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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>President's Message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>New Life for LaVilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>The Science of Adaptive Reuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>A Review: Hugh Newell Jacobson Exhibit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>First Look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Product News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Index to Advertisers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Notables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Viewpoint</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Invest in Your Community and Your Community Will Invest in You

With all the challenges facing our society, it is more important than ever for architects to break out of our traditional role of simply designing buildings and to become pro-active in the larger issues of our community. "Design in '99", the AIA Florida's theme for this year, applies not only to building design but to shaping and forming our environment, our neighborhoods, our government—all those things which impact our lives. Contributing to the fulfillment of this charge, the AIA Florida is helping to fill seats on statewide boards and planning commissions with AIA architects, and implementing a unique pilot program with DBPR to enhance service to the public and to the professionals which it serves.

A growing number of AIA members across the state are investing their time, talents and ideas in reshaping their local communities, as well. Rather than simply waiting for RFPs, these professionals are actively seeking opportunities to contribute by working with civic leaders in the formative stages of urban, environmental and community planning. Helping to revitalize neighborhoods, re-energize aging cities, and plan for responsible growth is a natural role for architects. We have a tremendous amount to offer in terms of problem-solving skills and the ability to see the big picture. Being a partner in design at the civic level allows us to better understand the core values of our communities and the relative forces that influence decisions. It also sets the stage for stronger design opportunities at the project level, where we can apply this knowledge and contribute by creating beautiful and environmentally sensitive facilities. In fact, architects who have jumped into the planning fray find that the personal and professional rewards are greater than they ever anticipated—in terms of gaining valuable contacts, understanding underlying issues that affect civic projects, and increasing the profile of their firm. Ultimately they find that their intimate involvement comes full circle—that if they invest in their community, the community will invest in them.

Debra Lupton is a Senior Principal with Tilden Lobmiz Cooper, Engineering for Architecture, based in Orlando, Florida.
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DBPR Agreement, Department of Corrections Bill highlight Legislative Accomplishments

On April 30th the Florida Legislature ended the 1999 regular legislative session. With newly elected Governor Jeb Bush taking the lead, the legislature took up a number of highly publicized proposals. While tort reform and school vouchers grabbed the headlines, the legislature considered dozens of legislative proposals that were of interest to AIA Florida.

Led by AIA Florida President Debra Lupton, AIA, and Vice President Enrique Woodruff, AIA, the Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Commission set an aggressive agenda for 1999. Rather than sit back and wait for issues to arise, the Commission made an early commitment to taking a proactive approach to the legislative process. As a result, the Association entered the session with several bills having been filed at our request and political momentum having been established for our agenda. The end result was a successful session that will benefit all Florida architects.

Attached is a summary of some of the key issues that were addressed. While many of these issues have been reported in our weekly Friday Fax (see page 10), we provide a complete summary here. As always, we encourage you to contact the AIA Florida headquarters if you have any questions regarding any of these issues.

BOAID Administrative Privatization:
Prior to the start of the session, AIA Florida drafted legislation to privatize the administrative services of the Board of Architecture and Interior Design (BOAID). This legislation was prompted by increased concerns about the level of service being provided by the Board office and the Department. Thanks to the early support of Senator Charles Clary, AIA, (R-Destin) and Representative Jeff Miller, (R-Pensacola), bills were filed in both the House and Senate on behalf of AIA Florida.

Prior to a legislative hearing, AIA Florida representatives met with the Governor’s office and DBPR Secretary Cynthia Henderson to discuss this proposal. While both were sensitive to our concerns, they appealed to us for a one-year period to address these issues internally and discuss the merits of privatization. We were encouraged by their commitment, but intent on a more formal approach to our concerns. In the end, the Association entered into a formal Memorandum of Agreement with the Department (see page 10).

The agreement calls for the Department to work directly with representatives of the Association to improve upon the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory process.

Over the past six weeks we have had multiple meetings with the Secretary and key members of the Department staff regarding this initiative. At all levels they have shown a commitment to effecting real changes and establishing a more "customer service" oriented approach to their responsibilities. You should begin to notice changes as the voice mail system is eliminated and the Board and the Department become more responsive to your inquiries. In the event that you encounter difficulties in dealing with the Department or the Board, you are encouraged to contact the AIA Florida headquarters.

