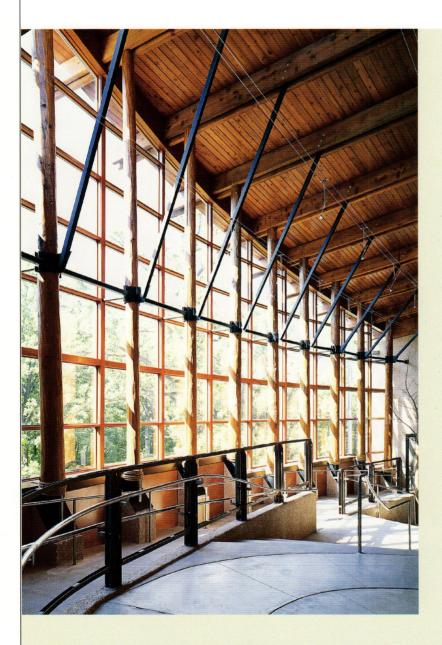


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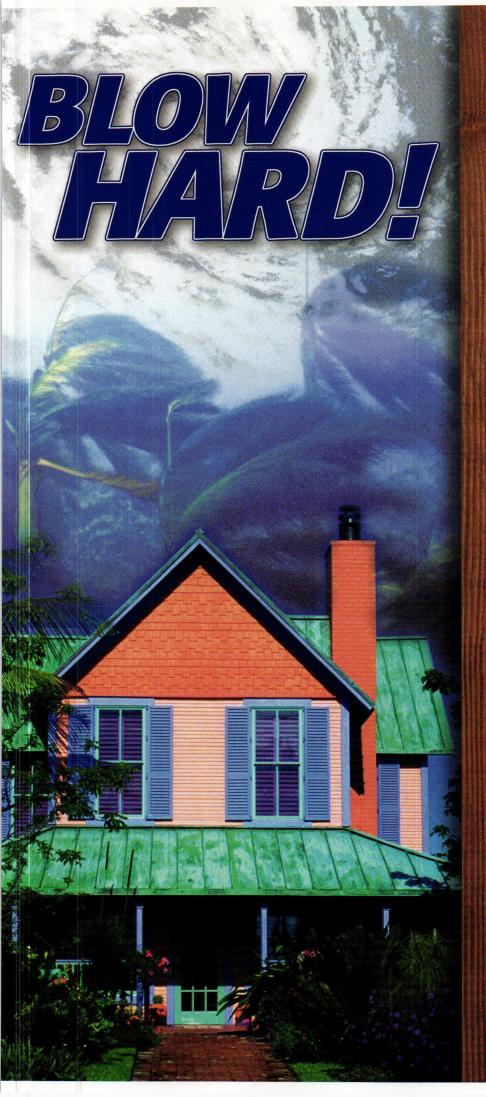
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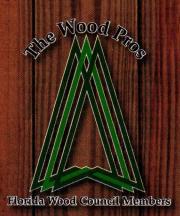
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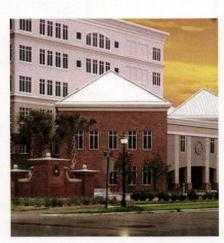


#### florida / caribbean ARCHITECT

Official Journal of the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects







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Cover photo of Arquitectonica's Royal Palm Crowne Plaza Resort by Steven Brooke

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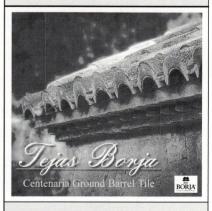
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#### Editorial / diane d. greer

I hope that the readers of this journal are not weary of my reflections on architecture that inevitably materialize after a trip to Manhattan. I go several times a year to visit my son and daughter-in-law who recently purchased a four-story brownstone in Brooklyn that was built in 1890. For almost a year, they have been restoring it and as the process nears completion I am gratified that a wonderful old building has been brought back to life.

On an entirely different note, I have some thoughts on the new Prada showroom in Soho designed by Rem Koolhaus. The project has provided critics and writers the opportunity to use an infinite amount of lofty and fashionably theoretical "archi-speak." For example, it was described in the *New York Times as:* "...you walk through the door to discover that time and space have revolved into miraculous alignment." I'm not sure what that means, but I was dying to see any building where such a phenomena occurs.

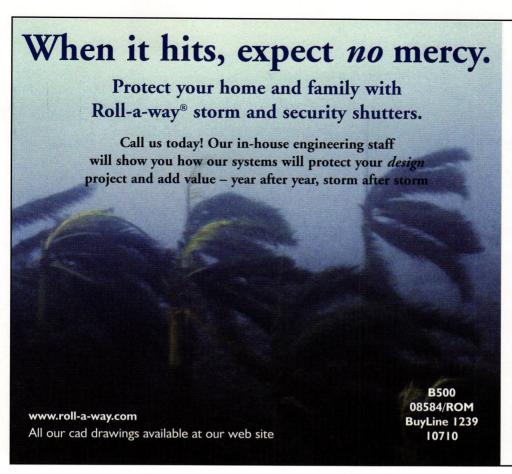
According to those who know such things, Koolhaus and Prada are kindred spirits and with this project, "both of them have exploited the potential of their respective art forms to engage in social criticism." Everything about the project, from marketing strategies to imaging concepts, was part of the architectural program and for a mere \$40 million, Prada's new flagship store "epitomizes the game between luxury and rawness that is everywhere played out."

The word "game" intrigues me. And it is played out everywhere. A sort of high-tech trompe l'oeil abounds and it keeps you walking into mirrors and glass walls.

In addition to a lot of in-store technology, the whole presentation is about space itself, which Koolhaus has made to seem limitless. That perception is enhanced with a lot of glass, plastic, mirrors and cameras. For instance, clear glass encloses each of the fitting rooms. That's a little daunting until you're told to press a button to change the walls from transparent to opaque. And you can see your sides and back in video panels that have replaced fitting room mirrors.

My reaction to the space was twofold: 1) it was much more about architecture than apparel design and 2) it was a somewhat threatening space that did little to induce me to stay long enough to browse. Threatening are stairs that float down from the street level entry with no handrails and shallow risers. That's like riding a wave downhill and it's intimidating to anyone who is unsteady. Rooms that are not rooms, but are reflections of spaces, are confusing. And yes, I am older and more provincial than your typical Prada shopper.

Referring to the *NY Times* quote about Koolhaus and Prada being kindred spirits and this building being about "the potential of their respective art forms to engage in social criticism," I ask the question, "what does that really mean?" My son, who has been a designer in New York for many years, and his wife, who is an Associate Partner at SOM, made an interesting observation. It was that there is no architecture, no matter how cutting edge or high-tech, that can ever keep pace with the fashion industry. Fashion is too "of the moment" and styles and trends change hourly. That begs the question of whether architecture should try to keep pace or just strive to be great in its own right? That is not to say that the Koolhaus design is not good architecture. I'm sure it appeals to some segment of the buying public. But in trying to be "of the moment" and engage in social criticism, I see some flaws. Is it just me?



