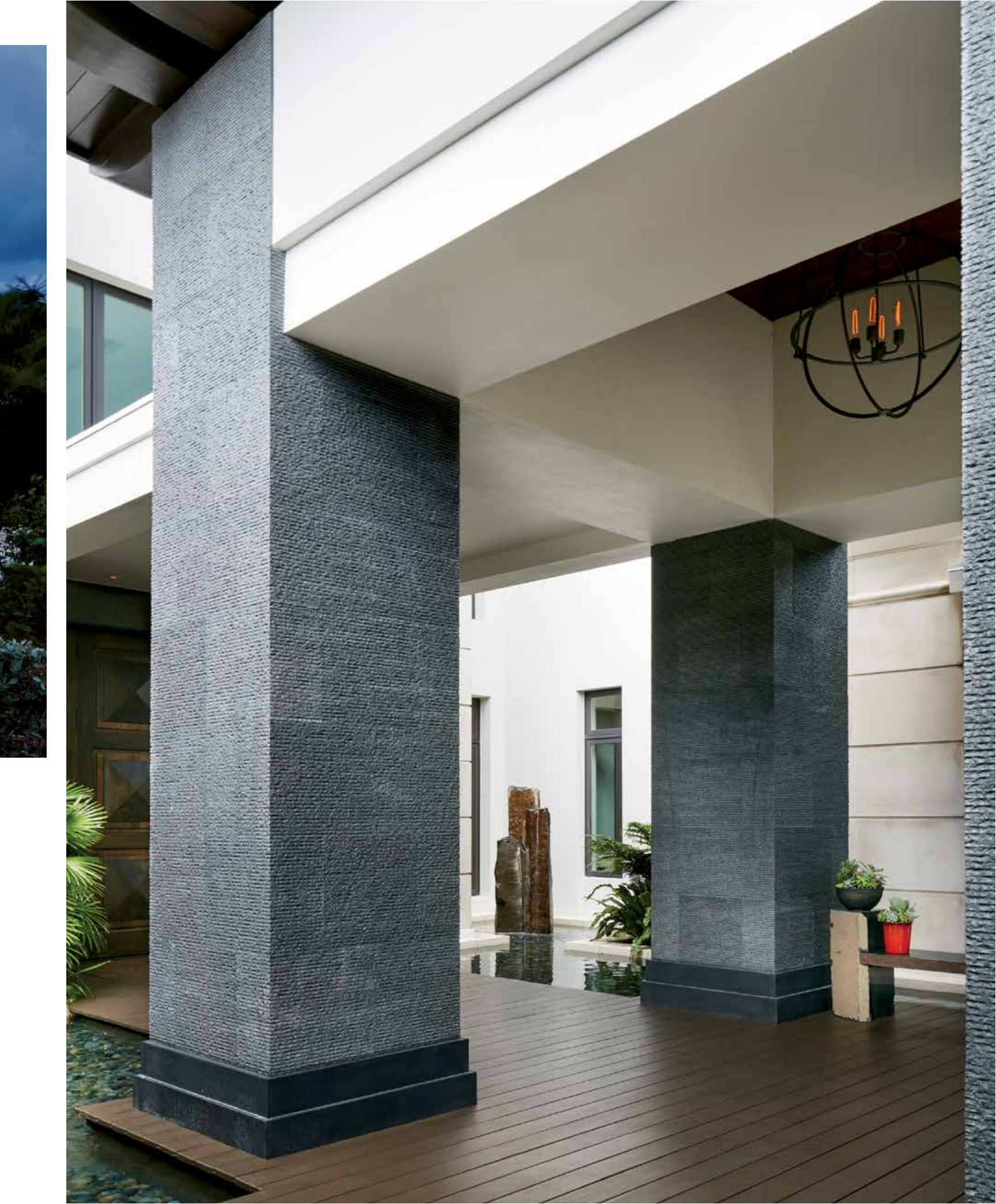
SEASIDE MODERN

Stofft Cooney Architects create modern-style oasis throughout the Southwest Florida region and beyond.

