

THE SOUTH FLORIDA HOME REDEFINED™

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What defines your style?

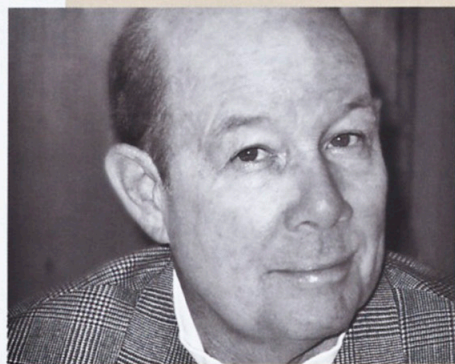
I try very hard not to have a recognizable style, particularly as it applies to residential projects. Landscape architecture is an applied art, and serves the client's needs and wishes; it is the landscape architect's responsibility to interpret them in a manner resulting in a successful and perhaps unforeseen design solution.

What most influences the ideas behind your designs?

I am by nature tactilely oriented, and surfaces of all kinds give me ideas about relationships of form and contrasting spatial relationships. Painting and photography also offer new ways of conception and visual reasoning.

What's one thing people would be surprised to learn about your work?

The amount of time that's needed to make the work itself look effortless.



JEFF BLAKELY

BLAKELY AND ASSOCIATES

Although Jeff Blakely seemed preordained to be a landscape architect—both his father and grandfather worked in the field—his artistic inclinations first led him down a different path as a painter. After other career iterations, he founded his Palm Beach Gardens firm, drawing on both his natural creativity and childhood experience working in his father's nursery. More than 30 years later, Blakely's award-winning garden designs begin with a thorough assessment of the clients—everything from the kind of books they read to their preferred style of furniture—in an effort to understand “the kinds of sensory experiences that may resonate with them on an emotional level.” To maintain his innovative approach to design, Blakely adheres to the timeless aesthetic that has served him well. “Trends, by their very nature, are short-lived. I prefer design that transcends and responds to its environment.”

What inspires you in your work?

Each time I participate in the final installation of a garden, a feeling of exhilaration and optimism characterizes its last weeks and days, and no matter the difficulties in getting to that point, I'm anxious to begin another project.

What challenges you in your work?

My biggest challenge is maintaining freshness and innovation, and creating things not before seen.

What should homeowners splurge on when designing a garden?

Of course, the quality of the design should come first. In the case of materials, always splurge on the structural bones of the garden: mature specimen trees, select garden ornaments, quality building materials for garden structures, and well-considered landscape lighting.

Do you have a favorite plant?

I confess to being a plant-lover and have equal passion for the grace of bamboo, the pride of garcinia and the surface of the family of sago palms.

Name your dream project.

Something that extends the vocabulary of mid-century modern as it might apply to landscape architecture.

GARDEN FIND
 Mossom Birdbath,
 4; hpotter.com

