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Landmark Designs

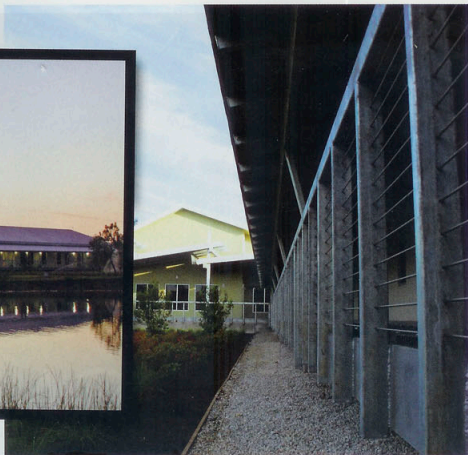
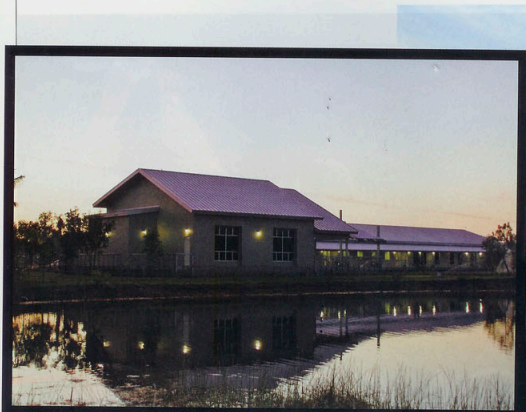
OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, we've become accustomed to watching commercial buildings materialize quickly and abundantly, to the point where seeing another project surface didn't attract a lot of attention. A Mediterranean-style strip mall here, a Mediterranean-style office building there—just another fixture on the Southwest Florida landscape.

But every now and then, a new structure—or a fresh take on an existing one—emerges, calling for a second look. These are projects distinguished by outstanding form to suit function, which legendary architect and interior designer Frank Lloyd Wright once declared “should be one, joined in a spiritual union.”

In recognition of such exceptional examples, *Gulfshore Business* presents Commercial Designs of Distinction.

The finalists were selected from nearly 40 submissions made in response to a call for entry published in *Gulfshore Business Daily* and American Institute of Architects Florida Southwest publications. We separated the projects into six categories: commercial, medical, institutional, remodels and renovations, interior and best overall.

The projects—completed after January 2008, per the rules—were judged by editorial and art staff with the astute guidance of Carlos Urzola, AIA Florida Southwest 2009 president, who provides the comments on each project.



BEST OVERALL

*The Harvey Kapnick Center at Naples Botanical Garden
4940 Bayshore Drive, Naples
Project architect: Architecture Inc.
Contractor: Krafi Construction
Engineers: HSA, JALRW, Wilson/Miller, Goetz & Strope*

Florida Gulf Coast University's **Harvey Kapnick Center Research Labs** is designed so this highly sophisticated research facility fits within the context of its vastly organic site and surroundings at Naples Botanical Garden. The building's long-linear form is derived from the client's need for the building to be visible from the adjacent Bayshore Road and to visually utilize the lake. This orientation negates direct sunlight into the building in the summer. Exterior corridors penetrate the long linear form to negate the perception that the building acts as a wall dividing the site. A major pedes-

trian path through the Garden campus goes through one of these corridors, promoting pedestrian interaction with the building. Toward the lake, the ground slopes down and the building rises off the ground in a floating manner. This physical expression reinforces the client's goal of minimizing negative environmental impacts from building on the site.

Comments: Delicate and simple, a perfect orientation to bring nature inside the building and provide shelter from the rigorous sun. **gB**