

INTERIOR DESIGN

\$5.95

JULY 1996



A CANNERS PUBLICATION

ALEXANDER GORLIN'S SEASIDE RETREAT
New offices by Boto Design and Michael Beckson • Second 100 Giants



Alexander Gorlin

The architect creates an experimental residence for himself and his spouse in Seaside, Florida, with designer Carl D'Aquino consulting on interior appointments.

WHILE HARDLY ENDEMIC TO THE DESIGN community as a whole, individual practitioners have been known to admit that assuming the role of client is not as easy and pleasurable as it may sound. Creating a habitat for oneself, some say, can induce a sense of inhibition since there are so many avenues of approach; others find that perfectionists' standards inevitably prove to be beyond human reach. The job, of course, gets done, and very successfully too—even if, as can happen, there are niggling afterthoughts that something still better might have been attained.

None of the above applies to Alexander Gorlin, an architect and interior designer who knew exactly and unerringly what he wanted for his and his wife's secondary habitat at Seaside on the northwest coast of Florida. (The 1982-launched community, planned by Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, is dedicated to the revival and

quality control of various vernacular building styles.) The milieu was familiar, for Gorlin had already done four townhouses there and, at time of writing, had two more under construction. When an opportunity to buy and build arose, he was ready and eager to go. After all, he reckoned, Philip Johnson did his see-it-all glass house, and Frank Gehry has his corrugated garage-door construction. Now it was Gorlin's turn to make his mark, doing so by designing something more experimental than would have been feasible had he been working for a more traditional client. *Continued*

Above: Townhouse row and, right, Gorlin's residence, used as vacation house and work base for local design jobs.

Cover and opposite: All the world's a stage in the glass-girded living room, its proscenium formed by the 8-by-10-ft. quadripartite "Route 66" photomural. Stairs bypass street-level entry.

Photography: Peter Aaron/Esto