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A house dubbed the “Opal of Bal Harbour” by a seasoned architecture team well-acquainted with top-tier real estate must be something special. The 11,000-square-foot property sits in proximity to the Intracoastal in a private community that boasts several preeminent features, including a marina, splendid water views from nearly every vantage point, and lush lots thriving with tropical greenery. As if that wasn't enough, the residence itself is surrounded by full-grown trees and native foliage, and has plenty of space where the owners' kids can roam freely and safely.

When the homeowners hired architect Stephanie Hallen, head of **SDH Studio Architecture + Design** in North Miami Beach, they requested a warm, tropical design inspired by Balinese style. “The whole idea was to create a seamless flow that runs inside and out with an inviting palette and natural materials,” she notes.

To capture the tone of the exterior architecture, the clients enlisted innovative Mexico City–based designers **Gabriel Askenazi and Jack Sulkin**, who established a symbiotic relationship between the indoor and outside areas.

“When conceptualizing this project, we wanted to create a multisensory experience,” says Askenazi. “We designed the home with a modern Mediterranean style that seeks to showcase the beauty of the materials in their natural state.”

Despite never meeting one another until the end of the project, the architectural and design teams collaborated with a natural flow, flawlessly complementing each other's work in an exciting way.

“They captured the warmth of the exterior



and used gorgeous materials to enhance the architecture,” says Hallen. “When I asked the homeowners how they felt in this house, they said they were completely in love, and every time they woke up, they couldn't believe where they were. They also told me the

kids don't want to go on vacation because they are so happy enjoying the house, which is truly priceless. That's the best part of my job—enriching people's everyday lives and experiences.” (sdbstudio.com, sulkinaskenazi.com) —*Jeanne de Lalboudier*