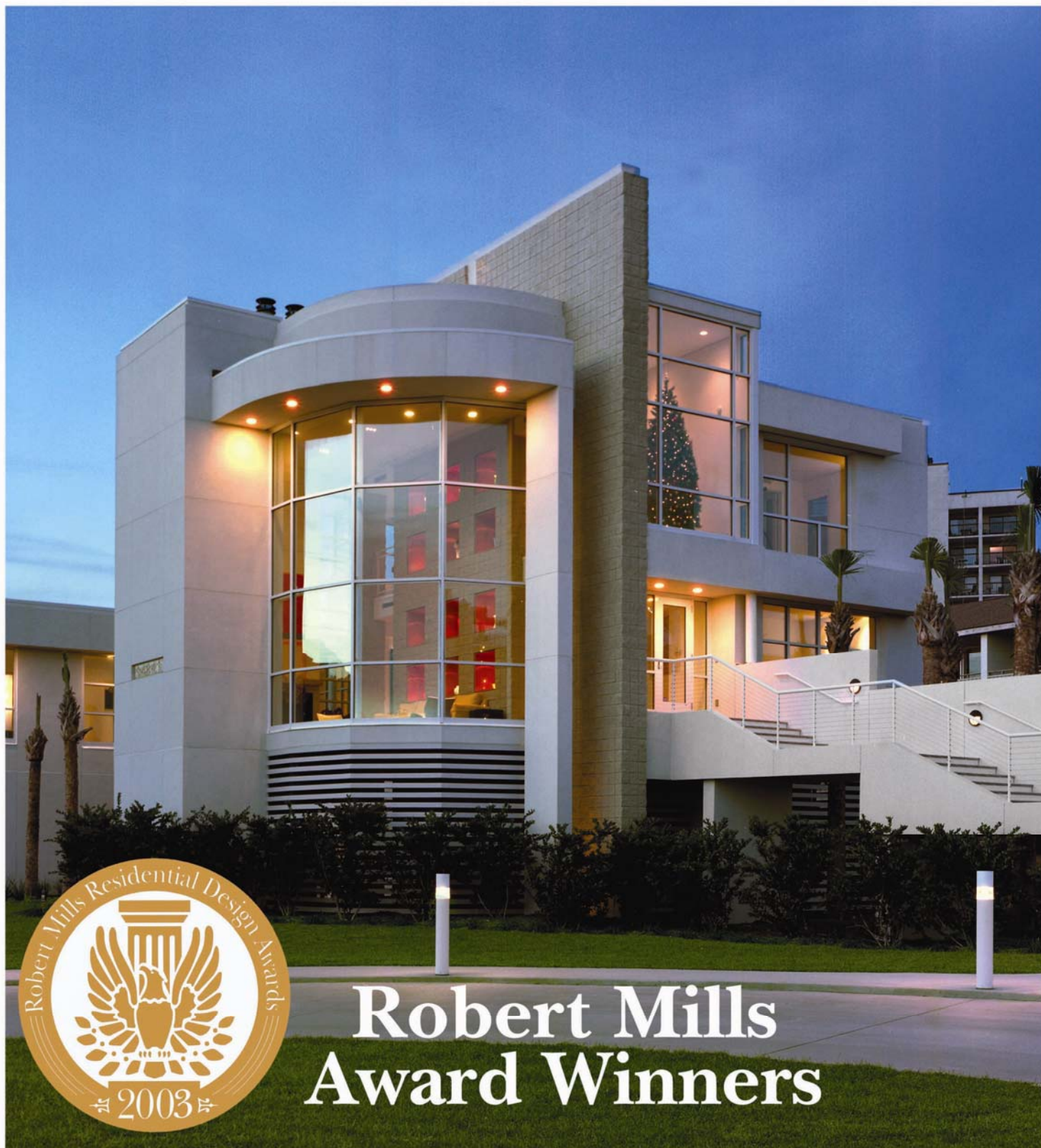


South Carolina Homes & Gardens Presents

\$4.95

AWARD WINNING HOME DESIGNS



Robert Mills
Award Winners

UNDER 5,000 SQUARE FEET

HONOR AWARD Mozingo & Wallace Architects

When Wade Davis opted for a change, he unloaded his family of most of their furniture and built a home in Myrtle Beach that is more art form than house. Builder: Castles Construction Company. Structural Engineer: Tony Kyzer. Mechanical / Electrical Engineers: Rast & Associates. Landscape Architect: David White, Image Design & Landscaping. Photography: Robert E. Mikrut.



