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The Florida/Caribbean Design & Honor Awards highlight the region’s most prestigious awards program for the architectural profession. This issue of Florida/Caribbean Architect celebrates outstanding achievements in architecture and design.

The Design Awards jury convened in May 2018. The jury, composed of London-based, internationally-recognized RIBA architects, was chaired by Jonathan Rose, RIBA, BA(Arch), Arch (Hons), DipArch, Principal, Design and Planning at AECOM.com. Jury members were Brian Eckersley, BEng BA(Arch), CEng MInstCE, AIA, Jamie Fobert RIBA, BA(Arch) and Sanya Polescuk, DipEngArch (Zagreb), RIBA. Joyce Owens, FAIA, RIBA, AIA Florida immediate past president, was the 2018 Design Awards chair.

The jury carefully reviewed almost 300 project submissions in nine categories. They bestowed 42 awards from 32 firms in Florida and Puerto Rico. Ten 2018 AIA Florida Honor Awards were given to members and firms representing outstanding leadership, design and implementation of excellence in architecture.
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President’s Perspective
Kim Headland, AIA

“Don’t be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in the year as you make use of.”
– Charles Richards

As 2018 comes to a fast and furious close, I am reminded of just how well AIA Florida used its days this year. It has been a productive time for the organization. Our board, committee volunteers, staff and members have truly made use of every available moment, working tirelessly to advance our profession to the benefit of everyone.

This summer’s convention in beautiful Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, was just one example of the diligent efforts of our volunteer leadership and staff. The event brought together an impressive number of design professionals from around the state and region for a robust lineup of educational sessions, local tours and comradery. Talented and engaging speakers framed critical conversations for attendees, laying the groundwork for positive action by our members and the organization for the years to come. Our members will continue to benefit from this year’s convention when many of the sessions become available online, building a strong and diverse selection of continuing education offerings.

It was a record year for AIA Florida’s Design and Honor Awards submissions. Selecting the winners was no easy task, with nearly 300 dynamic and innovative projects submitted. We’d like to give a very special thanks to Joyce Owens, FAIA, RIBA, AIA Florida immediate past president, and the London-based jury for their thoughtful and in-depth deliberations. We have continued to build on the Florida Foundation for Architecture’s success with the People’s Choice Awards program. This year’s projects garnered more than one million votes from 67 countries, engaged the public and shared Florida’s great architecture through a strong social media campaign and coverage in traditional news outlets.

This year also brings the launch of an exciting new program for the Jacob Leadership Institute. Building on past successes, this new six-month certificate program will help to train and cultivate the next generation of leaders with a curriculum focused on core professional skills such as creating a personal vision, teamwork and collaboration and community engagement. More to come on this initiative.

Our advocacy agenda continued well past January’s Legislative Day with productive, year-long work to proactively address issues related to the Florida Building Code and Florida Building Commission, CCNA and long-term efforts to confront resiliency considering foreseeable changes to our tropical environment. Similarly, the Disaster Task Force continued the work started after the 2017 Hurricane season, educating members and building a strong network of trained professionals prepared to lend their expertise and assist local municipalities if asked in the wake of an event.

I am deeply honored to have had the opportunity to serve AIA Florida this year and am incredibly grateful for a talented and amazing team of leaders focused on serving our profession — from Board and committee members to AIA Florida’s amazing staff. As we look to the future, let’s take a moment to reflect, celebrate our success and continue moving the ball forward collectively on behalf of our profession.

IT WAS A RECORD YEAR FOR AIA FLORIDA’S DESIGN AND HONOR AWARDS SUBMISSIONS. SELECTING THE WINNERS WAS NO EASY TASK, WITH NEARLY 300 DYNAMIC AND INNOVATIVE PROJECTS SUBMITTED.
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Barwdu School
Duwehn’s Town, Liberia, Africa
Merit Award
for Unbuilt Design
KZ Architecture
Miami, Florida

The government of Grand Bassa County in Central Liberia allocated 52 acres of land for a school to be built in three educational clusters beginning with the primary classroom building. With open-air ventilation, windows will be screened to allow maximum circulation and a double roof system keeps classrooms cool and airy.

St. Petersburg Pier Market
St. Petersburg, Florida
Merit Award
for Unbuilt Design
Wannemacher Jensen Architects, Inc.
St. Petersburg, Florida

With over 5,300 linear feet of waterfront, this market was designed to serve as a cultural connection between the city and the water’s edge.
Chabad of the Venetian & Sunset Islands
Miami, Florida
Merit Award for Unbuilt Design
Shulman + Associates
Miami, Florida

This small Jewish spiritual and community center will occupy a tiny lot amidst a diverse collection of buildings. The chabad is comprised of a four-story building for public functions and a one-story building for private religious use, a library and gym.

