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MICHAEL MORITZ

Creating Killer Design through Connection

By Whitney Thompson

Michael A. Moritz and his firm, Stonewater Architecture, have made a name for themselves in affluent communities in New York, New Jersey, and, most recently, Palm Beach, Florida. An incredibly accomplished architect featured on the cover of *Design NJ* and in *Luxe Interiors + Design*, Michael prides himself on doing things differently in the design world and thinking outside the box. He has exceptional creative design skill, and his projects boast showstopper quality. I recently had the opportunity to speak with Michael about his unique approach to meaningful design.

Michael's passion is working with clients with big ideas who are looking for a particular feeling in their new home. He takes the seed of a client's dream and, with his expert perspective and interpretation, transcends that vision into a home beyond what they could have

imagined. "I always gravitate toward projects that have a really good backstory," Michael told me. When he meets a new client, he gets to know their interests, personality, and what excites them. His unique approach to design relies heavily on building these relationships. "I like seeing how I'm going to connect with them, if there's a good vibe, and if we're going to be able to communicate and collaborate."

Michael's approach also considers how the client is going to live in the house. We all utilize our space differently, and he strives to tailor his designs to make the most sense for his clients and their lifestyles. It's about how they're going to live their lives within what he builds for them. A recent client of his, Christine Hughes, shared, "He listened, he had a clear understanding of how we wanted to utilize and live in our home, and he made it a reality." His easy going and calming

nature make him a delight to work with through the home design and building process, and one can expect true quality and skill in his designs.

Michael's passion for architecture started when he was a child. He had an intense interest when he looked at buildings, especially when traveling to historic places and experiencing different styles of architecture. He spent his days creating, building things with his grandfather, and drawing houses in his school notebooks. "It's something that's in me. I was seventeen years old and I knew I was going to be an architect," he shared.

I asked Michael where he finds personal inspiration. "I love being out and experiencing great architecture. When I see interesting projects, say, on Instagram, I try to go to those spots and find those homes to really see what other architects are doing and how they're doing it." He spoke of the distinctive experience of seeing a property in person that allows him to encounter the space as the architect intended that cannot be matched with photographs.

In his designs, Michael told me, "I love all different styles of architecture. I like merging styles, like modern and traditional, together sometimes, while trying to stay true to what they are." His work in the Palm Beach area is unique in that his designs tend to be more upbeat and modern, and often break away from the traditional Florida style. Michael will soon be expanding his design work to the Hamptons where the people are open to exploring new ideas and appreciate his modern creative design and style.

When you choose Michael A. Moritz and Stonewater Architecture for your new home design project, you will get top quality design skill as well as a truly personal, one-on-one experience. "We're a small firm of six people who work solely with our clients. You won't meet me and then be handed off." They will make sure your vision comes to life. You can see Michael's work at stonewaterarch.com and on Instagram @stonewaterarchitecture.





A Michael Moritz Project