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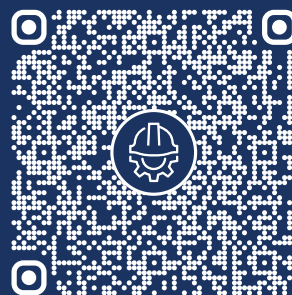
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Discover The Beauty And Practicality Of Coral Stone Tiles For Your Pool Decking

When creating a personal oasis in the heart of the sun-soaked Florida landscape, attention to detail is the keystone to brilliance. The right pool decking not only enhances the overall aesthetic but also ensures safety and comfort. The use of coral stone tiles emerges as an exceptional solution, providing an upscale ocean-oriented look that's alluringly organic and tremendously functional.

A pool deck is more than just an aesthetic add-on; it's the stage for your summer soirees, a quiet escape, and your family's favorite splash spot. This stage should not only captivate the eye but also offer inherent benefits to ensure a luxurious and safe experience.

Remarkable Non-Slip Resistance

The beauty of coral stone lies not only in its striking appearance but also in its remarkable safety features. When wet, most surfaces become potential slip hazards. Coral stone, however, is renowned for its non-slip resistance, even when soaked. Its naturally rough texture and porous nature provide superior grip underfoot, keeping swimmers safe from slips and falls.

Optimal Heat Resistance

Imagine a sizzling summer afternoon, the sun is at its peak, and all you want is to enjoy the coolness of your pool. But there's a problem: your pool deck is too hot to tread on barefoot. Coral stone is here to change that narrative. Its superior heat resistance ensures it remains cool underfoot, even on the hottest days. Its natural white or light color reflects sunlight instead of absorbing it, making coral stone the ideal choice for comfortable poolside lounging.

Premium Ocean-Oriented Aesthetic

The allure of a high-end pool deck lies in its unique ability to capture and portray an atmosphere. The naturally beautiful coral stone provides a rich, organic, and luxurious finish. Each tile is distinct, capturing the essence of the ocean in an elegant and timeless design that effortlessly elevates any pool deck.

Large Size Format Tiles

At Coral Stone USA, we understand that the visual impact of a pool deck is paramount. That's why we offer high size format tiles (18 x 36 and 24 x 36) that create an expansive, seamless aesthetic.

These large size tiles minimize grout lines, contributing to a sleek and modern design that truly opens up your space.

Ease of Quotation and Delivery

We believe in bringing your dream pool deck to life with ease and convenience. With our simple online quote request tab, getting a personalized quote for your unique needs has never been easier. Simply visit our website at <https://coralstoneusa.com/request-quote/> and fill in your details to get started.

We pride ourselves on our efficient delivery system. We ensure that your coral stone tiles are safely delivered right to your job site taking the hassle out of transportation, and making your pool deck renovation a smooth and seamless experience.

Your dream pool deck is within reach. Dive into the world of coral stone tiles and experience the exceptional blend of elegance, safety, and convenience they offer. Your perfect sun-soaked oasis awaits in the heart of Florida.



Coral Stone USA understands the importance of convenience and efficiency in your project. With their user-friendly website tab at <https://coralstoneusa.com/request-quote/>, obtaining a quote for your desired coral stone tiles is just a few clicks away. You can also just use our QR CODE below.



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The Design and Honor Awards celebrates the best in design from architects based in Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Honor Awards recognize members and others who have served the profession and the association. This year's program saw more than 300 submissions. The jury reviewed each project submitted. This year's jurors were based in Athens, Greece. Their background as both practitioners and academics provided a well-rounded evaluation of all projects submitted. The awards were presented August 2 at the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street.



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Florida/Caribbean ARCHITECT

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On the cover:

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve Pavilion
and Pedestrian Bridge
David Corban Architects
Photo by Ed Chappell.

Fall 2025

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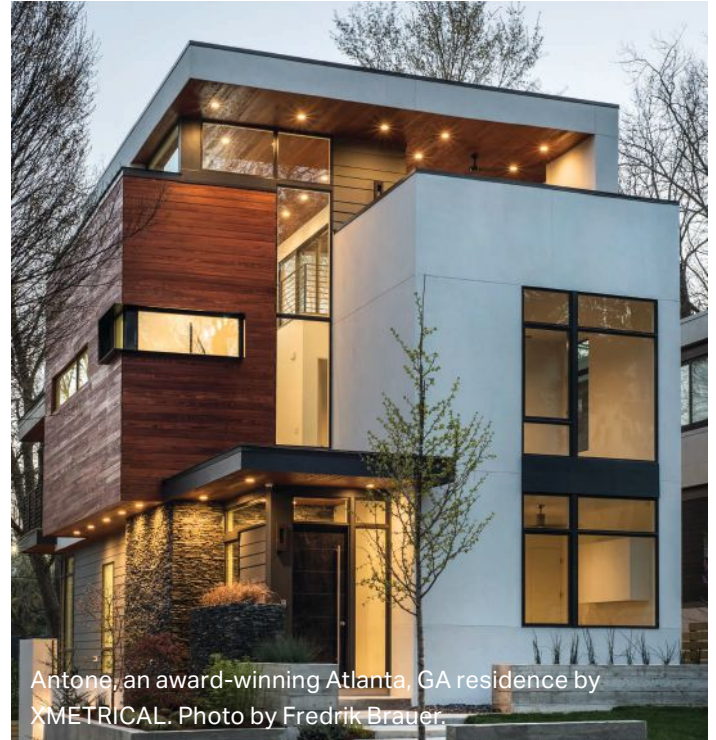
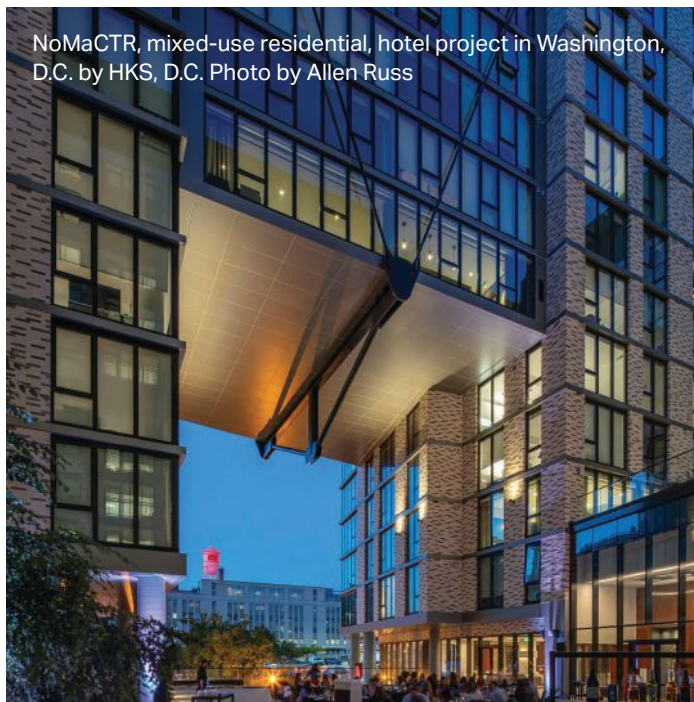
Component Relations and Member
Services Manager
George Henning
ghehning@aiafla.org

Administrative Assistant
Hilary Gill
hgill@aiafla.org

Small School, Big Impact

Florida A&M University School of Architecture & Engineering Technology

This year, Florida A&M University's School of Architecture and Engineering Technology (SAET) celebrated its founding 50 years ago and today, Dean Andrew Chin describes the school as "a place where access meets opportunity." Through generous grants, the school has added programs relating to the future of the profession by introducing classes and labs ranging from robotics and electronics to augmented (AR) and mixed-reality (MR) studios that use Microsoft's new construction "hard-hat" Hololens technology for mixed-reality solutions. FAMU is now being recognized as having a future-oriented design program, noteworthy for the many successful careers, awards and recognitions its graduates have received. The FAMU SAET offers undergraduate and graduate programs in architecture and engineering technology. Its ethnically and globally diverse student body prepares graduates to work anywhere in the world, having long ago realized that cultural expression is a beautiful thing and very important to the design process.



In the U.S., FAMU grads own, operate and manage large corporate firms in New York, Boston, Chicago, Orlando, Miami, Phoenix, Washington, D.C. and everywhere in between and beyond. **Donald Gray, Jr., AIA**, is Managing Principal at the **Fitzgerald Collaborative Group Architects**, with offices in Atlanta and Tallahassee. "The design-thinking environment at FAMU, combined with a practical application of architectural concepts helped me see the built world differently in those formative years." **Jordache Avery, AIA, NOMA**, founder of XMETRICAL, a modern design-focused firm in Atlanta, wrote "my education at FAMU was one that helped develop critical knowledge and skills that built on my lifelong passion for architecture." **Shantee Blain**, HKS Partner and Office Director in Washington, D.C., a FAMU grad, Shantee is today an award-winning designer managing a large corporate office.

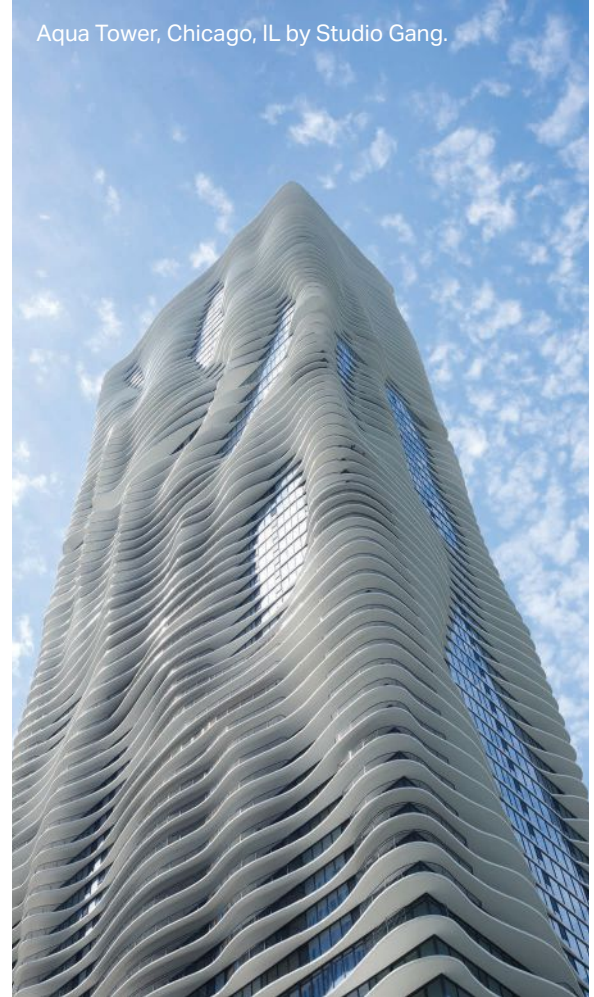


African-American History Museum, Apalachicola, FL by Hammond Design Group, Architect of Record and Rhodes + Brito, Design Architects. Rendering courtesy HDG.



Rhonda Hammond, AIA, is founder of **Hammond Design Group (HDG)** in Tallahassee. She is immediate past-President of AIA Tallahassee and creator of the AIA's successful "Voice of Florida Architecture" podcast. HDG and fellow FAMU graduates **Ruffin Rhodes, AIA, LEED AP BD+C** and **Max Brito, AIA**, founders of **Rhodes + Brito Architects, Tallahassee**, worked together on the new African American History Museum project in Apalachicola with Rhodes + Brito, as designer and HDG as Architect of Record. **Rodney Lewis, AIA** and **Cam Whitlock** are the founding partners of the Tallahassee firm **Architects Lewis + Whitlock**. The firm's Windsor Way Residence was just awarded a 2025 AIA Florida Design Award. Both Lewis and Whitlock are FAMU SAET graduates who met as 2nd-year students and later formed a multi-award winning practice. **Mark Schendel, FAIA**, is a FAMU grad and Managing Partner of **Studio Gang**. From his office in **Chicago**, Mark manages teams across five offices and two countries. With a career including the management of 280+ projects, notable for their diversity and award-winning design, Mark has demonstrated his ambitious vision for the future of architecture.

Aqua Tower, Chicago, IL by Studio Gang.



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Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL outdoor classroom and gathering space designed by Studio Gang.



Windsor Way Residence, Tallahassee, FL by Architects Lewis + Whitlock, Photo by RYAN GAMMA PHOTOGRAPHY.



