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DESIGN BOOK



Margi Nothard

GLAVOVIC STUDIO

On the occasion of Margi Nothard's winning an Arango Foundation Award in 2001, Paola Antonelli, Senior Curator of Architecture and Design at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, spoke of the global nature of Nothard's work, while simultaneously noting its sense of belonging to the local. This observation provides the context for contemplating the work of Glavovic Studio, the architecture and design firm of which Nothard is founding principal.

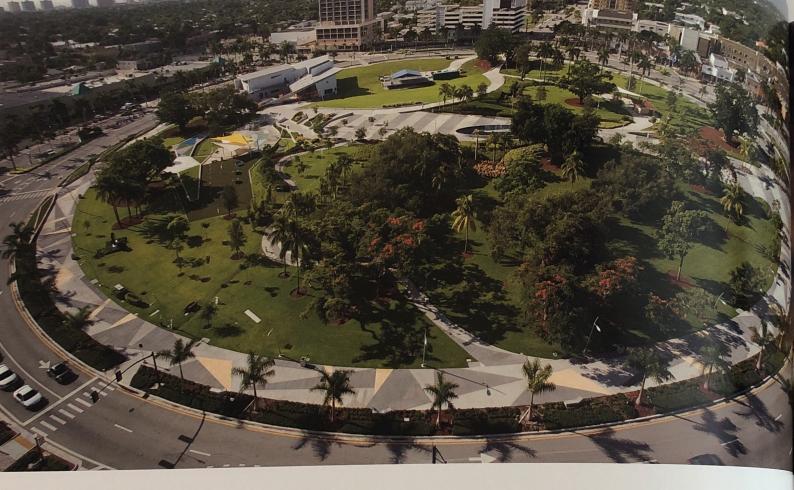
Born in Zimbabwe and raised in South Africa, Nothard studied architecture at the University of Natal before traveling to England and the United States, where she completed her master's degree in architecture, studying under Michael Rotondi of Morphosis and Eric Owen Moss, director of the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc). While a student, Nothard served on the SCI-Arc board of directors alongside Pritzker Prize winners Thom Mayne and Frank Gehry.

The SCI-Arc ethos that spurs students to engage in architecture at its most dynamic levels was transformative for Nothard. Robert Mangurian, graduate director of the school, urged students to seek out a locale in which they could make a difference. This prompted Nothard's move to South Florida. Her projects aim to leverage Florida's unique cultural diversity and subtropical landscape to produce work of aesthetic beauty and rigor charged with vibrant community exchange.

Nothard's sense of the universality of architectural ideas is epitomized in Young Circle ArtsPark in Hollywood, Florida. An initial request for a gazebo yielded a new destination for the public to appreciate art, community, and the environment. Young Circle ArtsPark is conceived as a single work of sculpture, integrating urban planning, architecture, and a constructed landscape that includes Millennium Springs, a public art project by artist Ritsuko Taho. The design of the circular park's periphery draws people into the park, which houses visual and performing arts facilities, including artist studios and rehearsal spaces, improving community quality of life. This holistic approach exemplifies the manner in which Glavovic Studio undertakes large-scale work

RIGHT: Girls' Club, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.





Girls' Club, another Glavovic Studio project, is a private foundation and alternative art space that educates the public on the contributions of women to the field of contemporary art. It is also the project that Nothard believes has the most far-reaching impact among all the works her studio has designed. Located in downtown Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Girls' Club was founded by artist Francie Bishop Good. Nothard used Good's artistic works and processes as the inspiration for the architecture. Girls' Club has a dual purpose — it serves as a space for the private production and public presentation of art.

Sensitivity to materials, sustainability, and a blurring of public and private spaces was crucial in Nothard's design. The former warehouse's non-descript façade was newly activated as a translucent projection screen for video, dramatically redefining the district — located prominently behind City Hall — as a destination for art and culture. Girls' Club demonstrates the high priority that Glavovic Studio accords to the public's experience of any project.



Since 2004, Glavovic Studio has maintained a close working relationship with the Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale, forging new and vibrant connections between the original Edward Larrabee Barnes structure and the downtown Las Olas district. Several insertions and upgrades include elegant bathrooms and the signature bridge-stair addition — a monumental sculpture located among the royal palms lining Las Olas Boulevard that affords visitors a view of the New River. Additional work at the museum includes updates to the Glackens Collection Wing, a major renovation of the museum entrance and lobby, and an overall interior upgrade. Glavovic Studio has also collaborated with the museum on several exhibitions, from contemporary artist Mathew Schreiber to King Tut.

On a more intimate scale, Outside-In House in Wilton Manors, Florida, demonstrates the commitment-to-detail design Glavovic Studio applies to its large-scale projects. The townhouse is sited on a lake in Fort Lauderdale and its renovation combines indoor/outdoor connectivity with a sensitive, adaptive reuse of space. The creation of outdoor rooms and interior nodes is intended to provide the owner with a series of serene spaces framed by South Florida's distinctive ecology.

ABOVE: ArtsPark at Young Circle, Visual Arts Pavilion, south elevation, Hollywood, Florida.



Nothard's work with private residential clients is carefully crafted to imbue each project with characteristics appropriate to the lifestyle requirements of the individual. In every project, the firm strives to maximize the particular qualities of landscape, light, material, and space. It inventively composes them into a unique architectural expression.

Intrinsic to all Glavovic Studio projects is the relationship of the individual to the group, the detail to the whole, and the process to the product. Nothard and her studio aim to maintain clarity of the total vision at every phase of a project. This objective has defined Glavovic Studio since its inception. Each project, both built and un-built, has contributed to realized work that has garnered awards from the Florida Chapter of the American Institute of Architects as well as other organizations and publications.

Glavovic Studio's ambition is to provide sustainable, design-oriented solutions for quality-of-life architecture in the twenty-first century. Projects like the Young at Art Children's Museum, Broward County Library (with AECOM), and Kennedy Homes (a 132-unit LEED Silver affordable housing project) in the Sailboat Bend neighborhood satisfy this ambition. These projects represent the core characteristic of the studio's designs — Nothard's signature fusion of nature, art, and artists, as well as an active engagement with the public realm.

LEFT: Bridge-Stair, Museum of Art/Nova, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. RIGHT: Outside-In House, Wilton Manors, Florida.

