

## MIAMI INTERMODAL CENTER

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### MEDIA RELEASE

ATTN: Architecture and Design Reporters and Editors

## MIC-MIA CONNECTOR DESIGN TEAM EARNS ACCOLADES FROM AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Much heralded and long awaited, the Miami Intermodal Center's first major architectural design element has been lauded by the Miami Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. At an awards ceremony Thursday night Earth Tech Consulting was recognized from among 91 design submittals as a **Finalist** in the **Unbuilt Project** category for its work on the Florida Department of Transportation's MIC-MIA Connector Station.

The **Connector Station will be the junction for travelers going to and from the airport who will be using the Florida Department of Transportation's transportation hub known as the Miami Intermodal Center.** It will serve both the Rental Car Facility now under construction and the county's Central Station due to be completed in 2008.

Five years ago then District Secretary, now **State Secretary José Abreu** promised the Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization that **the MIC would be comprised of signature structures.** In remarks to the MPO, he said the MIC would be Miami's gateway, as 95% of Miami-Dade County's visitors arrive through Miami International Airport and either rent cars or take other modes of transportation to destinations within South Florida. The MIC will provide the transportation hub and the MIC-MIA Connector Station recognized by the Miami Chapter of AIA will be the point at which travelers enter the MIC from the airport.

"When Earth Tech, the MIC Program Manager, formed its Miami Architecture Studio and placed Ricardo Fernandez in charge of MIC program design, **we knew we were going to fulfill Secretary Abreu's pledge,**" said **District 6 Secretary John Martinez.** Fernandez had previously led the design of large-scale, award-winning projects in other cities.

"Fernandez, his studio team and others associated with the effort have created *landmark* designs that are both highly efficient for the traveler and strikingly attractive. We are delighted that the Miami Chapter of the AIA has recognized their contribution to South Florida," Martinez added.

Earth Tech is an international consulting firm which was retained by the Florida Department of Transportation to manage the planning and construction of the Miami Intermodal Center. The Florida Department of Transportation has spent in excess of \$250 million acquiring right-of-way, doing environmental remediation of the site, preparing preliminary designs and performing other activities in advance of full construction.

FDOT in partnership with Miami-Dade County and other government agencies and private sector businesses is **developing the MIC to provide a central station for all forms of transportation in Miami-Dade County and draw intense traffic away from the core of Miami International Airport, thus decongesting the roadways leading to Miami-Dade County's number one economic generator.**

"The AIA recognition is always gratifying, and especially so in this case," said **Ricardo Fernandez, Earth Tech's lead designer.** **"The MIC-MIA Connector Station presents certain unique challenges,** not least of which is its integration into the larger MIC complex.

"We've called on some excellent resources to assist in the development of a facility that will serve the traveling public efficiently, while drawing on an architectural language that expresses the qualities of a gateway, and exploits the careful use of natural light to articulate and amplify a relatively small space."

**Kouroche Mohandes** is the Florida Department of Transportation **Senior Manager for the entire MIC program.** He said, "The Design Studio team has put their hearts and souls into creating each element of the MIC. It's always reassuring to have other professionals examine our work and determine that it's of merit. This is what motivates us to keep working to **make the MIC an incredibly valuable resource for all of South Florida.**"

**Earth Tech's South Florida office is managed by Tom Marwood and the MIC Program is managed by architect Steven Thompson** who said, "I'm very pleased that **FDOT has enabled us to assemble the human resources that could generate award winning design.** It's so important for a project of this significance to have quality design that will, as Secretary Abreu envisioned, create a signature entrance to South Florida for the many visitors and residents throughout the region who travel through this airport."

At a dinner Thursday night, several Miami-Dade County architectural firms received recognition from the AIA Miami Chapter. The award submittals were judged by design professionals outside the local chapter area, as is the practice within the AIA; this year, the jury consisted of distinguished Atlanta-based architects and professors of architecture.

The recognition dinner was held in Miami's Design District in the historic Moore Furniture Building owned by Dacra Design Associates. The Moore Building, which dates back to 1921 and began as a furniture showroom, has recently been converted to lofts and commercial space and served as a fitting location for the architects' annual festivities.

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For additional information:

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- About the design of the Miami Intermodal Center's MIC-MIA Station, contact Ricardo Fernandez at [ricardo.fernandez@earthtech.com](mailto:ricardo.fernandez@earthtech.com) or 305-716-5203.
- About the Miami Intermodal Center Program, contact Ric Katz at [rkatz@kommunikatz.com](mailto:rkatz@kommunikatz.com) or 305-573-4455.

For electronic copies of renderings of the MIC-MIA Station, Rental Car Facility, Central Station or overall MIC Program go to [www.micdot.com](http://www.micdot.com) or contact [bgraf@kommunikatz.com](mailto:bgraf@kommunikatz.com) or call Kommunikatz at 305-573-4455.