"I hope you feel empowered and prepared to embrace the future of our profession, equipped to adapt to both the challenges we can anticipate and those we cannot yet imagine."

President's Perspective

Elizabeth Camargo, AIA

I am delighted to share this issue of *Florida/Caribbean Architect*, which celebrates the exceptional work of our members as recognized by the 2025 Design Awards jury, who were based in Athens, Greece. The jury, coordinated in partnership with Immediate Past President Rhonda Hammond, AIA, was composed of distinguished practitioners and educators with worldwide experience. Their thoughtful review of more than 300 submissions and their careful selection of projects that exemplify excellence in design, resilience and community impact was deeply inspiring. We are grateful for the opportunity to present our members' work on an international stage and proud of the recognition it received. Celebrating these achievements together at our annual Design and Honor Awards ceremony in early August was both remarkable and profoundly affirming the high caliber of architecture design produced in our state.

I am still in awe of the record-setting turnout at our 2025 Convention and Trade Show. Following last year's unprecedented success, I wondered if it could ever be matched. Yet with more than 900 attendees and 150 exhibitors in downtown Tampa, we far surpassed even the most ambitious expectations.

I am deeply grateful to the Convention Committee for their extraordinary work in making this event such an outstanding success. The depth and energy of the sessions, tours and gatherings brought our theme, Shifting Paradigms, vividly to life. My hope is that you left the convention not only with a sense of joy, enthusiasm and renewed camaraderie but also with tools,

connections and insights to strengthen your practice. Most of all, I hope you feel empowered and prepared to embrace the future of our profession, equipped to adapt to both the challenges we can anticipate and those we cannot yet imagine. That was the vision behind this year's theme, and I trust it will continue to guide you as you move forward in your work.

Although it is only fall, this is my final perspective for the magazine as your president. The year has flown by, and while much remains to be done, I am confident in passing the baton to Adam Gayle, AIA. Working alongside Adam has been a privilege, and I look forward to the initiatives his leadership will bring. At the same time, I remain committed to championing ongoing priorities, including the Resilience Building Standards Appendix to the Florida Building Code so diligently crafted by our Resilience Committee, Appendix Task Force and others. We will stay focused on advancing the goals of our organization and strengthening our role as both the voice of the profession and a trusted public resource. I also encourage you to mark your calendars for Legislative Day on January 27, and join us in Tallahassee to amplify our presence and ensure our message resonates with the state's political leaders.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president. It has been the honor of a lifetime, one I will always carry close to my heart. Together, we have achieved extraordinary accomplishments, and together we will continue to shape a more resilient, inclusive and inspiring future for our profession and our communities.

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FLORIDA'S CHANGING REALITY

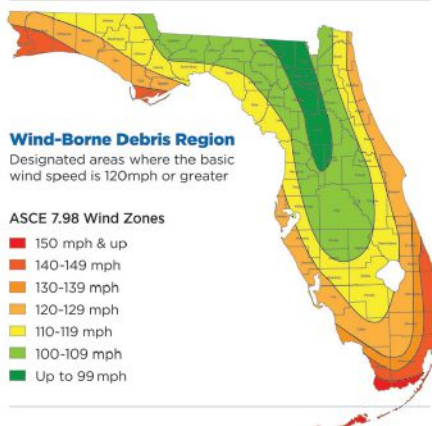
With hurricane paths shifting and storms intensifying, there is an undeniable truth:
All of Florida is hurricane country.

For decades, Florida's High Velocity Hurricane Zone (HVHZ) building standards have applied only to Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. These codes are widely recognized as the strongest in the nation, requiring entire building envelopes, from exterior walls and roofs to glazing and doors, to withstand winds up to 160 mph.

Now, a proposal before the Florida Legislature would expand these protections to cover the rest of the state's vulnerable coastline. With hurricane paths shifting and storms intensifying, this change acknowledges an undeniable truth: all of Florida is hurricane country.

State of Florida

(Wind-Borne Debris Region)



What It Means for Floridians

With Florida's exposure to hurricanes and for residents, visitors, and communities, the benefits are both immediate and long-lasting:

- **Tourism Confidence:** Visitors feel more secure knowing Florida prioritizes storm-resilient communities.
- **Safety First:** Stronger building envelopes save lives by reducing structural failure during hurricanes.
- **Lower Insurance Costs:** Homes built to higher standards perform better in storms, reducing claims and allowing insurers to offer lower premiums.
- **Resilience & Recovery:** Stronger homes mean faster recovery times after storms, fewer families displaced, and reduced strain on emergency shelters.
- **Ease of Maintenance:** Wind-resistant materials and impact-rated glazing reduce damage and repair costs year after year.



A Smarter Long-Term Investment

While stronger codes may modestly increase upfront construction costs, these are offset by decades of savings: lower insurance, fewer repairs, and preserved property values. More importantly, they protect Florida's most valuable asset - its people. The bottom line? Stronger codes make stronger communities. *By expanding hurricane protections statewide and encouraging proven systems like concrete block construction, Florida is building a safer future for everyone.*

Why It's Good for the Industry

Proposed legislation requires that entire building envelopes, being built or rebuilt, and not just single-family homes, meet impact resistance standards and withstand wind speeds up to 160 mph for most structures within 30 miles of the coast. The change would expand High Velocity Hurricane Zone standards beyond Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties, leveling the playing field across Florida's hurricane-prone coastline.



Positive Impacts Across the Construction Industry

- **Architects & Engineers:** Uniform codes simplify design criteria and foster innovation in resilient design.
- **Contractors & Builders:** Streamlined standards reduce regional disparities, cut confusion, and create more training consistency.
- **Manufacturers & Suppliers:** Higher demand for impact-rated systems, glazing, and wind-resistant materials will drive local economic growth.
- **Insurers & Lenders:** Improved performance of new construction reduces catastrophic losses, stabilizes risk pools, and supports affordability in the insurance market.



Concrete Block: A Proven Solution

Concrete masonry (CMU) is already the gold standard for resilience in Florida. Its inherent strength, fire resistance, energy efficiency, and hurricane durability make it the most reliable building system to meet the expanded HVHZ requirements. By promoting concrete block as the backbone of compliance, Florida can ensure not just code minimums, but true performance-based resilience.

- **Structural Integrity:** CMU construction excels in withstanding uplift, shear, and impact loads.
- **Sustainability:** Longer building lifespans reduce material waste and lifecycle costs.
- **Workforce Readiness:** Florida already has a skilled masonry workforce capable of meeting increased demand.



About Block Strong and BlockStrong.com

Block Strong is a partnership between Florida Concrete & Products Association, Inc. and Florida Concrete Masonry Education Council, Inc. The awareness program's primary mission is to help consumers, construction professionals, and designers understand the vital link between quality building materials and the health and safety of those people living in the homes and structures that they design and build. Block Strong also serves as an information source for aiding prospective homebuyers as they go through the various steps of the home-buying journey.

To learn more about the benefits of concrete block, homebuyers, designers, and builders can visit BlockStrong.com. This site's extensive list of information and resources includes an interactive storm tracker feature that provides real time radar imagery which is especially beneficial during Florida's unpredictable rainy season. Plus, mortgage and mold mitigation calculators allow visitors to customize their search to their specific buying journey.



FEMA

Data on Resilient Building Codes

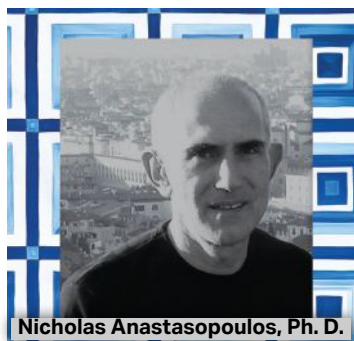
"According to FEMA / National Institute of Building Sciences, every dollar invested in resilient construction and mitigation design saves about six dollars in future disaster recovery and rebuilding costs — and in certain cases (for example, adopting modern hazard-resistant building codes), returns can be even higher, up to \$11 for every \$1 spent. These savings come not just from reduced structural damage, but also from shorter recovery times, less displacement, and lower long-term repair and clean-up costs."

Time to Expand Protection Statewide

From Pensacola to Jacksonville, and Naples to the Keys, every Floridian deserves the same level of protection currently reserved for South Florida. Expanding HVHZ standards is not just good policy — it's common sense. It ensures that as our state continues to grow, we build smarter, safer, and stronger.



2025 AIA Florida Design Awards Jury



Nicholas Anastasopoulos, Ph. D.



Leonidas Koutsoumpas, Ph.D.



Stratis Papadopoulos



Sophia Paraskevopoulou



Chrysostomos Theodoropoulos

Nicholas Anastasopoulos, Ph. D

Anastasopoulos is an associate professor at the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) School of Architecture. His research interests include sustainability, urban condition, communities and ecology. He earned his BA from NTUA; a Master of Architecture from Yale University; and Ph.D. in environmental management, sustainability and alternative social and living formations from NTUA. Anastasopoulos' postdoctoral research centered on issues of sustainability and the impact of urban environments and was conducted in Quito, Ecuador.

Leonidas Koutsoumpas, Ph.D

Koutsoumpas is associate professor of theory of architectural design at NTUA, teaching and researching ways of bridging the gap between practices and theories of the design process. He is a registered architect, actively designing projects of various domestic scales and architectural competitions of public buildings. He has also been engaged in the restoration of heritage buildings and enhancement of archaeological sites.

Stratis Papadopoulos

Papadopoulos is founder and principal of ERGO 7 in Athens. He has designed and supervised the construction of numerous large-scale projects. He views architecture as the composition of space and light through materials and details, creating "spaces" that can hold "life" with its multiple experiences and contradictions. Papadopoulos is a graduate of NTUA and earned his Master of Architecture from Pratt Institute.

Sophia Paraskevopoulou

Paraskevopoulou graduated NTUA and has a Masters of Urban Planning

from the University of Michigan. Her scope covers diversified project types and scales in Greece and worldwide. She was lead architect at the office of Alexandros Tombazis and associate architect for the design of the Sanctuary of Fatima, Church of the Most Holy Trinity and assembly hall for 9,000 pilgrims, in Fatima, Portugal. The design was entered into an international competition and won first prize. Sustainability and bioclimatic design are key elements in her design philosophy.

Chrysostomos Theodoropoulos

Theodoropoulos is a renowned researcher and professor of architecture at NTUA with published books and articles on architectural theory and practice, including the recent "Adaptive Reuse: Theoretical Glossary and Design Labs" (STH Press, 2024). He is also the director of SOUTH architecture, an Athens-based design studio with numerous mid-scale projects in Europe and the U.S. His practice has been awarded the first DOMES Prize for the Best Building by a Young Architect (2012), and his built projects have been widely published in Greece, Germany, the U.S. and Australia.



Listen to a conversation with this year's jury on the *Voice of Florida Architecture* podcast.

2025 Design Award Recipients

Award of Excellence New Work

Photos by Chad Baumer Photography



New Tampa Performing Arts Center

Honor Award

Tampa, Florida
Fleischman Garcia Maslowski
(FG+M) Architecture

The New Tampa Performing Arts Center is a 350-seat venue with flexible studios, blending natural surroundings with refined architecture. Masonry walls frame serene wetland views, while a colonnade and slender columns extend interior transparency outdoors. A transformable auditorium, working stage and adaptable studios support performances, receptions and community engagement. The jury thought the theater fit well within its surroundings and community, noting the well-balanced design was nice and bright.



Photo by David Corban, AIA



Photo by Ed Chappell

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve Pavilion and Pedestrian Bridge

Honor Award

Collier County, Florida
David Corban Architects

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve, Florida's largest state park, spans 133 square miles of interconnected ecosystems. Tasked with redesign, the architect prioritized minimal impact using steel over concrete, columns over walls and fire-resistant precast panels. The project improved access to facilities and pavilions while respecting the site's natural resilience to fire, hurricanes and ecological sensitivity. The result is a sustainable, low-impact solution that harmonizes with the park's unique natural setting.



Photo by Ed Chappell



Photos by Ramses Terrero



Microloft Sky Garden

Honor Award

Lake Worth Beach, Florida

Contin Architecture and Design

The Microloft Sky Garden transforms a once "unbuildable" Lake Worth Beach lot into a sustainable mixed-use project. Featuring two-story micro lofts with rooftop gardens, it reinterprets the traditional home within tight urban constraints. With native landscaping, durable concrete and indoor-outdoor living, the design creates a vibrant, eco-conscious corner landmark. The jury appreciated the materiality of the project, the manipulation of natural light with the open-air staircase and exterior fencing, and the project's use of volumes, further commenting that it created a way to fit in the context of the project constraints, benefiting the community and setting a good example.



