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Orlando Architects Prepare to Host the AIA Conference on Architecture 2017

The AIA Conference on Architecture 2017 or A’17, formerly known as the National Convention, will return to Florida in April 2017 — this time, to Orlando. The Local Host Committee (LHC) is on a mission to use A’17 as an opportunity to engage the Central Florida community in a discussion about architecture as well as showcase the best of Orlando architecture to the city’s visitors.

On the cover: Bascom Palmer Eye Institute — University of Miami
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President’s Perspective

JOYCE OWENS, AIA, RIBA

Communicating Value

Architects build more than structures. Architects build value.

"Architecture is defined as the design of structures, but it's more than that.

The design of a building can inspire rapture or provoke disgust. It can start conversations that continue long after the building has outgrown — or no longer fulfills — its original role.

Buildings have a purpose and a place in our lives. Some provide the most basic function of architecture, that of shelter, while others move beyond to embody broad philosophical trends that have changed human history. Others aspire to the artistic, and their designs resonate through time. …

Tell me what local architecture moves you, turns your head, makes you wonder.

We’re surrounded by architecture and its legacy. Let’s learn about it, and learn from it, together."

I wrote those words 10 years ago in my first article as an architectural writer. When first approached by our local Gannett-owned newspaper with the opportunity, I couldn’t wait to tell my local community how strongly I felt about the value of architecture — despite being a bit intimidated by the journalistic challenge.

Certainly, as architects, we know that we solve problems on every level, and we create better places to live and work. We are convinced architecture positively affects the quality of life. So, while we as architects can fluently discuss program, function, materials, toilets and exits with our clients, we find it nearly impossible to communicate the valuable role of a design professional.

At university, we focus on design. We’ve all had the painful experience of standing in front of our peers and professors, sharing our thoughts and ideas in fluent “archispeak” — using expressive words like “fenestration,” “tectonic,” “horizontality” and “planar.”

We learned to enthusiastically complement this discourse with grand conceptual spatial thoughts presented and explained systematically and in great detail through a variety of nonverbal visual skills: drawings, models, renderings, illustrations and 3-D animations utilizing computer wizardry and photomontage. Sometimes, we might even use enigmatic background music — or at least I did.

Unfortunately, we honed these presentation talents on the wrong audience — ourselves. Then, we were set free into the world, armed with an abundance of different abilities but with verbal skills that resonate only with other architects. Similar to our lack of business education, little in our formal architectural education prepared us to communicate the benefits of our profession or its value to society.

Our professional jargon, coupled with a lack of simple verbal proficiency, has instead morphed us into curious professionals called architects who are loved but underappreciated and utterly misunderstood.

If we can explain in plain English (not archispeak) the responsibilities we bear and the benefits we offer as architects — that our core skills are vision, planning for the future, formulating solutions, and simply making better space and place — the public will begin to appreciate the value we add.

As a part of the 2017 AIA Florida Board of Directors retreat and strategic planning session, we engaged a communications and media expert. She shared insights on media relations (person-to-person relationships) and storytelling tips for communicating succinctly with both the press and the public. We learned we don’t need to make it complicated, but we do need to make the effort to reach out, introduce ourselves and make ourselves available as subject matter experts who can communicate or even translate for the media on behalf of the profession and to the public.

As a simple starting point during our session, each Board member was encouraged to develop a simple elevator speech that communicates value, perhaps even as basic as: “Architects build value, not just structures.” I’d suggest that each AIA Florida member adopt such a statement and work in a handful of supporting, unique thoughts as a first step.

I firmly believe each and every member of AIA Florida needs to advocate the value of architecture and the profession to the public at large — the people who live in your local communities. To that end, it is my 2017 goal as president that each local AIA component conducts a media workshop so all our members have the opportunity to gain or polish their ability to advocate for our profession.

It may seem difficult to “sell” our worth to the public, but I am convinced it is a mission worth pursuing. We are the only ones who can tell our story and thereby promote and demystify our beloved profession, which is inherently respected by the public but isn’t really understood.
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Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
University of Miami
Naples, Florida
Gresham, Smith and Partners (GS&P) | Miami, Florida

“This building embraces the spirit of optic science by showcasing light and views of the local landscape.”

