

AT THE DESK OF: ISMAEL LEYVA

Architect Ismael Leyva in his office on the 13th floor at 48 West 37th Street. One of New York's most active architects, Leyva's 12-year-old firm, Ismael Leyva Architects, has completed 30 projects in Manhattan, including the interiors of the residences at Time Warner Center. The firm also has 14 projects in the outer boroughs; six in other parts of the country; and six internationally. Sixteen projects in New York City are in the works. *Compiled by Lauren Elkies*

The poster shows Diamante House in San Isidio, Costa Rica, an 8,000-square-foot residence opposite a natural waterfall, which Leyva designed for an American couple moving to Costa Rica.

Mini Mexican flag in honor of his native country.

A friend gave him the fake \$1 million bill and Leyva framed it. "I believe it attracts more money," he said.

Meridian Capital Group gave the glass tower to Leyva, acknowledging his work on a 21-story luxury condominium at 85 Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn.

He uses a box that once contained his Alfred Hammel watch to store pens and an Indian letter opener, a gift from an employee.

Oakley Dart CE shades.

Tracing paper, a tool of the trade.

Mug with a picture of Leyva and his daughter, Isabelle, when she was 2 years old. She is now 11. (His other children are Tommy, 6; Ismael, 6, and Alanna, 30; his wife is Carol).

Two magnetized hematite stones were a gift from DISH Entertainment Magazine. If you play with them, which he does, it "supposedly calms you down," he said.

He uses the calculator with paper roll once a year to figure out bonuses for his employees.

A model of a house he is designing for his family in Columbia County in upstate New York.

