

AIA2006  
WINNING DESIGNS

# DESIGNS OF DISTINCTION

Architectural projects claim top honors from AIA  
Southwest Florida Chapter 2006 Awards.

**F**rom the Bonita Springs band shell, a premier entertainment venue and gathering place for that city, to the restoration of the historic Edison & Ford Winter Estates, Southwest Florida's architects and designers are shaping landmarks that give character and style to the region.

The American Institute of Architects Southwest Florida Chapter has again singled out architects and individuals for its 2006 Design Awards.

Among the projects earning recognition—including some that have been

built and others that remain on paper—were facilities for corporate headquarters, design of a school, and a house renovation deemed “the best the jury has ever seen.”

AIA Southwest Florida has nearly 200 members from five counties, including Lee, Collier, Hendry, Charlotte and Glades, according to James Knafo, president of the chapter. “We look at ourselves as an educational and social organization group,” he says, adding that the chapter provides a variety of activities for members throughout the year. “The Chapter Awards Banquet was just one part of an

overall conference that took place last year at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club.”

The judge for the 2006 design awards competition was Albert Alfonso, of Alfonso Architects in Tampa. “We try to pick a prominent architect from Florida because the building types and the character of the work in Southwest Florida is unique to the rest of the United States,” says Knafo.

The following are comments from the architects and the jury on the winners, and other special distinctions saluting architects and firms of merit.

—*Andrea Galabinski*

## PROJECT

Canterbury School

**CLIENT REPRESENTATIVE:** Rick Starace for Canterbury School

**ARCHITECT:** BSSW Architects Inc.

**PROJECT ARCHITECT/DESIGNER:** Joyce Owens

**AWARD:** Excellence in Architecture, unbuilt

**ARCHITECT'S COMMENTS:** The high school is [the first] of a two-phase program. Phase I includes a three-story classroom building in which the third story is almost entirely devoted to the sciences, a one-story administration building, and a high one-story music/drama building. An additional three-story classroom building and a performing arts building adjacent to the music/drama building are planned in Phase II.

The high school is arranged around a courtyard, and each building has a canopy along its inner façade, which creates a modern loggia on the ground floor. The commons, the arts rooms and the band room are located on the courtyard so the students can have easy access. The band room chairs and instruments can be taken outside so the courtyard can be utilized as a stage, the arts room doors can be opened adjacent to the sculpture garden for exhibitions and most important, the



commons can be used as an indoor/outdoor space. Natural light is a primary design goal, which influenced the building and locations of the windows. Blurring the lines between inside and out defines the design approach of this project.

**AIA JURY COMMENTS:** [Uses] a courtyard as a new “place” for the school. Engages the athletic field consciously in a new way, [which is] difficult in this prototype. A true Florida building in its response to climate/shade. Subtly sophisticated. I would want to go here.