— Gresham, Smith and Partners
For 12 consecutive years, the U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals edition has ranked Bascom Palmer Eye Institute (BPEI) number-one in the nation. BPEI deals with every subspecialty in ophthalmology, and recent dramatic growth in patient volume necessitated a newer and larger state-of-the-art facility for its Naples location. With the goal of housing the institute in a contemporary, high-tech and sustainable building, BPEI invested in property and partnered with AIA Florida Firm Member Gresham, Smith and Partners (GS&P) to design a two-story, 21,200-square-foot building to accommodate current and anticipated patient volumes.

GS&P provided architectural design, space planning, site planning, interior design, graphics and wayfinding. The firm also provided consulting services for LEED certification, and Silver certification is pending.

The GS&P team worked with the client’s parcel of land, which was initially deemed too small. Creative programming and efficient space planning, along with adopting an unusual geometry for the building shape, allowed the architect to achieve optimal layouts for clinical and nonclinical spaces. For example, one of the most important elements of the design was standardizing the eye lane/exam room. In standardizing these spaces, the facility utilized the same room for multiple specialty purposes, thus reducing the overall square footage originally anticipated. By using Revit drafting software during the contract documentation phase, the architect was able to minimize conflicts and maximize design coordination between the trades. This was especially important considering there were few exterior walls sitting at 90 degrees. Multivista technology between the client, design team and contractor enabled the team to monitor the building’s progress 24 hours a day by logging into the project’s page. The design process was so positive that the University of Miami and BPEI approached GS&P about partnering with them to design its first international facility in Abu Dhabi. (Editor’s note: See the sidebar on page 11 for more about the Abu Dhabi facility.)

Parking spaces and the main entrance were positioned at the rear of the building on the east side to give optimal building
Top left: View into the main lobby that is adjoined by support offices for insurance verification, surgical scheduling and other administrative tasks. Top right: Registration space specifically tailored to Bascom Palmer ties online registration into a concierge design with stand-up registration stations for those who do not register online to improve efficiency. Bottom left: The interior of the facility was designed to allow a seamless flow from the exterior to the interior. Utilizing renewable, sustainable low VOC materials was a priority for obtaining LEED points. Bottom right: Lobby elevators.

**PROJECT CREDITS**

- **Architect:** Gresham, Smith and Partners (Luis J. Cano, AIA, principal; Shauna Carpenter, project manager)
- **Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Engineer:** CCRD Partners
- **Structural Engineer:** Bliss & Nyitray
- **Ophthalmology Consultant:** Julio Ripoll, AIA
- **Owner:** University of Miami School of Medicine Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
frontage on the main road — the heavily trafficked Tamiami Trail. Direct access and walkways from the bus stop on the main road had to be incorporated early in the design phase to satisfy LEED requirements.

The cantilevered second floor allowed structural engineers to push the limits of the load calculations in order to create a sleek design with well-concealed complexities. The second story of the building was incorporated into the plan so as to create a covered patient drop-off. Implementing angled curtain walls made of metal and custom glass panels lent itself to a much more complicated design and coordination than a standard square building. The building’s exterior features transparent glass paneling in a series of interlocking shapes and a cantilevered patient drop-off area, which provides shade to the main lobby’s glass-enclosed, two-story atrium. The atrium features custom sculptural pendant lighting inspired by the shape of an eye.

Not only did the building have to look good, but it also had to be designed to meet Florida’s stringent requirements regarding wind pressures and tested often to ensure water intrusion would be avoided.

With clinical space for the treatment of almost every known eye disease, the state-of-the-art institute includes 20 exam rooms and eye lanes, a full surgical suite with two operating rooms, a photo suite, physician offices and an optical lab. Reception, registration and lobby areas are intuitive and patient-friendly. Wood, bendable resin and glass create a blend of futuristic and classic design in the reception area, with clear sight lines throughout the building.

---

**Bascom Palmer Eye Institute**

**Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

This new 70,000-square-foot facility design is comprised of 34 exam rooms, including visual field, long eye lanes and photo rooms; a refractive suite with two Lasik rooms; an ocular surface disease (OSD) and electroretinography (ERG) clinic; an ambulatory surgery suite with three operating suites and Femto laser room; an optical shop and lab; a pharmacy and auditorium; a landscaped atrium with café; VIP waiting and amenities, and prayer rooms.

To optimize staff efficiency and patient flow, exam rooms are arranged in a “pod” configuration, accessed by separate corridors for staff, materials and patients. Exam rooms are allocated for effective staffing ratios and ease of access from tech work areas. Because Bascom Palmer’s business plan projects growth in this facility, the center is designed to accommodate both vertical and horizontal expansion.