Later this year, AIA Florida representatives will join Senator Clary and Representative Miller in reviewing the effectiveness of this agreement. In the event that the situation has not improved, we will move forward with a privatization effort during the 2000 session.

Facts & Figures:
- The Board office has eight staff people.
- The Board office processes approximately 1,500 applications per year.
- In 1997-98 the Board received 324 complaints of which 262 of these were found to be legally sufficient. The Department also received 120 complaints of unlicensed activity.
• The Board currently has $154,563 in an Unlicensed Activity Trust Fund. AIA Florida is working with the Board and the Department to develop a plan for the effective use of these funds.

• As of 12/31/98 the Board had a cash balance of $1,925,203.

• Trent Manausa, AIA; Michael Shull, AIA; Wayne Rosier, AIA; and Margarita Khily, AIA, are the current architect representatives on the Board.

• There are 9,696 Florida licensed architects, 1,965 registered architectural firms, and 2,879 licensed interior designers.

Department of Corrections (DOC): Late last year an AIA Florida Board member brought it to our attention that the Department of Corrections was marketing design/build services to local and state government agencies. In a full color brochure, the DOC offered design/build services for federal agencies, state agencies, county agencies, and local municipalities. Services included design and construction of office buildings, interior renovations and build outs, parks, roads, etc.

AIA Florida quickly initiated a legislative effort to curtail this infringement upon the practice of private sector professionals. Following meetings with DOC staff and key legislators, the Association drafted a bill for filing by Senator Virginia Brown-Waite (R-Brooksville) and Representative Ken Littlefield (R-Dade City). This legislation, Senate Bill 932, clearly prohibits the DOC from competing with the private sector.

With Senator Brown-Waite leading the way, this bill was considered quickly by the Senate and was passed by the House later in the session. The bill has been approved by the Governor.

Florida Building Code:

With the unified code effort continuing, lawmakers considered a "glitch bill" designed to remedy small areas of concern within the enabling legislation. While a number of controversial issues remain to be addressed (such as local amendments and exemptions), legislators were asked to refrain from raising these issues at this time. Despite the intention to keep the bill non-controversial, the House and the Senate entered into a disagreement that prevented passage of the bill.

The Florida Building Commission continues to meet monthly to develop a draft of the proposed unified code. With the first draft now published (check out www.fbc.state.fl.us/fbc/), the Commission is holding a series of public hearings for input on the code. AIA Florida has been actively involved in this process with Karl Thorne, FAIA, serving on the Commission and Larry Schneider, AIA, heading up a team of AIA architects serving on various Technical Advisory Committees.

As we head towards the 2000 session we expect the most controversial debates to arise. There is much disagreement over the issue of local amendments and statewide applicability. A number of interests have also expressed an intention to seek exemptions from the code requirements.

We will continue to work closely with Senator Clary (the Senate leader on this issue) to ensure that our voice is heard in the debate.

Professional Regulation/Continuing Education:

The Legislature also passed legislation by DBPR relating to the compliance with continuing education requirements. The bill (SB 190/HB 2017) requires that by the year 2000 the Department monitor 100 percent of professional licenses for compliance with the continuing education requirements. Under the legislation, the Department will be given the discretion of contracting with a private vendor to provide the monitoring of compliance.

While we understand the Department's intentions, there is some concern that the additional costs may be passed along to licensees. The bill also calls for some funding to come from the current five dollar assessment for the unlicensed activity trust fund. Given our concerns in this area, AIA Florida will be working with the Department and the Legislature in hopes of refining this initiative.

Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA):

After consulting with AIA Florida leaders, representatives of the State University System pursued a slight adjustment to procurement requirements related to the CCNA statute. Specifically, they proposed language stating that, "for purposes of a university president's contracting authority, a 'continuing contract' shall be a contract for professional services under the provisions of s. 287.055 for projects for which the construction costs do not exceed $1 million or for study activity for which the fee does not exceed $100,000." The purpose of this proposal was to account for inflation as it relates to the previous statutory limits. AIA Florida was not opposed to these adjustments and the language passed as part of GS/HB 1933.

Other Issues:

Throughout the session AIA Florida was involved in dozens of issues relating to tort reform, building inspector licensure, engineering practice, school construction and more. Many thanks to Mike Hany and his team, and the AIA Florida leadership, for their hard work on this myriad of issues.

