

Paradise Patron

For Roberto Cortes, the island of Key Biscayne is not only the perfect place for business, it's also his home.

TEXT BY NATALIA MALDONADO
PHOTO BY ANTONIO ELI

It's easy to achieve people's dream homes when you're building them in paradise, which is why Roberto Cortes, principal of South Bay Developers Group, chose to found the company on Key Biscayne back in 1999. The firm, which specializes in building custom-made luxury homes, started with just two people, Cortes and business partner Ernesto H. Weisson, also principal, and has since grown faster than the booming market. It now has more than 35 employees and offices on Key Biscayne and throughout Latin America. Recently, South Bay Group purchased lots in the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, and is in the process of finishing up the plans to start building spec homes in that niche market. Cortes is also excited about the projects the company is working on at 544 Fernwood. "By the end of next year, we'll have developed 12 homes on Fernwood," he says. "We'll have changed that street substantially." Cortes lives at Grand Bay Villas in Key Biscayne with his family and says there's really no place like it because you get the best of two worlds. "Although Key Biscayne has a small-town feel, it's close to a booming city," he says. "The kids can walk to the school, go to the park, enjoy the ocean, but you drive just 20 minutes and you're at the airport or at one of South Beach's many attractions." **KB**

