

*Kon Miller*

**ARCHITECT. AIA**







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I put this book together so that each of my daughters, Pamela, Melissa, and Sally, could each have a copy for a bookshelf someplace in their home. Many of these projects they have not seen, some they have visited, and there is one in which they have lived. *Ken Miller*





Portrait photo by D. Scime

Architecture is my passion. I will always be an Architect. But now I find myself retired from active practice. I have gathered a few photographs of projects, both residential and commercial, that have pleased me and hopefully pleased my clients. This has not been a singular effort. There have been associates, engineering consultants and contractors who have labored with me and to whom I will always be grateful for their contributions.

*Ken Miller* 11.09.2011

## Skylight in my Studio

The mobile "Soccer Players" was found on a visit to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico




*This poem, a special gift from a friend, I include as a reminder to me and to all architects, of our challenge to go beyond the limitations of walls and roofs.*

## THE ARCHITECT

He is a man with visions, with dreams of space  
He imagines what others only dimly see  
He fills emptiness with life, a way to live,  
    a home with light  
Curves and angles, straight lines and holes  
Are brought together to form anew  
A space so special so uniquely true  
It comes to life an organic whole  
A place where a family feel awe every day  
They look, they discover in a completely new way  
A hallway with sky, a room with a tree  
Vistas opening to water and peace  
A house full of nature that is out, but brought in  
A creation of man, accommodated to one  
One with the world, the soul, the sun  
He's a wizard, a visionary, a man with a dream  
He has left a legacy, a gift of strength  
His very being  
That will live through time  
A touch of reality in the sublime

*Jane Fitzgerald*



CHILDREN'S BAY CAY, Exuma Islands, Bahamas

THE CHALLENGE: Move to a remote private island and build a house for the Cronyns that I had designed while working in Manhattan. What I didn't bargain for was a shipboard romance, a whirlwind courtship, a 55 year marriage that gave us a very happy life with a bonus of three wonderful daughters. We spent our honeymoon on the island in the completed house.







Roof truss on "The Ole Horse Eye"



The boss checking out my work



Moving the mixer to the next construction site.





A perfect sink for the Guest Room Bath being measured in Miami.



It arrives safely on the seaplane ramp and is being inspected by the girls adorned with Oleander blossoms for the photo shoot.



A Sunday break for snorkeling with Hume and Jess....towing our picnic and diving supplies.



My superintendent Will Nixon





Guest House Terrace



Guest Bedroom with Balcony



A parental visit at the completion of the work.

The Cronyns enjoyed their island retreat for many years, but during a period of prolonged professional activity that limited their travel to this remote location, they sold the island to the Heinz family. Following the sale I was asked to design the house in Pound Ridge, N.Y.





Porch of AHRENS RESIDENCE 1992 Hobe Sound, Florida  
Photographer: Kim Sargent





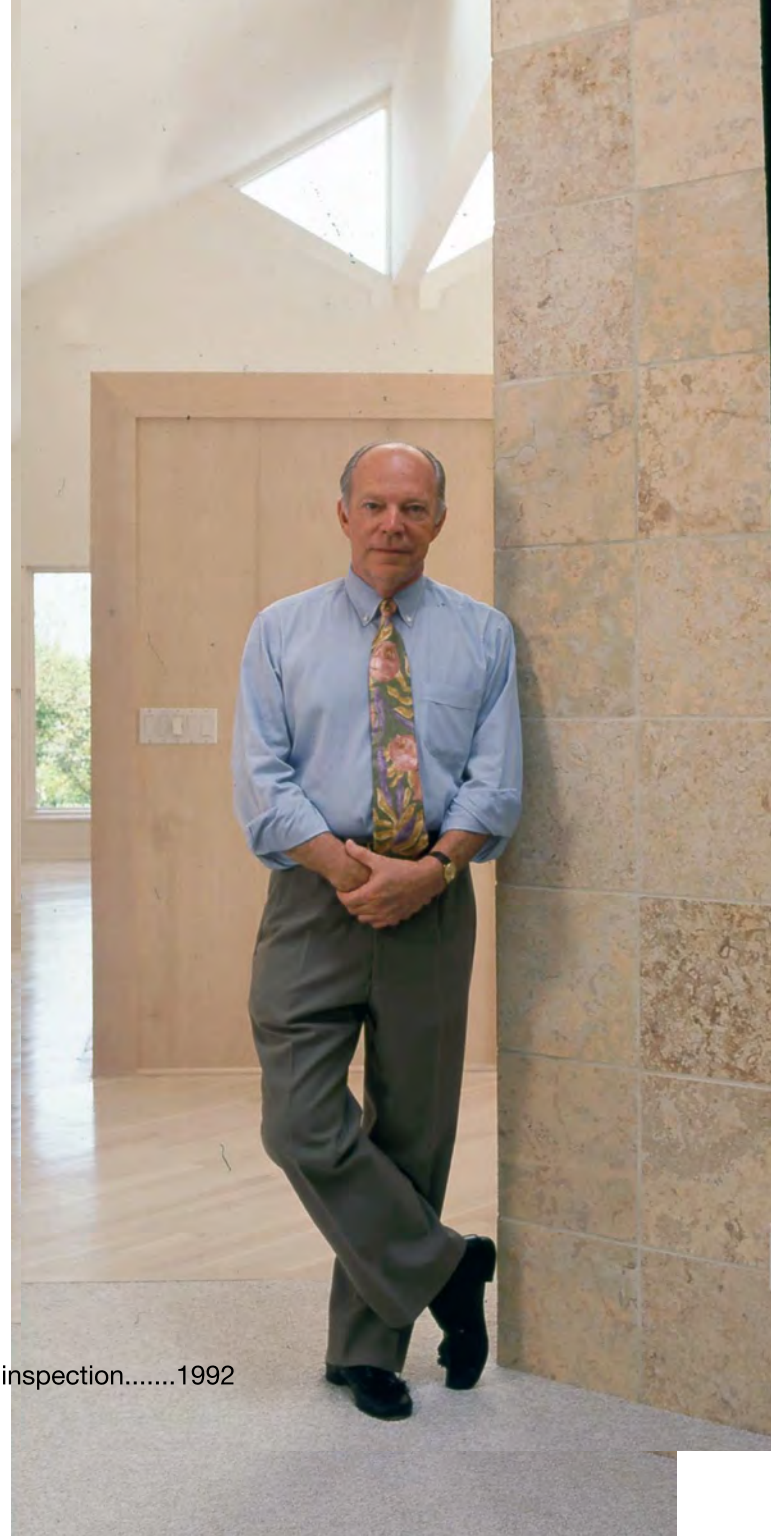
Family Room / Porch / Kitchen





Foyer / Bar / Desk

This photo demonstrates the use of free standing "elements" within the house volume to contain the needed services.



Waiting for Owners after final inspection.....1992





Master Bed Room / Den...Interiors by Ken Miller



Master Bath and screened Balcony



East Elevation

While driving on inspection trips through Loblolly Pines in Hobe Sound, I often passed a small north facing property on Mourning Dove Way. It seemed perfect for a small house. The golf course site had a long view to the south and I could see the sun dancing on a small lake. I found myself hoping that whoever buys this site would hire me as their architect. Wishes can come true. Richard and Joan Foxwell called me for an interview. Their northern home was in Lincolnville Maine and was conservative. They talked about their hand made furnishings by George Nakashima. " Could we do something clean and contemporary that would add excitement to our lives in Florida?" I said that I could handle that. I insisted that the Nakashima furnishings come to Florida along with them.





