

Builder/Architect

The Evolution of Contemporary Architecture

By Mitch Kunik, AIA

Early 20th-century "modern" architecture followed the style of famous artists such as Picasso, co-founder of the Cubist movement. This was the basis for the "white box" look that we still associate with

extremely modern architecture today. Then, with the "postmodern" movement of the 1970s, we saw a shift to "softer," more decorated styles like Mediterranean, which has remained prominent in Florida. However, in areas such as art and fashion, we are currently seeing a move toward "cleaner," more contemporary designs.

Architectural style will also evolve as our tastes and needs adjust once again. That is why recent architecture in certain parts of the United States and other countries around the world already show this trend toward contemporary architecture.

Contemporary architecture uses materials such as stone, wood, fabrics and color to create a livable, contextual home. For example, Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Fallingwater residence used stone and wood similar to the mountain it was built on and the waterfall it was built over in a sculptural and functional way, fitting into the site with timeless, simplified ornament. Modern architecture, in contrast, is all about abstract, manmade and machine. Contemporary architecture fits in with other styles and has the additional benefit of being energy efficient.

Contemporary design evolves from the inside out — "form follows function." Items that allow for shading, ventilation and other energy-conserving elements are an integral part of the design instead of being hidden or added on. "Green" construction materials can be honestly used in lieu of additional finishes and detailing, which saves on construction costs. The style of the house is also a direct result of the efficiency in function and honest materials without the use of additional costly decorative roofs, towers, windows and ornamentation. History has shown that well-done contemporary architecture is a good investment.

There is a rich history of modern and contemporary architecture with Miami Beach's Art Deco, Sarasota School era with Paul Rudolph and Palm Beach's Regency style. Miami's most recent condo boom has once again given rise to tropical contemporary architecture with dramatic geometries, color and elevated gardens, which are being emulated around the world. As we emerge from this latest real estate cycle, people will be seeking a fresh look and contemporary architecture will be there.

Mitch Kunik, AIA, is the founding partner of Affiniti Architects, headquartered in Boca Raton, with offices in Tampa and the Bahamas.

Affiniti Architects has completed multiple projects in the U.S., Caribbean, Central America and Middle East. It is a full-service architectural firm specializing in resort, luxury and multifamily residences.

Affiniti has earned more than 350 national and regional design awards for residential architecture, including numerous "Best of Show" awards from the Builders Association of South Florida. For more information, call (561) 750-0445 or visit www.affinitiarchitects.com. ■

Affiniti Architects Completes Two Designs for Builders in Admiral's Cove

Affiniti Architects has completed two single-family home designs, one being built by Shapiro Pertnoy Companies, the second by Turtle Beach Construction in Admiral's Cove in Jupiter. The two-story estate residences are each approximately 10,000 total square feet. Both are currently under construction and will feature a classic Mediterranean-style design.

Affiniti, which has completed multiple projects in the Caribbean, Central America and Dubai, is a full-service architectural

firm headquartered at 6100 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 8, in Boca Raton, FL. Specializing in resort, luxury and multi-family residences, Affiniti also has offices in Tampa and the Bahamas.

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Affiniti Architects Commissioned to Design Four Residences in Lost Tree Village

Affiniti Architects, working with M.J. Construction, is currently in the midst of designing or constructing four residences in Lost Tree Village in North Palm Beach. The residences average a total of 6,000 square feet each and are either new construction or extensive renovation projects. Each home has its own unique style, though all are consistent with the community's Bermuda and Island Colonial exterior architecture. These homes add to Affiniti's total of 20 or more completed residences within Lost Tree Village to date.

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Affiniti has earned more than 350 national and regional design awards for residential architecture, including numerous "Best of Show" awards from the Builders Association of South Florida and two LEED Gold homes in Florida. For more information, call (561) 750-0445 or visit www.affinitiarchitects.com. ■