



Photo by Robin Hill (c)

A CONTEMPORARY POOL AMIDST A TROPICAL LANDSCAPE

Having grown up in Coral Gables, landscape architect Carlos Somoza credits the tree-lined streets for inspiring his love for foliage and design. In practice for over 25 years, he is recognized for his work on private residential gardens and sustainable outdoor spaces. The majority of his projects are modern in scope, and highlight native plants and materials.

The featured home is in a Coral Gables locale known for its mature oak canopy and hardwood hammocks. It lies hidden behind layers of emerald green foliage dotted with mature palm trees, creating a special allure. The project was a collaboration between Somoza and architect Hamed Rodriguez, who kept true to the design vocabulary of the original home, a contemporary 1970s residence designed by Donald Singer.

The resort-style backyard, which is centered on an expansive pool deck, was envisioned in a thoughtful manner. "Hamed placed the cabana and terrace on a pedestal, offering distinct views of the adjacent landscape and essentially creating a lower garden and walkway at the base of the pool," Somoza says. As for the pool, "we utilized bone-hued limestone and cerulean mosaics – and when the azure skies reflect off the water's surface, it creates an allusion to Caribbean beaches."

And as you walk the grounds, it's impossible to resist relaxation. "A sequence of meandering pathways and covered walkways lead through a series of garden rooms," he explains. "Each outdoor living area is defined by a distinct collection of palms, complemented by subtropical flora and a tranquil feel that will make almost anyone feel totally at peace." Carlos Somoza Landscape Architecture, 786-440-6567, designsomoza.com; Hamed Rodriguez Architects Inc., 305-529-9967, hamedrodriguez.com.



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