FOXWELL RESIDENCE and GUEST HOUSE....Hobe Sound Florida....1996

Interiors by Frederick Sargent, H. Allen Holmes. Landscape Architect: Morgan Wheelock. Photographer: Kim Sargent. Builder: Webb Builders





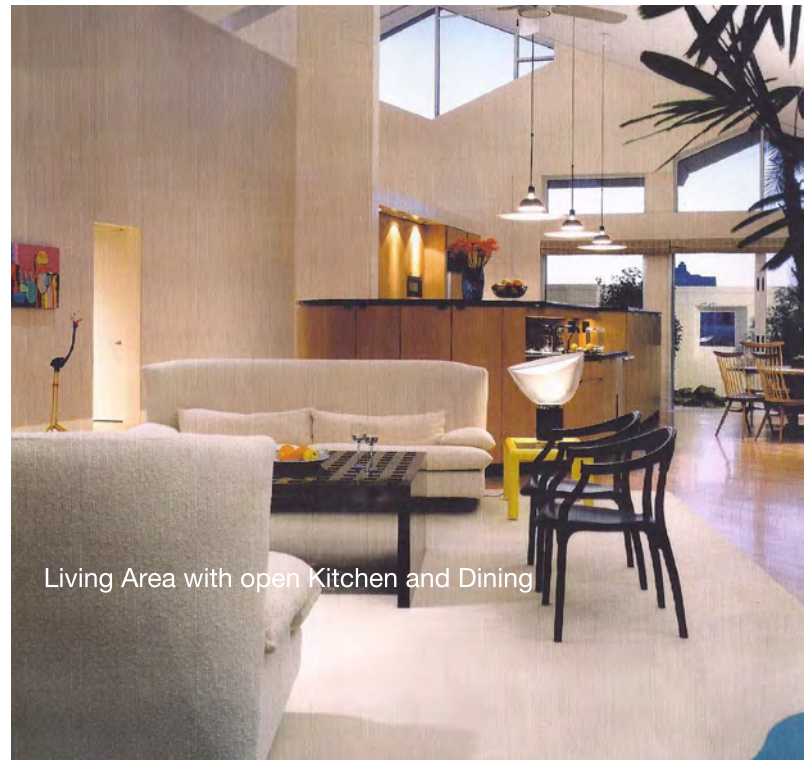
Living Area



Master Dressing Bath



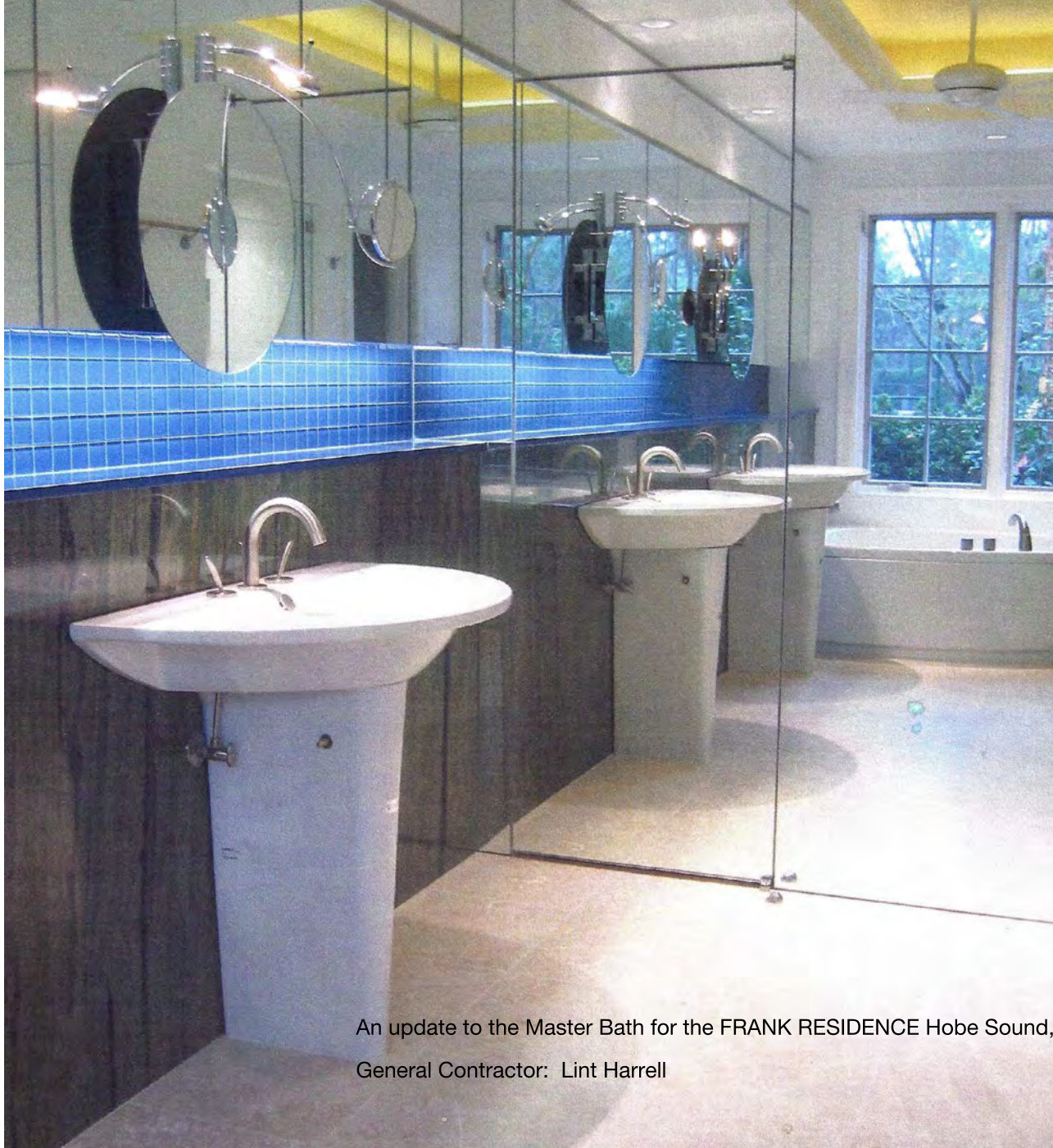
Bar with Kitchen behind.



Living Area with open Kitchen and Dining







An update to the Master Bath for the FRANK RESIDENCE Hobe Sound, Florida  
General Contractor: Lint Harrell

