

# Good design deserves praise

Southwest  
Florida architects  
honored for  
projects here and  
abroad.

Special to The News-Press

## HONOR AWARDS

Judges presented five honor awards recognizing this year's distinguished architectural achievements by members. They included:

» **W.R. Frizzell Medal of Honor** — Brad Schiffer, AIA of Taxis Architects

» **2012 AIA FLSW Firm of the Year** — Parker Mudgett Smith Architects

» **Individual Honor Award** — James Leese AIA, CNU-A, ASAI 2012

» **Citizen Architect** — Edward Weiner AIA

» **Associate Member — Individual of the Year** — Keith Gilbert, Assoc. AIA of MHK Architecture and Planning

**F**or noted futurist David Zach, architecture is more than a stake in the ground; it's a foundation that says just that — a foundation for something to last because it should last.

"Architecture is one of the great arts and one of the great sciences," Zach said during the 2012 Design Conference and Awards Celebration held by the American Institute of Architects Florida Southwest Chapter last month. It took place at the chapter's headquarters at Miromar Design Center in Estero.

"Your buildings build communities. There's great responsibility with that and great opportunities. Thank you for the opportunity to help in some small way to recognize the value that you as architects bring to the rest of us."

AIA members asked Zach, who lives in Wisconsin, to chair a jury and choose a team of architect judges from outside Florida to assist and evaluate the projects submitted and determine which would be presented with awards.

"As a non-architect, I feel a little unqualified to make judgment calls on the works of architects (but I won't let that stop me ...) because I am plainly and openly in awe of what you as architects do," Zach said. "No matter if it's a simple addition, a strategic conversation, a quick napkin sketch (please tell me you can still do those — and want to continue to do those) or a master builder work of a lifetime, you get a chance to make a difference in the lives of everyone."



**The Honor Award for Built Architecture — New Work Commercial** went to Archbold Biological Station Learning Center & Lodge. The project designer was W. Jeffrey Mudgett AIA of Fort Myers. This lodge and learning center was built on a 3.3-acre site within an 8,800-acre biological station for Archbold Biological Station. PHOTO BY W. JEFFREY MUDGETT/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS



**The Honor Award for Un-built Architecture** went to Permanent Supportive Housing designed by Architects Unlimited. This unbuilt housing study examines solutions for housing people who are chronically homeless. SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS



# Design

Continued from D1

"In your city, in your neighborhood or anywhere in the world that there is a neighborhood – you as architects make an amazing difference in the lives of people for the better. Architects, no matter what they do, are always Citizen Architects who lead their communities through design."

Zach and his fellow jurors chose the winners of several awards. They include:

» **Honor Award for Built Architecture — New Work Commercial:** Archbold Biological Station Learning Center & Lodge

Project architect: Parker/Mudgett/Smith Architects Inc. Project designer: W. Jeffrey Mudgett, AIA. Client: Hilary M. Swain, Archbold Biological Station. Contractor: Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.

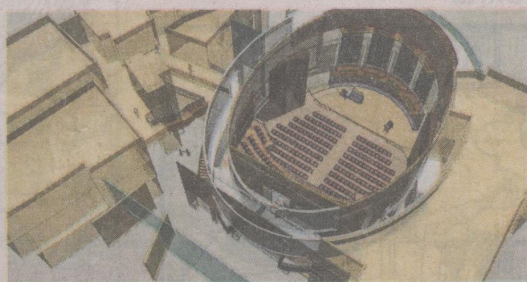
This lodge and learning center was built on a 3.3-acre site within an 8,800-acre biological station for Archbold Biological Station. The new facilities are intended to further the research, outreach and educational missions of the institution and the owner wished to create a world-class regional example of sustainable architecture.

"They recognized the use of natural convection ventilation and natural daylight strategies to direct the design," jurors commented. "This is a building that seems very well-suited for its environment and its use, to educate not just about the natural environment but also about the built environment and how the two can work together."

