



Photo credit
Ryan Gamma

An interview with

Clifford M. Scholz

Leading Coastal Architect

by Perrone Construction
Builders of Fine Custom Homes



Scholz is the founder and president of Clifford M. Scholz Architects, founded in 1992. Widely recognized throughout many of Southwest Florida's most affluent neighborhoods, Cliff and his team have greatly influenced the design and architecture that graces our coastline. The CMSA team of design professionals specializes in the areas of luxury residences, private golf and country clubs, corporate properties, and challenging renovations.

Cliff has been in the field of architecture for 51 years and a registered architect for 41 years. Perrone Construction and Cliff have a remarkable history dating back to the early 1980s building some of Sarasota's most notable landmark homes ranging between 1,100 to

over 20,000 square feet. Often, clients who have worked with the Perrone Construction and CMSA team are repeat clients, several of which we have built as many as four homes for together.

At Perrone Construction, we have the privilege of working with CMSA on several of our current projects, located on Bird Key, a prestigious barrier island community off the coast of Sarasota, Florida.

Talented and well versed in a wide range of architectural styles, Cliff has an impeccable eye for true-to-style design. His award-winning work has been featured throughout his career on HGTV and on the covers of national, statewide and local design publications.



What inspires you most - do you have any particular elements that inspire your style?

Proportions and scale.

Can you see an evolution in your work from when you started to today?

It gets to be more fun as time goes on. If anything, I would say my design work gets more and more accomplished.

We currently have two projects underway on Bird Key with you. What were your inspirations when designing these homes?

We pride ourselves as being our client's architect. The first client wanted a French country style but cleaner lines and a more contemporary interior feel. The second client wanted an Italian transitional style which has steeper pitched roofs but with an Italian basis in detailing. Each of these homes are custom and transcend style lines to achieve and exceed the clients goals.

If you had to pick your favorite detail of your design for this project, what would it be?

Again- back to proportion and scale- the roof lines are always where a person's eyes go to first. Roof lines in proportion to the balance of the structure are my favorite "details" of these homes.

When you conceptualize a custom home, where do you start?

That depends on the project. There is always a part of the estate or home that is most dear to the client. That always seems to be a good starting point.

Does your own home reflect your professional style?

My home is a 1938 bungalow. It embodies many design components of my work but our work encompasses many styles- from modern to classical.

In your definition, what makes a home timeless?

When we finish, it looks like it has always been there and will remain there.

Above

One of several speculative estate homes designed for Adrienne & Gigi Vittadini.

Architect | [Clifford M. Scholz](#)

Builder | [Perrone Construction](#)

"A professional architect is your biggest ally and your best guide to get what you really want.

Find one that is as excited about your home as you are and is experienced in all aspects of architectural design- from creativity to technical know how."

Where do you see Southwest Florida architecture in the future?

Hopefully a diverse array of architecture. There are so many wonderful expressions of architecture that I hope Sarasota does not get more “defined” in any one expression of design.

What’s next for your business/brand?

I have partnered with two great architects, Rick Oswald and Daniel Shaffer, that share my love of the profession. We are in total collaboration on every project and it is even a greater expression of our talents.

If someone reading this was about to begin their own custom home design project, what would be your best advice to them?

A professional architect is your biggest ally and your best guide to get what you really want. Find one that is as excited about your home as you are and is experienced in all aspects of architectural design- from creativity to technical know how.

Learn more about Clifford M. Scholz and the CMSA design team at:

www.cliffordscholzarchitects.com

Pictured

Guest suite along the infinity edge pool overlooking Sarasota Bay.



Below

When this home, Aqua Vita, sold in 2017, it set a record for the highest price paid for a home in the last 10 years on Longboat Key.





Above
 Renderings of a transitional style residence currently under construction on Bird Key.

Below
 Front elevation rendering of French country inspired custom home, aslo under construction on Bird Key.