Photos by Sunman LLC



Styx Alley

Honor Award

West Palm Beach, Florida

Alfonso Hernandez Architect, LLC

The Styx redevelopment reinterprets historic shotgun houses through traditional forms on Seventh Street and contemporary variations along Styx Alley. Using cost-effective stick frame construction and locally sourced materials, the design enhances walkability, creates central pedestrian connections and provides flexible small-business spaces blending heritage preservation with modern urban growth and community revitalization. The jury felt there was a lot of thoughtfulness in this socially sustainable project, referring to the way the new structures mirror the old structures as "urban acupuncture," a small gesture with big impact.



Photo by Jose Fernando Vazquez-Perez

Casa Sofia

Merit Award

Aguadilla, Puerto Rico

HACEDORMAKER_ARQUITECTOS

Casa Sofia is a T-shaped concrete residence designed as a “viewfinder” to the Atlantic. Bedrooms align longitudinally, while public spaces cross transversely, framing ocean views. Inverted beams, textured concrete, aluminum screens and a waffle roof cistern balance privacy and permeability, blending geology, structure and landscape in sculptural harmony. The jury praised the use of concrete, use of structural beams as a design element that guides entry and the creation of interesting in-between spaces.



Photo by Brooks + Scarpa

Alma Switch House

Merit Award

Manhattan Beach, California

Brooks + Scarpa

The Alma House redefines a compact beach side lot by centering a multi-purpose courtyard, flooding interiors with light, airflow and views. Sliding glass doors blur inside and out, while anodized aluminum screens provide privacy and dynamic façade effects. Scaled massing, passive strategies and efficient design achieve harmony, sustainability and coastal living. The jury admired how the project created open interior spaces in an urban neighborhood and liked the way the house volume thoughtfully revolves around a central courtyard.



Photo by Kris Tamburello

Van der Vlugt Residence

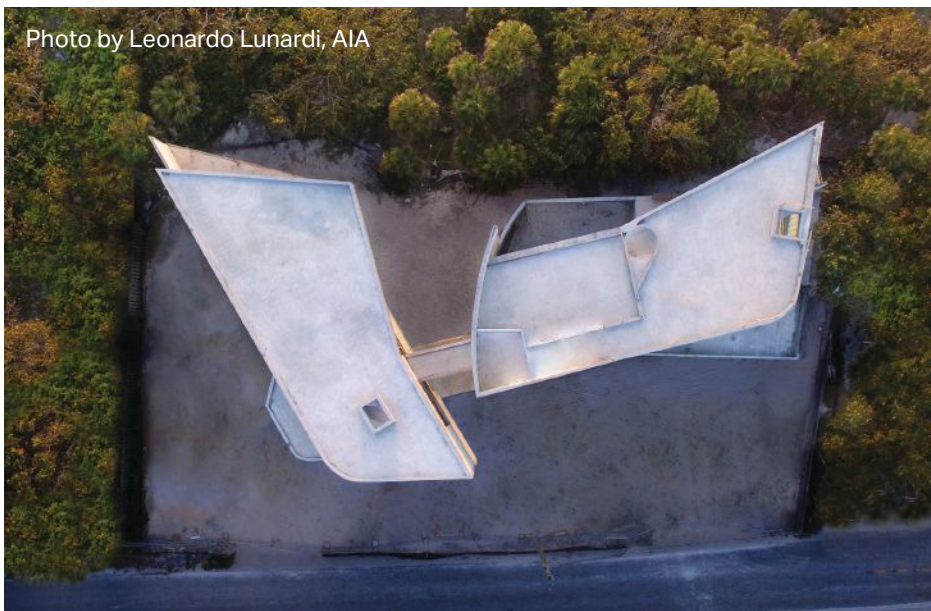
Merit Award

Key Largo, Florida

STRANG

This Upper Florida Keys residence integrates with its coastal site through a 50-foot cantilever, board-formed concrete and elevated construction for resilience. A central stair unites curved axes, echoing the shoreline. Floor-to-ceiling glazing, louvers and open planning balance light, shade and flow, creating a refined, site-responsive retreat above the ocean. The jury appreciated the home’s façade and openness of the design.

Photo by Leonardo Lunardi, AIA



Villa Mar

Merit Award

An Island in the Gulf

Carl Abbott, FAIA, Design Architect

Leonardo Lunardi, AIA,

Architect of Record

This gulf-front residence achieves privacy with solid walls inland and expansive glazing toward the sea. Two angled wings capture panoramic water views, while wave-like forms animate the architecture. The design evokes the ocean's spirit, blending sculptural movement with serene, site-responsive living in a private coastal retreat. The jury called the project organic and sculptural, admiring how it beautifully dissolved into the landscape.



Photo by Chad Baumer

Baptist Health Care Brent Lane Campus

Merit Award

Pensacola, Florida

Gresham Smith

Baptist Health Care's new 57-acre Pensacola campus replaces an outdated hospital with a resilient, patient-centered design. Featuring a 264-bed hospital, specialty health center, behavioral hospital and medical offices, the campus orients around a town square of heritage oaks. Inspired by coastal forms, it integrates advanced technology, healing environments and Category 5 storm resilience. The jury admired the materiality of the project, and the incorporation of the park as a recreational area for the hospital.



Photo by Armando M. Rizo, AIA, LEED AP

University of Miami Theatre Arts Building

Merit Award

Coral Gables, Florida

MATEU Architecture, Inc.

The University of Miami Theatre Arts Building honors its mid-century modern context and Marion Manley's Pentland Building through careful siting and dialogue between old and new. A Black Box Theatre anchors the axial alignment, while a new courtyard and north-south orientation unify, yet distinguish, the structures, ensuring respectful, context-driven integration. The jury admired the sculptural feel and color of the project and appreciated the creation of the courtyard as an additional public space.



Photo by Paola Quevidos

Ciales Kindergarten

Merit Award

Ciales, Puerto Rico

Toro Arquitectos

Perched above the Manatí River valley, the Ciales Kindergarten transforms a former funeral home site into a circular, exposed-concrete preschool. Organized into 12 segments around a central courtyard, the design ensures supervision, maximizes views and embraces outdoor circulation. Symbolically, its circular form reflects renewal and the cycle of life. The jury thought the design was unique in creating easy sightlines to monitor the children while the courtyard created a safe space.



Photo by Brooks + Scarpa

The Cove at Four Seasons

Citation Award

Westlake, California

Brooks + Scarpa

Spanning two acres within a 12-acre resort, the Westlake Village pool pavilion redefines luxury leisure. Featuring a grand pool, steel-clad bar, spas, lounges, greenhouse dining and wellness amenities, its design blends natural hues, teak and sculptural steel forms. Inspired by ocean waves, it offers a vibrant, immersive Southern California escape.



Photo by Zee Anna Photography

Bay Street Yard

Citation Award

Fort Myers, Florida

Architecture Joyce Owens

The Bay Street Yard transforms vacant riverside warehouses in downtown Fort Myers into a flood-resilient entertainment venue. Shipping containers house bars, restrooms and storage, shaping a flexible layout of food trucks, performance stage, seating and open spaces. Blending industrial character with greenery, it redefines urban space as a vibrant community hub. The jury said the project was colorful and fun and appreciated the construction and sustainability aspect of reusing the shipping containers.



Forty Carrots Family Center

Citation Award

Sarasota, Florida

Schimberg Group

Designed for a family-focused nonprofit, this net-zero building fosters community, accessibility and growth. Three distinct color-coded volumes for therapy, administration, and parenting education symbolize its mission. Child-friendly interiors, playful façades, and a welcoming gabion wall balance warmth and functionality. Future expansion, sustainable orientation and thoughtful detailing reinforce resilience, efficiency, and the organization's supportive culture. The jury said this project is a testament to collaboration and mission-driven design.

Photo by Steve Cartano



Photo by Halflants
+ Pichette Architects

Cushman Residence

Citation Award

Longboat Key, Florida

Halflants + Pichette Architects

On a trapezoidal Longboat Key site, this L-shaped waterfront residence frames Sarasota Bay with a shaded outdoor room, raised pool and roof terrace. Concrete walls and slim steel columns support airy spans, while glass sliders and a linear skylit bridge connect double-height spaces, creating a light-filled axis from entry to bay. The jury liked the sculptural qualities of the staircase and appreciated the focus on the details of the project.



Studio for The Performing Arts

Citation Award

Bradenton, Florida

Rowe Architects

This new performing arts facility for a Florida college centers on a 150-seat recital hall with acoustically tuned design for amplified and unamplified music. Connected to existing circulation, it integrates studios, offices and practice rooms around a central gallery. Brick massing, plazas and courtyards foster interaction, performance and campus engagement. The jury found the entrance interesting and liked that it connected well with the surrounding buildings. They also appreciated the project's in-between spaces and attention to detail.

Photo by Ryan Gamma



Moffitt Cancer Center at SouthShore

Citation Award

Ruskin, Florida

The Beck Group

The Moffitt Cancer Center at SouthShore, a 75,000-square-foot ambulatory oncology facility, combines advanced treatment with patient-centered design. Using a flexible “kit-of-parts,” tilt-panel construction and coded materiality, the architecture ensures adaptability, clarity and wayfinding. Light-filled, private treatment spaces and streamlined circulation foster dignity, comfort and healing in a community-focused prototype.

Photo by Seamus Payne



Windsor Way Residence

Citation Award

Tallahassee, Florida

Architects Lewis + Whitlock

The Windsor Way Residence showcases modern design through bold forms, flat and shallow roofs, and timeless materials of cypress, steel, stucco and glass. Set back from the street, the home engages its treed backdrop while an elevated entry plinth creates a sense of lightness, enhancing its refined architectural presence. The jury admired how the residence’s segmented volumes created an engaging scale and appreciated the beautiful interplay between the white and wood elements.

Photo by Ryan Gamma



Casa Mas Alta

Citation Award

Sky Valley, Georgia

MATEU Architecture, Inc.

Casa Mas Alta, a 2,800-square-foot retreat in Sky Valley, Georgia, blends modern elegance with mountain tradition. Perched on Ridgepole Mountain, its three-level design maximizes sweeping views through expansive decks and lofted spaces. Rustic farmhouse references, fireplaces and custom details create a serene, contemporary haven rooted in regional heritage.

Photo by Roney J. Mateu, FAIA



Photo by Alan Karchmer

University of Miami
Centennial Village
 Citation Award
 Coral Gables, Florida
 VMDO Architects and
 Zyscovich Architects

Centennial Village at the University of Miami redefines first-year housing with five residential towers inspired by campus modernism and Miami's international style. Phase I delivers 300,000 square feet of resilient, energy-efficient living-learning space along Lake Osceola. Sculpted forms, breezeways, communal hubs and biophilic interiors foster connection, well-being and a dynamic student community. The jury appreciated the push and pull of the undulating volumes.