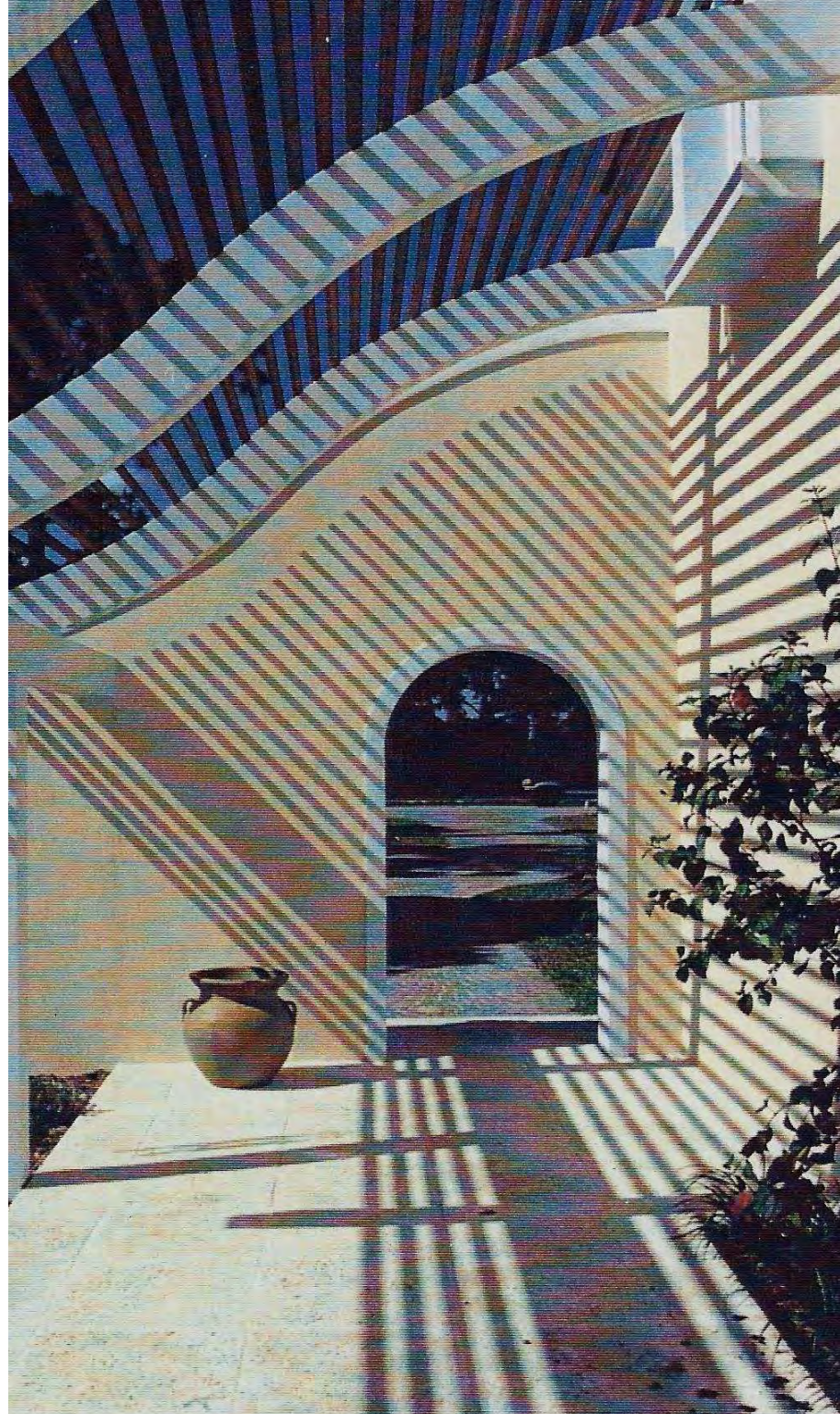




ASHLEY RESIDENCE, 1991, Hobe Sound, Florida

Contractor: Richard Maerz

Entrance through Courtyard wall to front door under trellis supported on aluminum bents.  
Photographer: Ken Miller







Kitchen / Screened Porch and Pool. Photograph by Kim Sargent

This is the former residence of the late acting team Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy. It is located on an elevated peninsula surrounded on three sides by Mystery Lake in Pound Ridge, N.Y.. It is reached by three pedestrian bridges from a remote parking area, or by a cable car at the lake level. The foundation concrete was pumped a considerable distance and the building supplies were moved by hand trucks.

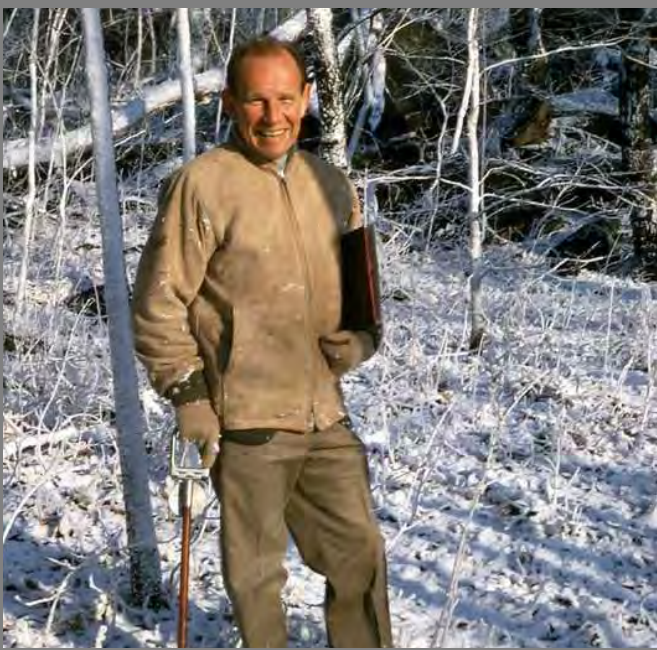
Following the sale of Children's Bay Cay in the Bahamas to the Heinz family, this was my second commission for the Cronyns.





CRONYN RESIDENCE 1971  
Photographer: Bo Parker





"Let's go Ken...I'm ready with my note pad."



Site meeting

During construction the Cronyns would invite friends by to inspect our progress. I was suspect of a certain insecurity and my clients were looking for approval. The friends I met from time to time included director Elio Kazan, director Joe Mankiewicz, producer Robert Whitehead and his actress wife Zoe Caldwell.



"...and how to we get to the top,from here?" "What the hell is an INCLINATOR ?"





And through the winter we continue building to meet our construction schedule.



Photograph: Ken Miller





NANCY KYLE RESIDENCE Palm Beach Gardens, FL 1996  
Heritage 76 Contractor. Photography by Kim Sargent





Living Room  
Interiors by Owner and Architect

Ms. Kyle, before selecting an architect, had spent the night in the Guest Room of the Timmis Residence, a home I had designed in the neighborhood. The vibes must have been good, because the next day she called me to design her house. "This will be MY house, but I'll let my husband live there." Their son is a pianist, so we featured the piano in a special place for concerts.



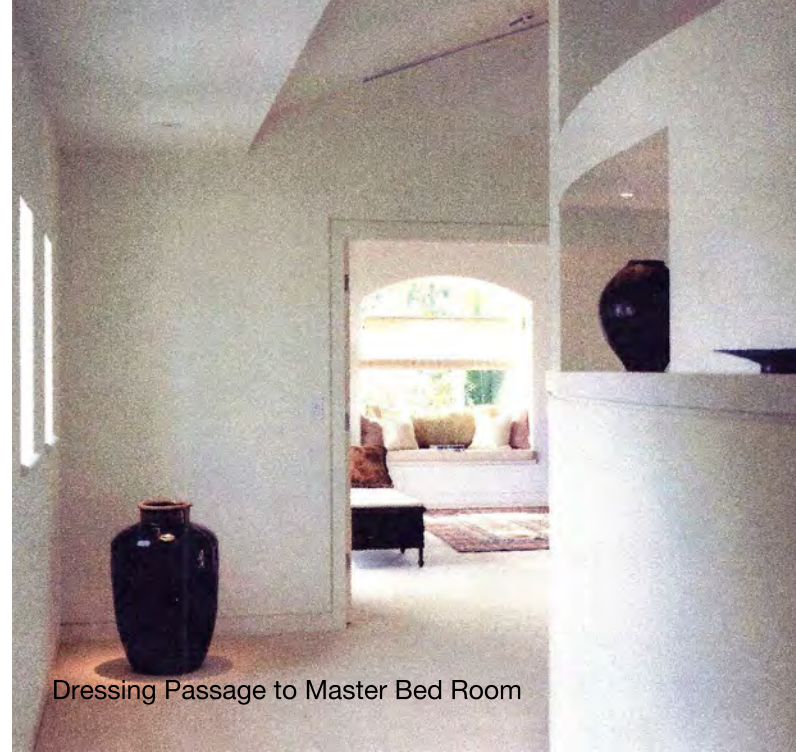
Stair Tower and Bar





Entry Gate House

Note: Pattern on gate is floor plan of house.



Dressing Passage to Master Bed Room



Barbecue



Dining / Library





Pool bridge over Spa



Kyle exterior fenestration





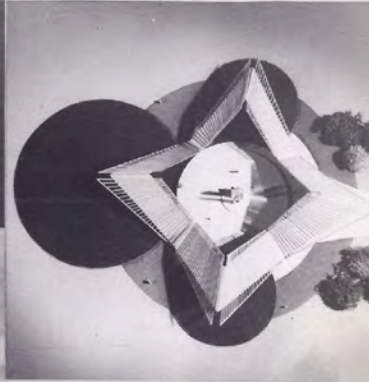
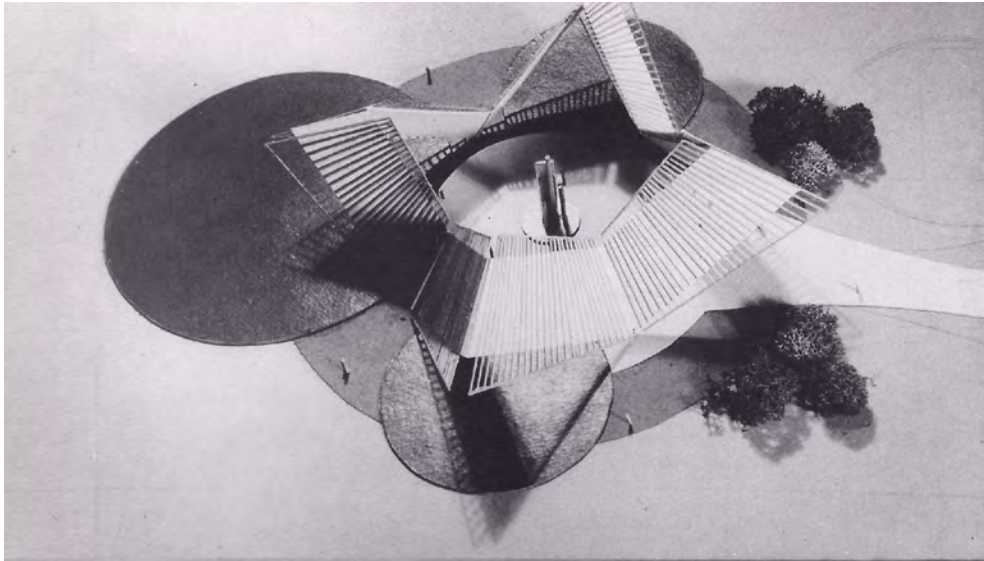
View from stair landing.