Stofft Cooney Architects—a widespread firm with a seaside focus—brings coastal, sleek, tranquil elements to its modern designs. With offices in Delray Beach, Naples and Sarasota, partners Randall Stofft and John Cooney have amassed a stellar team of professionals to complete projects throughout communities such as Pelican Bay, Port Royal, Marco Island, Vanderbilt Beach and beyond. Outside of Florida, the firm's geographical specialty areas include coastal properties throughout the U.S. and the Caribbean and the tropics. The firm handles everything from residential and commercial structures to resort-style architecture.

"For over 30 years, we have maintained a philosophy of using history as an influence yet stylizing our own interpretations to appeal to the tropics and tropical elements that surround our homes," John Cooney says. "Regardless of style, my philosophy is to create exemplary, timeless architecture with modern amenities. I believe in working with the clients personally to fulfill their lifestyle needs by creating a home to be enjoyed for generations."

Stofft Cooney's services range from 3D rendering to the drafting and floor planning of energy-efficient, green structures. They do home additions, remodeling and new home construction, and they have earned





such honors as PRISM Awards, Aurora Awards, Pinnacle Awards and the Collier Building Industry Association Sand Dollar Awards. Some impressive examples of their work include the Bella Lago Residence—a West Indies-style joint effort with Gulfshore Homes, Simonsen-Hickok Interiors and Windham Studio Landscape Architects; Mermaids Manor (a French colonial home); and the Bimini Spec (a collaboration on a tropical paradise in old Naples). Other undertakings are hotel and resort structures such as the Seagate Residences; residential projects like Ocean Reef, Golfside and Seaside Manor; senior living communities like Bentley Village; and condo buildings like Harbor Pointe.

“Our firm is known for the beauty and livability of our homes,” John Cooney says. “We design custom homes that meet our clients’ specific lifestyle needs, wants and desires.” Cooney and Stofft draw on their extensive industry backgrounds to build a diverse design portfolio. Chicago-born Stofft was educated at the University of Arizona and practiced architecture at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill before launching Randall Stofft Architects in 1985. Cooney grew up in New York

and graduated from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design at Kent State University. Together, Stofft and Cooney combine influences to make a full spectrum of architectural skills.

One of the firm’s most recent projects is the Smith residence—a modern, angular, peacefully-minded family home that went into production in 2015. Some of the most eye-catching aspects of this residence include the selection of unique, natural materials. Keeping the eco-friendly components that make sense in the property’s environment was important for the firm, as the family wanted the space to flow from the outside to the inside.

“For this project, we used materials such as chiseled black granite, textured limestone, smooth cypress, glass railings and smooth stucco. This style is a tropical modern home, and it is very distinguished and sophisticated,” Cooney says. “Large overhangs create the shade but a lot of glass windows allow for natural light to flood the interior spaces of the home.” These glass windows help merge the waterscape with the landscape, which is a paramount goal in Florida homes.

“This waterfront residence was designed for a family to live in year-round. They wanted a warm, modern, zen-like feel. The family enjoys both the interior and the exterior spaces, as we engaged the pool and yard area with a large H-shape plan,” Cooney says. “The entry is a wood plank bridge over a black rock pond. At the entry, pilasters are chiseled in smooth black granite. The home also has textured, natural white limestone and smooth cypress highlights used in a more modern palette.”

The Smith house embodies the philosophy of Stofft Cooney Architects in that it is a paragon of both com-



"I always appreciate the opportunity to design a home for a family that will act as their full-time residence. I enjoyed working with the homeowners on this, they have great taste."

fort and contemporary chicness. Cooney was determined to make the residence a one-of-a-kind, custom space that spoke to the family's needs and lifestyle. He does not subscribe to a cookie-cutter concept of what works. Client collaboration, for his firm, is crucial.

