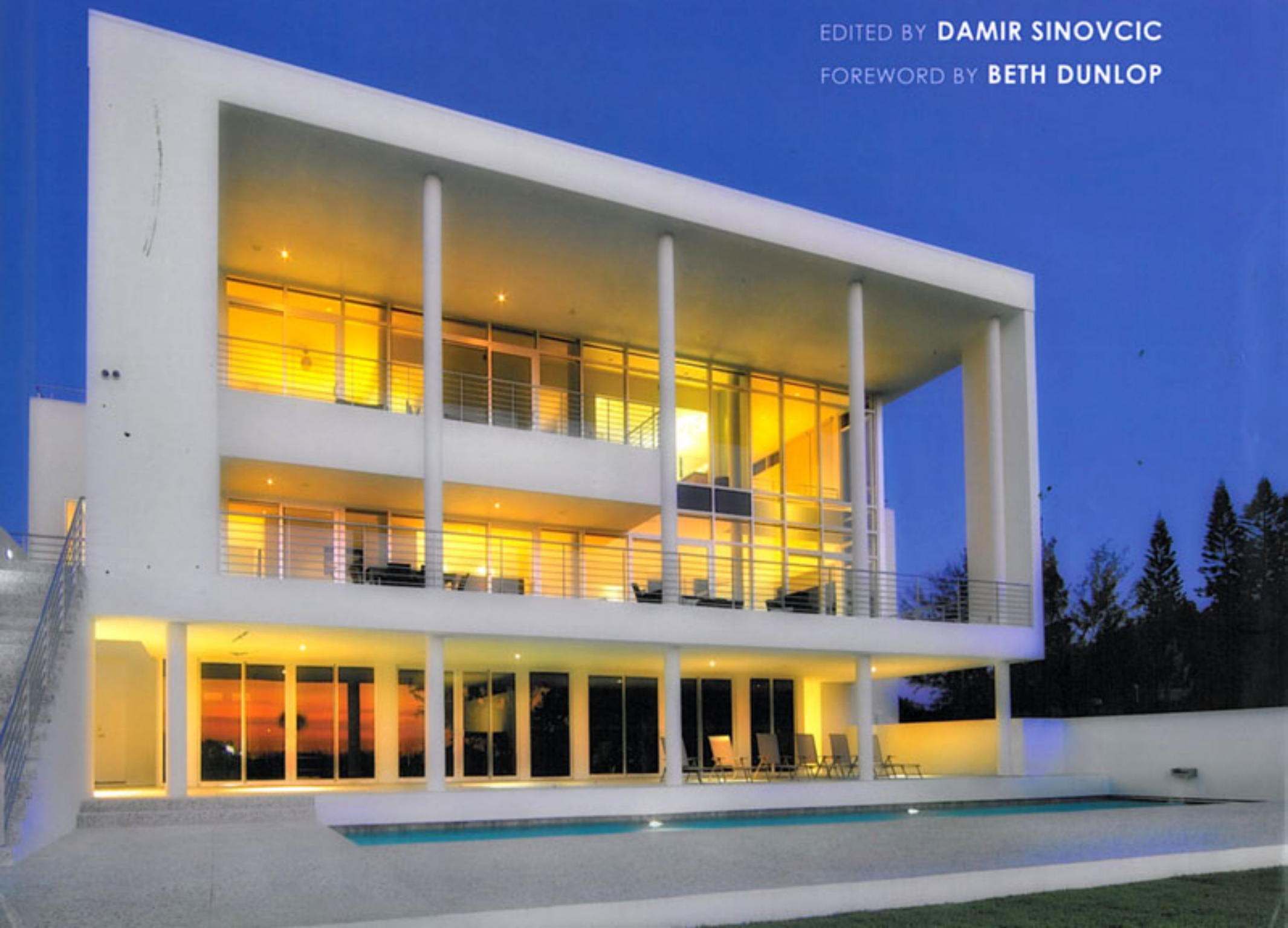


# 100 FLORIDA

ARCHITECTS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS

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Michel F. Kunk, Ronald J. Rickett, Brian J. Collins, and Benjamin Schreier