Wade Davis has been a fan of modern architecture for many years, even though he has lived in more traditional homes in the Myrtle Beach area. When he learned that Architect S. Derrick Mozingo Jr., AIA, of Mozingo & Wallace Architects, Myrtle Beach, shared his interest in modernist architect Richard Meier's work, he knew he had found the person who would design his ideal home.

"I specifically like mid-century modern architecture," said Davis, "homes that were built in the '50s and '60s. Those are the homes I've leaned toward."

Light fixtures were strategically placed for the greatest impact, so the view of the house at night is incredible. Passers-by often stop to take a closer look or snap a photo.



Wade's wife, Lisa, did not initially share his interest in modern architecture, but it has grown on her, he said. She and their two-year-old daughter (plus Davis has two teenage children who visit often) now enjoy this 3,933-square-foot glass, steel, and hard-coat stucco sculptural home that is situated on about an acre corner lot sandwiched between a residential area, a hotel area, and a salt marsh.

Finding the site was not easy. "The market is very tight here," said Davis, who has had a career in the insurance industry for 21 years. "Real estate is hard to come by, and vacant land is almost nonexistent." Davis had been discussing the possibility of remodeling, though he discovered there are few existing modern residences in Myrtle Beach. Then the Davises found their lot.

But Mozingo was faced with design challenges due to the location of the site. "It was a very odd lot. There were nice views off the back, but unsightly views in other areas. We had to design around the obstacles. The house had to relate to the site and insure privacy from the adjoining commercial hotel district," he said. "And, due to flood plain regulation, the living structures had to be elevated 15 feet above the natural grade."

Plus, the Davises wanted something of a view of the ocean - which is across the street from the house. To accommodate this request, Mozingo included a rooftop deck in the design.

The design of the couple's only residence is entirely a modernist, minimalist style, with the massing of the house divided into two cubes connected by a glass bridge. The rear structure consists of two bedrooms with private baths, a separate laundry/storage area, and a three-car garage on grade level.

The front cube is open on the grade level, as it is in the flood plain. The first level consists of the living, dining, kitchen, and den areas with a full bath. The second level contains the master bedroom and bath suites. The upper-most level, or roof level, is a rooftop terrace, which is accessible from the area below.

A massive rusticated masonry wall with art niches anchors the central core of the house structurally and visually. Central steel and glass stairs connect the mid and upper main living levels and lead to the roof terrace. The interior is pierced with natural light from skylights above and from windows to the East and South, with the solid North wall providing privacy from the hotel district.

"The tiered entry into the house is anchored by a semicircular rusticated masonry planter, creating a dramatic and ceremonial sense of arrival," said Mozingo.



Left, top: A steel and glass staircase connects the main living areas and leads to the roof terrace. Left, bottom: Natural light floods this bath through glass block windows. This house contains thousands of square feet of glass. Opposite: There are no doors separating the common living spaces, including the kitchen, that uses materials chosen to compliment the design of the house.



The homeowners choose furnishings that mirrored the style of the home, very sparse and modern. They are looking for the perfect pieces to add to their collection.

“The palm grove to the North accentuates the entry and acts as a visual screen to the unsightly views to the North.”

The design process, from conceptual drawings through construction documents, took approximately five months. Actual construction was completed after 16 months.

Davis said the design of the home was tops on his priority list, but he also wanted his home to have three bedrooms, plus a den that could also be used as a guest room, and a bathroom for all the bedrooms. He wanted no doors to connect the kitchen, dining, and common living spaces, and he sought materials that would complement the design - such as light finishes, maple floors, frosted glass stairs, steel, and marble. “There is 2,200 square feet of glass in this home,” he said.

Once the home was completed, Davis began the process

of finding just the right items to furnish it. The couple gave away or sold about 75 percent of the furnishings they had in their previous home. “I wanted the furnishings to mirror the style of the home,” he said. The pieces he has chosen are classic modern. The décor is sparse. He said he is searching for just the right pieces to collect.

Davis feels that the lighting plan that Mozingo designed spotlights the furnishings beautifully. “The lighting is phenomenal,” he said. “There is an enormous amount of natural light. The fixtures are strategically placed so that the house looks incredible at night. It gets a lot of attention. We find people stopping to take a look or to take a picture.”

He added, “We are so very pleased with this home. We would do it all again. I admire the architectural firm so much. They are very passionate about their work.” †