

GOOD WOOD

Among the highlights of Artefacto's new products—inspired by the great outdoors in both Brazil and Miami—are pieces from the Arte 5 Collection, presented in five distinct lines and focusing on organic shapes and natural woods, including the Rigel lounge chair (\$5,700), constructed from natural malacca (also known as rattan) that has been woven together. 4440 Ponce de Leon Blvd., #1600, Coral Gables, 305-774-0004; artefacto.com



ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS, ARTISANS, AND DEVELOPERS USHER IN A NEW WAVE OF ECO-FRIENDLY STYLE IN MIAMI'S LATEST LUXURY CONDOS AND HOMES.

by *JEAN NAYAR* photography by *JEFF CRAWFORD*

ANYONE WHO VALUES FARM-TO-TABLE FOOD OR DRIVES A TESLA is just as likely to appreciate organic cotton sheets, energy-efficient refrigerators, and houses made of reclaimed timber or local stone. But the complexities of sustainable design can make building or furnishing an eco-friendly home sufficiently mind-numbing to deter even the most avid environmentalist from taking on the task. Yet if a handful of new developments in South Florida are any indication, green design promises to become an integral part of a new generation of condominiums and single-family homes, making eco-conscious living the next wave in an ever-expanding green revolution seeping into every aspect of our lives.

And why not? Situated as close as they are to coastal waters, residents of Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and other South Florida communities are especially attuned to the challenges that rising sea levels bring. So taking steps to live in ways that reduce carbon footprints and limit impact on the environment makes good sense. Whether the impetus for the movement comes from the grassroots up or the top down, an emphasis on environmentally conscious design is not only eminently practical, but—with a growing band of artists, furniture designers, and architects producing green products and residences—it's becoming de rigueur among the style set, too. And thanks to higher standards in manufacturing techniques and stricter governmental regulations on everything from emissions to energy efficiency to water conservation, cultivating an eco-friendly home has also never been easier.

Among those spearheading current efforts to design sustainable residen-

tial projects in South Florida is Miami-based international architect Chad Oppenheim, whose firm is designing not just sustainable buildings but a whole new sustainable community called Metropica in Sunrise, where he says the nearby Sawgrass Mills mall attracts more people than the entire city of Rio de Janeiro each year. "Since it ranks as one of the top places in visitation in the world, the developer saw an opportunity to create an urban center that would feed off the activity of the mall and provide people with a nearby place to live, work, and play," says Oppenheim. "The core idea of our project was to create an incredible natural oasis, like Central Park [in New York], lined with buildings and interactive sculptural components and play areas to fill the missing gap of accessible gardens and parks in this area."

Metropica's ultra-energy-efficient structures were also designed to include other eco-friendly features, such as a gray-water recycling system, a rain water collection tank for irrigation, and deep terraces and trellis systems to encourage residents to cultivate their own gardens. "Creating density here in a community that allows you to go to the office or go grocery shopping without getting into a car allows for the same kind of carbon offset you'd find in urban areas," says the architect, who is also collaborating with local developer Jacob Abramson of Golden Properties in Miami to create a collection of environmentally conscious single-family luxury homes in Golden Beach.

"A home should only be described as a luxury home if it entails green aspects as standard," says Abramson, who is incorporating elements like

LEGENDARY SHELVING

The Christophe Delcourt Legend bookcase, available at Roche Bobois, is crafted from a single renewable material—solid Bourgogne oak—to ease end-of-life recycling. Assembled using cross-halving joints and wooden dowels, it also meets Roche Bobois's Eco6 guidelines for sustainability, a company-wide system that rates items according to six criteria, making it simple for consumers to understand a product's green aspects. 19907 Biscayne Blvd., Aventura, 305-935-0035; rochebobois.com



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—JACOB ABRAMSON

solar roof tiles, heat-resistant paint, and water purification systems in his ultra-high-end homes and regularly attends green building workshops with his team to stay ahead of the sustainable building curve.

Residential projects like these and others, such as the recently completed 1 Hotel & Homes South Beach or the Oceana condominium now under construction in Bal Harbour, merge high-minded sustainable design ideas with high style, making green dwellings as easy on the eye as they are on the planet. They also make green living easier to embrace by ordinary people, who may be able to whip up an organic quiche by themselves but generally must rely on the help of experts to create eco-minded homes or interiors.

“Some eco-friendly buildings can feel cold, but we wanted to really bring the sustainable design to life with spaces that would make you live, breathe, and feel nature the minute you walk in the door,” says Liubasha Rose, vice president of design for Starwood Capital Group, developer of 1 Hotel & Homes. “Instead of slick, typical high-end Miami interiors, we wanted the property to feel very ‘beach house,’ with oyster shell and sand tones, but at the same time, in trying to nail the vibe, we didn’t want it to look too rustic.”

Working with the New York City–based Meyer Davis Studio, Starwood crafted artful compositions in public spaces with natural materials like reclaimed Javanese teak root, bleached walnut, mushroom wood, and spalted maple to form layered backdrops for low-slung linen-covered sofas, leather sling chairs, and driftwood side tables, creating an atmosphere that blends the Zen refinement of a Japanese tea house with a relaxed, beachy air. The furniture-and-finishes package for the interiors of the residences here—designed by Brazilian designer Debora Aguiar—extend the dreamy, nature-infused spirit of the public spaces with wool sisal-look rugs, rough-hewn white oak or wood-grained porcelain tile floors, reclaimed wood tables, and sofas and chairs—some from Artefacto—upholstered in cotton and linen.

