

florida / caribbean ARCHITECT

Green, greener,
greenest....

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STREAMSONG RESORT, polk county, florida
ALFONSO ARCHITECTS, tampa, florida



Streamsong Clubhouse viewed from the west.

Nestled in the Bone Valley of rural Polk County is the new 16,000-acre Streamsong Resort. The resort includes a lodge, golf clubhouse, four restaurants, a spa and conference center. Along with the buildings, lead architect Alberto Alfonso, AIA, designed the custom lighting, furnishings, spa products, staff uniforms and signage.

The resort, located between Tampa and Orlando, is sited on formerly mined phosphate land owned and developed by The Mosaic Company. The remote site was a challenge to the project since the team had to build the infrastructure from scratch, including water treatment,

power and roads. The architect describes Streamsong as "a celebration of reclamation of both land and spirit."

Since mining of the site stopped, nature has taken over and provided the perfect design inspiration. Enormous grass dunes, Florida sunlight, water bodies stretching to the horizon and a fertile and varied landscape are all reflected in the design of the resort. The material palette, textures and colors were influenced by the history, geology, foliage and sky. Both the golf clubhouse and lodge received a 2014 Award for Excellence in Architecture from AIA Florida.

For the lodge, the architect designed a vertical building strategy defined by four identifiable zones: Submission (AcquaPietra spa, Brezeway, Soto Terra dining); Bank (public spaces and the Leaf Lobby); Canopy (218 guest rooms with furnishings, paintings and bookshelves) and Sky (Fragmentary Blue rooftop lounge). Each zone is informed by, and in tune with, nature.

The design could represent a cross-section of the site, with roots below the surface, the lake's edge above and the tree canopy in the sky. The architect explained that the lodge's rooms "become the canopy and the rooftop embraces the horizons and the night sky. The building is



Top, left: west facade of Streamsong Lodge showing exterior view of the Leaf Lobby as it projects out over the landscape. Bottom, left: main stair in the Leaf Lobby. Top, right: Guest room and bottom, right: Leaf Lobby toward the main entrance.



PHOTOS BY ALBERTO ALFONSO

organized with the spa underground and the bank became the public concourse with guest rooms stacked above. The land gave the designer a strategy for moving forward in a rational way.

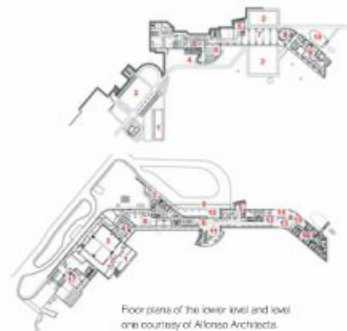
Philosophically, Alberto Alfonso's design process relies on the development of a project-specific architectural idea that is grounded in site, program history and region. A painter himself, Alfonso's process utilizes painting, sketching, wood and steel models and 3-D computer technology to investigate design solutions. His work is heavily influenced by climate and the celebration of light, referencing his Cuban heritage. ■

Lower Level

1. Pool
2. Lawn
3. Fine Dining Restaurant
4. Patio
5. Elevator Lobby
6. Board Meeting Rooms
7. Brezeway
8. Suite
9. Spa
10. Spa equipment yard

Level 1

1. Conference Center Plaza
2. Conference Center Reception
3. Bathroom
4. Meeting Room
5. Elevator Lobby
6. Storage
7. Employee Facilities
8. Lobby Reception & Bar
9. Entry Lobby
10. Main Lobby
11. Lobby
12. Lodge Shop (entrance)
13. Shop
14. Grand Foyer
15. Fitness Room
16. Guest Rooms
17. Reception & Central Plant



Floor plans of the lower level and level one courtesy of Alfonso Architects.