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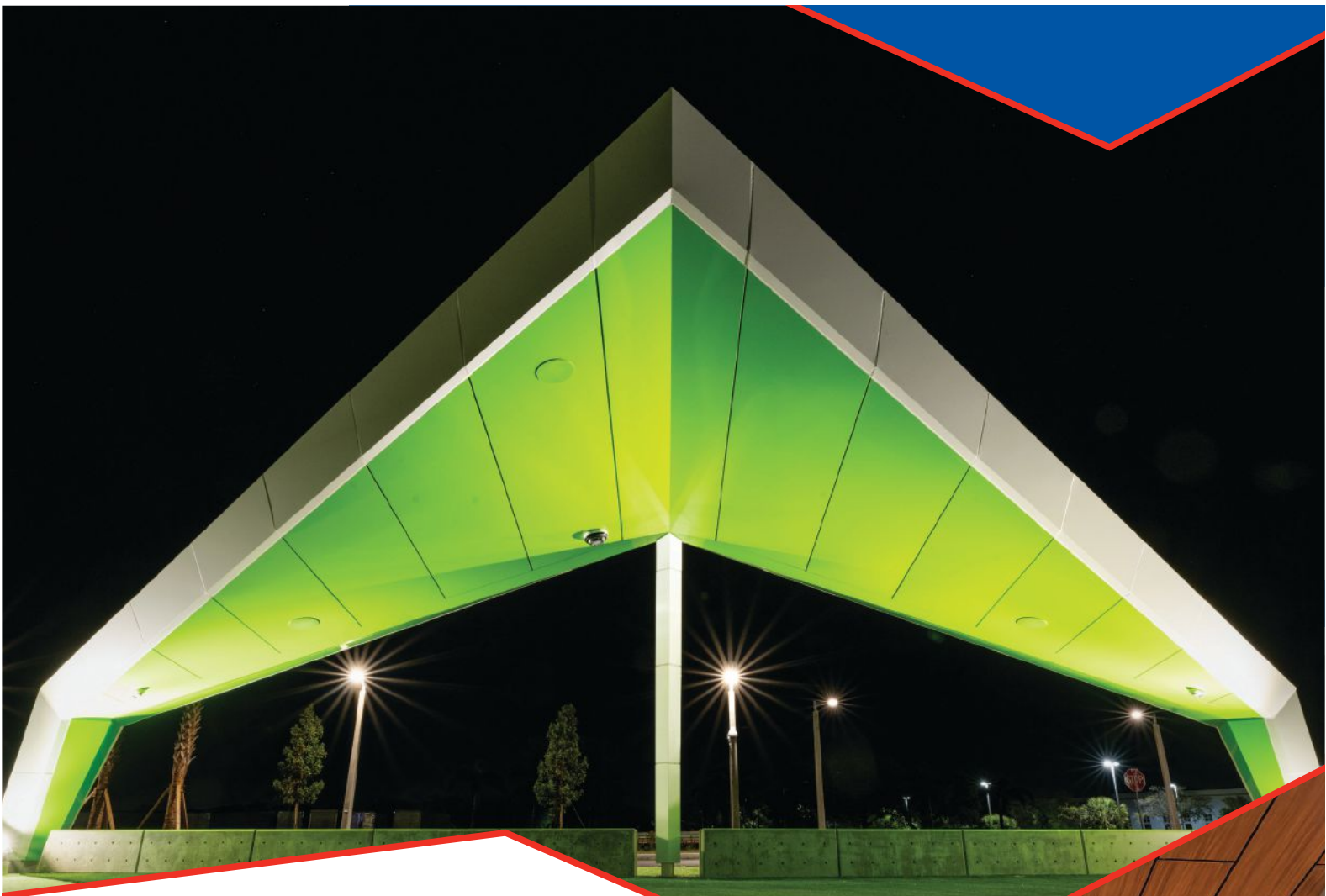
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Award of Excellence Renovations and Additions



Easterseals of Southwest Florida Renovation

Honor Award

Sarasota, Florida

Hall Darling Design Studio

The Easterseals of Southwest Florida renovation transforms its 1950s façade with a new drop-off canopy, secure lobby, energy-efficient glazing and accessible landscaping. Inspired by the original trapezoid CMU motif, perforated aluminum screens and unified geometric detailing blend history with modernity, creating a sustainable, secure and universally welcoming architectural identity. The jury felt the renovation gave identity to the building, a gesture that changes character, successfully producing a big impact.

Photos by Robert Connor, AIA



Photo by Jose Fernando Vazquez-Perez

Master Group

Merit Award

Toa Baja, Puerto Rico

HACEDORMAKER_ARQUITECTOS

Master Group's 1963 headquarters was retrofitted into a flagship campus through selective demolition, expansions and sustainable systems. Exposed concrete, CMU and prefabricated panels honor the company's legacy while a new courtyard, annex and architectural "mask" modernize its image. Integrating history, efficiency and renewable energy, the design embodies resilience and brand identity. The jury thought the design managed to create unity with simple but bold architectural movements while keeping as much of the existing building as possible.



Photo by Paola Quevedo Santos

Pavilion House

Merit Award

Guaynabo, Puerto Rico
MV Studio

The Pavilion House expands a suburban Guaynabo residence by uniting the original home with two new pavilions for fitness and art. Minimalist design, raw concrete, steel and white plaster define modernized interiors and light-filled spaces. Green courtyards and pavers connect the house and pavilions, blending functionality, privacy and seamless indoor-outdoor living. The jury found the project to be simple and very well done, calling the new spaces and volumes created interesting and elegant.



Photo by Michael Stavaridis

Nestled Volumes:

A Residential Addition

Merit Award

Miami, Florida
Jason Chandler, FAIA, Chandler and Associates, Architecture, P.A.

This residential addition creates sculpted pavilion-like volumes that showcase art while embracing a grove of live oaks and banyans. Interconnected boxes and low walls transform the backyard into an outdoor room, extending the home's horizontality into vertical tree canopies, balancing light, space and nature in a poetic architectural dialogue. The jury noted that the renovation reminded them of a private museum — thoughtful and small, with good use of materiality and craftsmanship.



Photo by Ryan Gamma

Schoolhouse Modern

Citation Award

Longboat Key, Florida
Sweet Sparkman Architecture & Interiors

The Longboat Key Schoolhouse remodel restores a 1926 Florida vernacular structure while adding a modern elevated primary suite. A glass corridor links old and new, contrasting wood-frame porches with masonry, stucco and copper-toned aluminum siding. Expansive glazing reconnects interiors to the landscape, balancing historic preservation with contemporary coastal resilience. The jury appreciated the interiors and thought the renovation helped create an interesting presence on the street.



Photo by Ryan Gamma

Asolo Repertory Theatre Koski Production Center

Citation Award

Sarasota, Florida

Sweet Sparkman Architecture & Interiors

A renowned theatre's expansion unites 25,000 square feet of repurposed buildings with a new 10,000 square foot addition, forming a sustainable rehearsal and production campus in southwest Florida. Featuring rehearsal studios, costume facilities and a recording studio, the design emphasizes adaptive reuse, solar-ready efficiency and community-focused spaces, blending innovation with regional heritage. The jury appreciated the materiality juxtaposition and the small gestures in the project details.



Photo by Aaron Schorch

171 Armour "The Warehouse"

Citation Award

Atlanta, Georgia

Cognitive Design

The Warehouse reimagines a mid-century industrial building in Atlanta into a secure, health-focused workplace for advanced video wall production. Balancing history with innovation, the design improves efficiency, expands capacity and fosters creativity through biophilic, evidence-based strategies. Daylight-filled workspaces, social amenities and urban connectivity create a resilient, community-driven industrial campus. The jury shared that the renovation creates a culture for the company's employees and answers the question of how to make an industrial building into a think space for work.



Photo by Mark Borosh

Tyrone Middle School Center for Innovation and Digital Learning

Citation Award

St. Petersburg, Florida

Architect of Record - Rowe Architects

Associate Architect - Fanning Howey

This 26-building middle school modernization reimagines the campus around digital innovation and collaboration. Anchored by a new two-story Innovation Center, consolidated classroom building, dining facilities and "Scholar Street," the design fosters creativity and community pride. Adaptive reuse, including a locker-room-to-music-suite transformation, integrates technology, flexibility and outdoor learning opportunities. The jury shared that the renovation was thoughtful and exemplified how a low cost per square foot delivered friendly and welcoming interiors and environment.

Award of Excellence Interiors



Photo by Paola Quevedo

FRSH

Merit Award

San Juan, Puerto Rico
Architectural Studio

In San Juan, a new retail store reimagines shopping through cave-like forms inspired by ant colonies' harmonious structure. Shotcrete walls, polished concrete floors and curved wood cabinetry create raw yet balanced interiors. A central planting courtyard, vaulted sneaker gallery and immersive pathways foster exploration, blending nature, craft and surreal experience. The jury thought the space was quite interesting being inspired by ant colonies and had a great use of materiality.



Photo by Kris Tamburello

CCRM Miami

Merit Award

Aventura, Florida
Perkins&Will

Inspired by the Everglades, this 15,000-square-foot fertility clinic integrates soft, fluid forms and a tranquil palette evoking water lilies and wetlands. Architecture and interiors prioritize calm, hospitality-driven care with naturally lit corridors, open workspaces and efficient, inward-facing labs. The design fosters transparency, well-being and renewal within an urban context. The jury liked the use of colors and wood and appreciated the detailing in the use of combined materials.



Photo by Joyelle West

Brookline House

Merit Award

Brookline, Massachusetts
Traction Architecture

This 1905 Brookline home was reimagined for a family of five, blending historic character with playful mid-century modern details. Renovations introduced light-filled, open spaces, restored a porch with sliding glass doors and added vibrant penny-tile bathrooms. Custom plywood built-ins unify interiors, creating joyful, functional spaces that balance history with modern family living. The jury found the space bright and airy and complemented the simplicity of materials, functionality and colorful interiors, creating a space of happiness and well-being.



Photo by Seamus Payne

Waterclub Condominium

Citation Award

Longboat Key, Florida

Traction Architecture

The Waterclub renovation transforms a dated Longboat Key condominium into a serene gulf-front retreat. White oak floors, custom oak built-ins and concealed LED cove lighting frame expansive ocean views. Reconfigured layouts improve flow, while periwinkle tile, ocean-inspired accents and airy finishes create a cohesive interior that celebrates horizon, light and sea. The jury felt the interiors were interesting and liked the use of color and wood detail in the niches, saying the project resulted in an airy, colorful space.



Photo by Seamus Payne

Bahia Vista House

Citation Award

Sarasota, Florida

hive architects inc.

This Sarasota residence, a 2003 modern home, was reimagined for privacy, efficiency and contemporary living. Reconfigured interiors improved storage and functionality, while oak cabinetry, cypress ceilings and terrazzo with mother-of-pearl accents add warmth. Screen walls, upgraded glazing and smart systems enhance comfort, creating a refined seasonal retreat for its owners. The jury felt the interiors maximized the structure, modernizing it and making it more functional. They appreciated that it was modest and well proportioned.

Historic Preservation and Restoration



Photos by Robert Connor, AIA



St. Paul Lutheran Education Building Restoration

Honor Award

Sarasota, Florida

Hall Darling Design Studio

The restoration of Victor Lundy's 1962 Education Building preserves a Sarasota School of Architecture landmark. Defined by glulam beams, expansive roofs and clerestory glazing, the project carefully restored structural and material integrity while upgrading systems for resilience. The result honors Lundy's visionary modernism, sustaining its sculptural beauty, functionality and cultural legacy. The jury shared that this restoration was very thoughtful and respected the attention to detail in preservation and usage of materials.



Photo by Dan Forer

Carl Fisher Clubhouse Restoration

Merit Award

Miami Beach, Florida

RJ Heisenbottle Architects

The Carl Fisher Clubhouse, Miami Beach's oldest public building designed in 1916 by August Geiger, was meticulously restored alongside its 1937 annex. Adaptive reuse transformed the historic structures into VIP event venues for the Convention Center. Restoration included façade repair, impact-resistant windows, structural upgrades and modern systems, honoring historic integrity while ensuring contemporary functionality. The jury appreciated the extensive structural work done in order to accomplish this restoration.



**Historic Delray Beach
Seaboard Air Line Railroad
Station Restoration**
Citation Award
Delray Beach, Florida
RJ Heisenbottle Architects

The Delray Beach Seaboard Air Line Railway Station, a 1920s Mediterranean Revival depot, was nearly lost to arson before a restoration, reconstruction and adaptive reuse effort saved it. The passenger lobby was restored as a wellness center, while the destroyed cargo section was rebuilt to house human resources, preserving history with new purpose. The jury noted how important and impressive this project was being rebuilt after a fire.

Photo by Dan Forer

Award of Excellence Sustainability



Photo by Ed Chappell

**Fakahatchee Strand Preserve
Pavilion and Pedestrian Bridge**
Honor Award
Collier County, Florida
David Corban Architects

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve, Florida's largest state park, was enhanced through a sustainable, minimal-impact design. Using steel, columns and fire-resistant precast panels, the facilities were built to endure hurricanes and wildfires. New restrooms, parking and an interpretive pavilion improve visitor access while safeguarding the park's fragile, interconnected ecosystems. The jury was deeply moved by this project. They felt the structure was designed as a sensitive connector between people and nature.

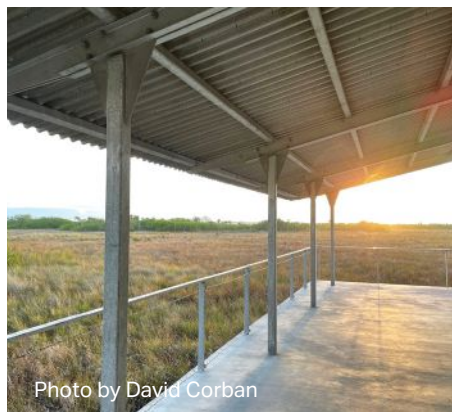


Photo by David Corban



Photo by Ed Chappell



Photo by Chad Baumer

4Roots Carbon Neutral Education Building

Merit Award

Orlando, Florida

Little Diversified

Architectural Consulting, Inc.