While the session may be over, our cycle of legislative activity begins anew. In the next two months we will be evaluating the outcome of the session and preparing for 2000. The AIA Florida leadership is committed to maintaining our proactive momentum. To this end, we encourage you to talk to your chapter representatives about issues affecting your practice. AIA Florida is your voice in Florida's Capitol—we need your input.
FAPAC Reorganizes

The AIA Florida Board of Directors recently confirmed Martha Cesery Taylor, AIA, as Chair of the Florida Architects Political Action Committee (FAPAC). Since her appointment, Ms. Taylor has set out to build upon the success of the PAC in support of candidates that are supportive of the AIA Florida agenda.

Taylor is joined by a Board that balances experience with the enthusiasm of new volunteers to these important efforts. The 1999-2000 Board of Directors is as follows:

Martha Cesery Taylor, AIA;
Jacksonville, Chair
Ivan Johnson, III, AIA; Tallahassee
D. Bennett Shuman, AIA;
Florida Northwest
Stephen Giaratano, AIA;
Ft. Lauderdale
Enrique Woodroffe, AIA; Tampa Bay
Craig Kirkwood, AIA; Orlando
Juan A. Crespi, AIA; Miami
Richard J. Logan, AIA; Palm Beach
Mike Huey, Hon. AIA,
Legislative Counsel
Gary B. Hoyt, AIA; Florida Gulf Coast
Peter W. Jones, AIA; Indian River
Lyndon T. Pollock, AIA;
Florida Southwest
Debra Lupton, AIA, Ex-Officio
R. Scott Shalley, GAEx-Officio

For more information on how you can help with FAPAC activities, contact Martha Cesery Taylor, AIA, at 904-393-9033.

AIA Florida/DBPR Memorandum

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
AND
THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

This Memorandum of Understanding ("Memorandum") is made and entered into between the State of Florida, Department of Business and Professional Regulation ("DBPR") and the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects ("FAPAC").

The purpose of the Memorandum is to institute a joint project between the DBPR and FAPAC. The goal of this joint effort is to provide for the efficient and effective operation of the Board of Architecture and Interior Design ("Board"). The DBPR commits to working with the FAPAC on this ongoing process of evaluating the services that are provided by the Board. The DBPR and FAPAC will work together to institute changes that are necessary to meet the goal of this effort. This project shall remain a priority of DBPR until satisfactory completion.

The project shall focus on the following areas of operation:

• Administrative Services: The DBPR and the FAPAC shall review issues relating to the responsiveness and effectiveness of the Board including, but not limited to, telephone accessibility, and processing of inquiries from licensees and other members of the public. This review shall also include an analysis of the license application review and approval process.

• Communications: The DBPR and the FAPAC shall review the current communications and information provided by the Board. This review shall include electronic communications, newsletters, and other information provided to the licensees and the public.

• Complaints and Investigations: The DBPR and the FAPAC shall review the current process for receipt, investigation, and disposition of complaints relating to fees and rule violations. This review shall involve analysis of the process in personal accountable to the method of assignment of work, and prioritization of cases, communication of the status of the matter with the complainant and the cost benefit of the current process.

In each of these areas of review, the DBPR and the FAPAC shall make recommendations for improving upon the efficiency of operations and the effectiveness of the regulatory process. Wherever possible, the Department shall implement changes as deemed appropriate to meet the goal of this project.

The DBPR and the FAPAC shall establish a team of Department employees and registered architects who shall work together to consider and implement changes to current policy. Peter Fennigston, Director Division of Professionals, and R. Scott Shalley, Executive Vice President of the FAPAC will develop this team and meet with other individuals as needed to meet the goal of this project. The DBPR shall provide biweekly updates to Secretary Henderson on the status of the joint effort. In addition, periodic reports and a final report will be provided to Senator Charles Cherry and Rep. Representative Dr. Miller with the final report delivered no later than November 30, 1999.

The DBPR and the FAPAC agree to the provisions of this Memorandum.

