



Hammock Lakes Residence

Coral Gables, FL

Hamed Rodriguez Architects Inc. | Coral Gables



Hammock Lakes was originally built in the 1970s, with exposed, salmon-colored concrete block on the exterior and glue-laminated beam ceilings inside, a boldly designed home that was the focal point of its lot.

But when the latest owners wanted to add a perimeter wall that would block the view of the home from the street, Hamed Rodriguez, AIA, decided to take the opportunity to make the renovated home a series of discoveries. His renovation added the wall, a 200-foot-long cantilevered walkway from the home to the pool and guest pavilion, and nearly doubled the size of the house itself from around 5,800 square feet to nearly 10,000 square feet.



“When you move through the house, it’s a series of moments,” Rodriguez said.

Starting with the front door, which was reimagined to include glass and a cover for the entrance area that opens into the foyer. Then, instead of the ceilings rising, the floor drops. In the foyer, the ceiling height is 8 feet, but then the floors drop until the ceilings are around 12-14 feet in some rooms. This takes advantage of the sectional quality of the entry as you descend into the living area.

“It’s one of those elements that’s really unexpected,” Rodriguez said. “There’s a language, too, with the materiality.”

New parts of the home are poured concrete while the original structure is now an earthy brown, chosen because repair work to the existing block made it impossible to preserve its color. The brown also blends into the extensive landscaping work on the property, emphasizing the theme of discovery.

Throughout the interior, white tile flooring was removed and replaced with a bespoke terrazzo. Plumbing and wiring were modernized. The tropical modern home, despite its size, has a cozy feel, Rodriguez said.





The new 200-foot cantilevered covered walkway cuts through the foliage and a series of grottos that also help to drain the property. Existing, mature landscape, including a large banyan tree, is enhanced by new, tropical landscaping that frames the walk to the pavilion and a lap pool.

The pool area evokes Miami's local vernacular traditions, with coral stone and oolitic limestone in the walkways, pool deck and on the pavilion's accent walls. The pavilion includes a guest house redesigned with larger windows that frame the exterior views. Behind the pavilion and guest house is the property's last surprise – an expanse of lawn.

"It's really like a small resort," Rodriguez said. ■