Free standing up-light fixture by architect to light ceiling using pvc pipe standing over dimmable floor outlet.

This is a model of my entry in the 1962 FDR MEMORIAL COMPETITION

The memorial was to be located at the tidal basin in the West Potomac Park, Washington, DC





FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL

BBKBY

THE TWIN TOWERS  
of MERIDA, Mexico





This was a collaborative effort with architect Ovidio Oxios for luxury apartments in Merida Mexico. Although the floor plans were unique, as were the designs of all the shared amenities, the project was never realized.





HUD 545 - SENIOR HOUSING, 1976, South Miami, Florida  
Sculpture by Robert Stoetzer



GODOWN RESIDENCE, Tequesta Florida .....1984





View into LIVING ROOM from curved deck and underlighted bench.





Guest Entrance through Courtyard with swimming pool and screened ceiling.





Kitchen / Breakfast with river view. Deck beyond.







Drive Thru as sculpture. FIRST BANK of PEMBROKE PINES, Pembroke Pines, Florida





United National Bank





UNITED NATIONAL BANK, Hialeah, Florida

Photographs: Don Forer  
Graphics by Bugdahl Graphics





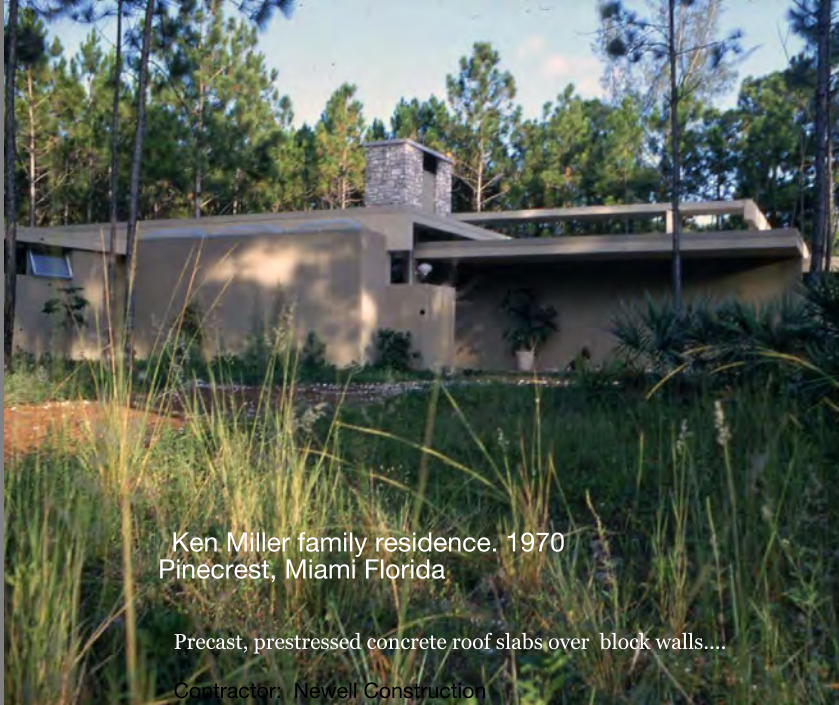
North Elevation.....a building within a building.





Interiors by Architect





This poolside sculpture "Family of Man" by Robert Stoetzer was on loan while the site in South Miami was being prepared.



Driveway Lantern that marks entrance to wooded site.





Stepped down Living Area





Pool Terrace designed as an outdoor living space with screened ceiling and screened walls





View to Kitchen



Our first fire!



Master Bath









BETSY FULLER is a very spiritual person....the best kind of client for an architect to have. She is sensitive to her surroundings, sees and appreciates all the aspects of space, light and nature. She works diligently designing and producing exquisite custom jewelry using natural products like sea glass and fresh water pearls. She delights in her independence. Her commission was the first challenge on my arrival in Jupiter from Miami in 1986. There were many special requirements in the program for her home and studio, but perhaps the most important was to have a deck retreat high on the roof from which the intercostal might be seen and the night sky enjoyed. How high should we go? let's find out. From an overused and very shaky "cherry picker" rented from a landscape company, we were lifted in the bucket above the trees of the wild oak hammock. From our lofty perch we cast out a steel measuring tape and locked down the perfect vertical dimension.



Approach to Betsy Fuller's Residence





Living Room



THE STUDIO WORKSHOP .....

where the magic happens!





Morning sun on the Screened Porch







Lap Pool with disappearing edge and underwater music.



Living Room





FRATES / GAMBLE RESIDENCE, Coral Gables, Florida









**I was the second choice as architect** when these friends decided to build this house. My competition was our mutual friend and architect, the late Robin John, whose work I admired greatly. I often wonder what Rob might have designed. Tom and Martha's son, Mark, was a high school teenager and was very excited about the process of moving ideas to reality. I thank him for his support on this project. He "went to bat" for me and helped sell the concept when his parents were stalled in the decision process. To make a short story longer, Mark became an architect, and to make matters even better, he married one.





HARRINGTON RESIDENCE, Miami, Florida....1992

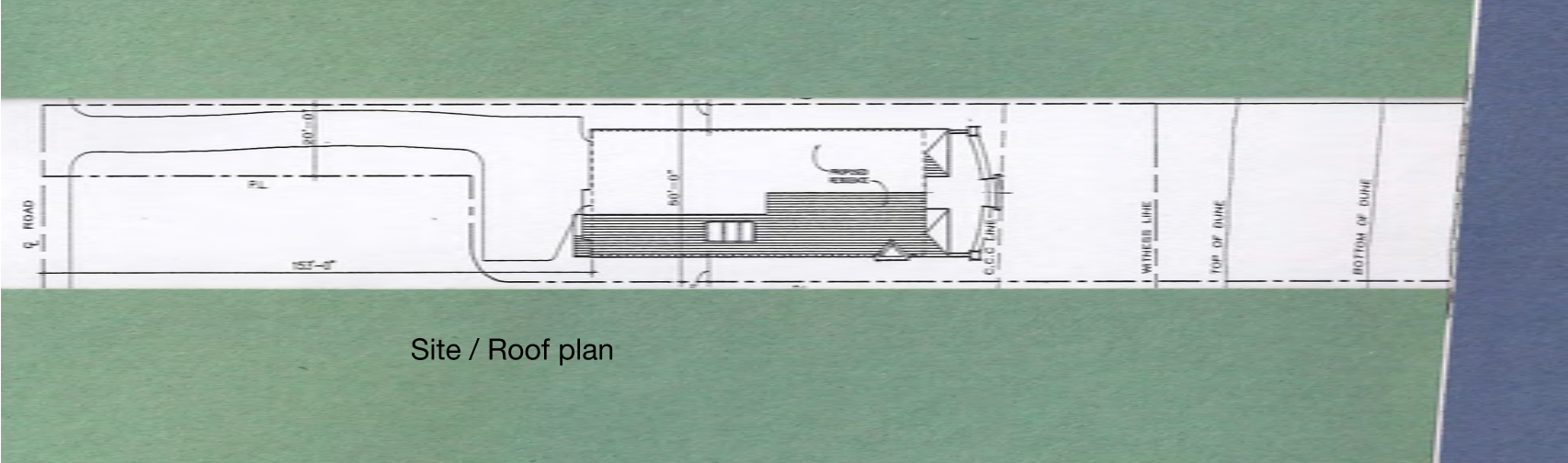
The home is entered on the half-level. The lower level has a Carport, 2 Bedrooms, Bath and a Garden. The upper level has Living / Dining, Kitchen, Family Room, Master Bedroom, Dressing Bath, and Den.