DONE AND AGREED this ___ day of ___, 1999

Cynthia Henderson, Secretary
Department of Business and Professional Regulation

R. Scott Shalley, Executive Vice President
Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects

Don't Miss It

Are you getting Friday Fax? One of the most valuable communications tools available to members of AIA Florida is Friday Fax. This weekly update is sent to all members via fax or email upon request. Information includes legislative updates, regulatory information and notice of continuing education opportunities. Are you on our list? If not, please send the following information via fax 850.224.3048 or email to hmcKenna@aiafla.org

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Representation is Key

The AIA Florida Legislative Team

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J. Michael Huey, Hon. AIA
For the past 25 years Mike Huey has served as legal counsel, legislative lobbyist and advisor to AIA Florida. As President of the firm of Huey, Guilday, & Tucker, P.A., Mr. Huey has established himself as one of the most effective and respected lobbyists in Florida. Earlier this year, Mr. Huey was honored with the Honorary AIA designation in recognition of his years of service to Florida's architects.

Robin Nystrom, Esq.
Robin Nystrom joined the Huey firm just over a year ago. As a former Chief of Staff for the Florida Senate and General Counsel for the Florida Department of Commerce, Robin brings a great deal of regulatory and political experience to our legislative efforts.

Chris Hansen
A familiar face to AIA members, Chris has been with the Huey firm for the past 5 years. Chris is involved throughout the year in development of our legislative agenda and facilitating campaign support for key legislators. Prior to joining the firm, Chris served as Director of the Florida Medical Association Political Action Committee.

John Andrew Smith
The most recent addition to the Huey firm, John Andrew is a well-known figure in the Florida legislature. For the past 18 years John Andrew served as Staff Director of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Often referred to as the "41st Senator", John Andrew was regarded as the foremost authority on Florida's budgetary process.

You
AIA Florida has retained the most respected lobbyists in Tallahassee. Nonetheless, our success is dependent upon your involvement. As Tip O'Neill said, "All politics is local". This remains true today. Your grassroots involvement in communicating with legislators and supporting our agenda is the foundation of our success. Take the time to get involved today.
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New Life for LaVilla

A renaissance is taking place in the community of LaVilla in downtown Jacksonville. PQH Architects, a Jacksonville-based firm, has had the unique responsibility and privilege of restoring a sense of community to what almost became a wasteland. The construction of a $4.2 million Ritz Theatre and LaVilla Cultural Museum is the centerpiece of the neighborhood's $8 million revitalization effort.

The 32,000 square foot complex consists of a 428 seat theater for live theatrical productions, a 2000 square foot lobby that doubles as a banquet hall, and 10,000 square feet of museum exhibit space.

As one of the few remaining historical buildings in the LaVilla community, the Ritz Theatre was originally slated for restoration. That was before the extensive damage done to the building by fire, water intrusion and the...
ravages of time was discovered. After calculating the cost for restoration the city decided that a new structure would take the place of the old one.

Because the Ritz had become a significant community landmark, a program was set to retain the original architecturally-significant corner facade. The design is a composite of Mediterranean, Art Deco and Egyptian Revival styles, fondly referred to by those close to the project as Egyptian-inspired Art Deco. In Florida, Art Deco buildings are most often found in communities that continued to grow despite the collapse of the speculative land boom in 1926. The Ritz, constructed in 1929 was part of a trend in movie palace construction that sought to promote a feeling of fantasy and escapism through architecture. It served for more than thirty years as a primary movie house for African Americans in downtown Jacksonville.

The demolition phase began after the removal of the original Ritz neon sign. Only two walls of the exterior facade on the northwest corner remained. The walls were supported by braces until the new steel structure was built and tied into the existing walls. One of the requirements for the project was that the original facade be the main entrance to the complex. This floor plan places the theater across from the main entrance creating a dynamic sweeping triangular lobby that provides access to both the theater and the exhibition hall.

The design of the new building provided for both the theater and museum to be built together as one structure. This allows for efficient dual use of public and support areas. As a new structure, the building is able to integrate current standards for performing arts as well as the latest in theatrical and audio technology.
The interior walls of the auditorium are based on the original theater design using panels and pilasters flanking both sides of the auditorium. The wall panels are highlighted by overlapping diamond-shaped light shields creating a diffused light and shadow pattern on the walls.

The exterior of the building is representative of the diverse eclectic type of architectural treatments found in the LaVilla area and directly reflective of the mixture of brick and stucco structures of various heights that were present on the site where the building is located.