The exterior design of the building is iconic, creating an identifiable brand image and projecting an impression of high technology and quality. The main entry and surgical suites are conceived in the image of a gem, a reference to the qualities and functions of the eye, which are realized in the faceted glass façade. The exam wings are configured as a setting for the gem or as a protective brow element between the gem and the harsh desert environment.
In addition to the living wall, the space incorporates sustainable design elements of daylighting, high-efficiency mechanical and lighting systems and low VOC/recycled materials. Specific lighting added focal points inside and outside of the building and feeds the biophilic stations throughout.
Surrounded by organizations such as the University of Florida, Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute and the University of Central Florida College of Medicine in the 700-acre Lake Nona Medical City, the GuideWell UST Global Innovation Center was created to inspire and fast-track health care solutions. As architect and engineer of record, RS&H played a pivotal role in bringing to life GuideWell’s vision of a space that would support and inspire collaboration between the researchers, clinicians and entrepreneurs who surround the facility’s strategic location.

The 27,000-square-foot, first-floor foothold of this high-tech facility was designed to accommodate individuals and companies of all sizes, during all stages of development. AIA Florida Firm Member RS&H designed the Innovation Center as a “journey of innovation,” where early-stage health companies are provided with the resources needed from the birth of an idea to commercialization of that new health solution. The floor plan was designed chronologically around a 360-degree theater — beginning with “co-work” space for developing companies and entrepreneurs, moving to a startup garage and living lab with 3-D printing technology and lab space for function testing of ideas, and ending with a video recording studio and private viewing theater for marketing and promotional purposes.

A primary objective in planning this space was to provide connectivity for spontaneous discussion. A unique design feature to support this goal are the “biowalls,” which both promote psychological well-being and serve as conversation starters. Four of the sustainable botanies were incorporated throughout the space — one upon entering the facility, another embellishing product display space, the next overlooking the tempered water “hydro bar” and the last outside of the executive conference room, where it is expected mature companies will finalize negotiations to bring products to market.

The design process was not without challenges. To meet program requirements, the design team had to incorporate a 250-person theater in a business-occupancy building. Additionally, the team needed to explore ways to incorporate and promote transparency, brand exposure and neighboring company collaborations. This was achieved with curved, demountable glazed interior wall systems.

The Innovation Center is part of the 92,000-square-foot GuideWell UST Global Innovation center in Lake Nona, the latest addition to the life sciences campus built by Tavistock Development.

Dubbed the “Imagination Cinema” the 250-person theater provides a cinematic atmosphere for showing video products, 3D renderings and simulations.

**PROJECT CREDITS**
- RS&H provided architecture, interior design, engineering and construction administration services.
Miami Times Distribution Center, Miami, Florida

Building Center No. 3 | Miami, Florida
“Five specific features established the architectural vocabulary of the original building. For the new building, the design team wanted to speak the same words using a more contemporary architectural language rather than copying the midcentury modern aesthetic.”

— Jason Tapia, AIA, principal architect

*The Miami Times* is the largest and oldest African-American-owned newspaper in South Florida. The original *Times* building was designed by famed South Florida architect Alfred Browning Parker, FAIA, in 1959. Located in the Liberty City section of Miami, the newspaper represents, advocates and fights for the rights, civil liberties and interests of that community.

Construction of the distribution center, adjacent to the original *Times* building, began in December 2016 and is slated for completion in July 2017. Although Parker’s original building is not considered a Miami landmark, the paper’s founding family approached plans for the structure as though it were. The family wanted the distribution center sited on the northwest corner of the property, and the design team approached plans for the structure as if it were a landmark.
The dominant architectural features of the original Times building were three chimney-like skylights; strong horizontality of the deep overhang; prominent green metal fascia and roof; monumentality of the cast-in-place concrete planters and wall forms; and controlling interaction with the landscape elements, including planters and a tree to be added to the northwest corner of the site.

These five features established the vocabulary of the existing architecture, and the design team wanted to speak the same words using a more contemporary architectural language. In keeping with that goal, the design for the new distribution center continues the horizontality of the original building with a cantilevered beam encircling a tree proposed for the northwest corner. This provided a way to forcefully define a space for an important landscape feature.