Set on a 20-acre regenerative farm, this carbon-neutral mass timber education building embodies Living Building Challenge principles. Powered by an 84.2 kW solar array generating 2.5 times its demand, it integrates rainwater reuse, biophilic strategies and flexible indoor-outdoor classrooms. The project restores ecosystems, supports regenerative agriculture and fosters community resilience. The jury said the project possessed great sustainability solutions that addressed important climate issues in Florida through architecture.



Photo by Brooks + Scarpa

DC Alexander Park

Merit Award

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Brooks + Scarpa

Transforming a former parking lot, this Fort Lauderdale park integrates resilient infrastructure with ecological restoration. Reintroducing dune and hardwood hammock ecosystems, it mitigates flooding and salt spray while creating dynamic play and habitat. A ramping dune overlook, shaded coastal plaza and native canopy exemplify climate-adaptive design that unites protection, beauty and community. The jury thought the project was mindful of the changing climate needs, providing a sustainable, resilient space for residents.

Test of Time



Photo by Ryan Gamma

Field Club House

Citation Award

Sarasota, Florida

Guy W. Peterson, FAIA Member Emeritus

This 5,000-square-foot residence emphasizes privacy through stacked, interlocking volumes and site walls that extend into landscaped gardens. Oriented to capture east-west light, the design creates serene outdoor rooms. Interiors feature sculpted spaces, cypress ceilings and handmade Mexican tile floors, with a concealed courtyard entry offering a layered arrival experience. The jury thought the architecture evoked a sense of feeling of a very specific time and was still being used as intended.

Award of Excellence Pro Bono



Photo by Mark Borosch

AIA Tampa Bay Center for Architecture and Design

Merit Award

Tampa, Florida

Sol Design Studio

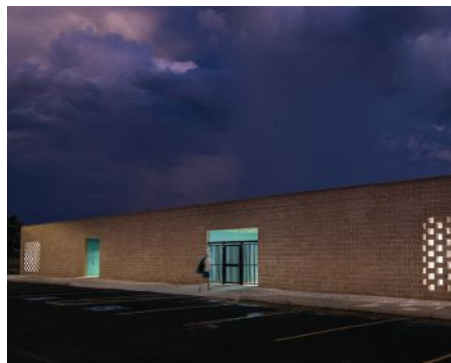
The AIA Tampa Bay headquarters transforms a circa-1906 warehouse in West Tampa into a landmark of preservation and community. Restored terrazzo floors, tin ceilings and original details blend with period-appropriate updates. The project, supported through design and donation, revives historic character while providing gallery, office and gathering spaces for all. The jury felt the architect did a good job with preservation, making great use of the available space and elevating the experience, making it a place people want to go, fulfilling its purpose.



Photos by Ryan Gamma



Photo by Sweet Sparkman



Pool Building #31

Honor Award

Venice, Florida

Sweet Sparkman Architecture & Interiors

Pool Building #31 replaces a 50-year-old facility with a durable, efficient design emphasizing exposed concrete masonry. Housing equipment, locker rooms and storage, the \$1.7 million project uses modular masonry and hollow-core planks for resilience in a chlorinated environment. Ventilated masonry detailing provides light, airflow and visual interest, ensuring longevity and functional clarity. The jury thought this was a nicely designed building and liked how the masonry created different conditions of light as you moved through the space.

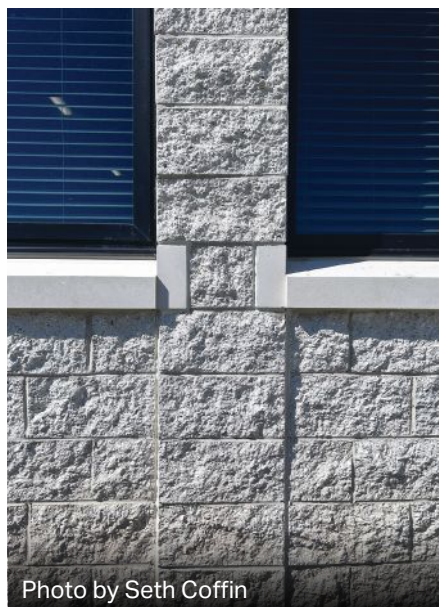


Photo by Seth Coffin

Freeport Middle School

Merit Award

Freeport, Florida

EMI Architects

This 150,000-square-foot North Florida middle school reflects the region's coastal character and timeless vernacular. Organized along an interior "street," the facility uses masonry for durability, low maintenance and to serve as an Enhanced Hurricane Protection Area. Split- and ground-face CMU with shell aggregate provide textural richness, integrating the school with its rural Gulf Coast context.



Florida State University Student Union

Merit Award

Tallahassee, Florida

Architects Lewis + Whitlock

Workshop Architects Joint Venture

At 269,000 square feet, the new Student Union redefines campus life with masonry as a grounding element that ties tradition to contemporary innovation. Durable brick and stone anchor flexible interiors with student government offices, lounges, dining and a grand ballroom, while terraces, porches and the campus' largest green roof extend its communal presence.

Photo by Ryan Gamma

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Perry Picnic Pavilion

Honor Award

Perry, Florida

William Olmsted Antozzi Office
of Architecture

The Perry Picnic Pavilion, built after Hurricane Idalia, transforms storm debris into a resilient community landmark. Using salvaged wood, recycled concrete and repurposed metal, its modular, hurricane-resistant design allows easy repair and expansion. Passive cooling and a louvered roof evoke the lost pine forest, symbolizing resilience, renewal and collective community spirit. The jury thought it was an amazing space for a devastated community and appreciated the light, airy design and reused locally sourced materials.



The Woodson African American Museum of Florida

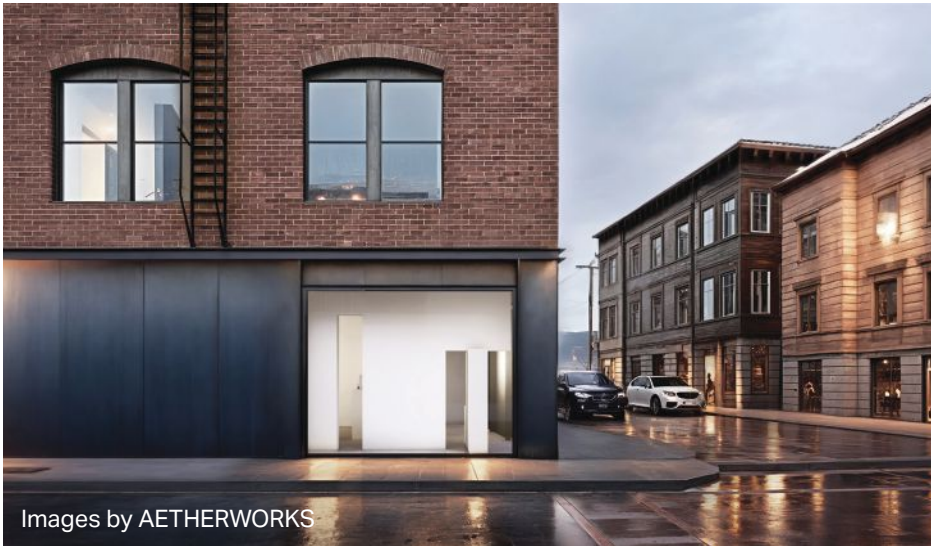
Honor Award

St. Petersburg, Florida

STORYN Studio for Architecture

Spanning 40,000 square feet in St. Petersburg's Historic Gas Plant District, the Afrofuturism-inspired museum features galleries, a theater and visiting exhibit space. Precast concrete panels echo Zulu bead work, symbolizing cultural roots and resilience. Blending tradition, sustainability and innovation, the Smithsonian-affiliated design safeguards collections while fostering dialogue, community engagement and forward-looking cultural expression. The jury thought the project was earthy and sensual, using its surroundings as a backdrop and with promise to become a focal point, bringing the community together.





Images by AETHERWORKS

Harlan Gallery

Honor Award

Harlan, Kentucky

AETHERWORKS

Harlan Gallery transforms a historic brick building in Kentucky into a dynamic community art space. Rejecting the traditional black-box model, interior walls open into apertures that filter light and views, while sliding panels allow flexibility. Steel cladding contrasts preserved brick, honoring heritage while fostering cultural engagement, adaptability and downtown revitalization. The jury admired this adaptive reuse project, as it addresses culture and opens the space up to the public. The combination of materials gives it a peaceful atmosphere.

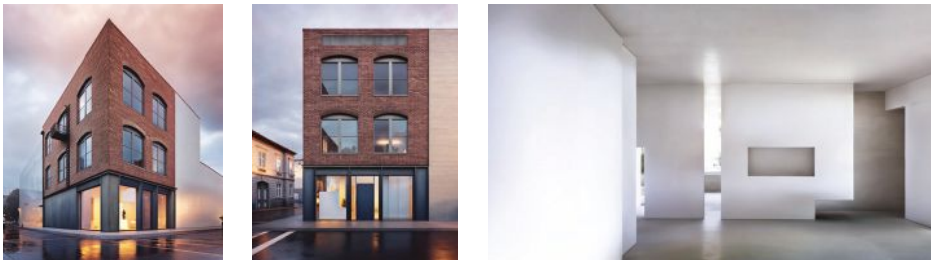


Image by HACEDORMAKER_ARQUITECTOS

Parque Gándara

Merit Award

Toa Baja, Puerto Rico

HACEDORMAKER_ARQUITECTOS

The park redevelopment revitalizes a 1950s urban park in San Juan's Golden Mile. Emphasizing preservation, connectivity and urban integration, the design introduces a landmark gazebo, plazas, courts, gardens, and playgrounds. Sustainable strategies, rain gardens, permeable walkways, and native planting enhance biodiversity, reduce flooding and improve resilience, transforming it into an inclusive ecological hub. The jury appreciated that the design created a sequence of experiences and breaks the solid geometry in an ingenious way.



Image by AETHERWORKS

Decatur Island Retreat

Merit Award

Decatur Island, Washington
AETHERWORKS

Decatur Island Retreat is a single-story modern home designed to merge with its sloping forested site. Utilizing minimal concrete, cantilevers and SIP wood framing, it balances affordability, efficiency, and sustainability. Natural finishes a high-performance thermal envelope and a restrained aesthetic create a tranquil, environmentally sensitive retreat floating within the San Juan Islands. The jury thought the house was extremely well-balanced and appreciated how the roof elevation allows in natural light and creates further immersion into the surrounding environment.



Image by Halfplants + Pichette Architects

7th & Central

Merit Award

Sarasota, Florida
Halfplants + Pichette Architects

This eight-story Sarasota residential project offers 24 light-filled units with double-height ceilings, private elevators and rooftop pools alongside four townhouses with private gardens. A structural grid façade and cantilevered balconies define its form, while a public park links Cohen Way to Central Avenue, enhancing walkability and community integration within the Rosemary District. The jury thought the project illustrated a good combination of volumes and open space and liked the use of exterior spaces.



Image by Eliza Matthew Martinez

Weekend Pavilion

Merit Award

San Juan, Puerto Rico
Toro Arquitectos

The Weekend Pavilion in Punta Las Marías, San Juan, is a retreat for leisure and entertaining. Featuring a principal suite, open living areas, terrace, pool and gardens, it balances privacy and openness with exposed concrete walls. A separate building houses car storage and guest suites, enhancing functionality and seclusion. The jury appreciated the use of the outdoor space and the interesting duality of the solid prisms to the openness of the design scheme.

Image by Damien Blumetti Architect



Indian Beach House

Citation Award

Sarasota, Florida

Damien Blumetti Architect

The Indian Beach residence in Sarasota responds to its coastal climate with resilient, sustainable design. Elevated for flood protection, it balances open communal areas with private retreats along a central datum. Operable screens, layered materials and site-specific strategies enhance light, ventilation and durability, creating harmony between home and environment. The jury liked the way the large-scale walls draw you into the space and appreciated the thoughtful and unique way the landscaping is integrated.