Programmatically, the building reflects its function on the exterior by the use of stucco on the theater related elements and the use of brick in the museum and administrative areas.

The new Ritz is a place where entertainment and education collide. It is the first step in preserving the community's past. Exhibits will include artifacts donated from area residents. The 10,000 square foot display space will be divided between exhibits depicting the community of LaVilla and traveling exhibits that celebrate African-American life. The theater has a state-of-the-art stage and sound system with the capacity to accommodate Broadway-style theater productions. The planned performing arts middle school, just one block away (see page 18), will use the Theatre for rehearsals and performances.

The area is already seeing results from the revitalization efforts. The Jacksonville Urban League Community Development Center, located just across the street from the Ritz, is a new two-story building designed in a historical brick vernacular by PQH Architects. It consists of office space on the first and second floors with portions of the first floor facing Davis Street, having commercial and retail space including a restaurant. Parking is located along the west end of the block and comprises about two thirds of the block's area. Davis Street, which runs between the Ritz and the Urban League building, has seen improvements designed to eliminate most
 vehicular traffic and create a pedestrian plaza. It has been enhanced with
new lighting, landscaping, pavers and benches.

A grand opening for the Ritz is slated for September. Already, the theater has
enjoyed its share of attention. In March, 500 people gathered to cele-
brate as the building was blessed by Nobel Peace Prize winner, Archbishop
Desmond Tutu.

POH principal and project designer, Ricardo Quiiones, AIA, feels a real
sense of pride in having helped the LaVilla community achieve its goal of
revitalization. Especially important to him are the kind words he received in
a letter written to him by Catherine
Towers, the granddaughter of N.H.
Witschen, who originally contracted to
build the Ritz in 1929 on land the fami-
ly had owned for 100 years. "My moth-
er, Catherine Witschen Sears, and I
want to express to you just how taste-
ful and attractive the new building is.
We certainly support progress when
the past is preserved through style,
memories and traditions."

Jacksonville Urban League Building designed by Poh Architects has contributed to LaVilla's
revitalization with office, commercial and retail space, including a restaurant.
LaVilla Middle School for the Performing Arts

The new LaVilla Middle School for the Performing Arts, located in a historic downtown Jacksonville district, has been designed to harmonize with the redevelopment and revitalization plans for this area. Rink Reynolds Diamond Fisher Architects, P.A., along with the Duval County School Board, have created courtyard and plaza spaces that are integrated into the site/building plan in order to align with LaVilla and the existing urban context in both materials and layout. The design focuses on an Arts Core that includes a flexible auditorium and black box along with teaching spaces for the band, orchestra, dance, drama, chorus and visual arts programs. The building contains classrooms and instructional spaces for the 6th through 8th grades, a media center, and a variety of multi-purpose rooms. Full administration and guidance center facilities are also included in this 134,000 square foot school.

The LaVilla Middle School for the Performing Arts, with a construction cost of $15,000,000, is planned to accommodate its many talented students in 2000.
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is the blank stare on a client's face
Located just off the town square in downtown Ocala, this adaptive reuse project breathes life into a building that had been vacant for more than fifteen years. Architects Design Group worked with the City of Ocala to preserve a vital piece of the architectural fabric of downtown. The city's goal was to encourage building uses which bring people downtown. The Discovery Science Center of Central Florida, built in 1994, has attracted tens of thousands of individuals and now serves as a focal point in a multi-county area.

The circa 1950's Art Deco style movie theater was extensively remodeled to accommodate the Science Center which features hands-on, interactive exhibits. The design concept inserted a series of exhibit platforms and connector bridges within the existing volume. These were successfully integrated into the space utilizing the existing structural system or by enhancing its capabilities.

A temporary exhibit area was created by extending the existing stage and concurrently providing access by means of a ramp designed integrally with the exhibit area. This is the focal point of the Science Center and its importance is reinforced with the use of color. Color is used throughout the Center to positively affect the visitor experience.

The Center, designed to educate and entertain the area's youth, had to be accessible for the physically impaired. This challenge resulted in the addition of an exterior elevator element to provide accessibility to the upper level balcony space.