» **Merit Award for Built Architecture — Restorations and Interiors:** Italian Farmhouse



The Merit Award for Built Architecture — Restorations and Interiors went to the Italian Farmhouse project. SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS



Winner of the Merit Award in Architectural Graphic was the Florida Gulf Coast University Chamber Music Hall. SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS

Project architect: Architecture Joyce Owens, LLC

Built around 1870 in central Italy's Marche region, this two-story farmhouse underwent extensive renovation. To appreciate its renovation, the Italian Farmhouse must be appreciated: A "typical" farmhouse means that the ground floor was used as a barn as well as for storage while the living quarters were upstairs. It was apparent that the old brick and rough wood beam ceilings could provide great character and had to be carefully modernized to make it functional and yet retain its charm.

"The restoration of the Italian Farmhouse seems to have been a bit of a labor of love, and especially impressive as much of the work had to be done over the Internet," jurors said. "When one sees the shaded patio, you can easily see it is about as inviting as one can imagine such a home to be. The effective blending of the ancient with the modern was done seamlessly."

» **Honor Award for Unbuilt Architecture:** Permanent Supportive Housing

Architect: Architects Unlimited. Project designer: Steven Hruby, AIA. Client: LoT 2540 Development with Hunger & Homeless Coalition of CC Partnership

This unbuilt housing study examines solutions for housing people who are chronically homeless.

"This entry has all sorts of goodies in it. Recycling of shipping containers: Issues of human dignity: Permanence as a feature of remedy to 'homelessness hopelessness,'" jurors wrote. "The design offers the practicality of not just shuffling the homeless off to some other place, but

actually doing something to help them set down roots and build community."

» **Test of Time in Architecture:** New house. South Fort Myers. Built 1991.

Architect: Victor Latavish, AIA

This home is located in a typical South Florida subdivision with a mixture of Mediterranean, Tudor and vernacular styles. In 1991, the original couple requested a deliberately modern home, with well-lit spaces for living, and without arches, false brick, stone or decorative bands.

"Restraint. This was an elegant solution that's all about restraint. The jury liked the drama of the entry sequence with terraced steps and deep overhangs which seem to work nicely with the harsh Florida sun," jurors said.

» **Merit Award in Architectural Graphics:** Florida Gulf Coast University Chamber Music Hall

Architect: PK Studios. Project Designer: Brandt Henning, AIA. Client: Florida Gulf Coast University

The importance of architectural graphics on this project was paramount. The university's widespread fundraising effort relies heavily on the images and physical models produced by the architect to tell the project's story.

"There was nice presentation of graphics for this entry. One of the jurors thought the presentation of these images would help to sway the university committee, and more importantly, those who would help fund the building."

**TIME**  
**"ONE OF THE YEAR'S BEST PICTURES!"**  
*Kelra Knightley embodies Anna. Exhilarating. A triumph.*  
*The Washington Post*  
**★★★★★! INTOXICATING! I LOVED IT!**

**ANNA KARENINA**

**GOLDEN GLOBE AWARD NOMINEE**  
**BEST ORIGINAL SCORE**

**ESTERO** Hollywood  
 Coconut Point 16  
 (239) 498-8706

**FT. MYERS** Regal  
 Belltower Stadium 20  
 (239) 590-9696

**NAPLES** Regal  
 Hollywood 20 Naples  
 (239) 597-9494

**NAPLES** SilverSpot  
 (239) 592-0300

CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORIES OR CALL FOR BOOKING INFORMATION AND SHOWTIMES. SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS NO PASSEES OR DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED

**"Whimsical! Romantic! Beautiful!" — The News-Press**

**TALLEY'S FOLLY**  
 BY LANFORD WILSON

**PERFORMANCES!**  
**WEDNESDAY**

**As Perfect as a Poem!**  
**As Heartfelt as a Love Letter!**

**REGAL CINEMAS**  
 A REGAL-ENTERTAINMENT GROUP COMPANY



# HART

Continued from D1

bury, Conn. Hart found Rudolph — by then the dean of nearby Yale's School of Architecture — too busy to take on such a small project, but Bro-smith was ready to venture out on his own and discussed the project with Hart.