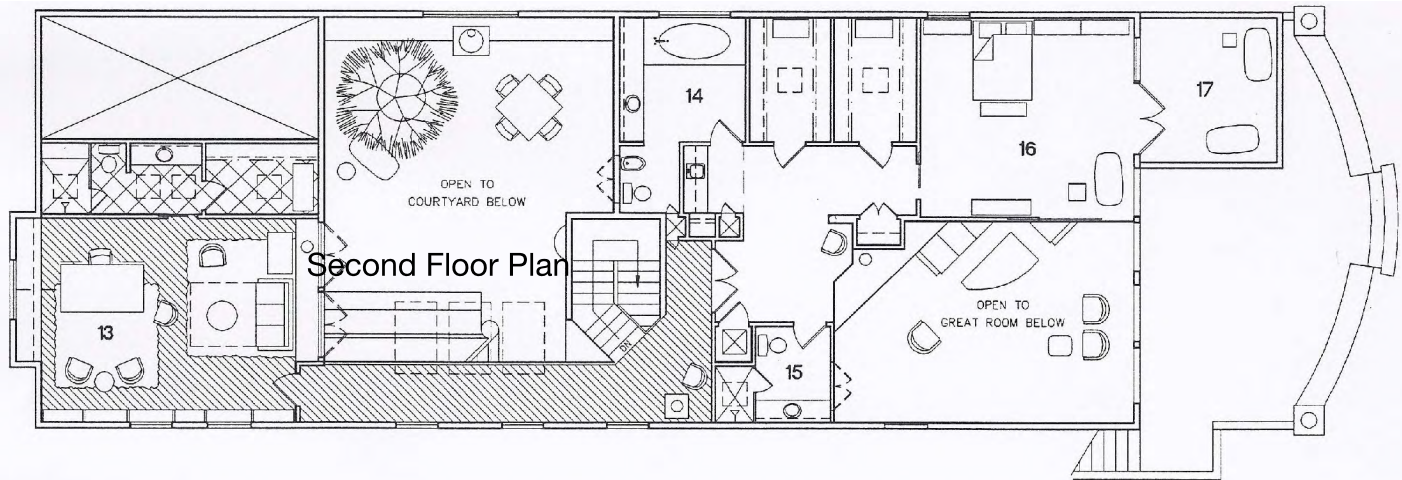
**THE LIVING LEVEL IS ELEVATED.** Connecting decks provide a flow of space for entertaining. There are views of the waterway below and Biscayne Bay to the east.



Site / Roof plan

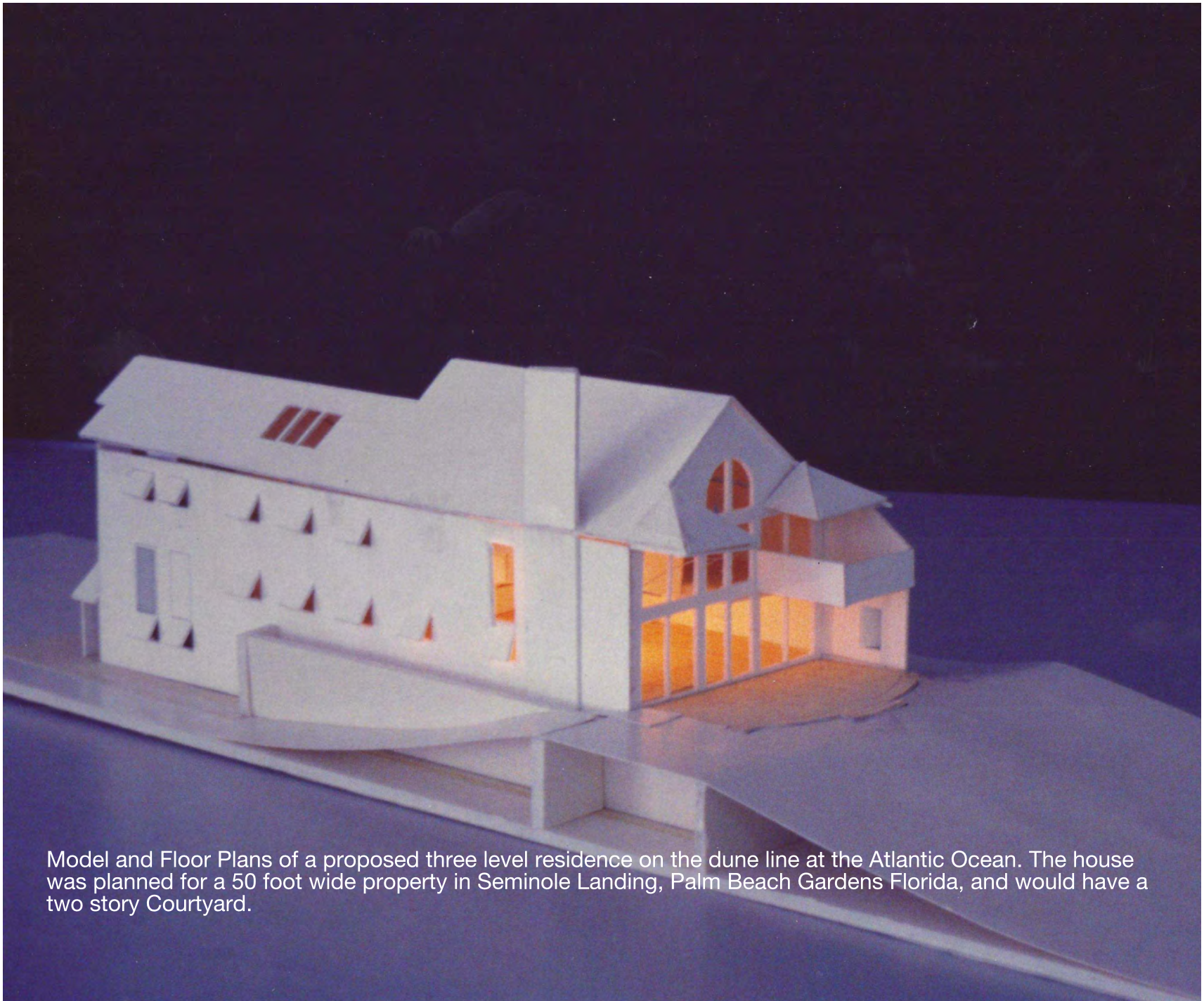


First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan





Model and Floor Plans of a proposed three level residence on the dune line at the Atlantic Ocean. The house was planned for a 50 foot wide property in Seminole Landing, Palm Beach Gardens Florida, and would have a two story Courtyard.







DORNAU RESIDENCE, Dade County, Florida. 1978 Photography: Dan Forer

Two 2 story elements connect with a Library Bridge on second floor to Master Bedroom and Dressing /Bath. Power vented cupolas regulate air flow to minimize air conditioning. Each corner opens to floor to roof screening