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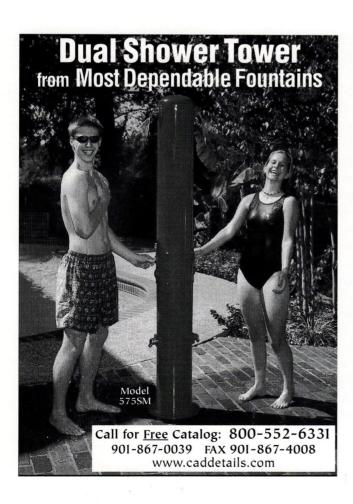
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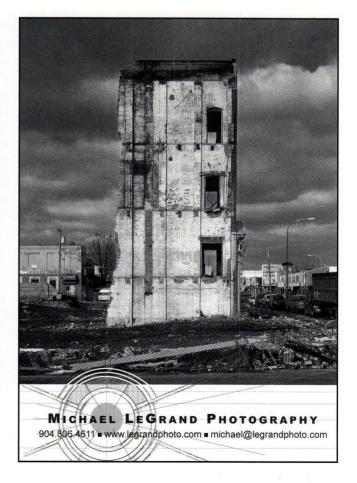
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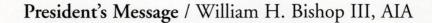
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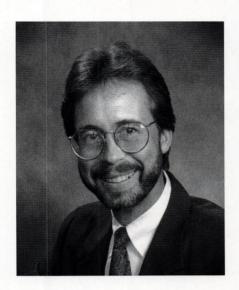
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Traditionally, as the new year begins, I would be writing my final message as AIA Florida President and reflecting upon our successes in 2003. Do to unforeseen changes within the association, it appears that you have not heard the last of me. As you are likely aware by now, 2003 President-Elect Blinn Van Mater made the difficult decision a few months ago to resign his position due to the demands of his practice. Acting in the best interest of the profession, Blinn explained he would be unable to fully commit to the responsibilities of President this year. The Executive Committee regretfully accepted Blinn's resignation, and praised his selfless act.

In light of the vacancy, the Executive Committee explored options to ensure continuity of leadership within the association. After much discussion, and careful review of our Bylaws, the Board of Directors unanimously agreed the most appropriate solution was to extend my tenure as President through the first half of 2004 and then allow 2004 President-Elect Mickey Jacob, AIA, to take over the presidency July 1, 2004, and serve through 2005. Mickey and I are honored that our peers have entrusted us with this responsibility, and also pleased to see that our governance process works so well.

So this is not my farewell letter, but more like a mid-term progress report. It is a chance to reflect on our accomplishments of 2003 and to introduce some of our plans for this year.

This past summer, the Educational Facilities Task Force produced a comprehensive 12-page report addressing the issue of implementing the Class Size Amendment without sacrificing the quality of the learning environment. We have received positive feedback from the groups that have seen the report so far. Thanks to everyone who participated and to Vivian Salaga, AIA, and Joe Ranaldi, AIA, for co-chairing the task force efforts.

Other notable achievements during 2003 include:

- Privatization of the enforcement functions of the Board of Architecture and Interior Design
- Greater involvement in Florida Building Code through our Codes and Standards Task Force
- Record attendance at our annual meeting in Sarasota the largest crowd in the association's history
- A renewed commitment to our public awareness and media relations efforts through creation of a full-time Director of Communications position and the hiring of Kristin Vallese
- Increases in member numbers across the board

2004 will see a continuation of our outreach to the public and expanded programs for our membership. Our association will be putting our information display to good use in exhibits throughout the state. The Classical Architecture Committee, initiated by Cliff Duch, AIA, is the first program of its kind. In addition to being a forum for members interested in classical architecture, I hope that it will be the model for similar design initiatives for those with other interests. You will be hearing more about that in the next issue of the magazine and on the AIA Florida web site.

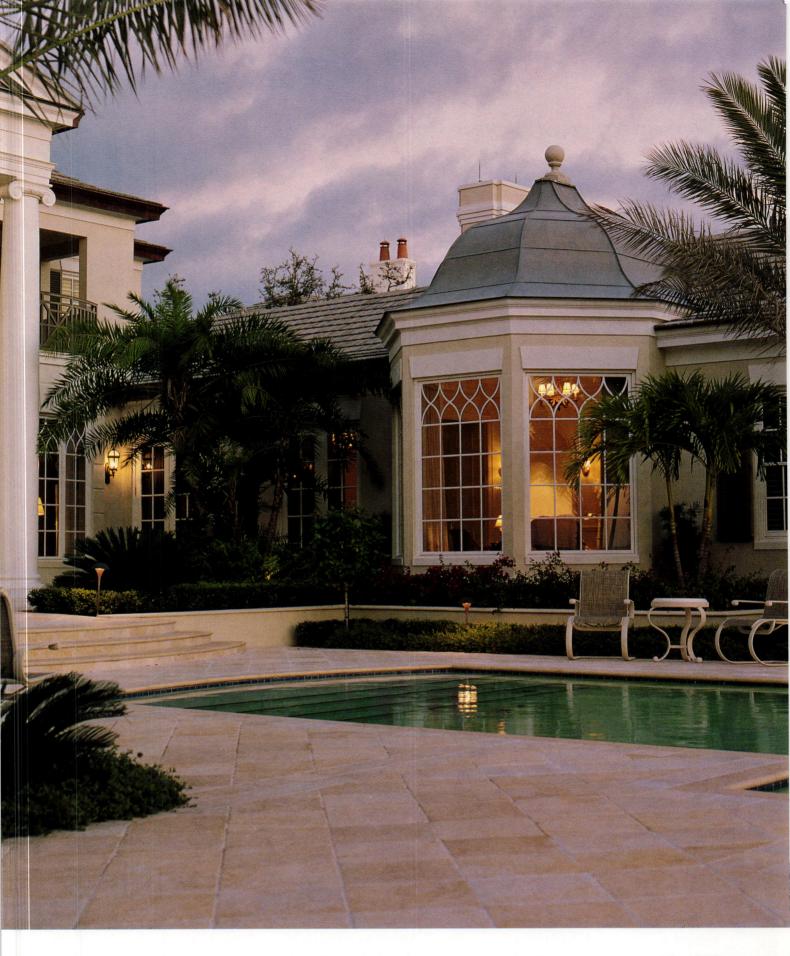
Beyond these outstanding achievements, our association also had a few unexpected bumps in the road. In another unexpected development, for the first time in more than six years, our association is actively searching for a new Executive Vice President. In November, Scott Shalley announced his intention to step down after accepting an offer with Figg Engineering Group as their Director of Business Management. Scott explained that his decision, while not an easy one, was in line with his long-term goals. Scott has played a pivotal role in our association's continued growth and improvement over the past six years. We will miss his enthusiasm and his leadership. On behalf of the entire membership, I wish him much luck in his new endeavor.

And now we must also endeavor to reach even greater heights in 2004. I am truly inspired by the remarkable achievements we made and the milestones we reached in 2003. I look forward to celebrating our successes and facing new challenges in 2004 and wish all of you a happy and prosperous new year.

