

Boano-Lowenstein Residence // Completed 2009



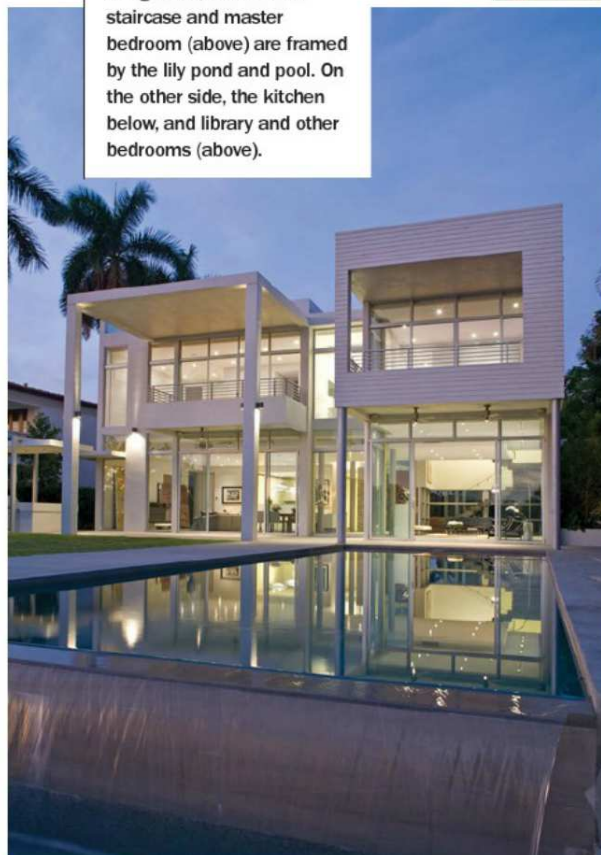
JAYA KADER ZEBEDE

Born and raised in Costa Rica to a Jewish family of Polish descent, Zebede learned the importance of merging indoor and outdoor spaces long before she began designing homes in a Tropical Modernism style that values sustainability and is rooted in local aesthetics. Trained at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, Zebede fine-tuned her vision under mentors Graham Gund and Robert Stern —both of whom design eclectic buildings that reference the existing design vernacular, be it in Boston, New York or Miami Beach. Zebede moved to South Florida after working as the project architect for the Miami Beach Library and Cultural Center, and in 2003 founded KZ Architecture. The Miami Beach-based firm is a LEED certified builder, which means it designs homes with the goal of improving indoor and outdoor environmental quality. The Boano-Lowenstein residence, featured here, showcases Zebede's award winning attention to design and sustainability.
www.kzarchitecture.com

The living room is surrounded by light on all four sides, acting as a gateway between the front courtyard and the waterfront pool and garden. Narrow slits placed high along its only wall allow outside foliage to peek in, amplifying the openness of the room.



The road-water axis creates two juxtaposed orthogonal volumes: on one side, the living room, ceremonial staircase and master bedroom (above) are framed by the lily pond and pool. On the other side, the kitchen below, and library and other bedrooms (above).



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBIN HILL



The concrete, wood and glass staircase moves beyond the utilitarian concept and acts as a main design feature that dematerializes in the light around it.

Zebede's initial point of inspiration in designing the Boano-Lowenstein residence came from the lot itself, which like many waterfront spots, is long and narrow. To establish a strong connection between the two poles—road and water—she established an axis defined by the front canopy and stone wall. The depth of the front courtyard created by the axis effectively eliminates the two-car garage



The five-bedroom/ six-bath home is LEED certified, a main feature of all of Zebede's homes. "What I'm most proud of is that the home exemplifies excellence in design but also it shows consciousness regarding sustainability," she says.