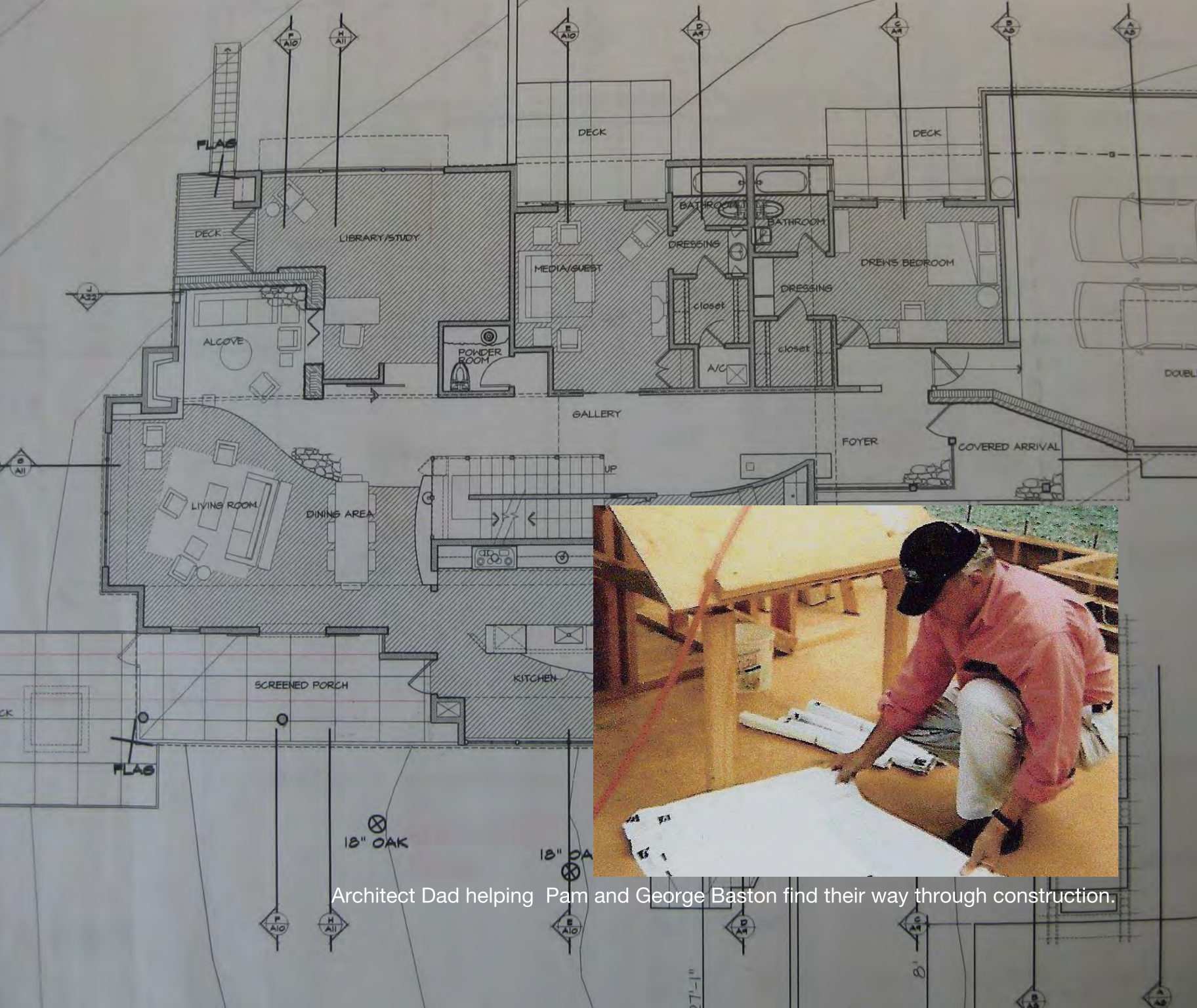
ENTRANCE FOYER with Bar. Living Room to left, Dining Room to right. Kitchen behind free standing custom cabinet. There are three Bedrooms and two Baths on upper level in this element.



BASTON RESIDENCE Columbus, North Carolina 2003

4,900 air conditioned sq ft on 3 levels





Architect Dad helping Pam and George Baston find their way through construction.





Living Room / Dining Area ..... George did a skillful job installing the Pennsylvania Blue Stone and the reclaimed maple flooring that join artfully on this level.





Kitchen



Master Bedroom which overlooks the Living Room below



Snack Counter



Stainless steel balustrade fabricated by E. Baston & Son

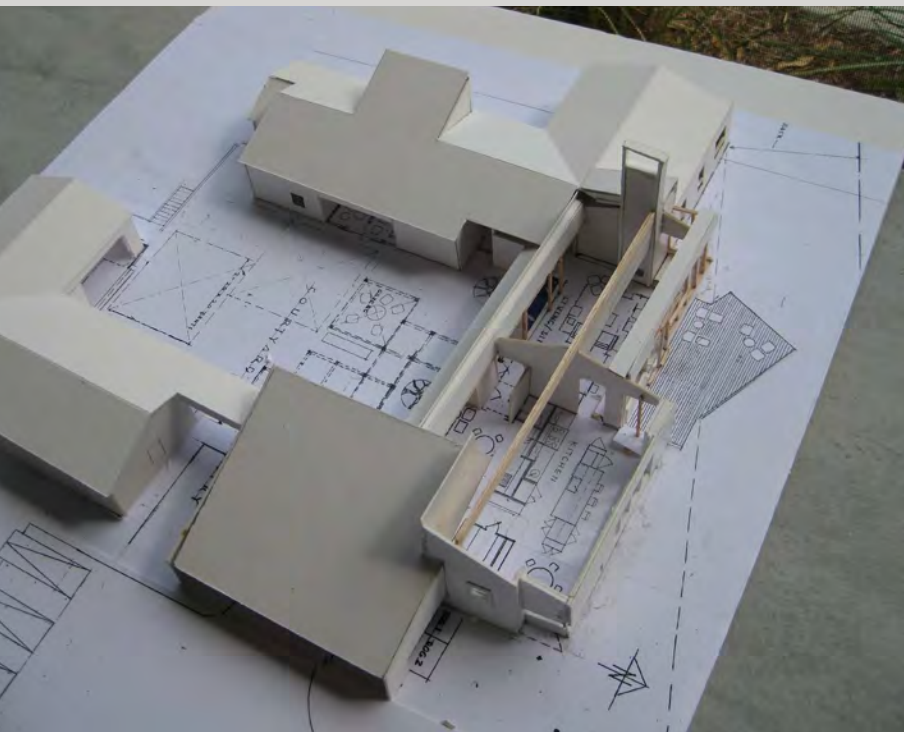


A snack on the Porch while wrapped with family and countryside.



The very important Kitchen Window Seat for the critics of food preparation and clean-up.





Views of a model of proposed future Baston Residence in Tryon, North Carolina. Mountain views are to the north and west. Elements of the residence are wrapped around a courtyard.





In 1999 our new home in Hobe Sound is underway.....how exciting!



Watch out for those trees !!!





Courtyard Entrance with adjacent detached Studio / Guest Room





Courtyard of "Hobefarm", the MILLER RESIDENCE in Hobe Sound, Florida...2000

In one half acre of woods, this is now our "empty nest". Empty, that is, except for two sister cats, Stella and Blanche, and the many family members and friends that come to spend time with us. Across this Courtyard is the Studio / Guest house where thoughts and ideas are put to paper and are sometimes realized.



Kitchen



Breakfast corner





Living Room



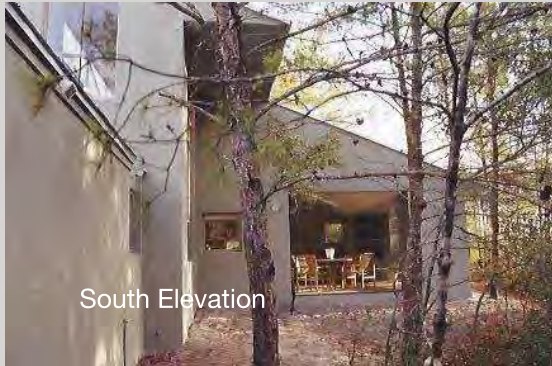


Dining Area and Screened Porch





Street Lantern at driveway



South Elevation



Wind Mobile



Detail...Screened Porch



Master Bed Room



Steps to accommodate changes in site levels.  
Marble steps from architectural salvage placed in concrete.



Master Bath



North Elevation





Living Room



Entrance Foyer with view to Courtyard





Studio work area as seen from the Loft.





CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH, Miami, Florida 1980  
Photos by Ovidio Oxios





Construction Photo



Sanctuary with "side bar" choir recess



TIMMIS RESIDENCE, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. 1996

Builder: Heritage 76 Electronic Systems: Visions. Landscape Architect: Krent Weiland Designs. Photography: Kim Sargent. Published in Robb Report



















Living Room featuring corner window with view to marsh, window bench, stone floors and cypress ceiling.





View from Living room through Foyer into Entry Garden.



Courtyard Entrance with screened ceiling.