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#### Work-in-Progress/Member Notes

VOA Associates Incorporated will serve as Design Architect for Brevard County's new Barrier Island Ecosystem Center. The \$2.4 million, 5,700 sf facility includes exhibit space, classrooms, lecture hall, an outdoor wet laboratory, retail store and offices. Completion is scheduled for late 2004. Brevard County's commitment to build the new center is a good example of the heightened interest in sustainable development projects in Florida. (See the interview with VOA Managing Partner Jonathan F. Douglas, AIA, in this issue.)

Slattery and Associates has recently secured two national commissions including the Windwatch Condominium project on Long Island, New York, and redevelopment of the Sunset Millennium on Sunset Strip in Los Angeles. The firm has also been awarded a continuing services contract with Palm Beach County for architectural projects, as well as an ongoing contract for library design services that is part of Palm Beach County's \$55 million library expansion program. The first library assignment is a 22,000sf expansion and renovation at the Branch Library in Wellington. Other projects released to date under the continuing contract include a headquarters building for the North County Ocean Rescue Department and support facilities at John Prince Park.

Ervin Lovett & Miller has been engaged to design club facilities at Johns Creek, a family-oriented community of 400 home sites in northern St. Johns County. The



The new Barrier Island Ecosystem Center is being designed by VOA Associates Inc.

project is under development by the Hutson Companies. The firm has just completed the design and construction documents for St. Johns Forest, a gated community being developed by Taylor Woodrow in St. Johns County.



Morris Architects' design for the Parque Amazonia in Brazil should encourage responsible travel and help to sustain the environment and the people of the Amazon Basin.

Morris Architects is the recipient of an Award of Honor from the Florida Chapter/American Society of Landscape Architects for its cre-

ative and original solutions for Parque Amazonia in Belém, Brazil. The firm was awarded a Planning and Analysis Award for its design of the park, an ecotourism destination located on 19,000 acres along one of the estuaries of the Amazon. The

park was designed with the vision of promoting ecotourism, or responsible travel, to natural areas like the Amazon Basin.

Robert Swedroe Architects & Planners has been retained by Watermark Communities, Inc. (WCI) to design Aversana Bay Hammock in Marco Shores and Navona at the Colony in Pelican Landing, both on Florida's West

Coast, and a luxury mid-rise on Singer Island near Palm Beach. This brings to 25 the number of luxury condominiums the firm has designed for WCI in the last 10 years.



VOA Associates' recently completed design for the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center in Lafayette, Louisiana, is one of the first Naval Reserve buildings to incorporate blast hardened construction and stringent standoff requirements based on the new DoD Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection standards.



C.T. Hsu + Associates, P.A., is designer of the new Clermont City Hall, for which construction is now complete. The 32,000sf, brick and stucco structure is reminiscent of the architecture of Central Florida during the 1920s and was designed to be easily incorporated into the historical character of the existing downtown.

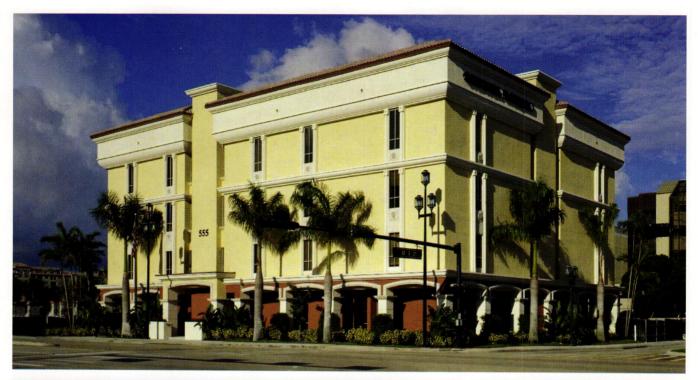
Deborah A. Lupton, AIA, principal, vice president and CEO-designate of TLC Engineering for Architecture, has been selected to participate in Leadership Florida, an organization of professional civic

leaders. In 1999, she served as the first woman president of the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects and she is on the board of directors of AIA Florida, AIA Orlando and the Florida Architects Political Action

Committee. She is also on the national board of directors of the Professional Services Management Association and the Orlando Metro Chapter board of directors of the American Cancer Society. Leadership Florida produces programs for executives, local government officials, legislators and grassroots leaders encouraging leadership and promoting statewide community.



Deborah A. Lupton, AIA





Slattery and Associates was honored by the Gold Coast Builders Association with two Prism Awards. Both awards were given for commercial office buildings in Boca Raton. The 555 Building, photo, top, received a Gold Award in the Overall Knockdown/Renovation category. A Silver Award was presented to the 5th Street Office Building, above, a structure that is part of an emerging number of urban infill developments where close attention is paid to the architectural detail.

Kendrick David Dowling Architects has just completed the design of an Assisted Living Facility for Bob Hope Village in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. The 60,000 sf building features four individual neighborhoods with 16 apartments and separate dining facilities in each neighborhood. Meals will be served family style in the commons

area of each neighborhood. The "neighborhoods" will be connected by a curved circulation "street" to the "downtown" which will house common elements such as a fountain, atrium, sidewalk café, mail center, beauty shop, chapel, library, convenience store, physical therapy suite and large gathering space.

Architects Design Group (ADG) is working with Associate Architect, **ACAI** Associates, Incorporated, on the design of the Lauderdale new Fort Police Department Facillity. Reference to ACAI's participation in this project was omitted from earlier ADG materials, including those sent to this magazine.

#### News

#### New Publication from NCARB

The newest publication from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards is *Improving Building Performance*, the 14th title in the Professional Development Program's monograph series investigating health, safety and welfare topics.

Improving Building Performance offers a richly detailed and highly accessible introduction to post-occupancy evaluation (POE), a concept that monograph author Wolfgang F.E. Preiser describes as "programming in reverse." That is, during a POE, the "actual performance of a building is assessed and compared to the desired performance delineated during the initial programming phase."

In response to the question architects frequently ask - "Why invest the time, resources and personnel to undertake a POE?" -Preiser argues that organizations sponsoring buildings, occupants of buildings being evaluated and designers of those buildings ultimately benefit from these evaluations. By making realistic assessments of actual building performance, architects and allied professionals can better determine the outcome and quality of their work. Problems found during a POE can be immediately addressed, thus benefiting everyone.

Improving Building Performance sells for \$125 (current NCARB File holders) and \$195 (non-NCARB File holders) and offers four detailed case studies as well as a lengthy resource listing and prototypical POE forms. To order the



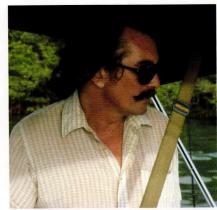
The Florida A & M University School of Architecture held its first Alumni Reunion during Homecoming 2003. Newly elected Chair of the Reunion Committee is Dion Storr (center), flanked by Co-chairs Akin Akinyemi (1) and Anthony Payton (1).

monograph, visit the Council web site at www.ncarb.org/publications.