Bayamon Infill Housing
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Honor Award for Unbuilt Design
Díaz Paunetto Arquitectos
San Juan, Puerto Rico

In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico is rethinking its housing construction efforts by providing safe housing with a strategy to repopulate its old urban district by launching an initiative to develop infill lots for housing and mixed-use projects.
The New St. Petersburg Pier
St. Petersburg, Florida
Honor Award for Unbuilt Design
ASD|SKY
Tampa, Florida

“This is a major public project that will put St. Petersburg on the map. The transition between environments is outstanding in the way the project floats over the water to arrive at its destination.” — 2018 Design Awards Jury
Affordable Infill
Delray Beach, Florida
Honor Award
for Unbuilt Design
Birse Thomas Architects
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

New sustainable single-family infill houses developed for Deerfield Beach produced five prototypes for six sites in a historically Bahamian-American neighborhood. In order to achieve affordability, the homes are flexible and designed to be easily repeated. The prototypes reinterpret vernacular residential types seen in subtropical hot-humid climates like the bungalow, shotgun and dogtrot.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of the Architect
Solutions for Large Openings

The sun, both welcoming and boastful during the day, begins its nightly show – subduing its hues into a bright palette of reds, pinks and oranges. Its daytime heat has eased and a cool breeze of salt and sea rewards from the coast. A pelican glides across the darkening water, diving for a dinner only it can see. A fish leaps out of the water and smacks the surface with a surprising slap and splash. Another sea breeze skirts by, this time carrying with it the smell of a neighbor’s steaks grilling over charcoal. The sun plays with wispy remainders of clouds, illuminating them like fireworks. A lone sailboat glides toward the west, chasing the sun into tomorrow. That’s the view. That’s the life. And that’s the problem...

Large openings tie spaces together with the view, inviting the outdoors indoors. It is where families and friends gather, where special memories linger beyond the setting sun’s tropical hues. For architects in the Sunshine State, however, covering a large opening isn’t as simple as popping a slider onto its track or throwing up folding doors. Historically, Florida has been a challenge due to the stringent building codes – some of the strictest in the world.

Florida Building Codes require meeting rigorous design pressure testing, passing demanding water and air leakage requirements and meeting impact testing stipulations. These Florida postcard-like vistas provide unique weather challenges as well: high UV rays, high humidity and high salinity. There are also the HVHZ requirements for Miami-Dade / Broward County, which present additional challenges.

Due to these challenges, national window and door companies have only dipped their toes into the trying Florida market, procuring limited results. The return on investment is simply not there for these national companies to fully invest the time and resources to engage architects to achieve flexible large opening solutions. Due to these factors, architects often find their ideas curbed, and customers find themselves settling.
As a window and door provider in Florida, Scott Zurbrigen quickly identified this large gap ... per se ... in service in the Florida market.

“As a window and door provider, I saw what people wanted and I saw what they were getting,” Zurbrigen said. “They did not get what they wanted.”

“That one opening defines most homes and commercial spaces,” Zurbrigen said. “The main attraction of Florida is the lifestyle, the view. Why handicap this by settling for the limited solutions that the window and door industry have historically provided?”

Seeing a need that was not being fulfilled, Zurbrigen founded the fenestration company Euro-Wall Systems. Formed in Florida with products engineered specifically for Florida, Euro-Wall’s mission is to offer folding, sliding, stacking and pivot doors that meet the Florida Building Codes and HVHZ requirements, all while providing industry leading solutions for opening heights, widths and panel to glass ratios.

In a short period of time, Euro-Wall has made good on this mission. Euro-Wall provides impact rated panels up to 12 feet tall in the majority of their product offerings, provides DP ratings that are currently the highest on the market, and presents flexibility in configuration options that previously were impossible to achieve.

Additionally, Zurbrigen early on decided to use only the highest grade materials and finishes. “Our “standard” is typically other companies’ upgrades,” Zurbrigen said. “Our extrusions are manufactured using 6063-T5 aluminum, we use stainless steel 304SS for all of our handle components, and our finish coatings are AAMA 2605. Our goal is to provide the best and longest lasting products available.”

Zurbrigen continues, “As a company we are never satisfied. Our mission from day one has been to raise the bar on what can be achieved in large door solutions. We look at market trends and see what is possible. Then we push what can be done further. Because we are based in Florida, we are nimble and capable of pushing these boundaries while being very price-competitive in the market. We look forward to the future as we strive to turn a product into an integral part of a lifestyle.”

To learn more about Euro-Wall Systems, visit www.euro-wall.info

Introducing the Thinnest Profile Impact Rated Sliding Door on the Market

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Introducing the Thinnest Profile Impact Rated Sliding Door on the Market

“When looking to architectural trends for large opening sliding doors – less is more. The sliding door market is demanding large opening systems that show less metal and more glass, allowing for maximum uninterrupted views. Easier said than done when it comes to the strict Florida building environment. In order to meet HVHZ and Florida Building Code requirements, wider stiles, taller rails and chunkier interlocks or other extremely expensive options have been the norm ... until now.

Through European-inspired slim profile design and real-world manufacturing processes, the Florida-based company Euro-Wall Systems has created the impact rated Florida Product Approved Euro Vista Multi Slide™. This innovative sliding door system has the thinnest vertical stiles of less than 1 inch – the smallest impact rated sliding door interlock available.

Scott Zurbrigen, founder of Euro-Wall Systems, said, “The Impact Rated Euro Vista Multi Slide system means one can now affordably install up to eight impact-rated panels that can be manufactured up to 70 square feet per panel with panels up to 8 feet wide and heights up 12 feet tall. These impact-rated panels can be arranged into any configuration with an 800lb per panel capacity, providing flexibility for architecture design.”