In addition to tactile materials and inspired furnishings, new eco-conscious dwellings also often include thoughtful landscape features that reinforce the con-

nection with nature. “We are embracing a native landscape by Enzo Enea that is accustomed to growing in the South Florida heat and uses 75 percent less water for irrigation than other types of plants,” says Marcos Corti, CEO of Consultatio, the developer working with the Miami-based international architecture firm Arquitectonica on the exceptionally beautiful architecture of the Oceana Bal Harbour condominium and with Italian architect Piero Lissoni on its interiors. “The low-e glass wrapping the building not only limits heat transmission inside but also buffers sound while bringing in ocean views and reinforcing the sense you’re living with Mother Nature.”

Just as ready-made eco-friendly residences take the heavy lifting out of creating a sustainable home for the consumer, enhanced manufacturing standards now make decorating them with sustainable furniture and finishes simpler, too. “Going green is easier now because over the years, society, the government entities that look to protect us, and manufacturers are getting better at it,” says Michael Wolk, an industrial and interior designer with Wolk Design in Wynwood. “Products and appliances are becoming more eco-friendly not so much from demand but to meet stricter government standards. So today when you go to the store, you’ll get an energy-efficient refrigerator not because you’re a founder of Earth Day, but because that’s where the industry has gone.”

“There’s a big emphasis among smaller hands-on makers to make interesting products using repurposed industrial or cast-off elements,” says Nisi Berryman, a designer and owner of Niba Home, a fine-furnishings boutique in the Design District. Berryman represents eco-friendly product designers and makers like Remains Lighting, which produces fixtures in a LEED-certified facility in Brooklyn, and Luis Pons, a local designer who makes mirrored glass pieces for Berryman in Miami. The icing on the cake of the green design trend, consciously curated furnishings and objects like these also make it easier than ever to go green in style. Says Berryman, “These kinds of products not only invigorate the community, but really resonate with our clients.” **OD**

GREEN FROM THE GROUND UP

South Florida’s high-end residences lead the charge in eco-conscious development.

1 Hotel & Homes South

Beach—1 Hotel & Homes relied on Plant the Future by Paloma Teppa, a plant-centric design firm based in Wynwood, and local artist Andrew Antonaccio to create the monumental living green mural in the hotel lobby; Alternative Construction to craft the poured concrete counters in Tom Colicchio’s on-site restaurant, Beachcraft; and the lighting design studio Bocci to create distinctive light fixtures from recycled Pinot Grigio bottles over the ground-level bar. homes.1hotels.com

The Ocean—Developed by Orchestra Hotels & Resorts, the Ocean Resort Residences at Conrad Fort Lauderdale Beach will feature a passel of cutting-edge sustainability-focused features, including sensor-controlled HVAC systems, LED lighting, a central filtration system, wind turbines, universal car-charging stations, and amber exterior lighting to protect the sea turtle population. theoceanfortlauderdale.com

Oceana Bal Harbour—The first LEED-certified condominium in Bal Harbour, Oceana Bal Harbour will deliver first-class eco-friendly features, including soundproofing components like a deep setback to reduce sound from the street, insulated glass walls and insulation between unit walls, 10-inch concrete floor slabs to absorb noise, and insulated ceilings and pipes to minimize vibrations and enhance comfort. oceanabalharbour.com



BY HAND

Available in all soft leathers with a glossy black-stained beech or polished shellac walnut frame, this handmade armchair from Baxter is 100 percent vegetable tanned and tallowed, and aniline-dyed. The final aspect of the leather, obtained through expert milling techniques, underlines its softness and pleasant touch, and Baxter's craftsmen use an exclusive manual-bending technique to create very particular crimping. Baxter is an ISO 14001-certified company (accreditation of a framework that a company can follow to set up an effective environmental management system), which minimizes the environmental impact. *Internum Showroom, Miami Design District, 3841 NE Second Ave.; internum.com*

**SUSTAINABLE
DESIGN MADE
SIMPLE**

Want to make your home more eco-friendly? Consider these easy updates.

Bright Idea: Switching out incandescent or fluorescent lightbulbs for LED equivalents significantly reduces energy bills. They cost more upfront, but last up to 25 years and will cut energy costs by 30 percent.

Water Wise: Water-conserving toilets, showerheads, faucets,

dishwashers, and washing machines are now made to reduce water consumption significantly and help preserve one of our most precious natural resources. Toto leads the pack of eco-friendly plumbing fixture makers. Visit ESO Decorative Plumbing's Luxury Kitchen & Bath Showroom (1771 N. Powerline Road, Pompano Beach, 954-973-0020; europeansinkoutlet.com) for options.

Sustainable Surfaces: Choosing quartz counter surfaces from sources like

Silestone or Caesarstone is more sustainable than using limited resources like natural stone. They're made of recycled materials, are more heat- and stain-resistant, come in beautiful finishes, patterns, and colors, and don't deplete nonrenewable resources. They also resist bacteria, are more durable, and require less maintenance than stone.

Green in Any Hue: Walls painted with low- or no-VOC paint keep spaces free from harmful toxic fumes. Benjamin Moore's Aura Green

Promise Paints meet or exceed the strictest industry standards. Other possibilities: milk paint or casein paints that are made with only natural ingredients.

Shop Smart: Many manufacturers are now committed to making products with certified sustainable techniques or materials. Check out the Sustainable Furnishings Council for a list of eco-friendly manufacturers, like Libeco and Lee Industries, and retailers, like Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams. sustainablefurnishings.org

BURST OF LIGHT

Reflecting the illumination of dimmable incandescent candelabra bulbs, the California Sunburst chandelier, by the late legendary designer Tony Duquette, is made of molded shards of brass by Brooklyn Remains Lighting in its LEED Gold-certified facility, which features solar panels, rain cisterns, and its own organic garden. *Available exclusively at Niba Home, Miami Design District, 39 NE 39th St., 305-573-1939; nibahome.com*