#### Jim McLean, AIA, Passes

Treasure Island architect James F. McLean, Jr., AIA, died April 30, 2003 at the age of 54. He was a graduate of the University of Florida where he earned both a Bachelor of Design and Master of Arts in Architecture. After graduation, Jim launched his career at the Tampa-based firm of Ranon & Partners, where he eventually served as Design Director and Partner. Between 1974 and 2000, he designed more than 90 projects and earned design awards from AIA Tampa Bay, AIA Florida, the Hillsborough County Planning Commission and the Florida Arts Council. In 1994, Jim became an Adjunct Professor and Studio Critic at the University of South Florida SACD and in the same year, he began his own practice.

In Jim's memory, his friends have started a scholarship fund in his name that will benefit architecture students at the University of Florida. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable University of Florida to: Foundation, School Architecture and send them to: Mary Kramer, School Architecture, P.O. Box 115702, Gainesville, FL 32611.



James F. McLean, Jr., AIA

#### Interview/ Jonathan F. Douglas, AIA



Jonathan F. Douglas is Managing Principal of VOA Associates, Inc. In that capacity, he oversees the firm's South Atlantic and Latin American operations from the firm's Orlando office. With a B.A. in Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley and an M.A. in Business Administration from the University of Oregon in Eugene, Douglas' career includes a partnership in Jensen Douglas Architects, Inc., where he was responsible for the \$15 million Mount Roberts Tram and Visitor Center in Alaska. Turning from architecture to general contracting, he became a Vice President at Anderson Construction in 1996, but returned to architecture in 1998, establishing his own firm in Portland, Oregon. He joined VOA Associates in 2002.

Q: Not only have you worked in two of the most diverse climate zones in the country, but you have worked professionally in both architecture and construction and dealt with both public and private clients. How have these diverse experiences come together to make you the architect you are today?

A: Every opportunity has been a learning experience that has shaped my approach to the practice of architecture. Firsthand experience is always valuable and in my case, working in the construction industry gave me good insight into the problems contractors face. In my current role at VOA, my greatest challenge is balancing innovative design with financial and business success. In terms of geography, I have worked in some very diverse climates and the biggest difference I've observed between the Pacific Northwest and other places is the industry approach to the built environment. Portland is at the forefront of sustainable design, new urbanism and downtown redevelopment and I was involved in those things early on. At VOA, we have now incorporated sustainable design into every aspect of the practice. As a result, the firm has started to attract clients who recognize that as an asset.

Q: Given the critical nature of environmental issues in Florida today, what role should architects play in educating clients about the importance of sustainable design?

A: At VOA, sustainable design is an integral part of the practice. We have created an internal website that we use to share ideas and practice concepts

and we regularly make these ideas available to our clients. We've also learned that it's important for everyone involved in the design and construction process to have some level of education about sustainable design. Architects often assume that their clients need educating, but at VOA we've discovered that everyone involved in the process needs some education. For instance, VOA is designing a sustainable structure in Texas and the appraisers are having a hard time getting their minds around the valuation of some of the sustainable features. Recycled rainwater, for example, will be used as a source of non-potable water which requires almost \$100,000 worth of pumps, tanks and additional piping. The appraisers can't figure out how to account for this cost as an increased value to the project even though water is predicted to be scarce in the future. We are educating the appraisers by showing them the value of similar long-term projects.

Q: What is your firm's design approach to projects like the new Florida Forestry Pavilion?

A: Travelers and tourists today want to be informed and entertained. They want an experience that will affect them emotionally, physically and intellectually. At VOA, we talk a lot about "the Story," recognizing that the better the story, the better the visitor's experience. By focusing on the themes and messages in the

story, we are better able to design a great experience. We've found that a great story, well presented, equals a great experience.

Recently, we've started to apply this philosophy to all of our programming and design work by adding "experience" statements to our discussions with clients. By asking, "What do you want the student, staff member, patient, etc. to know, feel or do?" we are able to focus on an aspect of the project that goes beyond the aesthetic or programmatic response to one that speaks to the overall experience.

## Q: Does every member of the VOA staff think like you do?

A: As part of its mission statement, VOA incorporates what we call "best practices." This relates to all aspects of the practice from recruiting the best people to producing the best design. As a best practices company, we are constantly seeking to improve the way we work and to engage every member of the firm in a dialogue about how they want to participate in this process. We have found that this commitment to communicate at all levels allows us to attract and retain the best people at every level. I think this process is critical to a firm's success in today's competitive market.

Q: How do you define sustainable development? What sustainable projects has VOA been involved with?

A: Sustainable development is one of those terms that seems to have a wide variety of interpretations. At VOA, we use sustainable design in the classic sense, meaning development that exemplifies the principles of conservation and encourages the application of those principles in daily life. VOA's most recent projects incor-

"The entire project is designed to help people understand that a sustainable building contributes to the environment in the same way that a healthy individual contributes to a strong family."

porate these principles in a variety of ways. The new Barrier Islands Endangered Lands Center that was designed for Brevard County Parks and Recreation is very energy conserving. The Shoreline Wellness Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, is also a very energy conscious building that employs rainwater recycling, heat recovery and solar heating to reduce overall operating costs. We also specified mold free, highly insulating products such as aerated concrete block for exterior walls.

### Q: Does VOA commission the buildings it designs?

A: VOA has a very strong practice in healthcare and

research laboratories that typically have many different types of environmental control issues. At Florida International University, for instance, we are designing a new \$45 million Health and Life Sciences Building that includes BSL-3 labs. This means that some areas require negative air pressure and others are positively pressured to prevent contamination. Obviously, in a project like this, commissioning should be a very important part of our work due to the complexity of the building's operating systems. Unfortunately, we have found that most clients don't understand the value of commissioning. Most of them are still operating under the assumption that a simple start-up along with test and balance should be sufficient. At VOA, we are working to broaden our clients' understanding of commissioning and make it as much a part of the process as design is. We want our clients to get the best value for their investment and one of the ways we do this is by making sure that their building is operating correctly. This is a good example of how VOA, or any architecture firm, is positioned to inform the client about all aspects of the building process and that the architect's involvement doesn't necessarily end with occupancy.

#### Arquitectonica miami

Royal Palm Crowne Plaza Resort, Miami Beach

Arquitectonica's design for the Royal Palm Crowne Plaza Resort is a masterful merging of the old and the new into a firstclass convention hotel.

Designing cutting-edge contemporary architecture and attaching it to existing historic buildings that are hallmarks of a recognizable style is no small feat. It is, however, one for which Arquitectonica was well suited. According to Miami Herald architecture critic Beth Dunlop, Arquitectonica is "in many ways the inheritor of the Miami tradition of showy modernity, an exuberant and celebratory style that began with Art Deco and continued on through the 1950s with what we now call MiMo (or Miami Modern) and the work of the late Morris Lapidus."