"Our approach is very much a hands-on approach," Cooney says. "I am involved in every design decision throughout the entire process—from the beginning stages of putting a pen to paper for the initial design concepts, to the final proof of a construction punch

list." The firm is consistently invested in every facet of a project to make sure that no detail—no matter how minor—is left unnoticed. Clients always notice the extra effort and return because of it.

"I always appreciate the opportunity to design a home for a family that will act as their full-time residence. I enjoyed working with the homeowners on this project," John Cooney says. "They have great taste." And Stofft Cooney is known for turning great taste into an even greater reality. **MH**

SPIRIT OF PLACE

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

A creative glint in his eye, Timothy Del Vescovo, Principal of Del Vescovo Design Group, tells us about the moment that sparks his design process—after hearing from the client, it's time to hear from the site. A critical part of the design process involves Del Vescovo sitting at the property with a sketchpad. "Every site has something unique to say," he says. "I look at the view, the ocean and the palm trees. Maybe a pair of trees perfectly frames the view. Whoever planted those trees, even if they didn't know it at the time, the value and magic of the space were relayed and captured in that decision. Designing the right structure of the space is the continuation of this process of discovery—there is a Latin term for it, *genius loci*, meaning the spirit of the place."



Above and right: Del Vescovo Design Group was selected as the Design Architecture firm for The Courtyard at Citrus which follows New Urbanism philosophies. They are collaborating with Hoyt Architects on this mixed-use, multi-phase project.



"A space that's true architecture is more than just construction."





For Del Vescovo, owner of Del Vescovo Design Group, architecture is most definitely an art and an inherently functional art. A clients' needs, goals and budget are all factors that must be deliberated and met. It's actually those guiding criteria that Del Vescovo believes differentiate architecture from sculpture. "A space that's true architecture is more than just construction. It transcends construction because of the art form, while spaces that are purely sculptural and don't function properly are not architectural."

Del Vescovo Design Group values the relationship with the client as a precious building block of the architectural process. The firm digs deep into a client's requirements both now and for the future. "There is a great relationship you build with

your clients. We need to understand how they live their lives and what's important to them so that we can make the right decisions on ergonomics and spatial adjacencies," says Del Vescovo. Once the pragmatic elements are understood, then the creativity of how to service clients' lives through architecture, begins to emerge, he says.

"The client's choices are neither right nor wrong," says Del Vescovo. "It comes down to one's lifestyle." Simple distinctions make for dramatically different usage patterns by the clients. The placement of a dining room must be informed by the knowledge that a particular client wants to entertain and interact with seated guests while others are cooking in the kitchen, while another client may wish to have a formal dining space separated from the kitchen entirely. The Del

Vescovo Design Group creates distinctive design fingerprints that often recur in their work in the use of natural materials. They are known for their expertise in bridging the exterior and interior spaces, an important skill in connecting the beauty of the tropical outdoors to a living space. The beauty of their homes are paralleled only by the integrity of construction that gives them the fortitude to also withstand the extreme weather that can come with living in Florida. "If there was a hurricane, I would want to be in one of our buildings for safety—the strength of a bunker, but disguised as a light and airy space."

Del Vescovo describes this approach as "blurring the line of the building's envelope, having an ambiguity between the inside and the outside." He achieves this effect by implementing design techniques that maintain a visual continuity such as carrying the same flooring material from inside to outside. He describes using materials that are sealed and usable outdoors and then applying the same materials in an unsealed state indoors. Attentiveness to modern technology allows for creative solutions. Del Vescovo researches lighting that can serve both indoor and outdoor functions, offering yet another natural visual bridge. Modern windows systems allow the hardware to be buried in the floor and ceiling, "so your eye does not trip over the structure of the window on its way to the outside."

"Our clients, especially those who have built other homes and projects, are excited to experience our process of uncovering what their real needs are," says Del Vescovo. "We are honored that we get to help our clients and their families realize a lifestyle that they thought was only in their imagination." When the house is built and the family moves in, Del Vescovo hopes they call him up and say, "This is exactly what was in my dreams, and I can't believe I get to live here." MH

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