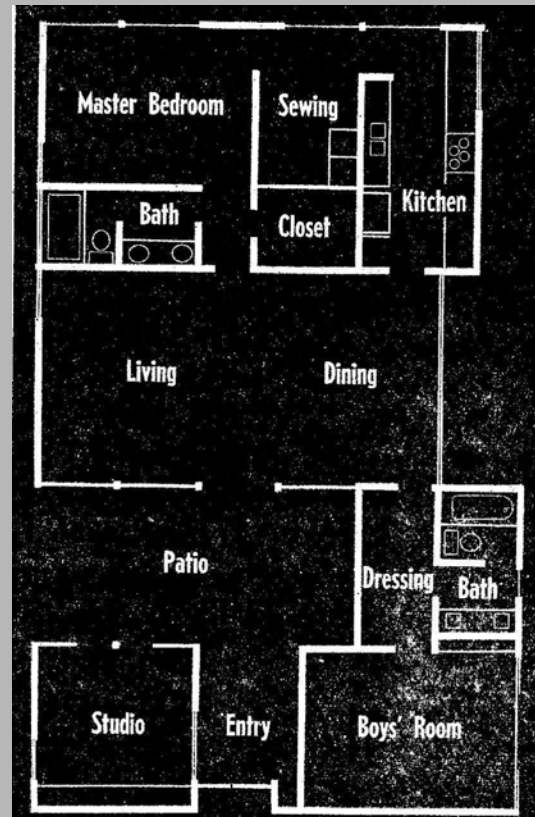
## DAVIS RESIDENCE Miami, Florida 1967

Owners and Don Grubbs Contractors

A chance meeting with a young couple in a bookstore in 1966 led to this post and beam modular home. The two infants that I met at the first conference are now adults with children of their own. Pete Davis, an artist and craftsman, that literally put "post to beam" to make this house happen has died recently. Sonja, his wife who worked diligently with Pete adding her own artistic touches, continues living here entertaining her many friends, neighbors and grandkids.



How simple can you get?



West Elevation with Patio Entrance

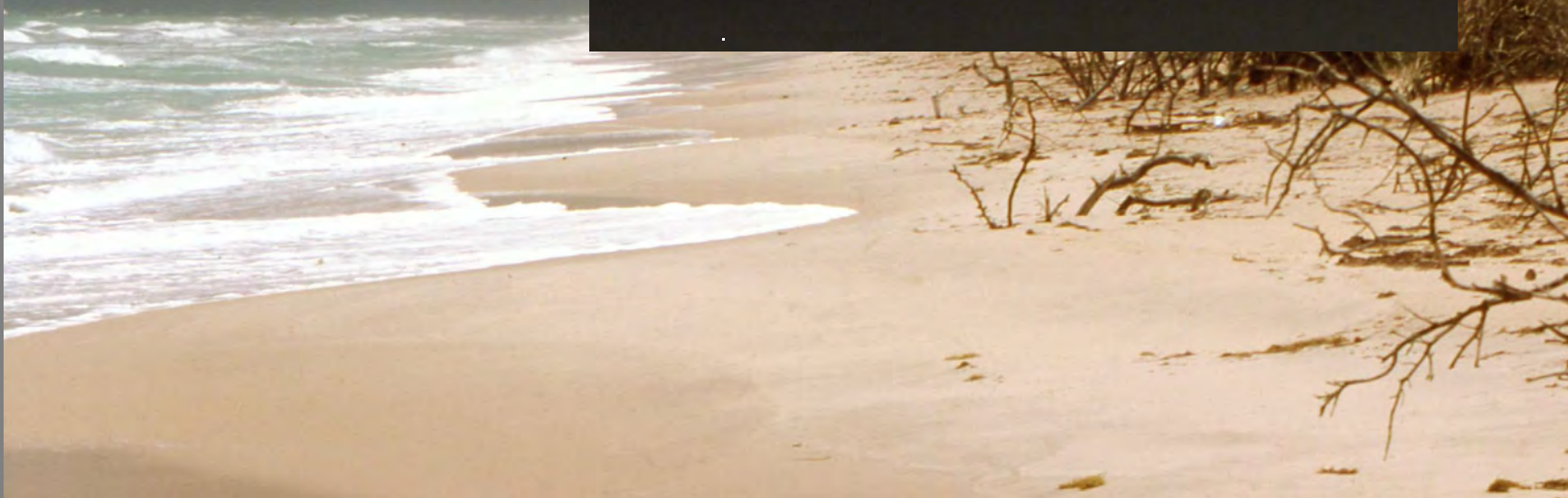
Model of the PROPOSED RESIDENCE for ARDEN SHAW, Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman, BWI

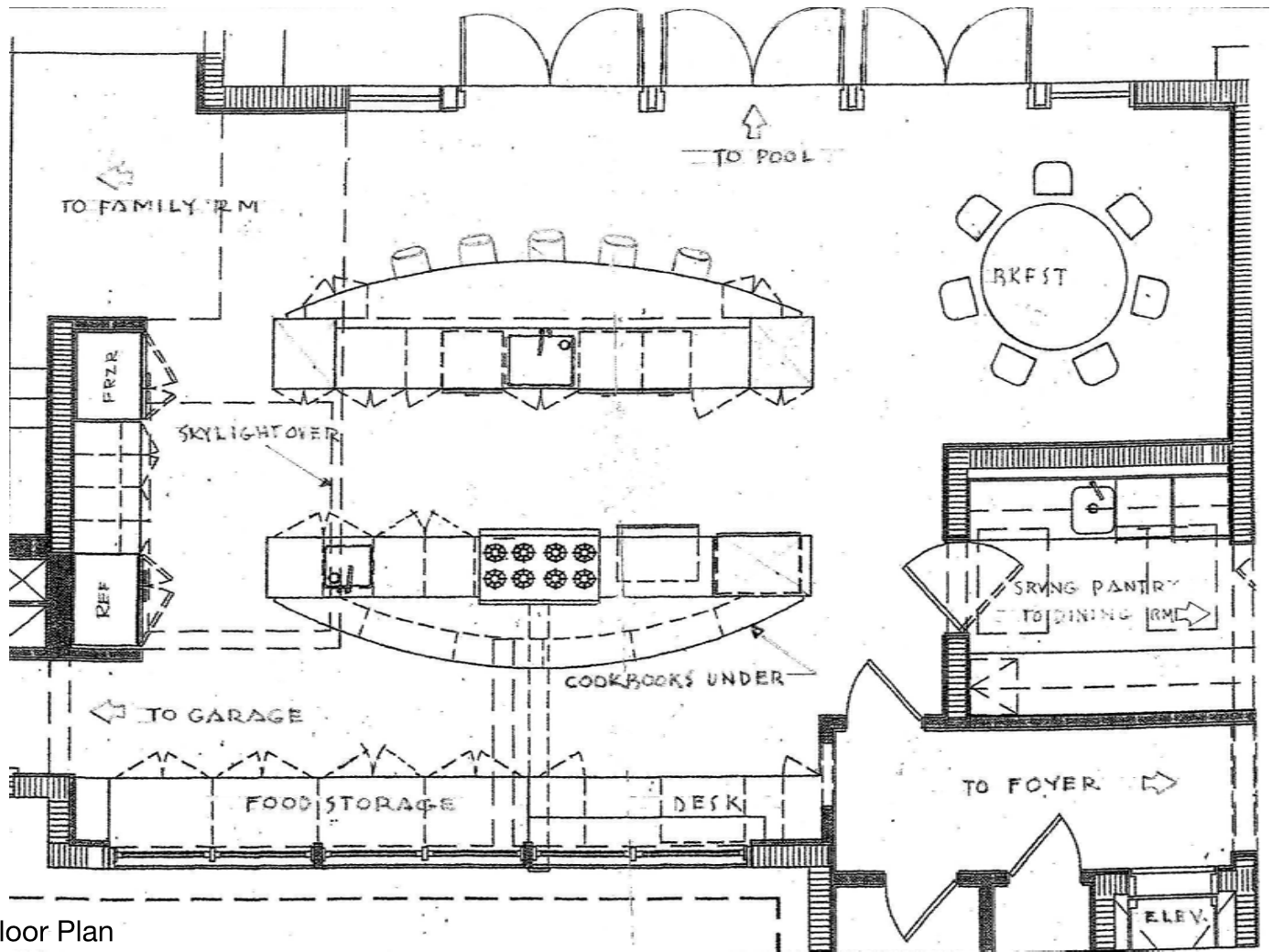
We are looking through the Entrance Gallery to the beach beyond. The master Bedroom and Dressing / Bath are on the second floor. Regretfully this house was never built on the breathtakingly beautiful beach where the land cost of waterfront is measured by the inch.