The centerpiece of the resort is the seven-story Royal Palm Hotel, built in 1939 and reconstructed for this project (see sidebar for building history). In addition to the rebuilt Royal Palm, the five-building complex includes the 17-story Royal Palm Tower, the threestory Shorecrest Hotel built in 1941, the 17-story Shorecrest Tower and the three-story Garden Suites. The complex consists of 422 oversized and fully modernized rooms and suites, a 200-person ballroom, a 96-seat restaurant and an adjacent 48-seat dining terrace overlooking a landscaped pool deck and the Atlantic Ocean.

The placement of the new architectural volumes was care-

fully thought out to respond to the surrounding buildings. By allowing the original Deco buildings to influence the towers in subtle yet powerful ways, the new architecture reflects the best qualities of the old without being imitative. The Royal Palm and Shorecrest towers, for example, have the same strong vertical feeling that's expressed in the Deco facades, but they are undeniably contemporary and feel like Art Deco-inspired buildings that have been contemporized for the new millennium.

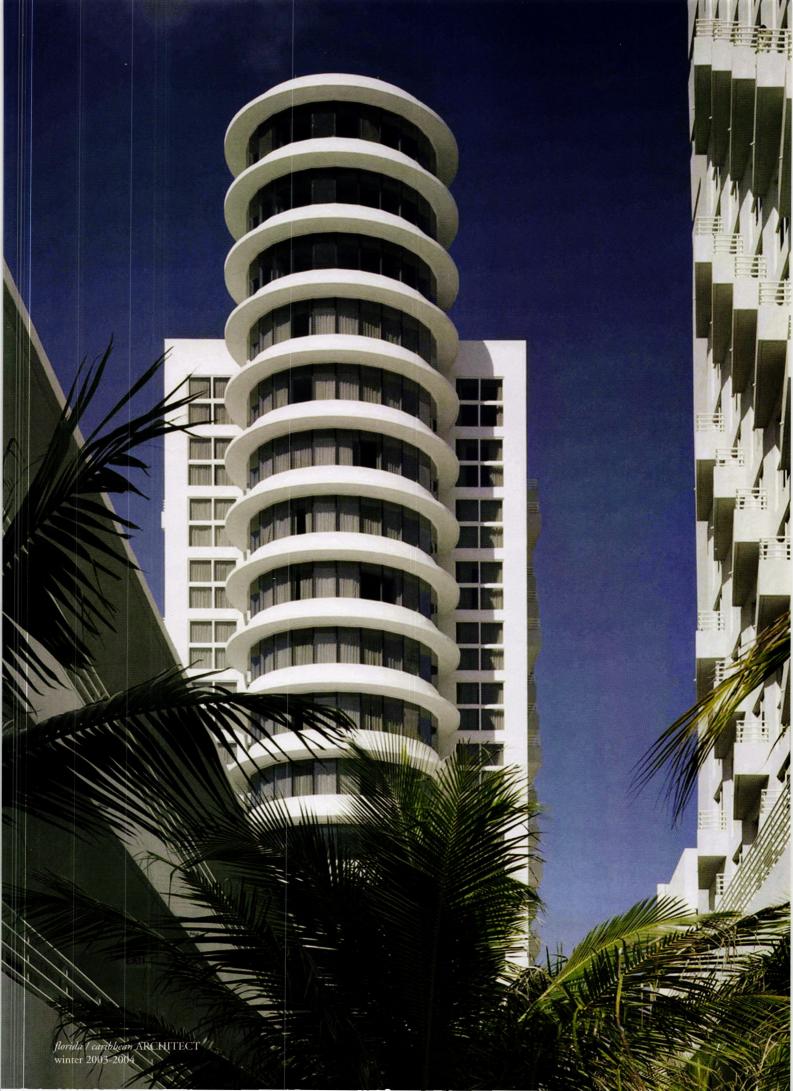
The resort complex, which opened in early 2002, has two facades, one facing Collins Avenue and another that opens up to the ocean. The Collins Avenue elevation is slightly formal with a palm-lined courtyard separating the two towers. On the beach side, the cylindrical Shorecrest Tower soars 17 stories. There is also a conical staircase rising from the large pool deck, a geometric stair leading to a smaller second-story pool deck and a cylindrical roof covering the pool bar. While the Collins Avenue side stresses soaring verticals, the beach side offers a series of circular motifs, thus juxtaposing straight line with soft curve.

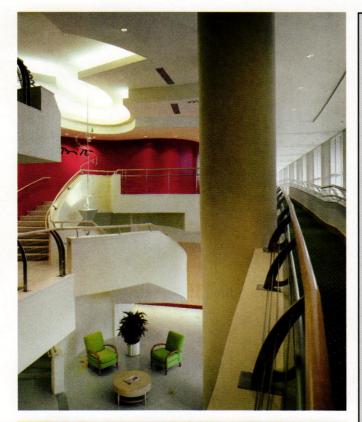
At a cost of \$80 million, the Royal Palm Crowne Plaza Resort adds a total of 284,312 square feet to Miami Beach's convention center neighborhood.



Photo, above: Collins Avenue elevation of the new resort complex. Facing page: the new Royal Palm Crowne Plaza Resort towers as seen from the ocean side. All photos by Steven Brooke.

Project Credits: Arquitectonica International, Bernardo Fort Brescia, FAIA and Laurinda Spear, FAIA: Partners-in-Charge of Design; Bellon & Taylor Architects and Alleguez and Associates (Preservation Architects): Associate Architects; Lynn Wilson Associates International: Interior Design; Riva, Timmons & Partners (now Cornerstone Engineering) and Hershell Gill Consulting Engineers: Structural; Steven Feller P.E.: MEP; Coastal Systems International: Civil; Langan **Engineering and Environmental** Service: Geotechnical.







Photos, top: Atrium lobby of new tower. Above: Lobby seating in historic Royal Palm Hotel.

This information was provided by Thorn Grafton, AIA, Carolyn Klepser, William Cary and John Trinanes, authors of the text written for exhibit panels in the lobby of the Royal Palm Crowne Plaza Resort.

Prior to 1882, when the island was cleared for a coconut plantation, Miami Beach was covered with mangrove swamps and jungle flora. After the arrival of Henry Flagler's railroad, the beach became a popular tourist destination. Visitors traveled to the beach by ferry until 1913 when the first bridge across Biscayne Bay was opened. Miami Beach was incorporated as a town in 1915 with a population of 150 but a frenzied boom of land speculation and rapid development over the next decade saw a lot of change.

A devastating hurricane in 1926 brought an end to the Roaring 20s in Miami Beach and the city entered the Depression ahead of the rest of the nation. By the mid-1930s, however, another building boom in the style now known as Art Deco, resulted in a unique community of architecturally-significant buildings.

In 1939, as Europe entered World War II, two partners built the four-story Royal Palm Hotel and within a year, six more hotels were built in the same block, one of which was the Shorecrest. The Royal Palm and Shorecrest Hotels were built in the Art Deco style, the hall-marks of which are strong horizontal lines that suggest movement and colorful decoration. In these two hotels, the architecture is smooth and streamlined and the decoration is simple and geometric.

