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ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN /
JAYA KADER, KZ ARCHITECTURE
HOME BUILDER / CARLOS ORTIZ, PRODESA
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / DEENA BELL-LLEWELLYN,
BELL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, INC.



SCULPTED SERENITY

INSPIRED BY JAPANESE GARDENS, A BAY HARBOR ISLANDS
ABODE STRIKES A MEDITATIVE BALANCE WITH NATURE.

WRITTEN BY MONIQUE MCINTOSH / PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBIN HILL



To create a residence that embraces indoor-outdoor living, architect Jaya Kader utilized several sliding glass walls, such as in this great room inspired by Japanese garden pavilions. The main seating area mixes a Knoll sofa from Luminaire, an Addison House bench and chairs, a kilim from a Moroccan market and artwork by Craig Alan.

From the meticulous clip of a bonsai tree to the perfect placement of rocks in a river, traditional Japanese gardens are defined by carefully crafted moments of nature. Architect Jaya Kader was commissioned with capturing this same sensibility for a couple's new home in Bay Harbor Islands. As active travelers and architecture aficionados, the clients have an avid interest in classical Japanese design and its seamless connection between built and natural environments.

Situated along Biscayne Bay, the selected lot is limited in size at 75 feet wide—a challenge Kader saw as an opportunity to produce an inventive layout for the structure. “The clients were mostly interested in creating something special and not necessarily building it to the max,” says the architect, who worked with general contractor Carlos Ortiz. “So making these kinds of magical moments became possible.”

Just as Japanese stroll gardens feature paths that reveal a series of new perspectives, the home's footprint similarly weaves between a sequence of indoor and outdoor spaces. The property begins with bridges that traverse soothing reflective pools throughout. In the front-entrance courtyard, Kader added to the sense of calm with a massive living wall conceived as a kind of outdoor art installation. Using a mix of fern and philodendron varieties, landscape architect Deena Bell-Llewellyn kept the design “very simple, with monochromatic texture,” she says. “We did not want to create too much color or chaos, so it is very soothing to the eye.”

"Natural light is one of the most important materials of my palette," Kader says of her approach to designing homes. The voluminous stairwell's glass balustrades intensify sunlight, while trumpet-shaped pendants by Omer Arbel enhance the effect among walls of Cortina Dolomite limestone from Coverings Etc.



In the dining area, the homeowners' collection of high-impact artwork takes center stage, supported by contemporary monochromatic pieces like the Roche Bobois console. Addison House pendants hover above a dining table and chairs by the brand.