In addition to providing massive panel sizes with minimal interlock profile, the Euro Vista Multi Slide™ is the only impact-rated sliding door that does not require a sill riser for a water rating.

Zurbrigen said, “By offering a full embedded sill option for our multi slide door, we can provide a door system that has clean aesthetics and helps prevent trips or falls.”

The multi slide system is Florida Product Approved, tested and approved for use in HVHZ areas, tested for thermal requirements, and utilizes the patented EZ Glide™ Roller System. Euro-wall uses AAMA 2605 coating as its standard finish and offers a 10-year warranty. To learn more about the Euro Vista Multi Slide™, visit www.euro-wall.com/euro-vista-multi-slide or check out the FL # 27423.
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2018 AIA Florida/Caribbean Design Award Winners for Masonry in Design

Canopy Redefined
Miami, Florida
Merit Award for Masonry in Design
Touzet Studio
Miami, Florida

“A small, elegant retail building that uses a handful of different masonry types very skillfully taking the theme of masonry into the future with new products.” — 2018 Design Awards Jury

Doak Campbell Stadium Improvements
Tallahassee, Florida
Merit Award for Masonry in Design
EMI Architects/ROSSER International Inc.
Tallahassee, Florida

“This upgrade of civic presence builds on over 100 years of perpetuating the University’s historical architectural precedent. This is a clear investment in the future of the university.” — 2018 Design Awards Jury
Bo Diddley Plaza Renovations
Gainesville, Florida
Honor Award for Masonry In Design
DAG Architects Inc.
Destin, Florida

The conversion of an historic plaza that had become a homeless haven into a safe, attractive public space involved improvements to an existing amphitheater and a facelift and redesign of the north side of the plaza. Improvements included removing and/or relocating some structures and constructing a new brick building to serve multiple purposes.
Alexander Montessori School
New Reception and Classroom Building
Palmetto Bay, Florida
Merit Award for Sustainable Design
Jenifer Briley & Associates
Miami, Florida

The design of a sustainable K-5th grade school entry, reception and classroom building was the project goal. The first phase was to create a master plan, a landscape design and two new front buildings that would take advantage of the site and be in keeping with the Montessori philosophy.

Ft. Irwin Hospital Replacement
Barstow, California
Merit Award for Sustainable Design
RLF
Orlando, Florida

Located on an existing military base in the Mojave Desert, this project replaced three older buildings with a single state-of-the-art hospital. A six-acre solar energy farm produces all of the energy required for the hospital. This is the first net-zero, carbon-neutral hospital in the country to achieve LEED Platinum.
Revitalizing Oldsmar
Oldsmar, Florida
Merit Award for Theoretical & Research Design
Taryn Sabia, Assoc. AIA, Florida Center for Community Design and Research, University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida

A new master plan for downtown Oldsmar was created as three distinct districts. First, a district to revitalize the area by creating a high density, pedestrian area; second, an historic central area that emphasizes sustainable transportation; and third, an area that utilizes vacant properties to create a new major public plaza.

“The beauty of this project is its conceptual response to, and growth out of, local interest in fishing. An elegant enclosure that seems to float on water.” – 2018 Design Awards Jury

Center for Bass Fishing
Lake Apopka, Florida
Merit Award for Theoretical & Research Design
Dianne Panton, Assoc. AIA, University of Florida – CityLab Orlando
Orlando, Florida

“The beauty of this project is its conceptual response to, and growth out of, local interest in fishing. An elegant enclosure that seems to float on water.” – 2018 Design Awards Jury
A Debt to Havana’s Rooftops
Havana, Cuba
Honor Award for Theoretical & Research Design
Manuel Alvarino,
University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida

“This beautifully analyzed and presented project shows real understanding of the place and its people. Simple and poetic.”
– 2018 Design Awards Jury

Photo Credit: Courtesy of the architecture student
A memorial to honor the 49 lives that were lost during the tragic mass shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, in 2016, this five-block experience features elements that are delicately connected, allowing viewers to experience each one on its own or together as a whole, with the goal of creating a sanctuary for hope and healing.
2018 AIA Florida/Caribbean Design Award Winners for Renovations & Additions

Jim Moran Building
Tallahassee, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for Renovations & Additions
Architects Lewis + Whitlock
Tallahassee, Florida

“The intended transparency, which was critical to the architect’s concept, was deftly achieved. The design reflects a clarity of purpose. The project stands on the street like a small jewel.” – 2018 Design Awards Jury

Wabi Sabi House
Osprey, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for Renovations & Additions
Hall Architects, P.A.
Sarasota, Florida

Sited on the backwater of a creek, this house’s aesthetic of unfinished block, exposed formwork and clear siding is testimony to the client’s appreciation of Wabi Sabi, a worldview characterized by the awareness and expression of beauty through the integrity and inherent imperfection of natural objects.
Miami Dade College Inter-American Campus

Miami, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for Renovations & Additions
M. C. Harry & Associates, Inc.
Miami, Florida

Unprecedented growth was the catalyst for transforming a 1970’s vintage high-rise office building into a unique, high profile, urban campus. The building is clad in a series of polychromatic panels that conceal the parking garage and provide iconic identity.