Hillview House

Citation Award

Sarasota, Florida

Damien Blumetti Architect

This residence, shaped by lessons from the pandemic and recent global challenges, balances privacy, resilience and community. Set back from the street, it integrates block walls, wood slats and operable glass to blur indoor-outdoor boundaries. Flexible spaces, including a studio, foster work-life balance, connection and reflection within a tranquil environment. The jury thought the house was architecturally interesting and liked the cinder block construction and exposed ceilings.

Image by Damien Blumetti Architect



Southeastern Mall Redevelopment

Citation Award

Alabama

Goodwyn Mills Cawood (GMC)
and DAG Architects

This 48-acre Alabama redevelopment transforms an obsolete mall into a vibrant mixed-use district. Anchored by a pedestrian-friendly, live-work-play vision, it reconnects with a creekside amenity, integrates transitional architecture and balances neighborhood scale. Flexible courtyards, pavilions and multi-use spaces foster community, revitalizing the site into a dynamic urban destination. The jury felt this project worked to address the question of how to turn large, abandoned projects into something useful to the community and improve the surrounding environment.

Image by Goodwyn Mills Cawood (GMC) and DAG Architects





Image by Renzo Lopez

Ridge House

Citation Award

Poschiavo, Switzerland

Anomaly Department

Ridge House, a compact retreat above Poschiavo, Switzerland, echoes alpine ridges with its sawtooth gable roof over raw concrete walls. Inside, three stepped platforms descend toward panoramic valley views, while a parallel narrow utility zone with skylit spaces evokes mountain passes, blending intimacy, openness and landscape-inspired spatial experiences. The jury appreciated the compact design and the volumetric play with the slope.



Image by Renzo Lopez

Hanafubuki House

Citation Award

Kitakaruizawa, Japan

Anomaly Department

Hanafubuki House reinterprets "flower snowstorm" through cascading glass, wood, and concrete rooms stepping down a steep slope yet opening above treetops. Radially arranged around a courtyard with a monumental boulder, the design blends tranquility and movement, evoking drifting blossoms while seamlessly integrating architecture with forested terrain. The jury thought the project was both urban and rural and appreciated the interesting geometry and materiality.



Image by Arq. Edwin Díaz

Marine Business, Research and Innovation Center (MBRIC)

Citation Award

Roosevelt Roads Naval Air Station,
Ceiba, Puerto Rico

Christopher Young, AIA, Young & de la
Sota Architects, and Warren Schwartz,
FAIA, Schwartz/Silver Architects

MBRIC embodies the blue economy, showcasing marine science through architecture. Centered on a five-story vertical research theater, the design merges research and public experience. Elevated above sea level, it integrates shading, ventilation and maritime-inspired form, fostering innovation, education and community opportunity.



Windsor Residence

Citation Award

La Gorce Island, Miami Beach, Florida
KODA

This La Gorce Island residence reinterprets post-war Miami architecture with a contemporary approach, using brick façades to bridge historic and modern identities. Volumes and courtyards balance privacy and openness, integrating gardens and natural light. The design emphasizes fluid indoor-outdoor connections, fostering tranquility while honoring Miami's architectural legacy within a forward-looking vision. The jury appreciated the thoughtful layout of the residence, material choices and incorporation of the courtyard, integrating outside and inside living spaces.

Image by KODA

Theoretical and Research Professional



Image by Renzo Lopez

SHED-ing

Merit Award

Mammoth Lakes, California
Anomaly Department

SHED-ing is a transformable tiny home with two track-mounted roofs that expand from 25 square meters to 75 square meters, adapting to seasonal needs. Compact in winter for insulation and warmth, it extends in summer to create airy, shaded spaces. Layered roof materials enhance function, offering flexibility, comfort and adaptability across climates. The jury thought this was a unique, innovative idea and said it allowed for an organic lifestyle based on nature.



Image by Shermeen Yousif

Deep Ecological Design: A Method Framework for Leveraging AI to Learn Ecological Design Principles

Citation Award

Southeast Florida (Subtropical Climate)
Shermeen Yousif, Associate Professor

Deep Ecological Design proposes a framework for leveraging AI to advance ecological architecture by critiquing algorithmic biases and emphasizing passive design strategies overlooked in training data. It redefines AI's role beyond formal representation, positioning it as a transformative tool for resilient, sustainable and contextually responsive architectural futures amid climate challenges. The jury appreciated the presentation's exploration of AI's limits, its response to real architectural needs and how the research and data could enhance future design projects.

Theoretical and Research Student

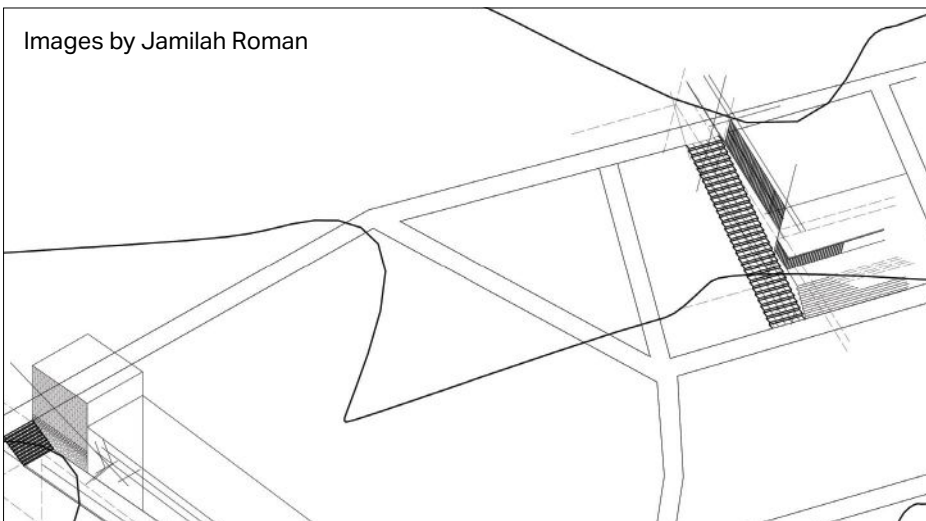
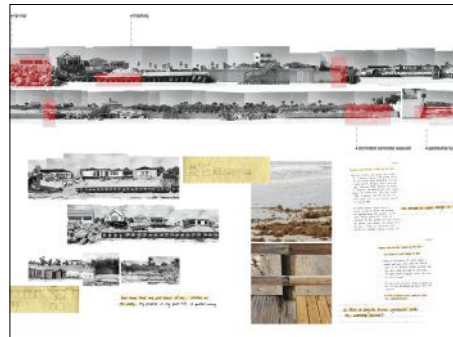
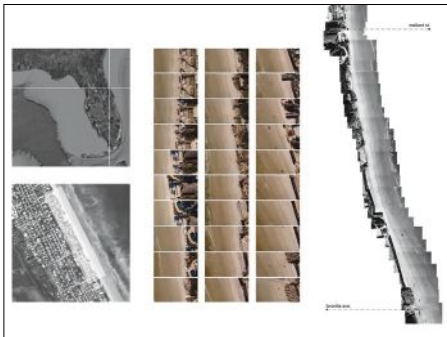


Architecture for a Fluid Landscape: An Evolution on Edge

Honor Award

Wilbur-by-the-Sea, Florida, and
Cape Canaveral, Florida
Marla Stephens
University of Florida

Architecture for a Fluid Landscape: An Evolution on Edge explores Florida's shifting coastal edge, where rising seas, erosion and decay reveal architecture's impermanence. Using Wilbur-by-the-Sea and Cape Canaveral, the project maps ruins, unearths lost histories and reimagines habitation through narratives and interventions that embrace instability, symbiosis and the inevitability of transformation. The jury was very impressed by the extraordinary drawings and models and the use of materiality, calling the presentation beautiful.



The 9 Stairs of Memory: Honduras está cambiando

Honor Award

Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Jamilah Roman
University of Florida

This research documents Tegucigalpa's lost stairways, once vital pedestrian connectors, through urban archaeology, archival study and spatial analysis. Framed as "vertical memorials," they reveal the city's layered history amid neglect and transformation. By mapping and reimagining these forgotten spaces, the project advocates for their revival as integral to mobility, identity and collective memory. The jury praised the thoughtful research and interviews, calling it a real-world project grounded in theoretical ideology.

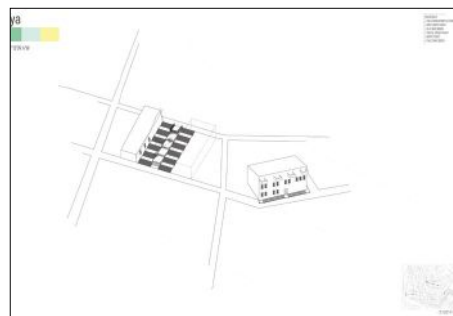
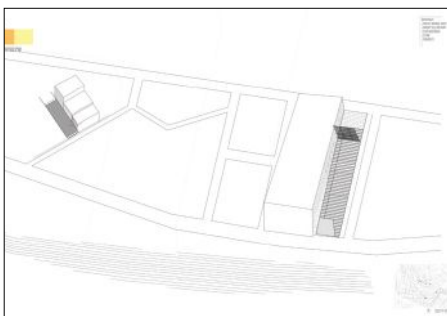
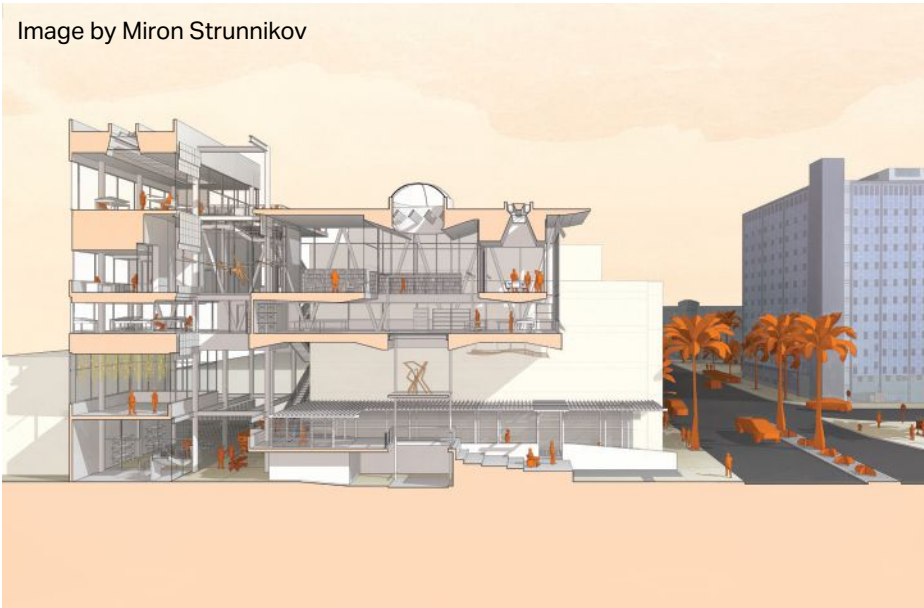


Image by Miron Strunnikov



Miami Design Hub

Merit Award

Miami Beach, Florida

Adrian Contreras and Miron Strunnikov

University of Florida

The hub transforms a former parking lot into a creative hub that connects to Soundscape Park through outdoor galleries and lecture space. Organized around a central atrium, its five levels integrate workshops, studios, classrooms and galleries, blending public engagement, collaboration and craftsmanship within Miami Beach's vibrant urban fabric. The jury appreciated the collage quality, drawing and models of the presentation.



