



2011 Excellence in Construction Awards - Showcasing Excellence New Museums Win Big!

TAMPA, FL - The best construction projects were on display at the Associated Builders and Contractors “Excellence in Construction” Awards. The new St. Joseph’s Hospital North, Glazer Children’s Museum, Tampa Museum of Art, The Dali Museum all took home high praise. “ABC members continue to build dynamic projects that provide positive impact to our communities.” said ABC President/CEO Steve Cona Jr.

More than 400 people attended the multi-media event April 8th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Tampa. Every other year, the Gulf Coast Chapter recognizes the best work of general contractor and subcontractor members.

The purpose of the awards program is to highlight ABC members’ achievements in construction, including the quality of work, size of projects and the amount of different materials used. The “Excellence” program is a vehicle that offers the opportunity for members to showcase their finest work completed within the previous 24 months.

Many of the projects entries were outstanding in not only diversity, but also in their scope of work, attention to detail and the desire to meet and exceed owners’ expectations,” said Steve P. Cona, Jr., president and CEO of ABC’s Florida Gulf Coast Chapter. While the projects are celebrated, it’s the muscle behind the job that deserves the credit. “Let us not forget our craft workers who build these structures with their own hands.” said Terry Donathan, chairman of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter.

This year, the competition generated some 78 entries from ABC general contractor and subcontractor members. The superior level of craftsmanship and quality shown in every entry and winner continues to reach new heights. With several different construction division categories, the awards covered the gamut of the construction industry. The mix of entries this year included area schools, museums, corporate headquarter facilities, and university buildings, just to name a few.

To oversee the selection process, a panel represented by a cross section of the industry was selected. During the judging process, architects, engineers, and industry leaders reviewed the scope of work and photos of each project entry and ranked them on criteria such as quality of specialized workmanship; attention to electrical and mechanical systems; examination of detail; and general appearance and uniqueness of the project entry. Judges then assigned a numerical score for the entries with the highest score determining the winner in each specific category. This year, winners submitted projects in commercial, industrial, educational, healthcare and institutional work categories. Winning projects also fell into cost range categories of “Under \$1 million” to “Over \$20 million.” (MORE)



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The Big Winners

The award for “General Contractor Project of the Year” was awarded to the general contractor whose project had the most ABC member subcontractors, supplier and associate members on the particular project. The winner also generated a score of 95 percent for quality workmanship by the judges. This year, the coveted award went to The Beck Group for the extraordinary Dali Museum. This new 66,400 SF facility is as flamboyant as the Spanish artist. The building features a geodesic structure called the “Enigma” at more than 75-feet tall and the “Igloo” at 45-feet tall were formed using 1,062 pieces of glass – with no two exactly alike. It also features an architectural concrete helical staircase.

The award for “Subcontractor Project of the Year” was presented to BCH Mechanical for St. Joseph’s Hospital North , Tampa’s new hospital. The mechanical systems employed key energy saving strategies including high efficiency chillers, control optimization, and refrigerants selected to minimize the impact on ozone depletion and global warming.

The Excellence in Construction awards strive to honor those individuals and companies who exemplify the high quality of merit shop workmanship in their projects while upholding a dedication to building projects on time and under budget.

“Our association and these awards bring people together in a spirit of not only healthy competition, but also solid business relationships that result in nothing but positive results,” said Cona.

So, with a handsome eagle award at the banquet, the project entries are complete. By working together on the projects – from the laborer to the skilled craft professionals, from the subcontractor to the general contractors, and from the general contractor to the owner – it’s been proven: merit shop contractors are building America.

About ABC -Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is a national association with 77 chapters representing 25,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms with two million employees. ABC's membership represents all specialties within the U.S. construction industry and is comprised primarily of firms that perform work in the industrial and commercial sectors of the industry. The five Florida ABC Chapters have over 2,500 members; they make up Florida’s largest merit shop commercial construction trade association. ABC’s members employ more than 250,000 Floridians. ABC has become known as "The Voice of Commercial Construction".