St. Thomas More Church Renovations & Expansion

Sarasota, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for Renovations & Additions
JNW Studios Architecture | Interiors | Planning + Urban Design
Sarasota, Florida

While retaining as much of the existing structure as possible, a renovation was required to increase seating capacity. The resulting design for the 29,900 SF expansion is a baroque composition continuing the modern vocabulary of the existing building.

Bo Diddley Plaza Renovations

Gainesville, Florida
Honor Award of Excellence for Renovations & Additions
DAG Architects Inc.
Destin, Florida

“This is an outstanding urban renewal project that is going to last. It is pure quality, thoughtfully designed. It is definitely built to last.” – 2018 Design Awards Jury

Photo Credit: Forer Photography
Photo Credit: Greg Wilson Photo
Photo Credit: DAG Architects
All buildings serve a purpose, some serve the greater good.

Christopher Durham, PE, CPC
Electrical Engineer | SSR

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
Sarasota, Florida
Image courtesy of JNW Studios Architecture | Interiors | Planning + Urban Design © Greg Wilson Photo

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The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art
Sarasota, Florida
Honor Award of Excellence for Renovations & Additions
Architects Lewis + Whitlock
Tallahassee, Florida

“The architects added very little to the existing building but succeeded in transforming it to a beautiful and sensitive space.” – 2018 Design Awards Jury
Hudson House
Treasure Island, Florida
Honor Award of Excellence for Renovations & Additions
Seibert Architects, P.A.
Sarasota, Florida

The stunning transformation of a derelict house with no architectural merit into a cohesive modern aesthetic was achieved by employing a variety of strategies inside and out. Natural illumination of the previously dark interior was achieved by designing a glass entry plane, light wells and a restructured exterior wall facing the waterfront.
Newell Hall, University of Florida
Orlando, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for Historic Preservation & Restoration
Robert A.M. Stern Architects
New York, New York
Schenkel & Schultz, Inc.

This project responded to a request from student government for collaborative study spaces in historic Newell Hall, built in 1910. The repurposed “Learning Commons” acts as a social learning laboratory and the building achieved LEED Gold Certification.
House Tranquilo
Sarasota, Florida
Honor Award of Excellence for Historic Preservation & Restoration
Seibert Architects PA
Sarasota, Florida

This 1957 residence typified mid-century design concepts, many of which are still valid. The current renovation focused on doing no harm to the existing design while sustainably enhancing its original concept and updating it for today's uses and needs.
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Preventing Moisture Penetration in Masonry Walls

We live in a very divisive culture but I think that there is at least ONE thing that we can all agree on – moisture should stay on the exterior side of a wall system. This may sound like a simple rule but it is easier said than done! The consequences for this not happening are, as we all know, severe. They include damage and unsightly staining to interior finishes and wall board, excess humidity problems, corrosion and rot inside of the walls and – worst of all – mold and mildew.

All wall systems have their specific dos and don’ts to help make them more watertight but masonry wall systems have an additional big advantage when it comes to mold and mildew. First, they are not a food source for mold. This is important because the mold has no interest in growing “into” the masonry surface. It may grow in collected dust or dirt, which you often see on the tops of exterior walls where the cap is not sloped. But inside a wall, where masonry is protected from settled dust and dirt, you would rarely see mold growth on the masonry itself. You might find mold growing on the furring strips and drywall attached to the masonry but not on the actual masonry. The second big advantage of masonry walls and mold growth is related to the first in that any mold found on masonry can be easily cleaned off because it has not grown into the wall but is residing on a thin layer of dirt on the face.

This discussion is going to focus on the three major types of masonry walls and some of the more important steps you can take to help them stay dry. These three types are the double wythe wall, the single wythe wall and the stucco wall. The double wythe wall (also known in masonry circles as the “Perfect Wall”) is where you have two vertical layers or “wythes” of masonry wall with an air space between them. This air space is usually 1” or 2” wide and is a very effective water barrier. The single wythe wall is a single layer of masonry where the exterior surface of the wall has to act as your water barrier. This type of wall is very popular for both cost and appearance in that it allows you to showcase the many textures and colors that concrete masonry units are available in. The third type of masonry wall is the tried and true stucco wall where a direct applied stucco coating bonds to your block and protects it from water intrusion.

The key to constructing a double wythe wall is in intercepting the water that will inevitably make its way through the exterior wythe of brick or concrete block. As this water runs down the inside face of the exterior wythe it must be intercepted by impermeable flashing that is attached to the interior wythe of masonry and extends across the cavity and completely through the exterior wythe to the exterior face of masonry. Flashing should always occur at the base of the wall but also at any other location where a drop of water running down the inside of the wall would be interrupted in its downward travel.

It is important that the flashing does indeed extend all the way to the exterior to prevent water from running around the tip of the flashing and back into the wall cavity. Where there are joints in the flashing it is important that the joints be fabricated without a gap. EPDM is a popular material for flashing because it is UV resistant and easier to work with.

Because of the UV resistance excess material can be left protruding from the face of the wall to be cut off flush at the end of the project. This protruding material allows for a simple visual check that the flashing was installed at the correct locations. It also alerts other trades working on the wall that there is a special joint that must be respected. A typical problem for base flashing is where the landscaper piles dirt against the building covering the joint and preventing water from seeping out. Stainless drip edges are very effective in all of these areas along with directing water away from the face of the wall. They are however permanently visible.