Image by Sarah Spayd (Primary),
Eric Rykard, Michael Dieffenthaler

Walking Waters

Merit Award

Jacksonville, Florida

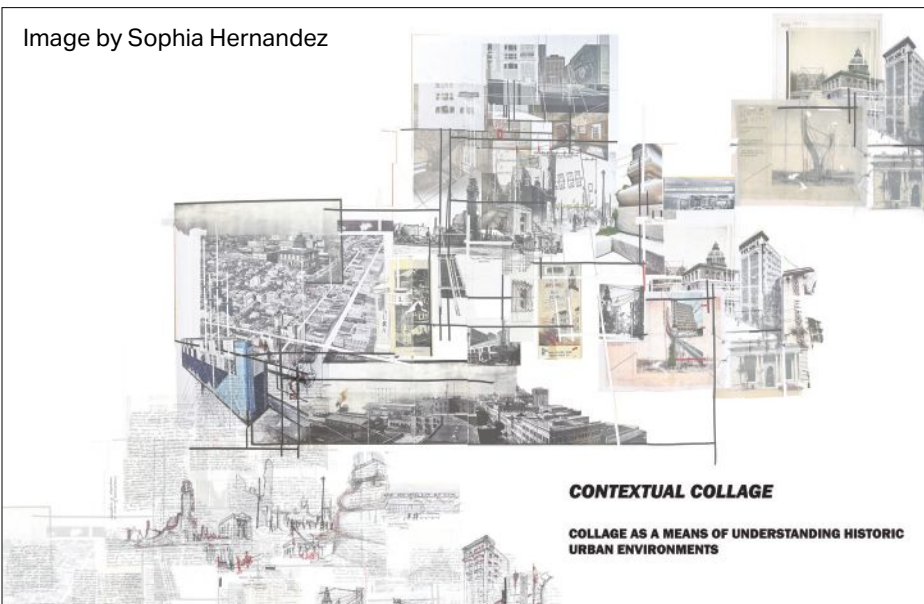
Michael Dieffenthaler, Eric Rykard and

Sarah Spayd

University of Florida

Walking Waters is a proposed applied research lab in Jacksonville, Florida, fostering "timeless connectivity" between community, ecology and hydrology. Through resilient design, it links people to the Ribault River with spaces for research, learning and recreation. Integrating biodiversity restoration, cultural history, and generational engagement, it strengthens shared values of care, resilience and growth. The jury liked the good analysis and well-designed sections of this important topic.

Image by Sophia Hernandez



Contextual Collage

Merit Award

Jacksonville, Florida

Sophia Hernandez

University of Florida – JAXLAB

This research explores collage as both method and metaphor for addressing the challenges of evolving historic cities. By juxtaposing dissimilar elements, collage generates new meanings and identities, offering a framework to analyze external forces and internal cultural dynamics. It proposes collage as a contextual design tool for revitalizing historic urban environments. The jury praised the project as a meaningful depiction of existing environments, calling it a thoughtful and engaging blend of new drawings with existing maps.



Playing_ISO

Citation Award

New York, New York
Mickhyle Dangalan, Kelly Rice and
Alvaro Sanchez Valdes
Florida Atlantic University

This project envisions the office of the future through spatial cognition, emergent behavior and computational design. Using Stigmergy, SOMs and Isovists, it develops adaptive, perceptually attuned spaces. A game-based design process, AI simulations and 3D-printed models foster playful, iterative exploration, merging algorithmic rigor with human-centered, experiential design. The jury appreciated the playfulness and analysis of space.



Langston Hughes Literary Center

Citation Award

Harlem, New York
Jack Pearce
Florida International University

The Langston Hughes Literary Center in Harlem translates Hughes' poetry into architecture, balancing community vitality with moments of reflection. Defined by angled threshold walls, the design transitions from heavy steel and concrete at the base to light glass above, symbolizing resilience and aspiration while fostering cultural engagement, artistic expression and contemplative experience. The jury noted the design's diagonal movement through the block, breaking the column and densifying social activity.



Image by Jack Pearce and Ecem Aksoy

House Legato

Citation Award

Tokyo, Japan
Ecem Aksoy and Jack Pearce
Florida International University

This Japanese home centers on a piano room, reflecting the family's passion for music. Sculptural elements unify levels, guiding movement and reinforcing rhythm. Spaces orbit the musical core, from a garden retreat below to living and music areas above, creating a harmonious balance of structure, function and poetic simplicity. The jury praised the design's uniqueness and its thoughtful integration of the family's passion for music.



Manhattanville Jazz Center and HVAC Facility

Citation Award

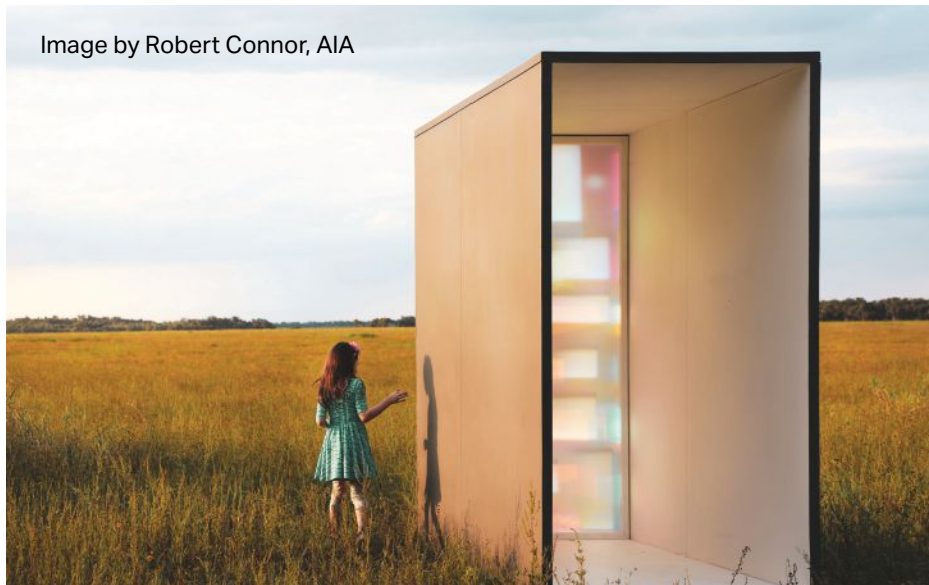
Manhattanville, New York

Marcson Tanis

Florida International University

This project unites an HVAC facility for Columbia University's expansion with a revitalized Jazz Center on Manhattanville's historic Cotton Club site. Featuring an expressive façade, bold processional stair and exposed mechanical systems, the design merges infrastructure with culture, enhancing transparency, community engagement and jazz's enduring presence as a neighborhood landmark. The jury praised the project's unique intention, noting how it creatively merged form and function while addressing community needs.

Object



Micro-Light Gallery

Honor Award

Hall Darling Design Studio

The Micro-Light Gallery, conceived as a proof-of-concept for a Lakewood Ranch sanctuary, explores dynamic stained glass-like effects through light's seasonal and temporal shifts. Developed with models from small scale to full scale, it tested aesthetics, constructability and budget feasibility, ultimately becoming an intimate, human-scaled installation embodying light's ever-changing beauty and spatial experience. The jury admired the research process and appreciated how the concept explored the duality of static and changing light, offering people a unique way to experience light and space.





Design Box

Merit Award

Michael Stevenson, Assoc. AIA

The Design Box project explores the relationship between mechanics, movement, and discovery through interactive puzzle boxes. Developed in two phases, it engaged 36 users to test intuitive problem-solving, shaping Box 01 and Box 02. Combining surprise, craftsmanship, and architectural detailing, the boxes foster playful dialogue, creativity and exploration of spatial and mechanical design. The jury found the Design Box intriguing, noting it reflected the mindset of an architect rather than a sculptor.

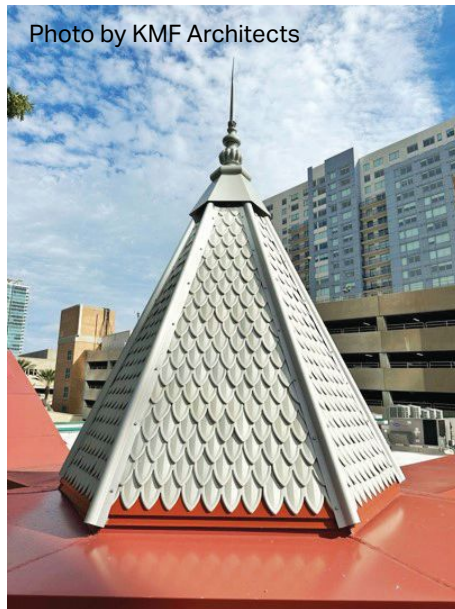


Photo by KMF Architects

Rogers-Kiene Building Turret

Citation Award

Orlando, Florida
KMF Architects

This project restores Orlando's oldest surviving commercial structure, reviving its 1886 Victorian turret and finial with traditional craftsmanship and sustainable methods. By blending historic authenticity with modern performance upgrades, the restoration preserves cultural identity, enhances resilience and reintroduces a vibrant architectural landmark that strengthens downtown Orlando's heritage and community character. The jury praised the historic preservation, noting that replacing lead with aluminum gave the project added merit and allowed it to truly shine.

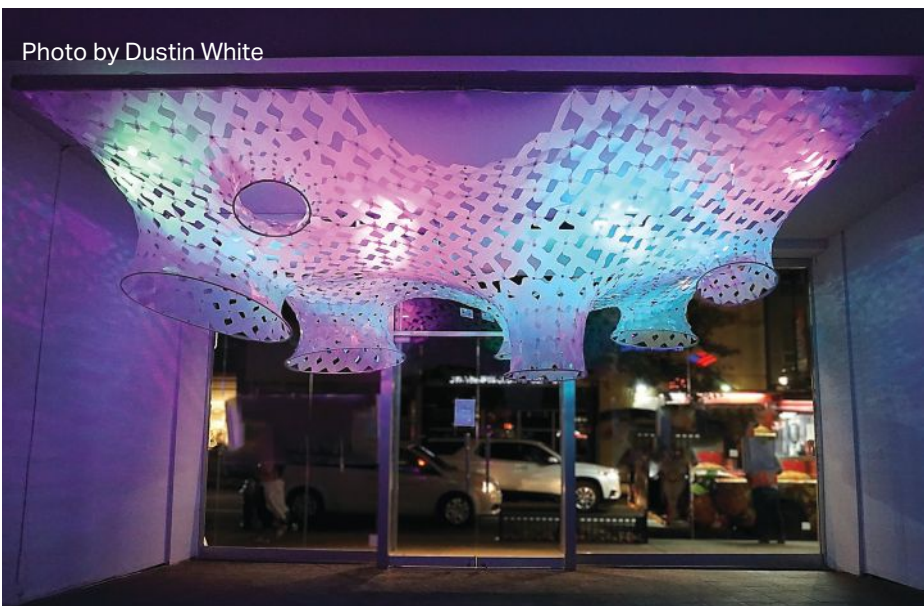


Photo by Dustin White

Stereoma

Citation Award

Queens, New York
Dustin White Design

Stereoma is a site-responsive installation merging material, geometry and dynamic lighting to evoke celestial transcendence. Using 1,500 Mylar panels and motion-responsive LEDs, it transforms space into an immersive, participatory experience. Revitalizing a Queens storefront, the project blends digital fabrication, interactivity and symbolism, raising awareness while reimagining architecture as both structure and metaphor. The jury praised its material approach, functionality, and engaging exhibition.

Honor Awards



The Anthony 'Tony' Pullara Chapter Award

AIA Orlando experienced an unprecedented year of growth and engagement, reaching nearly 1,000 members and celebrating two members elevated to the College of Fellows. The chapter strengthened advocacy efforts with record participation in AIA Florida's Legislative Day, offering bus transportation and student scholarships to expand access.

Innovative initiatives shaped the year, including the launch of the creative "PINitiative," which introduced commemorative pins to honor member involvement and energize event participation. New events like the inaugural Pull 4 Purpose clay shooting fundraiser generated more than \$14,000 for the 4Roots Foundation and the Orlando Foundation for Architecture. Long-standing programs also thrived, with the chapter's awards reception, Women in Architecture committee and joint golf events raising \$17,000 in scholarships.

Six strategic initiatives advanced the chapter's mission, focusing on best practices, fundraising organizational structure, staff retention, marketing, and member services. Among these efforts, Phase 1 of

the Orlando Center for Architecture and Design launched, marking a milestone in expanding the chapter's impact.

The jury commended AIA Orlando's leadership and governance for going beyond expectations, elevating the chapter to new heights. Through innovation, inclusivity and mission-driven growth, the chapter delivered extraordinary service to members and the broader community.





The Anthony 'Tony' Pullara Individual AIA Service Award

Amanda Barton, AIA

Amanda Barton, AIA, is a leader, mentor and advocate whose dedication to the profession and community has made a profound impact. Throughout her career, she has served at every level of AIA, embodying a commitment to leadership, inclusivity and service.

As AIA Miami's youngest-ever president, Amanda led the chapter to surpass 1,000 members and partnered with the Miami Center for Architecture and

Design to launch the first Open House Miami. Her advocacy extends statewide and nationally, from designing the 2016 Legislative Day poster and actively participating in AIA Florida Legislative Day to representing Florida at AIA's national SpeakUp event in Washington, D.C.