## AFFINITY ARCHITECTS

Affinity Architects is located in Boca Raton, Florida and specializes in residential and resort community planning and design throughout the United States, the Caribbean, Central America, and the Middle East. Michel F. Kunk, AIA, and his three partners, Ronald J. Rickett, AIA, Brian J. Collins, AIA, and Benjamin Schreier, AIA, have earned a reputation for designing properties for national and regional builders, celebrities, and the corporate elite. The firm's projects have an estimated construction value of 12.5 billion dollars and have received more than 230 international, national, and regional design awards. Affinity Architects has been recognized in numerous published works.

As Affinity Architects has designed more than 12,000 homes, the firm's partners have gained an acute knowledge of the nuances of product mixes. Before undertaking any developer-based architectural project, their team of professionals performs market-based research to examine existing architecture, site conditions, and the demands of the local market. Each team consists of a leading partner and qualified staff that are best matched to the project and the client's goals.

Each design is intended to respect the site's context as well as the project's construction budget. In addition to researching and understanding the target market, Affinity Architects identifies the goals of the project as well as any planning and zoning constraints that may affect their accomplishment. As the result of this design approach, the firm's architectural teams have been able to form strong relationships with developers, engineering firms, and local governments.

After carefully considering the project's program and design intent, the architectural team creates an initial design. Over the course of the project, Affinity Architects' designers conduct charrettes to assist in the evolution of the architectural concepts. Ongoing communication provides for the continual exchange of ideas among the various parties until a final design is achieved. The architectural team establishes close working relationships with clients in order to transform their dreams into reality. "This design approach has worked effectively and has led thousands of projects to successful completion," Kunk says.

©2007 The architect contemporary life is all in a series of homes designed for a gated beach-fronted development community in the Middle East.





With guidance from the firm's partners, Affinis Architects expanded to include substantial international business endeavors. Similar to its domestic projects, these ventures include the design of upscale residences and resort communities as well as town planning. One such international project features a neighborhood of 2,000 homes on a sixty-acre site that encompasses an existing horse racetrack in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The residences employ contemporary architecture and are designed in contrast to their countryside setting. "The result is a vision of a community that is as functional as it is beautiful," says Kurik.

Affinis Architects prides itself in its ability to work with developers such as Mirco Communities, LLC. The firm is responsible for the architectural design of many Mirco communities, including Artesia in Sunrise, Florida.

Artesia is a 1,100-unit resort development of multifamily homes that surround an estate-like clubhouse. Since the project began in 2005, Artesia has received more than a dozen awards from various builders' associations. Most prominent of these honors is the 2008

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PHOTO: View of the four-story penthouse tower features a glass and aluminum facade. The rooftop pool provides recreation and water for air conditioning.

Judges Special Award from the Builders Association of South Florida in the category of overall planned community for projects with more than 1,000 units.

The firm is guided by the principles of energy efficiency and sustainability. It designed the first ten LEED Gold-certified homes in Florida. Affinis Architects has also planned a community of 250 residences in Lake Worth, Florida that is expected to have a net energy consumption of zero. Each residence is designed to use one-third of the amount of water that an average home consumes. These homes are intended to achieve LEED certification and to contribute to the generation of power for the entire community. The residences will employ a variety of contemporary styles with sizes ranging from 1,700 to 2,700 square feet.

"Ultimately, Affinis Architects agrees to create projects that have a strong identity — an identity that is capable of reinforcing sales. For both custom residences and resort community projects, the design approach takes context, market demands, and the desires of the client into consideration, regardless of location," says Kurik. "The firm is constantly moving forward, researching and employing new construction materials and techniques to stay current with architectural trends. Affinis Architects is prepared to take the latest homebuilding technologies and its innovative designs well into the twenty-first century."

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PHOTO: The estate-like clubhouse at Artesia in Sunrise, Florida stands as the focal point for the resort community of eleven hundred multifamily homes.