Weeps in the mortar joint on top of the flashing are very important in making sure that the water can drain quickly and completely out of the cavity. The industry recommends completely open head joints. Plastic bug screens can be installed in the open head joint to keep out insects and enhance the aesthetics. Flashing end dams are important to make sure that the water does not run off of the end of the flashing into an unprotected section of the wall.

Window sills are always an area of concern. Sloping the sills at 15 degrees is recommended. Often, the flashing under the sill will be moved down to the next course to make sure that the sloped sill doesn’t slip off.

A final word on double wythe walls. There is nothing in the exterior wall world that can compete with a properly flashed and drained 2” air cavity for preventing water from entering a building. The numerous additional advantages of this wall system combined with the competitive cost indeed makes it the world’s best wall system.
In holding down costs yet retaining all of the advantages of masonry construction nothing can beat the single wythe wall system. To make sure that the single layer of masonry can keep out water we use the “belts and suspenders” backup approach. This means that several different waterproofing strategies are incorporated. The first is integral water repellent added at the time of manufacturing. This admix doesn’t affect the finished appearance, lasts a lifetime and cuts down on the possibility of efflorescence. A compatible admixture should also be used in mortar. It is important that integral water repellents NOT be used where the wall is to receive a direct applied stucco or direct adhered stone finish as it will adversely affect the bond holding those materials to the wall.

The next layer of defense is making sure that the joints are tooled and that the weakest mortar commensurate with the application is used on the project. For all masonry projects in Florida, that would generally be Type S mortar. The tooing of the joints densities the mortar at the exterior face and creates a more uniform and water-resistant bond between the mortar and masonry in the area of the wall face. It is highly recommended that “weatherstruck” or “raked” joints not be used as these types of joints leave a ledge for water to sit on and potentially be forced through the mortar joint under wind pressure.

The next set of suspenders is to either paint the wall with several coats of acrylic or use a clear surface treatment on the wall. Silanes and Siloxanes are the slightly more expensive but recommended products to use in sealing concrete masonry. Unfortunately, just as walls must be repainted on a regular basis throughout their life, surface sealers must also be reapplied at a 7-10 year interval.

The belt that goes over the above suspenders is flashing and weeps. This is the same concept as with a double wythe wall, i.e. anywhere a drop of water running down the inside of the wall meets an obstruction you must have flashing and weeps to bring it safely to the outside. The integral water repellent in the block really does ensure that a drop of water will actually make it all the way down to the flashing if it gets past the first three sets of belts and suspenders. Classical single wythe flashing and weeps is complicated and somewhat expensive. New products such as Mortar Net’s “Block Flash” do a reasonable job with much less expense and hassle.

The final set of suspenders (seems to be a lot of belts and suspenders!) is good old fashioned crack control. Double wythe walls are the best for overcoming the leakage problems presented by small cracks because cracking in either the exterior or interior wythe is kept from leaking into the interior of the building by the 2” air gap. In single wythe walls cracks can be a problem and need to be aggressively managed. The first thing we want to do is prevent them. Control joints regularly and properly spaced throughout the wall are the best way to accomplish this. The NCMA TEC note 10-02C guidelines give a 20” to 25” maximum spacing for control joints. This spacing presupposes at least one #5 bar for every 12’ 4” of wall height.

Joint reinforcement is helpful in reducing the size of masonry cracks. The normal recommended size and spacing is 9 gauge at 16” vertical spacing. This is not structural reinforcement. It is installed exclusively for crack control. As such, it should be discontinued at all control joints so that the two crack control measures do not fight with one another. Remember, only the structural engineer or architect has the authority to break bar reinforcement (#3, #4, #5 etc) and should be consulted before this is done on the jobsite if it is not explicitly called out in the plans and/or specification. Heavy gauge wall reinforcement may seem like a good idea but more is not always better. The benefits of heavy wire in a 3/8” mortar joint rarely justify the problems created during the laying of the masonry.

Our final wall type, and one proven by a hundred years of South Florida use, is the stucco wall. The actual stucco becomes a rugged water barrier. As long as the stucco is uncracked even a half inch thick layer, directly adhered to the block substrate, does a great job in preventing water from entering the wall. Since a discussion of stucco is a full-length specification. Heavy gauge wall reinforcement may seem like a good idea but more is not always better. The benefits of heavy wire in a 3/8” mortar joint rarely justify the problems created during the laying of the masonry.

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- Do - Bond, Bond, Bond – and more bond. Open texture block (if available) to achieve mechanical and chemical bond.
- Do – Line up your stucco joints with your block control joints. NO OTHER JOINTS ARE REQUIRED IN STUCCO APPLIED DIRECTLY TO THE BLOCK.
- Do – Make sure you have the proper control joints in the block work. Cracks leak. This is just as true for stucco walls as it is for single wythe walls.
- Do – Use a “top of the line” Acrylic paint
- Don’t – use integral water proofing in the block. It will eliminate suction bond which is very important.
- Don’t – use lath unless absolutely necessary. Direct applied to the concrete or masonry substrate is the industry’s recommendation.