The building's structural system, which had been entirely concealed, was exposed...
The upper level balcony and raised platforms allow for structural components to be visually expressed.

and color-coded to indicate its importance. The new structural components were visually expressed in a forthright manner. By exposing and defining these elements the viewing public is treated to an exhibit of structural forces.

In a similar manner the mechanical systems were made visual exhibits themselves, also color-coded to indicate their importance. The result is a celebration of the integration of the various elements—lighting, mechanical equipment, power distribution and life safety systems.

This building which recalls fond memories for many of Ocala’s citizens has been given a new life for a new generation of youngsters. The Discovery Science Center has created a viable focal point of interest in the downtown area.
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How does one compose a review of a book not read, a movie not seen or an exhibit not visited? Answer—by combining imagination with a knowledge of the subject exhibited and with a little help from a review printed in the Washington Post.

A Review: Jacobsen Exhibit Opens at the National Building Museum

John Totty, AIA

The subject in question is a retrospective exhibition on the work of Hugh Newell Jacobsen currently on view at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. The relevancy here is that not only will Jacobsen be the juror for this year's AIA Florida "Excellence in Architecture" awards, but two of his houses located in Windsor, Florida are featured in the exhibition.

Benjamin Forgey, the reviewer for the Post, had this description for the houses featured in the exhibition: "They are hauntingly familiar, yet somehow transformed and perfected. They are like houses idealized by memory or visualized succinctly in dreams, lingering in the mind's eye." Perusal of two books published on Jacobsen's work confirms this visual image as house after house is pictured in pristine clarity as images in the landscape.

The exhibition, presenting this work in photographs, plans and models in a cohesive whole, illustrates a body of work remarkable in its consistency yet varied in its individuality.

The exhibition has been arranged by chief curator Joseph Rosa in four chronological sections giving fairly equal emphasis to several periods of work. Forgey felt this to be a bit misleading by implying each division represents stylistic or philosophical shifts. Rather he feels Jacobsen's architecture "has been more a matter of gradual refinement and increasing mastery than of radical breaks".

Jacobsen's familiar parti of multi-part structures topped with steeply pitched roofs is identified by Rosa as stemming from a 1971 house, which he characterized as "an abstract interpretation of a traditional American domestic building form". The exhibition confirms that Jacobsen continues to refine this parti, adapting each house to its place on the earth.

The retrospective exhibition continues through August 15 at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

Architecture students at Catholic University crafted the models shown and most of the photographs are by Robert Lautman.
**Jacobsen House**

**Welles House II**
**Windsor, Florida**

This house is located in a planned community designed by Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, proponents of the New Urbanism movement exemplified in their design of Seaside, Florida. The house, planned for a large extended family, is essentially a wood-framed structure sheathed in masonry. Its copper standing-seam roof has broad 4-foot overhangs that shed rain without the need for gutters and downspouts. Because of the region’s extreme weather conditions—near perfect climate punctuated by violent hurricanes—openings are protected by both conventional shutters and triple hung Bermuda shutters. These shutters also filter the sunlight and allow for cross ventilation.
In May, thousands of AIA architects converged on Dallas for the 1999 National Convention. In addition to continuing education classes and professional development seminars, the Convention provided excellent networking opportunities.

President Debra Lupson, AIA, and Senator Charles Clary, AIA, "steer" their way towards some fun after a busy legislative season.

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After finishing his formal education, Mr. Jacobsen worked in New Canaan, Connecticut for Philip Johnson. In 1958 he began in the practice of architecture under his own name in Washington. The buildings he has designed since that time have earned over one hundred ten awards for design. Among these are six National Honor Awards of the American Institute of Architects, the highest award for architectural design given in the United States.

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The Bower Chapel at Moorings Park
Naples, Florida
Burt Hill/Pollock Kreig Architects, Fort Myers

This non-denominational chapel, in the construction documents phase, is located on the campus of a continuing care retirement community in Naples. Designed for an older population, special considerations include increased spacing between custom designed pews so that mobility devices such as walkers, canes and wheelchairs are easily accommodated. Seating capacity is approximately 150 for all types of events including religious services, musical concerts and private contemplation.

