MAX STRANG ARCHITECTURE

Max Strang grew up in Winter Haven, Central Florida and came to Miami after earning a master's in architecture at Columbia University in New York.

"I wanted the big city, but I wanted Florida as well. Miami seemed the perfect place," he says.

The Max Strang Company was named Firm of the Year by the regional chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 2010.

Strang built his own green house in Coconut Grove in 2004. "To design a green building is wonderful, but to design a green building that is beautiful is even better," he says.

While it does take extra money to build green, the long term cost advantages can be compelling, he says. This could be spending money on basic insulation, or more exciting things such as solar photo-voltaic panels, solar hot water, smart lighting systems, and rainwater harvesting. "It used to be that architects would be trying to convince the homeowner to include these items but it seems that each year that goes by more and more homeowners are really on board and requesting these items from us," says Strang.

He currently divides his time between Florida and Colorado, where he is establishing a satellite office in Telluride.

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ROCK HOUSE

>COCONUT GROVE

Architect Max Strang designed his own house with an outdoor rooftop living room and a panoramic 360-degree view that some have likened to a "high-style tree house." Featuring solar panels, wood floors and traditional Balinese furnishings, the home is surrounded by tropical bamboo, palms, mangoes, and avocado trees. The house was featured in the Michael Mann film "Miami Vice."

FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

> MAX STRANG ***(design architect)***

Fairchild recently chose Strang to design its new state-of-the-art Science Village, Tropical Research Labs, Café and Conservatory. "They knew I was green," he says, noting his prior work at The Kampong National Tropical Botanical Garden in Coconut Grove. "We used environmental principles there too." Kampong's roof collects rainwater in a 20,000 gallon-capacity storage tank for use in watering the gardens, saving on city water. The Fairchild project is Caribbean plantation style with outdoor porches, use of shade and natural lighting.

LAKEHOUSE

> WINTER HAVEN, CENTRAL FLORIDA.

> DESIGNED FOR LEED SILVER STANDARDS ***(not yet certified)***

Green features: Geothermal heat exchange; the air-conditioning system uses a lake that the house is built over to cool water. The house has a 7.38 kilowatt solar panel system, solar thermal hot water heaters, and rainwater harvesting. The floors are made of bamboo and the decks from Resysta Siding, an imitation tropical hardwood. "It is the most convincing thick wood that I have even seen," says Strang. "It's actually made from mineral oil, rice husks and salt."

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