- Prohibit “floating” or “sponging” of the wall. This practice leaves a residue which will adversely affect the bond.
- Do - Thoroughly clean substrate. Cleaner should be on the acid side to remove latent cement dust and particles.
- Do - Dampen substrate (stucco contractors tend to over wet stucco mix if substrate is too dry).
- Do - Make sure that a “suction bond” is available (does the surface absorb water?)

And finally, if you are going to use a bonding again make sure it meets the strict requirements of ASTM C 932 for a non-reemulsifiable or (non-rewettable) product. Otherwise, if water does get behind your stucco, the bonding agent may become a DE-bonding agent!

Happy Specing and STAY DRY.

Don Beers, P.E., CGC
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Adrian Engineering, Inc
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Don Beers, PE, GC is currently the staff engineer for the Masonry Association of Florida (since 2009) and President of Adrian Engineering, Inc. Previous to 2009 Don acted as Engineering Services Manager with Rinker Materials for 29 years. He is a graduate of the University of South Florida in Civil and Structural Engineering and is a licensed engineer and general contractor in Florida. Has served as Chairman of the National Concrete Masonry Association’s Codes Committee, the Florida Concrete & Products Association’s Block Committee and a board member for The Masonry Society (TMS). Member of MAF, ASTM, FES, NSPE, ASCE, ICC and TMS.
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AdRizer @ BOTA Center
Sarasota, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for Interiors
Hive Architects inc.
Bradenton, Florida

An interior improvement of 5,000 SF on the second floor of a mid-century commercial building produced a dynamic floor plan based on an unfolding of the company logo. There are two major areas, the largest of which, an open work area, is shaped in a zigzag pattern. The “play” area is smaller and contains a large kitchen and indoor game spaces.

Forte Dei Marmi
Miami, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for Interiors
Oppenheim Architecture + Design, LLP
Miami, Florida

“This is a beautifully restrained minimal interior combined with the optimum use of materials.” – 2018 Design Awards Jury
Donnelly Renovation
Siesta Key, Florida
Honor Award of Excellence for Interiors
Halflants + Pichette Architects
Sarasota, Florida

“It tells a wonderful story. The architect has taken the building back to its essentials. There is real clarity in planning and organization of the space.” – 2018 Design Awards Jury

Photo Credit: William S. Speer Photography
530 Lincoln Road
Miami, Florida
Honor Award of Excellence for Interiors
Shulman + Associates

“This outstanding interior employs details we have never seen before. One material pulls the space together and the staircase is extraordinary.” – 2018 Design Awards Jury

Photo Credit: Emilio Collavino
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City of Pompano Beach Library + Cultural Center
Pompano Beach, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for New Work
Silva Architects with Monica Ponce de Leon Studio
Coral Gables, Florida
A series of solids and voids that project and recede in a strong horizontal zigzag pattern create this lively exterior of concrete and glass.

Seabreeze West
Delray Beach, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for New Work
Silberstein Architecture, Inc.
Delray Beach, Florida
This residence is sited in a neighborhood with specific building regulations. While the final design of the house is modern, it is influenced by traditional vernacular architecture including the organization of the rooms, creating a private courtyard with pool and spa.

Brickell City Centre
Miami, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for New Work
Arquitectonica
Miami, Florida
“This project speaks to a different kind of city by using the forces of the commercial world to create a major public space. The architect has gone way beyond the mainstream, adding a form and shape that is engaging.” – 2018 Design Awards Jury
Water Works Park
Tampa, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for New Work
Rowe Architects Incorporated
Tampa, Florida

This truly functional public space features gardens, a dog park, a period gazebo and an events lawn with a Special Events Pavilion to mark the original site of the city’s drinking water supply. Red brick was used for the large structures, seat walls and accents throughout the park. The shapes of the gabled roofs are modern interpretations of the roof on the adjacent historic structure.

Ayla Golf Academy & Clubhouse
Aqaba, Jordan
Merit Award of Excellence for New Work
Oppenheim Architecture + Design, LLP
Miami, Florida

Natural dunescapes and an unadorned local architectural heritage were the primary references for the organic, yet innovative, design of what is slated to become an iconic symbol for a mixed-use resort development. A massive concrete shell that maintains a raw, unadorned look that is true to its context shapes the building’s distinct form.

Housing for the Disabled Elderly
Miami Beach, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for New Work
MATEU Architecture, Inc.
Miami, Florida

“This is an intelligent contextual response to Miami Art Deco typologies. The modest construction is enlivened with thoughtful details. This design brings a joyful aspect on the street for an elderly disabled project.”
– 2018 Design Awards Jury
GLF Headquarters
Miami, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for New Work
Oppenheim Architecture + Design, LLP
Miami, Florida

“Extremely sophisticated delicate detail combined with concrete in a way that articulates the material. Its external clarity is carried through to the interior.” – 2018 Design Awards Jury

Muttenz Water Purification Plant
Muttenz, Switzerland
Merit Award of Excellence for New Work
Oppenheim Architecture + Design, LLP
Miami, Florida

Located in a highly sensitive setting near the Rhine riverfront, this project is the realization of a vision for an interactive community experience. Created as a landmark for the Swiss town of Muttenz, the plant is tied organically to its setting. The architecture and its natural materials were designed to mature harmoniously with the site, thus allowing for a timeless icon that is also a model of sustainability.

