

All about *Architecture*

Look for Contemporary design to make a future Florida comeback

Early "Modern" architecture in the beginning of the 20th century followed the abstract artists of the day, such as Picasso. That formed the basis of the "white box" look that is still associated with most severe Modern architecture.

Since the "Postmodern" movement, which artists and architects began in the 1970s, Florida has leaned predominantly toward Mediterranean and other eclectic styles.

Today we see artists, advertising, fashion, etc. moving toward a softer, more contextual feel of Contemporary design. Architecture will emulate this as our tastes adjust once again.

Recent architecture elsewhere in this country and worldwide shows a trend toward a more Contemporary architecture.

Question: How would you describe "Contemporary" architecture?

Answer: Contemporary architecture uses materials such as stone, wood, fabrics and color, allowing for a very livable, contextual home. For example, Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Fallingwater residence used stone and wood — similar to the mountain on which it sits — in a sculptural and functional way that fit into the site with timeless, simplified ornament.

Modern architecture, by contrast, was all about abstract, man-made and machine. Yet Contemporary architecture fits in, feels good, and is energy-resource respectful.

Q: What are the benefits of Contemporary architecture?

A: The design evolves from the inside to the outside; i.e., "form follows function." Items such as shading, ventilation and other energy-saving elements are an integral part of the design instead of being hidden or added on.

Green construction materials can be used in lieu of additional finishes and details, while saving on construction costs. The style of the house also is a direct result of the efficiency in function as well as honest materials — without the use of additional, and costly, decorative roofs, towers, windows and ornament.

History has shown that well-done Contemporary architecture is timeless, contextual and a good investment.

Q: Why will we see more Contemporary homes in Florida?

A: There is a rich history of Modern and Contemporary architecture with Miami Beach's Art Deco, the "Sarasota School" era with Paul Rudolph, and Palm Beach's Regency style.

Today, Miami's condo boom has once again given rise to Tropical Contemporary architecture, featuring dramatic geometries, color and elevated gardens that are being emulated worldwide.

As we emerge from this latest real estate cycle, people will be seeking a fresh look. Contemporary architecture will be there.

Mitch Kunik is a partner of Affiniti Architects P.A. of Boca Raton. Affiniti Architects specializes in estate and resort residences. Affiniti has earned more than 200 national and regional design awards for residential architecture, including numerous Best of Show awards from the Builders Association of South Florida. For more information, visit www.affinitiarchitects.com, or call (561) 750-0445.

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Why build Contemporary? Because Contemporary architecture is contextual, timeless and a solid investment.



Contemporary-design items such as shading, ventilation and other energy-saving features are an integral part of the design and aren't added on or hidden.



Recent architecture outside of Florida shows a trend toward a soft, contemporary architecture. The state probably will begin to see more of it as tastes continue to adjust.