Traditional Architecture

Timeless Building for the Twenty-First Century

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Foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales
Preface by Léon Krier
Almeria Row
Coral Gables, Florida, USA

DEP de la Guardia Victorio Architects
Coral Gables, Florida, USA

Almeria Row is a project of ten town houses that introduces a new residential building type to the city of Coral Gables, Florida. The classic town house common in London and New York was adapted to the South Florida climate with the addition of a courtyard inspired by the houses in Seville, Spain. The proportion of the façade, the repetition of the unit, and the proximity of the stoop to the pavement result in a street elevation that is at once familiar and out of the ordinary. The architects have demonstrated both a poetic and professional commitment to the design and production of buildings and towns of exceptional quality informed by history, scholarship, and traditional building arts and craft. Classical architectural principles, vernacular traditions, folklore, and an understanding of contemporary materials and methods of construction contribute to a conception of architecture that is at once reflective and current. As traditionalists, the architects recognize the unique characteristics of individual sites and localities and appreciate the ability of architecture to define a sense of place and to encourage the health of our cities and landscapes. Working with indigenous materials and local craftsmen together with innovative technologies they establish meaningful relationships between buildings and their respective physical and cultural context.
Eau Chien
The Bahamas

BLSF de la Guardia Ficorino Architects
Coral Gables, Florida, USA

The traditional role of the porch as a medium between human shelter and the elements is now a pleasant element rather than just a practical necessity. The enduring presence of classical architecture in the Caribbean. Eau Chien exemplifies this through the prevalent use of the veranda, directly inspired by the rural villas around Rome, in the coastal geography of the Bahamas. As in Palladio, the classical and the vernacular correspond to address questions of climate and culture while contributing to a sense of place.
This house is located on Indian Creek in Miami, Florida, with the entrance facing a golf course and with a waterfront facade at the rear. It is a courtyard house designed in the classical style with corinna stone columns and eabling. The program includes a two-story residence, gym, playroom, two carriage houses, two pool loggias, and a large lap pool. The project was designed in collaboration with Ernesto Bach Architect, Dominican Republic.