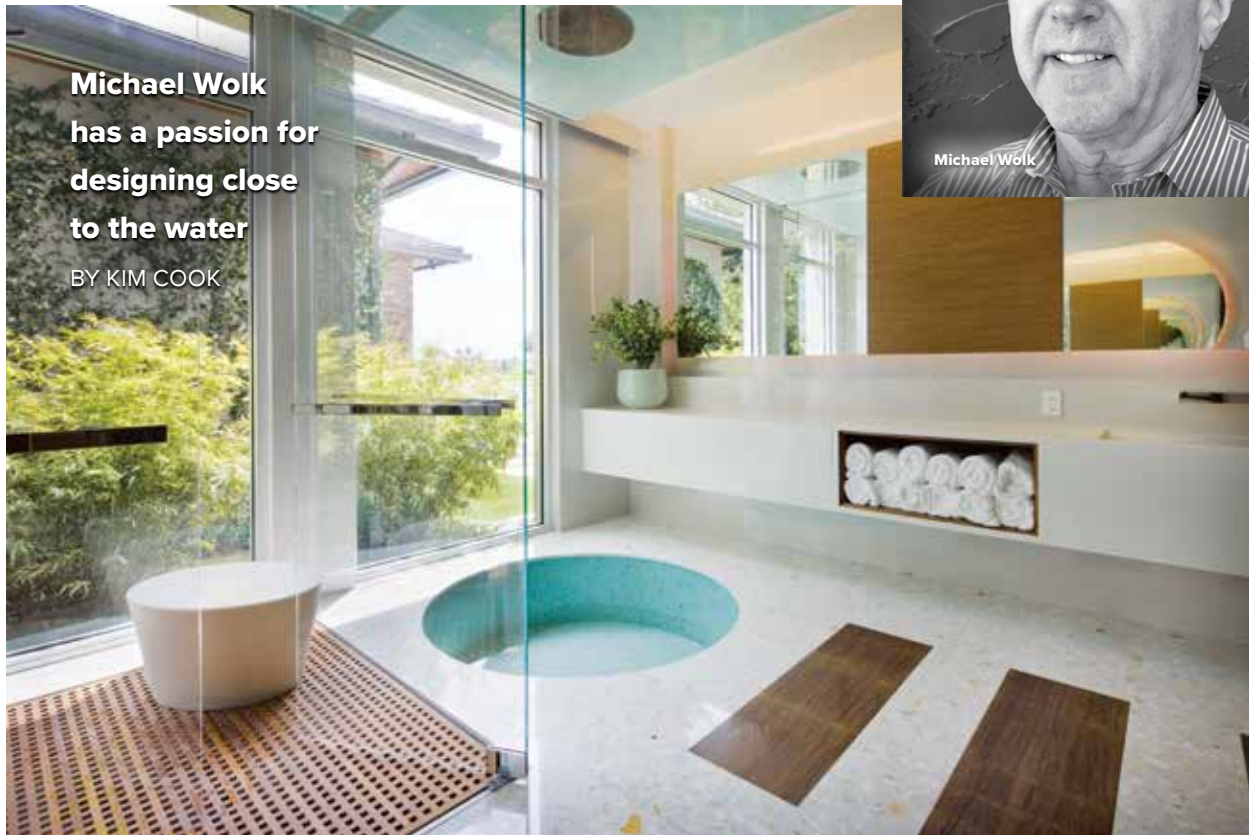


DESIGN BY THE SEA



**Michael Wolk
has a passion for
designing close
to the water**

BY KIM COOK



PHOTOS: BATHROOM, DAN FORER; PORTRAIT, COURTESY MICHAEL WOLK

For designer Michael Wolk, “beach house” could mean a 12,000-square-foot neo-modern villa on Florida’s Biscayne Bay or a sprawling luxury condo perched high above the ocean on Sunny Isles Beach. But while his waterfront projects are high-end, his philosophy remains down-to-earth: Make design matter.

“I realized that everything I was doing while I was designing was staying true to the design,” Wolk says. “I thought the most important quality was that the design not be in-

fluenced by time, budgets, politics, or money—I didn’t want those issues to be the driving force behind the idea.”

The designer, a former New York Long Islander who went to Florida in the 1970s for a carpentry job and decided to stay, has garnered Best of NeoCon and the American Institute of Architects’ Interior Designer of the Year award. He’s the author of the book *Designing for the Table*, and has taught at Florida International University and Miami Dade College.