The Royal Palm was one of the earliest and best designs of architect Donald G. Smith. Opening his practice in Miami Beach in 1938, he also designed the London Arms and Metropole Hotels as well as dozens of private residences and apartment complexes throughout the city. The Shorecrest Hotel was designed by the renowned architectural firm of Kiehnel & Elliott, designers of El Jardin and the Coconut Grove Playhouse. The Shorecrest is one of the few Art Deco hotels they designed in Miami Beach, the others being the Carlyle and the Barclay Plaza.

By 1945, Miami Beach had become home to one of the world's largest collections of Art Deco buildings, but within 30 years, most had fallen into disrepair. These buildings were saved from demolition, however, when the City of Miami Beach passed a Preservation Ordinance that regulated demolition.

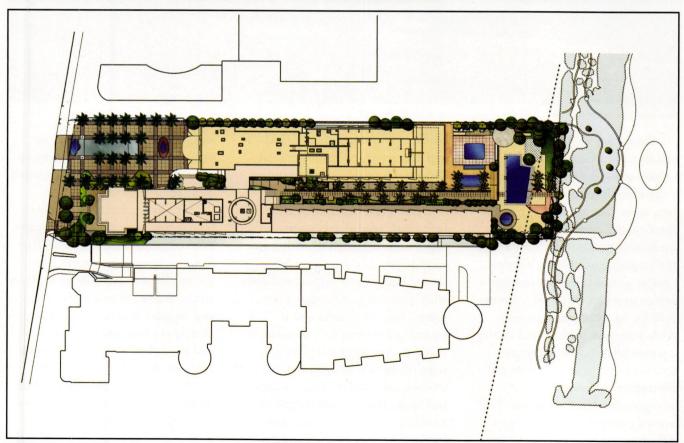
In 1993, the Mayor and Commission of the City of Miami approved purchase of the unrestored Royal Palm Hotel and the City initiated a competitive bid process for the development of the first majority-owned African-American convention hotel project on the site of the Royal Palm Hotel. R. Donohue Peebles and his team were selected. At the same time, Peebles initiated the purchase of the adjacent Shorecrest Hotel and the City partnered with him on the acquisition. Today, the front section has been restored to its original condition as part of this new resort complex. The Royal Palm, however, was found to be in irreparable structural condition. In 1998, the Royal Palm had to be demolished with the unprecedented requirement that the seven-story historic building would be reconstructed on its original site, from its original plans, using original construction techniques and details.

Several artifacts from the original hotel were salvaged and incorporated into the reconstruction. These include the front reception desk; the floral design in the lobby's terrazzo floor; the metal window grilles in the lobby bar and several pieces of lobby furniture, now reupholstered.

The new 17-story towers behind the reconstructed Royal Palm and original front of the Shorecrest were designed to be "of their own time," yet compatible with the historic architecture. The Royal Palm Crowne Plaza Resort, completed in 2002, is the first full-service luxury hotel in the United States to be owned and developed by an African American.







Photos, top left: Front desk of historic Royal Palm Hotel. Above, right: Exterior detail of new Royal Palm tower. Site plan, above, for entire resort. Note the position of the historic Royal Palm Hotel at top stretching from Collins Avenue to the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the historic Shorecrest Hotel, parallel and south of the Royal Palm.

#### Creating an Indestructible Building

Z. John Nyitray



Perspective rendering of the Cable & Wireless Facility courtesy of OBM Architects.

Designing an indestructible building for a Caribbean island is a challenging proposition. Making it the island's technology hub is even more daunting. On an island like Grand Cayman where thousands of customers feel the impact of a hurricane, Cable & Wireless, a major global telecommunication service provider, required a stronghold for its technology center. With a 34-year track record in the Cayman Islands, the company decided to build its new \$10 million center in downtown Georgetown. The Center will house cutting-edge technologies, including a next-generation network and the Global System for

20

Mobile Communication (GSM). It will also provide Caribbean businesses with secure communication and Web-hosting facilities.

The 34,000sf building has 10inch thick reinforced concrete outer walls designed to withstand earthquakes and Category 5 hurricanes. The project is in compliance with Miami-Dade County's largemissile impact criteria and it exceeds all criteria for hurricane shelters. It is equipped with a state-of-the-art security system, a 24-hour, seven-day incident control room and a sophisticated networking system. The inclusion of bunkrooms and kitchen and bathroom amenities will enable

employees to remain on site to perform vital operations for up to two weeks in the event of a natural disaster.

The entire structure is reinforced concrete supported on concrete piles that extend at least four feet into natural limestone. The ground floor is 10'6" above sea level and contains administrative offices and support functions. Critical equipment is located on the second and third floors and all floors provide four-hour fire separations.

In case of emergency, the facility is powered by its own generator and fuel supply that are contained in an elevated, two-story, enclosed and impact-proof concrete structure connected to the main building. The second-floor generator room is protected with three precast concrete roof panels designed so that the 9'9" by 31'8" panels can be removed by crane to permit generator replacement.

Developed using the fast-track delivery system, the complexity of the project required architects and engineers to work closely to create good quality construction documents beginning with the foundation. Selecting the contractor at the beginning of the design phase facilitated completion. Working together as a team, architect, engi-

neer and contractor evaluated alternate systems as the design progressed. Long before the design of the superstructure was finalized, the structural engineer had to frame out every level, determine all column loads and perform all lateral frame analysis for seismic and wind loads. Once the foundation package was complete, the team began working on the structural frame. To minimize cost overruns, the contractor had to maintain familiarity with all aspects of the design/build process. With good communication among all the parties involved, the building is moving rapidly toward completion. Taking into account the overall aesthetic and function of the building, the new facility could be a paradigm for technology hubs around the world.

The author is President of Bliss & Nyitray, Inc. Structural Engineers.

Project Credits: OBM Limited: Architect; Bliss & Nyitray, Inc.: Structural Engineers; Arista Engineering Ltd.: MEP Engineers; Cayman Engineering & Surveying Structural Inspectors.



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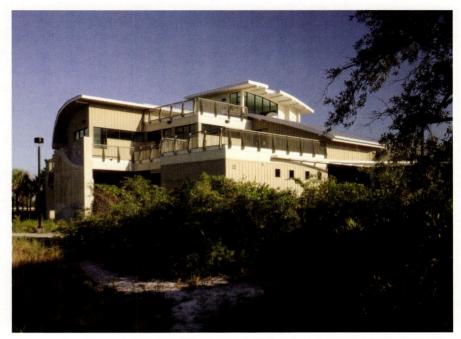


#### Hoffman Architects, PA tarpon springs

Weedon Island Preserve, Weedon Island, St. Petersburg, Florida

The environment of the island and the pre-contact Native American artifacts that were discovered on site had a great influence on the design for this cultural and natural history museum. The threestory center, which sits above an archaeological site, is approached by a curving walkway bordered by mangroves. This walkway terminates in an elevated platform that is nestled against the building and from which visitors enter the lobby. The walkway from parking lot to platform is a prelude to the architectural elements that were used throughout the building. The curve of the walkway and the placement of platforms on the east side of the building emphasize important elements in Native American culture. The decorative designs in the curved wall on the south side of the center replicate designs from pottery shards found on the site. Wall construction is concrete block with circular tiles embedded in stucco to create the avian and shell-like designs.