It was a good match, and Hart invited Bro-smith to design the family's island home.

Hart, 92, has nothing but praise for his architect, who subsequently went on to design an "extraordinary" family beach house in the West Indies years later.

"Bert is a designer all the way — so very particular in all aspects of location and prevailing climate, etc. His knowledge of construction seems limitless and so, too, his patience with builders who lacked experience," Hart said in an e-mail.

## LIFE AMID NATURE

Bro-smith succinctly describes the cottage as "a simple elevated platform on a secluded island." The central square platform is raised on four columns with decks cantilevered from these columns on all sides.

He designed Noble Camp high enough to be above the vegetation. Raising the cottage high off the ground saved it from flooding and spared

## NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE BUILDING

Architecture is defined as the design of structures, and its most basic function is to shelter us — but it's more than that. We're surrounded by it and it impacts our lives on a daily basis, sometimes for better and sometimes for worse. Most often, that's unconscious.

Buildings play a continuous role in our lives, but what is it about a building's design that makes an impression? It's time the community has its say. Is there a local

building that has enriched your life — a structure that caught your attention or moved you? Let's identify the best in Southwest Florida together and celebrate them.

E-mail your nominations for your favorite Southwest Florida building (or buildings) to Features Editor Tammy Ayer at [tayer@news-press.com](mailto:tayer@news-press.com). Put "favorite buildings" in the subject line. We're compiling a list for voting in the next month or two.

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

•Contact the owners at [sanogal@yahoo.com](mailto:sanogal@yahoo.com) if you'd like to learn more about Hart Cottage or help ensure its future.

it serious damage when Hurricane Donna slammed Southwest Florida in September 1960.

External walls of large sliding windows or screens allow natural breezes to ventilate and cool the interior.

Inside, it's open and abundant with daylight. And in the beginning, before the trees grew too high, views were offered in every direction: over the island, the inland waterway and the Gulf of Mexico.

Screened porches are positioned to overlook the inland waterway to the east and the Gulf of Mexico to the west.

Irene Fascher particularly relishes the timeless pleasure of watching the tides.

"Throughout the seasons, during the neap tides and spring tides, especially in the evening, the place takes on an ethereal and spiritual quality which really makes me thankful for the beauty of the area," she wrote.

## WHAT TO DO?

But like many modern structures built within living memory, Hart Cottage is now threatened to deteriorate beyond repair and at some point may simply be torn down despite its significance.

In practical terms the cost of renovation is difficult to justify — more than likely these costs will be greater than the monetary value of the property. Not surprisingly, builders add in high margins to justify the risk of working in a remote location with unknown variables such as weather and unforeseen problems such as rot.

Ideally, neglected modern properties such as Hart Cottage can be rescued before it is too late. There is much to be learned from them.

But in order to save Hart Cottage, public money or private sponsorship will be necessary to subsidize the renovations.

That's a challenge, but not impossible, in today's recovering economy.

"We are still in the 'limbo' stage ... contemplating the 'regs' necessary to even get started," Fascher wrote recently. "We want to save the cottage, but on limited resources we will need financial assistance to augment the cost."

The family is exploring partnership/shared use possibilities, and volunteers are welcome. The family would be happy to bring others appreciative of its charms into this mid-century masterpiece's magical island circle.

"When looking out from the decks or windows of the cottage, the feeling tone is one of complete connection to nature," Fascher wrote.

"The bonding of the viewer to the flora and fauna is incredible. It generates an appreciation and respect for the land."

— Joyce Owens, a practicing architect, writes the *Architect About Town* column, which generally appears in the Home & Garden section on the second Saturday of every month. She can be reached at [jowens@architecture-joyceowens.com](mailto:jowens@architecture-joyceowens.com).