Seagrape House
Anna Maria, Florida
Merit Award of Excellence for New Work
Traction Architecture
Tampa, Florida

Conceived as a physical anchor along the blurred edge between land and sea, this barrier island residence exposes its poured concrete construction, which resists hurricane forces and enables dramatic cantilevers. Living spaces are elevated on concrete columns and a megaphone-shaped deck is subtracted from the building’s volume to amplify the sound of crashing waves.
School of Arts & Sciences
Tallahassee, Florida
Honor Award of Excellence for New Work
EMI Architects
Tallahassee, Florida

This 12-classroom addition to an existing nondescript charter school campus not only provided much needed space but it visually stitched the campus together.
Warehouse Complex

Miami, Florida
Honor Award of Excellence for New Work
Chandler & Associates, P.A.
Miami, Florida

“This project demonstrates the transformation of a standard form into something abstract and significant. It is real architecture created from the mundane.”
- 2018 Design Awards Jury

Photo Credit: Michael Stavridis, Photography Model

Photo Credit: Chandler & Associates, P.A.
Guberman Kennedy Residence
Venice, Florida
Honor Award of Excellence for New Work
Halflants + Pichette Architects
Sarasota, Florida

Built on a 50-foot-wide site, the design of this residence takes advantage of two corridor views of the Gulf of Mexico through the setbacks of neighboring lots. The main living quarters are on the second floor with guest rooms below and a courtyard from which an exterior stair leads to the roof terrace, connecting the two wings.
Bay Pines
STEM Center
Seminole, Florida
Honor Award of Excellence for New Work
Rowe Architects Incorporated
Tampa, Florida

“Treading carefully in a fragile environment, this facility touches the ground lightly... It has restraint, elegance, and still manages to be rigorous and simple.” – 2018 Design Awards Jury
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2018 AIA Florida/Caribbean Design Award Winners for the Test of Time

Pineview School
Osprey, Florida
Merit Award for the Test of Time
Design Architect: Carl Abbott, FAIA/
Architect/Planner/PA
Sarasota, Florida
Architect of Record: W.R. Frizzell
Project Manager: Don Green, AIA
Tampa, Florida

“This remains a joyful and uplifting building full of light and color. Bold forms combined with bright colors create a dynamic architectural experience whose clarity has endured.” – 2018 Design Awards Jury

Photo Credit: Sean Harris
With over a decade in the field, Abney + Abney Green Solutions has been chosen by owners, architects, contractors and developers to guide them in all aspects of the green building process.
Gold Medal
Dan Kirby, FAIA
Jacobs
Orlando, Florida

The Gold Medal is one of the highest honors given by AIA Florida, recognizing an architect who has distinguished himself in a manner resulting in a profound impact on the profession over an extended period of time.

Dan Kirby, FAIA, has elevated the status of the profession as an exemplary architect and committed volunteer leader. Kirby’s enduring record of service demonstrates what can be achieved by creating positive perceptions of the profession, improving the community and working for positive change.

Since 2003, when he was first elected as an AIA local component leader, Kirby has had a longstanding and ongoing involvement with AIA at the local, state and national levels. In 2013, he served as AIA Florida president. During his tenure, he established the Women in Architecture task force, giving way to the national development of a toolkit for other components to follow. His work on the Citizen Architect Task Force was recognized with an AIA National Component Excellence Award in 2013.

In his own community, Kirby has achieved positive transformation through sustainability efforts such as the expanded use of renewable energy. As Commissioner and two-term President of the Orlando Utilities Commission, he successfully championed the expanded use of renewable energy. He also led the effort to win and successfully host the A’17: AIA Conference on Architecture in Orlando.

“Dan Kirby is a leader in the profession and embodies the highest level of service,” praised the jury. “He has performed a consistent and ongoing leadership role. He is a pleasure to work with and part of the backbone of AIA.”
Sweet Sparkman Architects is a Sarasota-based firm established in 2002. Over the last 16 years, the firm’s work has focused on a range of community and governmental projects, planning and custom home design. The firm’s mission has been consistent since the beginning of the practice: to design comprehensive, artful places through a collaborative, creative and professional process. The firm endeavors to leave a legacy of built excellence, both for their clients and the public at large.

Sweet Sparkman Architects has grown to a team of 17 talented and diverse architects, designers and administrative staff. The studio is an open, collaborative environment. Many at Sweet Sparkman are actively engaged as community volunteers. They have also been very active within the AIA Florida Gulf Coast chapter.

Brad Schiffer, AIA, is well known and respected locally, statewide and nationally for his knowledge of code, fire and life safety issues. He contributes to the community on countless levels and works tirelessly in the background representing the architecture profession and the construction industry.

Architects from around the state regularly consult with him on code matters, especially when they are struggling with Code Officials’ interpretations or decisions. He calls it “Code Therapy,” which might mean walking the architect through the code, assisting with the interpretations of a building official, finding the right code reference or sometimes even explaining why the code reviewer is correct.

He has been recognized as an AIA National Citizen Architect and is a participating member of AIA Florida Southwest Chapter. He was a Board Member of AIA Florida in 2015. In 2011, he was appointed by the AIA Florida Board to serve as Chairman of Florida Codes and Standards Advisory. He has served as a Florida Building Commissioner, a governor-appointed position, since 2012.