First Look welcomes submissions from AIA Florida members of projects that are under development. If you have a project you'd like featured in First Look, please send a brief narrative and camera ready art to Cathi Lees, Editor, Florida Caribbean Architect, 104 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301.
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Sectional and side elevation of the Tower Chapel
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Index to Advertisers

Consulting Engineers
Schrirner Engineering Corp. (84-24) 31

Consulting/Windows
Architectural Windows & Doors
(84-14) 20-21,34
HBS Inc. (84-14) 20-21,34
Nor-Dec International, Inc. (84-14) 20-21,34
Palm City Millwork (84-14) 20-21,34
S & P Architectural Products (84-14) 20-21,34
S & S Craftsmen, Inc. (84-14) 20-21,34
Smyth Lumber (84-14) 20-21,34
Weather Shield (84-14) 20-21,34

Doors - Aluminum
Traco/Security Windows (84-27) 12

Energy Technology
Florida Natural Gas Association (84-21) IFC

Engineered Lumber
Trus Joist MacMillan (84-31) 24

Finishes - Interior & Exterior
Duron Paints & Wallcoverings (84-20) IBC

Fire Protection Engineers
Schirmer Engineering Corp. (84-24) 31

General Contractors
Creative Contractors, Inc. (84-18) 4

Gloss Blocks
Glass Masonry (84-22) 31

HVAC
Florida Natural Gas Association (84-21) IFC

Impact Resistant Glass
Caradco (84-16) 2

Insurance
AIA Trust (84-10) 13
Suncoast Insurance Associates, Inc. (84-25) 19
Tri-County Insurance Agency, Inc. (84-28) OBC
Collinsworth, Alter, Nielson, Fowler & Dowling, Inc. (84-17) 28
Lumber
Trus Joist MacMillan (84-31) 24

Mold/Mildew/Control Removal
Tasso Wall Covering (84-31) 4

Natural Gas
Florida Natural Gas Association (84-21) IFC

Points
Duron Paints & Wallcoverings (84-20) IBC

Plotters & Media
T-Square Reprographics & Imaging Solutions (84-26) 35

Professional Liability
Suncoast Insurance Associates, Inc. (84-25) 19
Tri-County Insurance Agency, Inc. (84-28) OBC
Collinsworth, Alter, Nielson, Fowler & Dowling, Inc. (84-17) 28

Roof - Tile
Masterpiece Tile Company (84-23) 28

Scale Models
Architectural Arts by Vathauer Studio (84-13) 1

Staffing Services
ArchPro Staff Agency, Inc. (84-12) 35

Storm Protectors - Windows & Doors
Traco/Security Windows (84-27) 12

Textured Wall Systems
Tasso Wall Covering (84-31) 4

Wall Covering
Tasso Wall Covering (84-31) 4

Windows
Andersen Windows (84-11) 24

Windows - Aluminum
Traco/Security Windows (84-27) 12

Windows & Doors
TKBA Windows & Doors (84-29) 37
Caradco (84-16) 2
Window Classics Corp. (84-30) 39
Architectural Windows & Doors (84-14) 20-21,34
HBS Inc. (84-14) 20-21,34
Nor-Dec International, Inc. (84-14) 20-21,34
Palm City Millwork (84-14) 20-21,34
S & P Architectural Products (84-14) 20-21,34
S & S Craftsmen, Inc. (84-14) 20-21,34
Smyth Lumber (84-14) 20-21,34
Weather Shield (84-14) 20-21,34