A champion of sustainability, Amanda co-authored the Resilience Design Toolkit and co-chairs the HKS Hospitality Sustainability Team. She also elevates

the profession through initiatives such as bringing the Say It Loud exhibition to Florida, advancing diversity with AIA and SoFloNOMA, and inspiring future leaders through her work with the Women in Architecture Committee and the Girl Scouts.

The jury praised Amanda as "at the top echelon of young architects nationally," recognizing her as a passionate professional whose vision and service bring hope for the future of architecture.



Firm of the Year

STRANG

Founded in 1998, STRANG has grown into a dynamic practice with offices in Miami and Sarasota and a portfolio of more than 200 projects recognized for their modern, site-specific design. Drawing inspiration from the Sarasota School of Architecture, the firm has earned international recognition and numerous design awards.

At the heart of STRANG's success is its commitment to diversity, with its team representing people of color

and women, many serving in positions as partners, directors, project architects and studio leaders. This inclusive culture reinforces the firm's values of collaboration, innovation and design excellence.

Beyond design, STRANG actively advances education, advocacy and service. Following the restoration of the Gene Leedy House and Office, the firm co-founded Double T, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving architectural heritage through tours, lectures,

residencies and educational programs. STRANG also supports licensure through the AXP program and engages with AIA by organizing tours, lectures and firm crawls, while members contribute through service on boards and committees. Pro bono design services for the Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida and work with local nonprofits further highlight their community impact. The jury praised STRANG's diversity, outstanding portfolio and commitment to architectural history as an inspiration for the profession.



Silver Medal

Stephen Hruby, AIA

Stephen J. Hruby, AIA, is honored with the Silver Medal for his outstanding leadership, advocacy and service to both the architectural profession and the communities of Collier County and Florida. His career reflects a deep commitment to advancing design excellence, affordable housing and public engagement.

In Naples, Stephen is serving his fourth consecutive term on the city's Design Review Board, where he played a pivotal role in elevating design standards and embedding new design guidelines into law. For nearly 20 years, he has served on Collier County's Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, where he led the creation of the county's first comprehensive housing plan.

As founding chairman of the Collier County Community Land Trust, Stephen donated his professional services and helped secure more than \$1.8 million for affordable housing, including the county's first senior living development. He also

co-founded The Housing Alliance in Naples, creating a hub for education, advocacy and action around affordable housing.

Beyond community service, Stephen advances the profession through

public outreach as chair of the Florida Foundation for Architecture, a member of the AIA Florida Board and co-host of *Architecture and You*. The jury praised his leadership and dedication, calling him the embodiment of this award.





Medal of Honor for Design

Andres Duany, FAIA

Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, FAIA

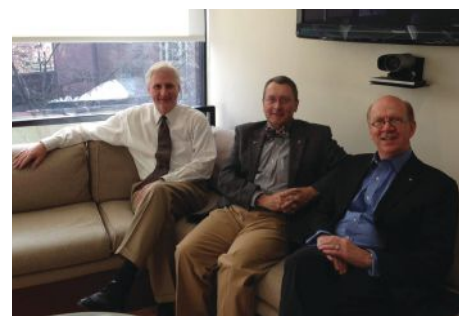
Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, FAIA, and Andrés Duany, FAIA, are internationally recognized architects and urbanists whose work has profoundly shaped the way communities are designed, planned and experienced. Early in their careers, they co-founded Arquitectonica, and in 1980 they launched DPZ CoDesign, a pioneering firm at the forefront of New Urbanism.

Their breakthrough came with the design of Seaside, Florida, an internationally acclaimed model for walkable, mixed-use community planning. This success led to more than 200 town plans, regional frameworks and revitalization projects, including Rosemary Beach, Florida, and Kentlands, Maryland. Their groundbreaking Miami 21 zoning code redefined urban policy, influencing cities across the globe. DPZ has also been instrumental in

disaster recovery efforts, crafting rebuilding plans for the Gulf Coast after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and leading the recovery plan for Port-au-Prince following Haiti's 2010 earthquake.

Beyond practice, Plater-Zyberk has been a transformative educator, serving as dean at the University of Miami School of Architecture and receiving the AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architectural Education. Duany has authored five influential books and continues to teach internationally. Together, they co-founded the Congress for the New Urbanism and are members of the AIA College of Fellows. The jury praised their visionary work, noting that their designs have reshaped thinking across the nation and inspired generations of architects, students and communities.





James H. Anstis, FAIA, Lifetime Achievement Award Mickey Jacob, FAIA

Mickey Jacob, FAIA, exemplifies the highest ideals of the architectural profession through more than 40 years of visionary leadership, advocacy and service. A tireless "Citizen Architect," Mickey has shaped not only the built environment but also the role of architects as leaders in their communities and on the national stage.

He has served as president of AIA Tampa Bay (1989), AIA Florida (2005) and AIA National (2013), consistently elevating the organization's influence. As chair of FAPAC and ArchiPAC, and co-founder of AIA's Breakfast of Champions, he strengthened advocacy efforts and ensured architects' voices were heard in state legislatures and before the U.S. Congress. His leadership continues to inspire through testimony, mentorship, and bold calls to action.

Mickey's many honors include AIA Florida's Silver and Gold Medals,

international recognition and elevation to the College of Fellows in 2009. In tribute to his extensive leadership, AIA Florida established the Jacob Leadership Institute, which has already graduated 99 emerging leaders, ensuring a pipeline of architects prepared to guide the profession into the future.

Colleagues describe him as "the best of us," with his AIA National presidency solidifying Florida as a national leader. His legacy is defined not only by achievements but also by his generosity in empowering others. As Jeff Huber, FAIA, reflected, "Mickey inspires emerging professionals to view architecture as a platform for public service and positive change."

Through unwavering commitment, Mickey Jacob has elevated architecture, strengthened the AIA and advanced the profession's voice for generations to come.





Gold Medal Nathan Butler, FAIA

For more than three decades, Nathan Butler, FAIA, has exemplified visionary leadership, guiding transformational change within AIA Florida and the architectural profession. His dedication has modernized governance, expanded opportunities for members, and strengthened the association's voice across the state and beyond.

As chair of the Governance Task Force, Nathan streamlined AIA Florida's board structure, creating efficiencies while expanding leadership opportunities for associate members. He also helped establish the Strategic Council, fostering deeper engagement with members and ensuring a more inclusive, responsive organization.

During his presidency, Nathan oversaw the development of a mobile app that enhanced member connection and access, an innovation that earned AIA National's Component Excellence Award. He also partnered with the component relations team to launch 100 Years, 100 Places,

the largest public outreach initiative in AIA Florida's history, celebrating both the association's centennial and Florida's architectural legacy.

Beyond AIA Florida, Nathan served in leadership roles with AIA Orlando and the Florida Foundation for Architecture, where his contributions continue to strengthen the profession's future. Elevated to the AIA College of Fellows in 2018, his career reflects consistent innovation, service and dedication.

Colleagues describe his leadership as transformative. Former AIA Florida President Steve Jernigan, FAIA, praised his "legacy of excellence that will benefit future generations," while Mickey Jacob, FAIA, noted his ability to create opportunities that never existed before.

Often leading behind the scenes, Nathan Butler delivers meaningful impact at every level, leaving an indelible mark on AIA Florida and the profession.



People's Choice



**Freedom Tower at
Miami Dade College**
Miami, Florida
Designed by George A. Fuller/
Schultze & Weaver
M.C. Harry & Associates
Restoration & Renovation Architect
R.J. Heisenbottle Architects –
Preservation Architect



Photo by gregobagel

The Freedom Tower, Miami's cherished National Historic Landmark, has graced the city's skyline since 1925, embodying both architectural grandeur and profound cultural significance. Originally constructed as the headquarters of Miami's oldest newspaper, it represented the city's rapid growth and ambition during the early 20th century. Its most defining chapter, however, came between 1962 and 1974, when it became the Cuban Assistance Center. During this period,


the tower welcomed and aided hundreds of thousands of Cuban refugees fleeing political persecution and communism, cementing its role as a sanctuary of hope and opportunity. This humanitarian mission forever tied the building to Miami's Cuban American community, whose resilience and contributions would transform the city's cultural identity. After years of decline and neglect, the Freedom Tower was preserved through the leadership of Cuban American

advocates who sought to honor its legacy. Their efforts culminated in 2005, when the tower was donated to Miami Dade College. Today, it stands not only as a striking Mediterranean Revival architectural landmark but also as a living symbol of freedom, democracy and the immigrant experience. The Freedom Tower continues to serve as a beacon, reminding future generations of Miami's history of resilience, opportunity and cultural transformation.



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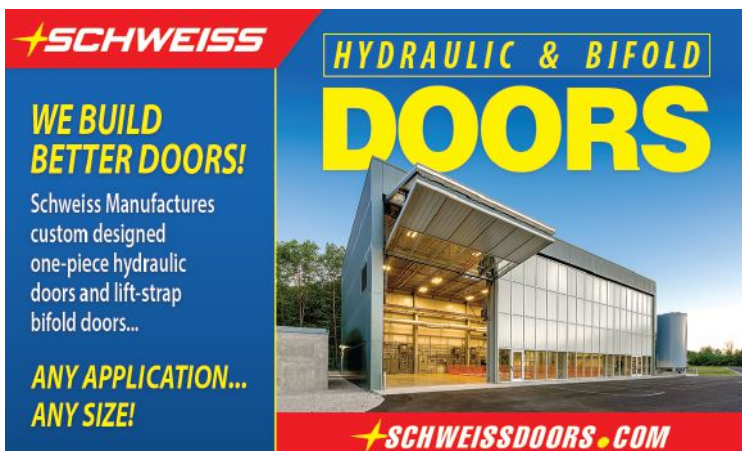
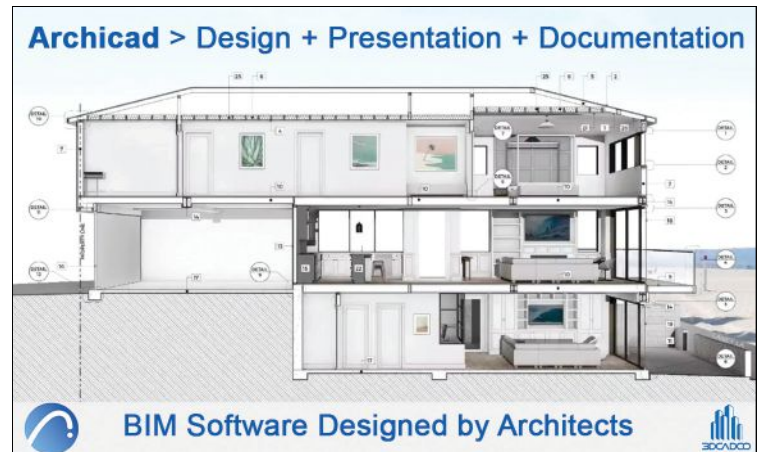


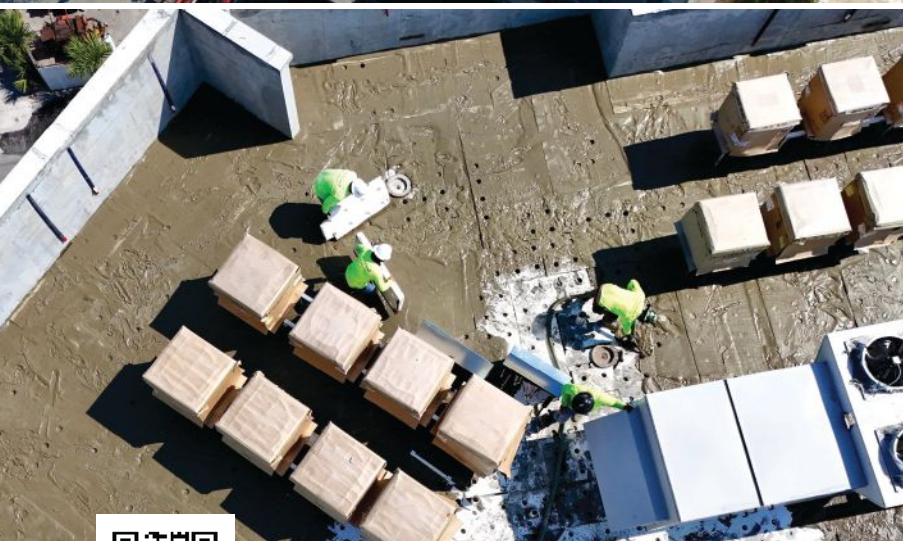
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