“Schiffer is a champion of the profession and embodies community service,” noted the jury. “He is selfless, reliable and has an impressive record of service.”

Silver Medal
Brad Schiffer, AIA
Taxis, Inc.
Naples, Florida

Firm of the Year
Sweet Sparkman Architects
Sarasota, Florida

According to the jury, Sweet Sparkman Architects is a firm that is “authentic about the profession and people and have demonstrated a comprehensive body of work that is high quality, consistent and a good variety.”
Michael Halflants, AIA, is a principal at Halflants + Pichette Architects and a tenured professor at the University of South Florida School of Architecture and Community Design. Halflants + Pichette Architects, founded in 2016, centers on housing projects and single-family residences, many of which are carried out as design-build ventures. His firm has been recognized in the professional press at the state and national levels.

As a tenured professor at University of South Florida’s graduate school of architecture, Halflants teaches graduate design studios, as well as seminars on tropical architecture and modern housing. He strives to build and maintain deliberately parallel and mutually reinforcing creative professional activities and educational responsibilities.

In 2010, he received the AIA Florida/Caribbean William G. McMinn, FAIA Award for Outstanding Architectural Education Contributions, recognizing his work as an educator.

The jury commended the great density of work completed, saying that he brings a consistency of thought and a simple freshness to the work and place. They noted his work as having “an intensity that has no comparison.”
Anthony “Tony” Pullara Chapter Award
AIA Miami
Miami, Florida

AIA Miami’s member programming and outreach to the community set a standard to exceed every year. Programs including Active Design Miami, the Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program and BAM! Black Architects in the Making represent the chapter’s work in diversity, community and professional development. “AIA Miami’s diversity in outreach is commendable,” remarked the jury. “They are an example of improving communities through design.”

Anthony “Tony” Pullara Individual Award
Jaime E. Sobrino, AIA
Leo A Daly
Miami, Florida

Jaime E. Sobrino, AIA, has led the Institute at various levels and helped launch key initiatives focused on leadership development, advocacy and public awareness. Sobrino is “the model of engagement in the profession,” remarked the jury. “He is a deserving candidate with a huge desire to pay it forward.”
Associate Member Individual Honor Award
Amie Calisti, Assoc. AIA  Boynton Beach, Florida

Amie Calisti, Assoc. AIA, is passionately devoted to serving her fellow associates. She is heavily involved in the community and profession. Through her networking, mentorship, community service and leadership, she has invigorated associates statewide. The judges believe that Calisti epitomizes the spirit of the Associate Member Individual Honor Award through her engagement in the profession, describing her as “the ideal associate who has clear excitement for architecture.”

Photographer of the Year
Sean Harris
Sarasota, Florida

Sean Harris has demonstrated his ability to convey architecture’s significance in photography through his work on modern design, contemporary architecture and historical buildings. The jury commended Harris’s service of advocating for at-risk masterpieces and praised his ability to dramatically capture spaces, saying he has “an extremely keen eye for architecture.”
Object Award
The Hangout
The Urban Conga | Tampa, Florida

The Urban Conga's project, The Hangout, is an interactive installation focused on using sight, sound and touch to spark creativity, exploration and free-choice learning into a once underutilized space. Touch sensor technology is used to create a unique interactive experience that allows visitors to play music by touching the tops of the cylinders. Color-changing LEDs light up the neighborhood and provide a unique visual experience.

The jury found this a well-built and fun project with a social agenda, saying “I want to play with it.”

Mellen C. Greeley Craftsman Award
Ryan Swanson, Assoc. AIA
The Urban Conga | Tampa, Florida

The Urban Conga, run by Ryan Swanson, Assoc. AIA, promotes community activity and social interaction through play achieved using differently scaled interactive installations and environments in the public and private realm.

The jury praised a quality of craftsmanship that shows individual thinking and a “different” take on craftsmanship that focuses on social responsibility. “The Urban Conga projects are interactive and way cool.”
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Floridians and the worldwide public at large voted online for their favorite community buildings in the fifth annual People’s Choice Competition, hosted by AIA Florida and the Florida Foundation for Architecture. A total of 39 buildings were nominated this year. The buildings on this year’s ballot were built in the past five years and contribute to the happiness and prosperity of Florida residents. The buildings nominated shape Florida’s topography and create a distinct architectural style for which Florida is known. Over one million votes were cast from 67 countries and 49 states.

First Place
Institute for Human & Machine Cognition
Pensacola, Florida
Quina Grundhoefer Architects
Pensacola, Florida
Second Place
Tampa Riverwalk
Tampa, Florida
Kimley-Horn and Associates
Tampa, Florida

Photo Credit: Courtesy of the Architect

Third Place
The Care Point Health & Wellness Center
Tallahassee, Florida
BKJ, Inc. Architecture
Tallahassee, Florida

Fourth Place
Kate Tiedemann College of Business
St. Petersburg, Florida
Harvard Jolly Architecture and ikon.5 Architects
St. Petersburg, Florida

Fifth Place
Animal Services and Protection Center
Doral, Florida
LIVS Associates
Coral Gables, Florida

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Photo Credit: Sandy Dewitt
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CEO AND PRESIDENT

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