Wood Windows & Doors
Window Classics Corp. (84-30) 39
For more information about Steelcase call INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICES, INC. 813.222.9874
or visit our Web site: www.steelcase.com
AIA Trust (84-10) .................. 13
Andersen Windows (84-11) ........ 24
ArchilPro Staff Agency, Inc. (84-12) .... 35
Architectural Arts by Vathauer Studio (84-13) ... 1
Architectural Windows & Doors (84-14) ........ 20-21,34
CADD Centers of Florida (84-15) ........ 37
Caradco (84-16) .................. 2
Collinsworth, Alter, Nielsen, Fowler & Dowling, Inc. (84-17) ........ 28
Creative Contractors, Inc. (84-18) ........ 4
CSR Kinker (84-19) ................ 6-7
Duron Paints & Wallcoverings (84-20) .... IBC Forest Products (84-14) ........ 20-21,34
Florida Natural Gas Association (84-21) ... IFC Glass Masonry (84-22) ........ 31
HBS Inc. (84-14) .................. 20-21,34
Masterpiece Tile Company (84-23) ........ 28
Nor-Dec International, Inc. (84-14) ...... 20-21,34
Palm City Millwork (84-14) ........ 20-21,34
S & P Architectural Products (84-14) ... S & S Craftsmen, Inc. (84-14) ...... 20-21,34
Schirner Engineering Corp. (84-24) ...... 31
Smyth Lumber (84-14) ................ 20-21,34
Suncoast Insurance Associates, Inc. (84-25) ... 19
T-Square Reprographics & Imaging Solutions (84-26) ........ 35
Tasso Wall Covering (84-31) ........ 4
Traco/Security Windows (84-27) ........ 12
Tri-County Insurance Agency, Inc. (84-28) ... OBC Trus Joist MacMillan (84-31) ........ 24
TRYBA Windows & Doors (84-29) .... 37
Weather Shield (84-14) ........ 20-21,34
Window Classics Corp. (84-30) ........ 39
Y-Tong Florida, Ltd. (84-31) ........ 33

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Florida Caribbean Architect  •  Spring 1999  37
From Venus" at the 76th Annual Florida Library Association Conference and Exhibition in St. Augustine May 4th-7th, the speech will highlight the differences in approach that librarians and architects encounter when planning new libraries.

Richard Schaffer, AIA, and Kimberly M. Hendricks, Associate AIA, have joined the Orlando office of KBJ Architects, Inc. relocating from the Jacksonville office. Hendricks has been with KBJ for five years and is experienced in project coordination and production. Schaffer has over 13 years of architectural experience designing a broad scope of projects.

Daniel A. Summers, AIA, has been named a principal in the architectural firm Barany Schmitt Weaver and Partners, Inc., which is now Barany Schmitt Summers Weaver and Partners, Inc. Summer joined the firm last spring as a project architect and director of the firm's Naples office.

Michael A. Shirley, AIA, NCARB, has been named director of design of Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum's Tampa office. He comes to HOK from the firm's Texas office. Shirley has 22 years of architectural experience specializing in technical facilities.

Harvard Jolly Clees Toppe Architects, P.A., has won a first place award in Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Future of the Region Awards in the category of Cultural/Sports/Recreation facilities. The recognized project was the Largo Central Park and the Largo Cultural Center.
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From time to time it is necessary for many of us to re-evaluate why we became and why we are still, practicing architects. We must contemplate the role that our profession has prepared us to play in our society and how we will be judged by our life’s work as an architect.

Many of us will look with pride to the art, beauty and vision we have brought to the built environment. Others will see the melding of the art and technology into a product that makes them proud and that satisfies the need of a client. Still others will say it is just a way of earning a living—the more I make, the more successful I am.

I feel, however, that architects must evaluate their societal responsibility and adopt an even higher aspiration for the profession. An aspiration that recognizes an architect’s unique talents of vision and understands how our architectural design work affects all aspects of a community’s life. It is often said that a politician, developer or civic leader is the "architect" of an idea. This phrase is used to describe a leader who can envision and create a value for our society.

I believe that the profession of architecture and architects, as individuals, should assume the societal roles that utilize our unique abilities. We must begin to live up to the ideals that the word "architect" represents. An architect envisions an idea, organizes an effort, builds community consensus and, finally, brings the vision into reality. It is necessary to begin asking ourselves how we as individuals, and more particularly as a profession, can make a contribution to better our communities. We must lead the effort to return to how the architectural profession was recognized in the past. We must again be perceived as "master-builders".

But in order to lead, you must first get involved. For too many years architects have sat on the sidelines and criticized how our communities are deteriorating while others are making all the decisions regarding planning for where we work, live and play.

Too many of us have been caught up in "what is it for us?" rather than "what is expected of us?" In the end, it is true, "to whom much is given, much is expected". We will be judged by how well we have used our design and organizational talents for the betterment of all. For just as an athlete is a role model because of his athletic talents, so are we a role model for the talents which our profession represents.

As architects we should be proud of the profession we represent and make our daily actions a credit to the profession. It is essential that we contribute to the community in which we have chosen to live. We must be continually aware that we will be judged, not by what we have gained from architecture, but by what we have given on behalf of our profession.
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