Indirect natural light is an important feature of the Parker building, so rather than recreate the strong geometries of the skylights, the distribution building flattens that element and conceals the skylights below the roofline. The roof tapers away from the entrance on the east, where natural light is needed the least and slopes toward the north to increase the admission of indirect light. In the new building, the original planters, much like the skylights, are hidden below the roofline to allow vines to grow down from above. This technique seemingly envelops the architecture and inverts the relationship between the building and the landscape, which is a controlling factor in the older building. Last, the materiality of the new structure draws its inspiration from the old. The entire structure is formed of cast-in-place concrete with key cladding elements made of perforated metal screens matching the green of the fascia panels and roof of the main building.

The new design of the campus grounds and the addition of the distribution building work to unify an entire city block in a way that reasserts the newspaper’s role as an institution within the community. The Miami Times preserves the work of a regionally famous architect, Alfred Browning Parker, while burnishing its brand with a new building that roots itself into the landscape and reorganizes the surrounding open space to provide a well-needed amenity for the community it serves.

A Semipublic Solution

The design team worked on three separate schemes for the overall Miami Times campus, including private, semiprivate and semipublic plans. The client chose the semipublic solution, where a portion of the outdoor area serves as an open public plaza. The client saw this as a way of giving back to the Liberty City community by creating an outdoor space that is large enough for community events, such as a farmers market or book fair, to take place.

The landscape plan took into consideration the historical value of the plantings, including the 1950s focus on tropical flora. The plant selection criteria included planting attractive material with an emphasis on reduced maintenance. Increased rainwater ground infiltration and reduced stormwater runoff were important considerations, along with reducing stormwater pollutants, including pesticides, oils and fertilizers, all of which flow into local waterways. The landscape is parking-friendly and provides increased natural habitats.

PROJECT CREDITS

- **Design Team:** Jason Tapia, AIA, NCARB, CDT, LEED AP, principal architect; Pawel Hanusowski, Building Center No. 3
- **Landscape Architect:** Daniela Romero, Building Center No. 3
- **Interior Designer:** Alejandra Saul, Building Center No. 3
- **Structural Engineer:** PLF Engineers
- **Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Engineer:** Daniel F. Gutierrez Engineers
- **Civil Engineer:** Maurice Gray Engineers
- **Geotechnical Engineer:** All State Engineering and Testing Consultants
Miami-Dade County Animal Services Pet Adoption and Protection Center | Doral, Florida

LIVS Associates | Coral Gables, Florida
This adaptive reuse project transformed a 30-year-old warehouse in Doral, Florida into a 70,000-square-foot animal services center for Miami Dade County. The facility provides total care and advanced veterinary medical services for animals within a playful environment that invites the public inside. In turn, the design aids the shelter in its ultimate goal of successful pet adoptions.

During the grand-opening of the center in June, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez touted the facility as the largest climate-controlled animal shelter in the country.

Perforated aluminum sheets with cutout silhouettes of dogs and cats were used to transform the existing façade and demonstrate the use and character that lie behind them. Once inside, the lobby hosts a chandelier sculpture and cylindrical elevator that accentuates the double-height space. An illuminated information desk adds a splash of color to the entrance while a whimsical “cat bridge” appears to float in the air, drawing the public to the building’s main attraction, the “mall.”

To advance the cause of pet adoption, the main circulation of the shelter was conceived as a shopping experience for visitors looking for a pet. The entry of the “mall” is highlighted by two feature rooms that house the shelter’s “Dog of the Week” while the north and south side of the mall are flanked with kennels that imitate store fronts. Within the space, a wall of alternating benches creates visual barriers for the animals housed in the kennels and provides a space for human-animal interaction. An exposed mall-like corridor also runs along the east-west axis of the existing warehouse, filtering in light, and culminates at the end with a pet pavilion, which gives potential pet owners a chance to interact with the animals. An elliptical glass-enclosed space also serves as a meeting room, educational space and exhibition space.

**PROJECT CREDITS**

- **Architect of Record:** LIVS Associates (Tony Rosabal, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C)
- **Consulting Architect:** Bacon Group, Inc. (Richard Bacon, FAIA, animal shelter specialist)
Mixed-Use Parking Garage
Pompano Beach, Florida
Currie Sowards Aguila Architects
Delray Beach, Florida

This design-build project in Pompano Beach provided a new mixed-use garage encompassing 239,400 square feet. The design intent was to create an iconic parking structure and retail space that serves as a landmark for the city. The resultant expression was achieved through the placement of vertical abstract sails surrounding the entire structure, evocative of the ocean and maritime location in which it stands. Using these vertical elements and undulating retail base, this typically utilitarian building type is transformed into an oceanside destination.

