

100 FLORIDA

ARCHITECTS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS

EDITED BY **DAMIR SINOVCIC**

FOREWORD BY **BETH DUNLOP**





Jaya Kader Zebede

KZ ARCHITECTURE, INC.

Le Corbusier first declared that architects who design with passion create “drama out of inert stone.” Melding a passion for architecture with a commitment to design excellence that endorses a contextual and purpose-driven design is the philosophy of KZ Architecture (KZA) founded by Jaya Kader Zebede in 2003. The firm focuses on the process of design rather than heroic architectural gestures or specific stylistic expressions.

Beginning with the client’s vision, KZA’s team of architects undertakes a deep analysis of contextual elements that continues cohesively through the development of the final plans, resulting in massing elements with simple elegance. As the firm develops projects, it considers the appropriate palette of materials — a hallmark of the modernist ethic. From conception to completion, the KZA team emphasizes a collaborative dialogue with consultants from complementary disciplines to ensure each project’s multidimensional success. This results in buildings that seamlessly weave the traditional and the modern and blend indoor and outdoor spaces, enhancing the experience of tropical living.

The projects of KZ Architecture reflect a deep respect for their surroundings. Focus is placed on the specific conditions of each site, a study of the vernacular forms of the area, and climate considerations.

Environmental issues are a priority for the practice. Following sustainability guidelines from the U.S. Green Building Council, the firm prides itself in having completed one of South Florida’s pioneer sustainable homes — the Boano-Lowenstein Residence. This residence received a design award from the Florida Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 2008 and was one of the first LEED Silver certified homes in the state. The home uses many strategies to optimize energy and water consumption, including solar hot water and the harvesting of rainwater for irrigation. With the use of environmentally preferred products, the home also features improved air quality and daylight harvesting in all rooms. The outdoors permeate the structure through large planes of glazing, as well as through the use of balconies and generous porches, an example of KZA’s commitment to offering environmentally sensitive solutions for tropical living.

Born and raised in San Jose, Costa Rica, Kader Zebede spent fifteen years in Boston before moving to Miami in 1995. She earned a bachelor’s degree in art and architectural history from Brandeis University in 1984 and a master’s degree in architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1988. Prior to founding KZ Architecture, Kader Zebede worked with several prominent architects including Moshe Safdie and Graham Gund. She was also the project architect for the Miami Beach Public Library, designed by Robert A.M. Stern. Kader Zebede’s dedication to authenticity is reflected in her firm’s commitment to producing quality projects that become one with their natural settings.

RIGHT: Boano-Lowenstein Residence, entry path. OVERLEAF 1: Boano-Lowenstein Residence, interior. OVERLEAF 2 LEFT: Boano-Lowenstein Residence, lily pond. OVERLEAF 2 RIGHT: Boano-Lowenstein Residence, exterior.