The building organizes itself around the four cardinal points. Vertically, it is organized at the intersection of the cardinal directions to emphasize the "three world" view of Southeastern Native Americans. The cardinal lines provide circulation for the building interior and views to and from the site. This becomes very apparent in the





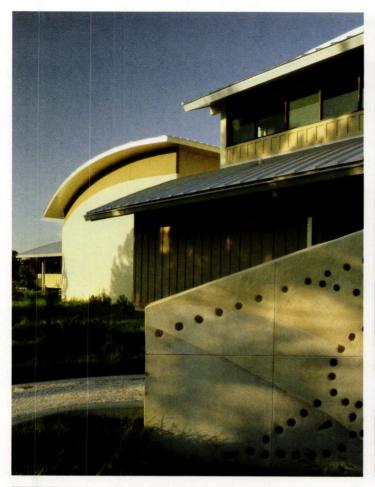
Top: view of center from southeast. Photo by George Cott. Above: view from lobby looking onto entry platform. Photo by Ed Hoffman.

center of the building where the site can be viewed from all directions, including skyward.

The exterior of the building takes its cues from regional vernacular architecture and employs board and batten siding and a standing seam metal roof.
Throughout the building, the

motif of winged birds can be seen – in elevations, walls, and the gently curving eave lines.

The 16,000sf facility houses exhibit spaces, auditorium, a classroom with lab patio, offices and a viewing patio on the third level. Square footage diminishes on each floor, culminating with only 312







square feet on the third floor deck. Visitors to the center will be guided through a physical experience that expresses the "Three World" view and in the future, that experience will be expanded to include the surrounding preserve.

Project Credits: Edward C. Hoffman, Jr., AIA: Project Designer; Todd Willsie: Project Designer; Geno P. Knowles, Jr.: Production Manager; Berryman & Henigar: Civil Engineers; Weber and Tinen, PA: Structural Engineers; Anston-Greenlees: MEP Engineers; Peter R. Brown Construction Co.: General Contractors.



Top, left: close up of wall design and multipurpose room. Photo by George Cott. Top, right: view of lobby reception. Photo by Ed Hoffman. Drawing and site plan courtsey of the architect.

#### SchenkelShultz Architects orlando

Lynn Business Center, Stetson University, Deland, Florida

To the casual observer, Stetson University is an idvllic small, Southern university. With its main campus in the Central Florida city of Deland, Stetson is highly regarded for its business, arts and sciences and music curricula, as well as its College of Law. As a staunch steward of the environment, Stetson aggressively supports a strong recycling program, ecofriendly landscaping and resource-conserving technology. So firm is their commitment to improving the environment that university officials incorporated sustainable building design in the campus master plan and included environmental responsibility in the University's Values and Vision statement.

Appropriate to the University's mission is the new Eugene M. and Christine Lynn Business Center - the first building in Florida to be certified by the U.S. Green Building Council under its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED<sup>TM</sup>) Green Building Rating System (see sidebar for details). The project involved gutting a former bank building and reducing it to structural steel to create flexible space for classes, meetings, conferences, presentations and faculty offices. The design process called for converting this shell into an environmentally certifiable, state-of-the-art business school with cutting-edge technology. Demolition began in January 2001 and over the next





Photos above show six-story business center with smaller brick structures housing an auditorium and multi-use spaces.

18 months, six floors were built out to create 15 classrooms, five conference/classrooms, 50 faculty offices, seven conference rooms and 38 staff and student offices. All of the new spaces surround a central sky lit atrium that was carved through all of the floors, bringing natural light into the building and visually connecting all levels down to a belowgrade cyber lounge. Synthetic stucco and high performance glass were used to clad the exterior of the building.

Two smaller structures were built adjacent to the main building to house a 144-seat auditorium and other multi-use spaces. These brick buildings with sloped metal roofs blend contextually with the campus aesthetic.

The Lynn Business Center opened in late 2002 as a showcase of sustainable design that combines environmentally sensitive planning, siting and architecture with energy-efficient building systems. In the early planning stages when the

University presented the sustainable building idea to the design team, led by SchenkelShultz Architecture and TLC Engineering for Architecture, it was decided that the building would be designed using LEED<sup>TM</sup> criteria. The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED<sup>TM</sup> Rating System is the only quantifiable measurement of a building's sustainability, encompassing a broad spectrum of environmental issues.

Some of the environmental measures taken during reconstruction included recycling about 6.6 million pounds of material from the building; using low volatile organic compound emitting materials such as paints and adhesives to produce a healthy indoor environment; and installing low emissivity glass that allows sunlight inside while blocking out heat. The landscape features native and drought-resistant plants and the parking lot has carpool parking spaces and downward-facing lighting to reduce light pollution.

Space considerations played a major role in the mechanical design. Faced with less usable space after creation of the atrium, engineers eliminated five mechanical rooms and opted for a single basementlevel mechanical room that houses a 62,000-CFM custom air handling unit that serves all areas except the lecture hall, two one-million-BTU natural gas boilers and two 15-hp pumps that serve the new hot water heating system. The engineers also thought "outside the box" in designing the air distribution system. Because the structure's two-footthick steel beams limit space for the ceiling plenums, vertical ductwork was run from the basement to the fifth floor and back down using an abandoned elevator shaft.

Additional ductwork runs off the loop, connecting to every office on every floor.

Lynn Business Center is one of 26 university buildings connected to the centralized chilled water loop plant. The temperature of the water coming in and going out of the building can be seen on one of two monitors in the Lynn Business Center's main lobby. The monitors also show instantaneous kilowatt demand, indoor and outdoor temperature conditions, relative humidity, rainfall amounts and wind speed and direction. With a key design goal of minimizing energy consumption, TLC engineers used ASHRAE 90.1 minimum requirements as the benchmark for comparison for a facility of this size. The final design reflects a calculated energy-use reduction of 32% compared with ASHRAE's aggressive minimum standards. It is also well above Florida's energy code requirements.

Once the project was completed, the entire facility was commissioned to help ensure that fundamental systems work as designed and that the facilities staff is properly trained in operating the systems. In addition, permanent controls were installed to allow Stetson to continuously measure and verify the performance of building systems.

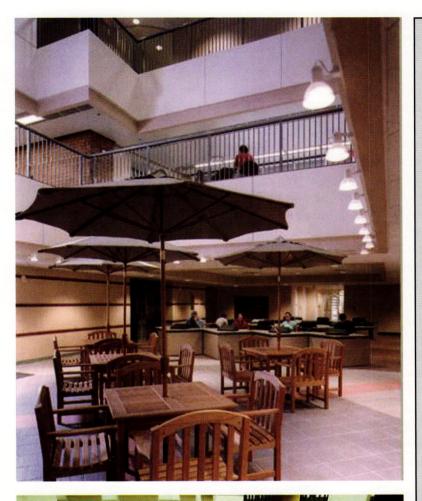
Over the life of the building, the measurable results are expected to include estimated energy savings of \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year which equates to 1.2 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per year; reduction of transportation impact costs by occupants; reduction of potable water use by 5.3 million gallons per year; and a healthy indoor environment.