The sail-shaped canopies are made of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) fiberglass and can withstand wind forces of 140 miles per hour, equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane. The undulation of the building’s base also reinforces the thematic movement of wind and water.

The garage, which was completed in June 2016, provides 662 new parking spaces as well as retail space, a tourism office, a welcome center and a storage area for lifeguard operations.

PROJECT CREDITS
- **Architect:** Currie Sowards Aguila Architects
- **Contractor:** Kaufman Lynn
- **Structural Engineer:** Metromont
- **Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Engineer:** Delta G
- **Civil Engineer and Landscape Architect:** Keith & Associates
- **Owner’s Representative:** LMG

The porous sail screens engulf the entire structure, transforming it into a play of movement and subtle lighting. These 16 sail-shaped façade canopies comprise over 27,000 square feet of surface area.
Built in 1969, the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall on Sarasota Bay has undergone several modifications over the course of nearly 50 years. Originally designed by William Wesley Peters, chief architect of Taliesin Associated Architects and son-in-law of Frank Lloyd Wright, the building was inspired by “the natural beauty of the site; the romance and majesty of the sea; and the infinitely varied organic structure of forms of life which have come to being in the Gulf.” The bold color selection was chosen by Wright’s widow, Olgivanna, based on a seashell she found near the Sea of Japan. That seashell is now on display in the Van Wezel lobby.
The 80,000-square-foot hall includes the Roskamp Auditorium and its stage house, lighting and sound system. There are also two lobbies, nine dressing rooms, two large chorus dressing rooms, a green room and catering kitchen, production and technical offices and an orchestra pit.

Major renovations have taken place since 2000, most recently under the direction of Solstice Planning and Architecture. Working with the original project manager, Anthony Puttnam, AIA, the design team relied on the Taliesin blueprints and photographs to update the space while maintaining the original design intent.

With more than 4 million visitors since 2000, a much-needed renovation created an elegant and modern experience for patrons. The 2015 renovation preserved the building’s architectural heritage while adapting the public space for the programmatic requirements of contemporary performance spaces. The scope included attention to the architect's design intent, including finishes and lighting, as well as a completely new women’s restroom. Walls were repaired and hand-troweled to restore them to original condition. Wall colors, signage and floor finishes were also updated extensively throughout the hall. Emphasis was also placed on original design ideas for carpeting throughout, and geometrical patterns of varying tones were chosen to allude to the shimmer of light on Sarasota Bay.

PROJECT CREDITS

- **Architect:** Solstice Planning and Architecture (Jonathan Parks, AIA; Selma Wilson)
- **Contractor:** ARTEC Group
- **Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Consultants:** Global Sanchez, Inc.
- **Carpeting:** Shaw Contract
- **Client:** City of Sarasota

Starting in 2000, multiple renovation efforts have brought the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall into the 21st Century while simultaneously preserving its architectural integrity. Despite significant increases in seating and amenities, great care has been taken to maintain the theater’s acoustics and intimacy.

A two-year project to update the public areas of the hall included complete renovation of the men’s and women’s restrooms.
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Impact – making a societal difference through architectural excellence
Leadership – building trust through collaboration and participation
Integrity – doing the right thing for the right reason
Ethics – maintaining the highest standard of professionalism
Service – creating a legacy of selflessness in the community
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On the Boards

Elementary School | Santa Rosa Beach, Florida
DAG Architects
Expected Completion: Fall 2018

This elementary school in South Walton County will serve approximately 1,000 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Local vernacular influences the design, including the use of stucco, sloped gabled roofs and the towers/chimneys.

Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines Innovation Center | Miami, Florida
Leo A Daly
Expected Completion: January 2017

This two-story expansion to Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines corporate headquarters is to be used by the designers of company vessels. The owner challenged the architect to design an “innovation lab” that will help push the envelope to build industry-leading cruise ships. An important component of the program is a 3-D simulation “cave” facility, which will represent state-of-the-art technology to visually experience complex vessel design spaces in virtual reality.

Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport Fire Station | Atlanta, Georgia
Fitzgerald Collaborative
Expected Completion: Early 2018

This new fire station is intended to replace an aging 21,000-square-foot station that serves as one of four on the grounds of the busiest airport in the country. At 28,000 square feet, the new facility will accommodate personnel and 11 emergency vehicles as required by the Federal Aviation Administration. The station combines both transparency and opacity, reflecting public and private programmatic elements within. The design is intended to achieve LEED Gold.
Formerly known as the National Convention, the AIA Conference on Architecture 2017 or A’17, is returning to Florida this year and this time it lands in Orlando. The Local Host Committee (LHC) is on a mission to use the convention as an opportunity to engage the Central Florida community in a discussion about architecture as well as showcase the best of Orlando architecture to the city’s visitors. Originally scheduled for 2019, the Chapter successfully scrambled to finalize plans to best spotlight Orlando, to celebrate Orlando architecture and leave a lasting legacy well beyond A’17.

A Community Involvement and Awareness Committee was created and charged with stimulating interest, recognition and participation in A’17 activities. The AIA Orlando website created a feed of A’17 related updates, news and more. The website includes a series of articles about Orlando’s many neighborhood districts titled “Neighborhoods We Love” and provides volunteer information on a pro bono “build blitz” scheduled to benefit the community prior to opening day of A’17.

The LHC is working on an architecture guidebook with Senior Editor Greg Stock, AIA taking the lead. Working with many other contributors, the book highlighting significant Central Florida architecture will be available for purchase at A’17 and for advance purchase in early 2017.

As the LHC Director of On-Site Events, Nathan Butler, AIA is leading the organization of student exhibits--especially important in light of the 2+2+2 partnership between Valencia College, UCF and UF that allows architecture students to complete their education without leaving Orlando.

The LHC is charged with organizing local interest tours and in Orlando that means blending the expected with the unexpected. While it is a world-class destination, there is more to Orlando and the Central Florida community than many imagine. In addition to its unrivaled theme parks, resorts and golf courses, the LHC is working with local museums to schedule exhibits of interest to architects. The Orlando Museum of Art, Mennello Museum of American Folk Art, Maitland Art Center, Morse Museum (world’s most comprehensive collection of work by Louis Comfort Tiffany) and the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Garden will be of great interest to visitors. The Enzian Theater will be hosting the 26th Florida Film Festival during A’17 and is an Oscar®-qualifying festival, premiering some of the best in current, independent, and international cinema.

It was important to AIA Orlando members that A’17 visitors connect with Orlando’s urban core. A’17 event venues will include the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, which opened in November 2014. The Dr. Phillips Center took center stage following the 2016 Pulse Nightclub tragedy as home to vigils and the largest memorial to the victims.

A’17 attendees may also experience significant and iconic work in Central Florida including that of Gene Leedy, James Gamble Rogers II, and Niels M. Schweizer. Their work will be showcased alongside that of Arata Isozaki, Michael Graves, Phillip Johnson, Aldo Rossi, and Venturi Scott Brown. Orlandoans enjoy a diverse spectrum of style from mid-century modern to more recent work such as that of Santiago Calatrava at Florida Polytechnic University. Also nearby is the largest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright buildings on a single site anywhere in the world. Known as Frank Lloyd Wright's “Child of the Sun,” Florida Southern College has been recognized as a UNESCO Heritage Site.

Architects’ appreciation of the carefully crafted has been known to extend beyond buildings into the realm of food and drink, and this makes Orlando an ideal place to visit. The LHC has partnered with Visit Orlando to produce a Visitor's Guide to highlight the best ways for our visitors to have fun in The City Beautiful. Beyond the easily recognizable chain restaurants, Orlando boasts a year-round farm-to-table movement and is one of the top foodie cultures in the nation. Orlando is home to an impressive number of renowned chefs including James Beard Award nominated chefs: Kathleen Blake of The Rusty Spoon, Scott Hunnel of Victoria & Albert’s at Walt Disney World’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, and James and Julie Petrakis of The Ravenous Pig.

For additional information about A’17 as it becomes available, visit www.aiaorlando.com/2017

INTERESTING ORLANDO RANKINGS

- Orlando is #2 (tied with Portland, OR) among Movoto Real Estate Blog’s most creative cities in America.
- Forbes ranks Orlando the #4 happiest place to work in the nation, one of 10 cities that Americans are Moving to, and as one of the top 10 "coolest cities."
- University of Central Florida (UCF) ranks among the nation’s top research institutions, according to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. UCF joins Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Johns Hopkins, and Stanford in this impressive ranking.
- Orlando is the Best City for recreation according to WalletHub.
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William R. Jaycox, AIA, Principal, Jaycox Architects & Associates

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