

Hotel Design | Kings of the Beach

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By Amber Gibson

Big-name designers and bright, sexy interiors make these Florida and Caribbean hotels worth the trip.

Soho Beach House

Miami Beach, Florida

Miami Beach is crowded, but you can't miss *Shulman + Associates'* pristine 16-story white oceanfront tower. Part hotel and part private club, the 50-room Soho Beach House high-rise encompasses the new tower and a restoration of the 1941 Sovereign Hotel. Each floor of the new building terraces upward for an edgy, urban feel. "The challenge was to try to connect the landscape, sky, and water all around," says Allan Shulman, principal building designer and architect. "I think we really did that by multiplying the amount of landscapes in the building." Shulman seamlessly blends indoors with the outdoors; the entire glass wall of tower units opens up to give guests an unparalleled view of the ocean. "In the new building, you feel like you're on a terrace because your view is bounded only by the horizon," he says. "In the old building, you were in more of a picture frame, looking out the window. Here you really feel like you're on the ocean. Those are two very different experiences." Shulman connects the two structures with a few similarities in design. "They're both white, planar, and taut in quality and there are little quotations that refer back and forth between the two. The tower core of the new building is ribbed and detached in the same way as the old. I really wanted to find the alter ego of the existing building, to speak to a contemporary generation," he says.