

CARL ABBOTT ▶

Carl Abbott Architect

As the youngest member of the original Sarasota School of Architecture, Abbott has helmed a leading architecture firm in Sarasota for 53 years. With myriad architectural gems throughout the region, he's won nine Florida AIA Test of Time Awards. **Well-regarded:** An expert in Mayan and Egyptian architecture, Abbott designs bold, sculptural buildings that gracefully responded to their context—landscape, climate, movement of the sun—and are known for the seamless connection between indoors and out. **On the boards:** A large beachfront estate on a private island on the Gulf, designed for an accomplished ballerina, features two wings set on a wide angle to maximize ocean views as well as a dramatic Mayan-style stairway. **In his words:** "My architecture begins with the land itself—the views, sun angles, shadows, breezes. I feel strongly that nature can shape our lives." carlabott.com



▲ JOYCE OWENS

Architecture Joyce Owens LLC

Having first founded an award-winning practice in London, where she was celebrated for her modern interventions of historic buildings, Owens returned to Fort Myers and launched a firm whose award-winning residential designs can be found along the Gulf Coast and beyond. A force on all fronts of the architecture scene, she has served as president of AIA Florida and is currently on the advisory council of the Sarasota Architectural Foundation. **Devoted to:** What she refers to as "tropical modern." Owens creates striking, energy-efficient homes that capitalize on Florida's lush foliage and climate, such as a recent Fort Myers residence with large glass windows in the entry that allow views of jungle-like vegetation on two sides. **On the horizon:** A game-changing, high-end, ultra-modern home on Sanibel Island beach for a pair of art collectors. **In her words:** "Architecture is about understanding the climate, the client and the site, no matter where you are." architecturejoyceowens.com

MICHAEL HALFLANTS AND JOHN PICHETTE ▶

Halflants + Pichette

Michael Halflants and John Pichette joined forces to create a firm that has won more design awards from AIA Florida than any other since opening in 2006. **Noteworthy for:** Imaginative designs that take advantage of Florida's climate and light are the firm's specialty. Putting an updated spin on strategies Rudolph deployed in the Umbrella house, where slatted wood overhangs create dappled light, the firm designed the Seminole residence in Sarasota with a technological update: Closely spaced solar panels mounted on glass power the house and create a play of light and shadow on the ground below. **Coming soon:** Forward-thinking housing projects in Golden Gate, the Rosemary District and near Ringling College as well as custom residential projects on the barrier islands. **In their words:** "Our approach to modern architecture is process oriented and deliberately avoids preconceived solutions." halflantspichette.com



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