

Waterfront estate is a true architectural masterpiece

The timeless beauty of South Florida’s vibrant tropical setting is captured in this exquisite offering. Beyond the gated entry, the estate’s 21,140-square-foot grounds command 140 feet of open waterfront, allowing the surroundings to serve as an elegant backdrop for luxurious living. Built in 1938 and modernized to meet the expectations of today’s most discerning homeowner, the



residence at 6301 Pine Tree Drive in Miami Beach reflects the artistic vision of famed architect Igor Polevitsky. A masterpiece of design and craftsmanship, the estate

is priced at \$7,850,000.

The home blends whimsical style with practical lines. Wide expanses of glass doors and floor-to-ceiling windows create a seamless transition from interior to exterior living spaces while inviting natural light to serve as a pure design element. Ten bedrooms and nine and one half bathrooms, including a separate three-bedroom, three-bath guest house, are spread throughout a well-configured 7,852-square-foot floor plan. The gourmet-style eat-in kitchen is a chef’s dream, and both the media and family rooms provide large, comfortable gathering spaces. The master suite is lavish, featuring a huge walk-in closet and dressing area, a spa-like bath, and a private balcony overlooking the picturesque grounds and water.



This estate reflects the artistic vision of famed architect Igor Polevitsky.

The emphasis on comfort and luxury continues outside, where amenities include a heated pool, patio, dock, summer kitchen and sauna. Among the estate’s many additional conveniences are impact windows and doors, and a three-car garage.

For more information, contact Esther Percal at 305-674-4022 or visit www.EstherPercal.com.



The waterfront home features large, comfortable gathering spaces.



The residence is a masterpiece of design and craftsmanship.

OUTDOORS

PONDS CAN ADD BEAUTY AND AMBIANCE TO A BACKYARD

BY JANA SOELDNER DANGER
Special to South Florida Home

A pond can be a terrific asset to a backyard, or even to a patio. It adds beauty and ambience, and creates a visual focal point. Ponds are not for everyone; they do require maintenance. But the rewards can be well worth it.

“It’s a relaxing feature to have, especially if you spend a lot of time in your yard,” said Peter Gonzalez of Miami-based Pond-boy.com. “It’s alive and moving. It’s a living, breathing thing that has its own cycles.”

LOCATION

First, pick the right spot. “Choose a location that is level and also high enough that runoff from rain and sprinklers won’t flow back into the pond, bringing in unwanted fertilizer and sediment, or cause the pond to overflow,” said Paul Donnelly of The Pond Guy.

“You want it to be as visual as possible and have it within eyeshot of where you spend most of your time in the yard,” Gonzalez said. “Watch for power and

sewer lines.”

Considering a location under a tree? “The shade will help keep it cool, but it will also get the pond dirty,” said Erick Santana of Bella’s Aquatic Garden in Coral Gables. “Some trees drop leaves all year.”

SIZE

How large should the pond be?

“Consider your space and your budget,” Gonzalez said.

“The average is 1,000 to 2,000 gallons,” said Alan Marquez of Ivy Ponds in Miami. “Build it 30 percent bigger than you think you want, because otherwise, you’ll probably wish you had a bigger one.”

Don’t have much of a backyard? A small pond can also bring pleasure. “You can have something elevated on the patio,” Gonzalez said.

“Seal the bottom of a plant container and put in a waterlily and a couple of fish that eat mosquitoes,” Santana said.

DEPTH

How deep should an in-ground pond be?

“A healthy pond is at least 24 inches deep,”



Courtesy of Ivy Ponds

A pond can be as simple or elaborate as the owner prefers.

Marquez said.

“A pond that’s too shallow will be hot in the summer,” Santana said. “You’ll want aquatic plants to help bring down the temperature.”

Check municipal and homeowners association regulations. In some places, a pond that is too deep may be considered to be a pool and be subject to different requirements, such as a safety barrier around it, Santana said.

LINING THE POND

Decide how you will line the pond once the hole has been dug. “When considering a foundation or liner for your pond, you have several options,” Donnelly said. “Pre-formed ponds like those found at big box stores have a rigid shell and are durable. Cement

ponds have a nice aesthetic appeal. Traditional rubber liners can be the most functional for their versatility and durability when creating your own design, as well as disguising filtration.”

“With a liner, you can dig the hole whatever shape you want it to be and the liner will conform to it,” Gonzalez said.

A homeowner who chooses concrete can mix it up and lay it down by hand, or hire someone to come and pour it. “Rubber is simpler for the DIYer to install, but it tends to have a shorter lifespan,” Marquez said. If the homeowner chooses a rubber liner, he or she should place a durable underlayment cloth beneath it, he added. “And use a lot of stone to hold it in place.”

Bordering the pond with rocks can provide a natural look and be a creative project. “How you place the stone is artwork,” Gonzalez said, adding that if natural rock is too heavy or unwieldy, there are artificial products that look like the real thing. “You can get them anywhere from pebbles to boulders.”

EQUIPMENT

What equipment is required?

“We recommend filtration and aeration to keep the pond healthy and water circulating,” Donnelly said. “It is important to pair the correct size of these units to the pond that they will be added to.”

Depending on budget



Courtesy of Ivy Ponds

A waterfall in the pond can create soothing sounds.

and location, a pond can have either a closed or open water system. With a closed system, the same water simply recirculates and is cleaned with a filter. With an open system, water is continuously pulled from a well in the ground and deposited into the pond where it overflows into a second well.

A UV sterilizer can help combat algae. Water flows through a tube where UV rays kill the unwanted green stuff. “But it has to run 24 hours a day,” Marquez said. “You can’t put a timer on it.”

Choose quality. “Invest in equipment that requires

the least amount of maintenance,” Gonzalez said.

PLANTS, FISH OR BOTH?

Will the pond contain just plants, just fish, or both? If the pond will have just plants, keep the water moving to avoid creating a nursery for mosquitoes. If there are fish but no plants, the fish will not have places to hide, nor will they have greenery to munch on.

“It’s best to have a balance of plants and fish,” Gonzalez said. “The fish eat the plants and mosquitoes, and the droppings of



Courtesy of Ivy Ponds

Lily pads add color to a pond and help to create a balanced ecosystem.

SEE PONDS, 3C