The author of this article, Mary Ann Swiderski, is public relations coordinator for TLC Engineering for Architecture in Orlando.

Project Credits: SchenkelShultz
Architecture: Architect; TLC
Engineering for Architecture:
Mechancial, Electrical and
Electronic Engineering; Zev Cohen
& Associates: Civil Engineer;
Burton, Braswell, Middlebrooks
Associates: Structural Engineers;
William H. Baker, FASLA (formerly Wallis & Baker): Landscape
Architect; Foley & Associates:
Contractor.



View from below grade to skylit atrium in the middle of the building. Photo by William Garrow.





#### The LEED<sup>TM</sup> Rating System

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEEDTM Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based system for new and existing commercial, institutional, and high-rise residential buildings. The system rates building performance in six categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and innovation and design process. The aim is to provide a definitive standard for what constitutes a sustainable building based on accepted energy and environmental principles and to strike a balance between known effective practices and emerging concepts. Some common design strategies include energy-efficient mechanical systems and equipment, recycled and recyclable materials, site selection, and high-performance building envelope construction.

#### Among the LEED<sup>TM</sup> strategies:

- 50% of the building material was manufactured within 500 miles of Stetson's DeLand campus, reducing the environmental impact of long-distance transportation.
- 82% of the demolished material was recycled.
- The hot water boiler system uses energy-efficient natural gas for the building's heat and hot water needs.
- A permanent temperature and humidity monitoring system provides thermal comfort.
- HVAC and refrigeration equipment contain no ozone-depleting CFCs.
- CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring maximizes indoor air quality and minimizes energy use by varying the amount of outside air drawn into the building based on the number of occupants.
- Roof insulation is double the minimum code requirement and wall insulation is one-third higher than minimum code.
- Insulated low-E glass in the windows and skylight helps keep the buildings cool in the summer and warm in the winter.
- The irrigation supply is 100% reclaimed water.

Photo, top left: The Cyber Café in the Lynn Business Center is located below grade. Photo by William Garrow. Left: Interior of atrium with café below. Photo by Raymond Martinot, ©2000.

#### C.T. Hsu + Associates, P.A., orlando

Orange County Convention Center West Entrance, Orlando, Florida

Facilitating public movement in and out of a huge exhibition and convention hall is no small task and that's exactly what this project entailed. The new 40,000 square foot west entrance for the Orange County Convention Center included a spacious public lobby and multi-function area, new escalators and a grand staircase

leading to the bridges that connect with the main convention center. The Orange County Convention Center is one of the largest and busiest in Florida and this project specifically addressed the design and construction of an entrance that would better facilitate public access to and from existing parking areas.

There were originally two massive stair towers flanking the serv-

ice and loading dock areas. The new design places the entry structure between the existing towers displacing the existing service entrance and creating a new public image for the facility that is visible from the highway. The 50-foot tall glass facade acts like a lantern and gives transparency to an otherwise blank and featureless surface.

Massive V columns support a sweeping overhanging brow that



Interior view of lobby. All photos by Bob Braun.

Project Credits: C.T. Hsu + Associates, P.A.: Architect; Walter P. Moore & Associates, Inc.: Structural Engineer; John J. Christie & Associates of Florida, Inc.: Mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection engineer; CHP & Associates: MEP Engineering Design; DAO Engineering, Inc.: Civil Engineering; Nodarse & Associates, Inc.: Geotechnical & Environmental Engineering; Michael Associates, Inc.: Landscape Architecture; Mari Frith and Associates, Inc.: Signage.







Photos, top left: Exterior view of canopy. Right: West entrance. Above: Interior of lobby with new stair and escalator. Photos by Bob Braun and Mark S. Gall.

engages the concrete towers and provides welcoming shade to the building's "front porch" and glazed wall. The glass facade allows views through the lobby and up black terrazzo stairs to the pedestrian bridges that provide access to the exhibition halls. In addition, there is 7,000 square feet of new office space located behind a curving wood paneled wall. These offices overlook the lobby while service and mechanical rooms are tucked in the floor below. The upper lobby was designed as a transitional space between the bridges and it provides additional floor space for future expansion.



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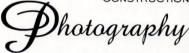
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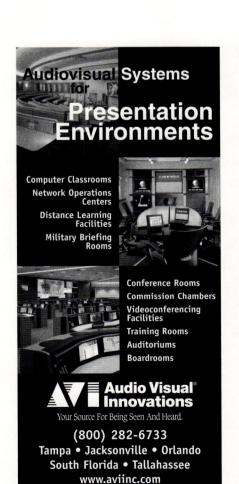
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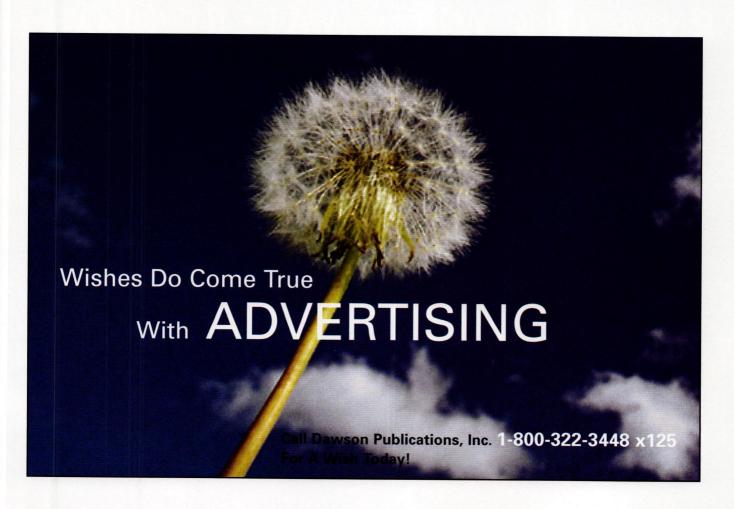
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LOOSE WATERC

ARCHITECT Spillis Candela/DMJM, Orlando FL



PEN & INK WITH WATERCOLOR

**PROJECT** 

CLIENT

Arvida

Celebration Village



LHDI associated with CDG and Oscar Garcia Architect





## WATERCOLOR



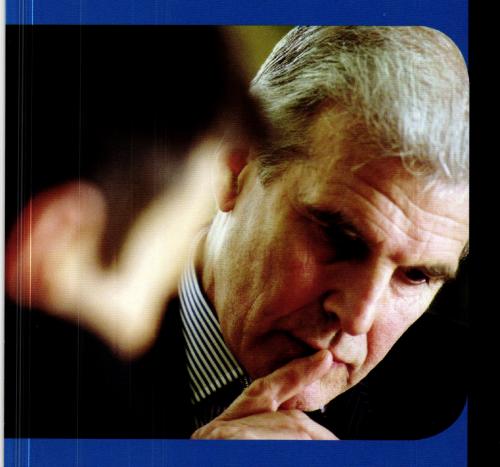
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