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MAGAZINE

Tour a Waterfront Miami Abode Designed to House a Young Family —And a Sailboat

The concrete dwelling offers a Floridian take on high-tech style

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The living room of Emmett and Sarah Newberry Moore's Miami house, designed in collaboration with Arquitectonica, features furnishings of his own design and a reworked vintage sofa that belonged to her grandparents. Art: Ted Gahl

When Emmett Moore, a [furniture designer and sculptor](#), began planning his [Miami](#) house in 2014, he had one parameter: The ground floor needed to fit a sailboat. It wasn't entirely aspirational. His then girlfriend and now wife, Sarah Newberry Moore, is a professional sailor. (She's currently training for the 2024 Olympics.) An 18-square-foot box with 11.5-foot ceilings—large enough to store a catamaran—became the basic building unit of the home.

But the two-story concrete residence on the banks of the Seybold Canal keeps the sea top of mind in more ways than one. "In theory, you could launch a boat from our front driveway," says Moore, speaking to the inevitability of rising water levels. Working with the Miami-based firm [Arquitectonica](#), Moore built the structure five feet off the ground and incorporated myriad strategies for coastal resiliency, among them catch basins, French drains, and an absorbent landscape of salt-tolerant plants. In dire conditions, the first floor (his studio) could even be relinquished to the tides, leaving the couple's top-level living quarters untouched. The place is also designed with passive cooling techniques, solar power, a rainwater collection system, and a [garden](#) that produces a bounty of fruits and vegetables. "The whole idea," he says, "was to consolidate our life into this one building."



The home as seen from the street.



In the living room, the woven-wool traffic cones are by Moore's friend, the artist [Katie Stout](#). All the other furniture and artwork is by Moore.

Moore, who describes the house as "a balance between tropical modernism and light industrialism," took inspiration from the surrounding Spring Garden neighborhood, where warehouses and boatyards sit chockablock with single-family homes. "Many buildings erected along the nearby Miami River were simple concrete block structures, similar in material and form," explains Arquitectonica's Raymond Fort. The results are a South Florida riff on 1970s high-tech style, in which everyday materials mix with colors reminiscent of an airbrushed sunset, from the bright red front door to the pink deck ladder that leads to the roof. In keeping with indoor-outdoor connections, exterior stairs are the only link from first floor to second. Streamline Moderne accents like porthole windows and faux-terrazzo concrete floors further insert the design into a quintessentially Miami vernacular.

"Everything in the house has a very specific logic, a very local logic," explains Moore, who grew up here and studied at RISD, returning to Florida a few years after graduation. His work (represented by Miami's [Nina Johnson gallery](#)) mines touchstones of his beloved city. At home, the living room armchair is made from breeze-blocks, the kitchen chandelier from hundreds of old keys to a downtown building. The table and chairs on the screened-in