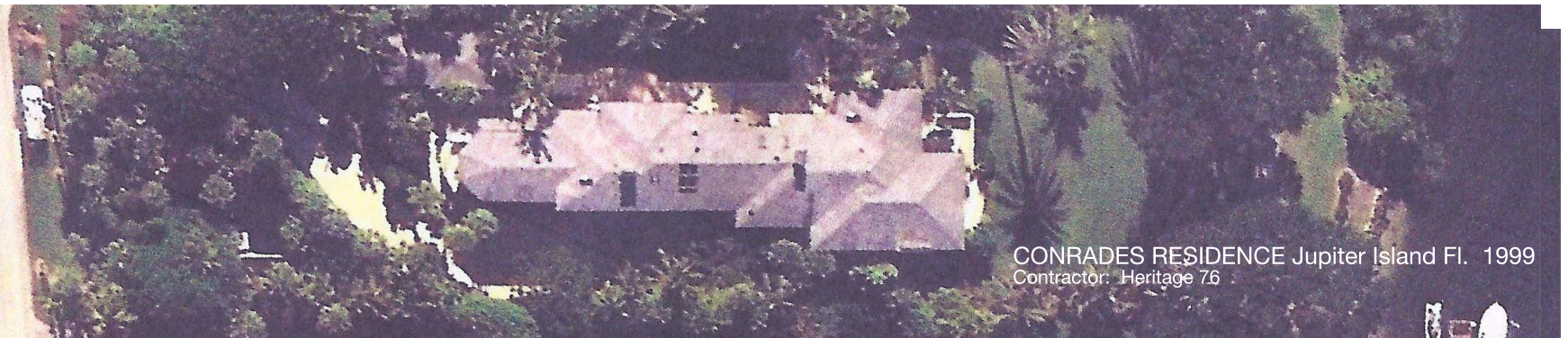


East Elevation





Kitchen Floor Plan







The CONRADES RESIDENCE on Jupiter Island is two story 11,000 sq ft home that has six Bedrooms and a detached Guest House. Both husband and wife are creative cooks, and to prepare food for the large family and live-in guests, a large well organized Kitchen was a basic requirement. There are design references to the craftsman style that I've carried over from their original house on this site that had to be demolished. It was a home that served the family well for many years. Some materials were saved from that house and reused here, more for sentimental reasons than practical ones.

Contractor: Heritage 76. Photographer Kim Sargent



Kenneth Treister, architect, and I worked together to design and execute these playful, tree-like forms for a community park in Coconut Grove, Miami. The structures linked by spreading overhangs and placed informally among the existing oak trees provide sun and rain protection for outside activities. The park is dedicated to the late Elizabeth Virrick, a prominent social activist who was tireless in her work for the disadvantaged.

Photos by Dan Foyer







View from Living Room to Dining and Kitchen on half level.

TOWNHOUSE RENOVATION for Gene and Joan Smith  
Delray Beach, Florida. Contractor: John Gwynn

This four level townhouse was purchased from Don Shula, the former coach of the Miami Dolphins. It required changes in circulation, equipment, lighting and finishes.



View to ocean from Dining area.





FROM PORCH to FAMILY ROOM, in McLean, Virginia for the Smiths'

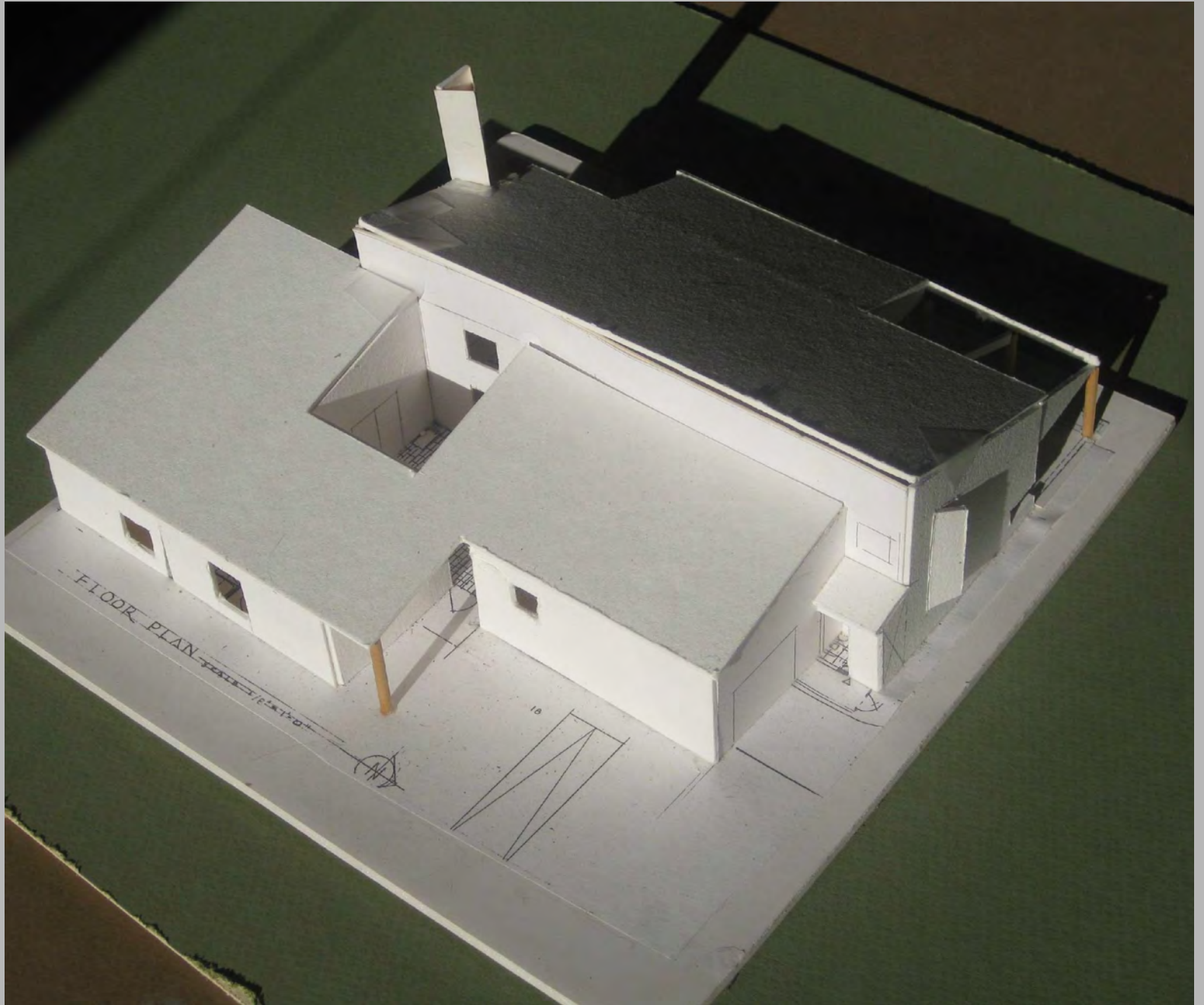
A window seat from which to watch the rapids in the Potomac River below was added, as was an entertainment unit and a free standing fireplace. Skylights were placed between the overhead rafters.





This is a study model of a small frame cottage on 2 acres in North Carolina. The mountain view to the west is enjoyed from the covered porch. A small courtyard with movable weather cover brings light to the center of the plan. It can be built in four phases as budget and schedule permit.





.....AND SO THERE YOU HAVE IT GIRLS....a story, sort of, made up of photographs in no particular order with a few comments here and there that tell a little of what I have been doing in my office and out of the house many hours at a time. I have seven beautiful and handsome grandchildren now and count many of my houses as stepchildren. I drive by sometimes and wonder how they are holding up...have they been behaving and not causing trouble...have they been good to their owners and perhaps have had a positive influence on their daily lives? Sometimes I am invited in to pay my respects.

















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