

B&A Wins “Best Design” at FIU’s Festival of Trees

Bermello Ajamil & Partners Interior Design Studio is honored for best design and innovation

Miami, FL, December 11, 2006 – Bermello Ajamil & Partners’ (B&A) Interior Design Studio was awarded the 2006 “Judges Award for Best Design” award from Florida International University’s (FIU) Festival of Trees Gala. The festival, now in its 20th year, is presented by FIU’s School of Architecture Interior Design program and advisory board to promote greater design awareness and support design education at the FIU School of Architecture. The yearly design exhibition is a unique display of provocative ‘tree’ creations from dozens of South Florida’s premiere design and architecture firms. Proceeds from the gala benefit the Gloria Blake Interior Design Scholarship Fund at Florida International University.

The award-winning tree, titled “Synergos” – the Greek word for ‘working together’, was designed by B&A’s Interior Design Studio, and sponsored and built by Kamper Contracting, LLC. B&A’s ID Studio’s design for the winning tree was to use individual finish material components arranged together to form a cohesive whole. “We combined B&A’s simple yet cutting-edge design and Kamper’s superior craftsmanship to develop the concept and final design”, says Diana Farmer-Gonzalez, Interior Projects Director and Sr. Associate for B&A.

The “Synergos” tree accentuates the dynamic relationship between the parts that make a whole. Its presence relies on the integration of five separate components: the artistic, the material, technology, craftsmanship, and resources. The tree features six wood panels laminated in different veneers with the interior of each panel cut in the shape of a Holiday tree and delicately held together by a stainless steel five-point star at the top of the tree. Each wood veneer panel is angled 80 degrees up, causing the tree to look as if it is on its tiptoes. When lit from within the tree has a three-dimensional effect that can be seen from any angle by the absence of materials in the center of the tree.

“The whole concept is about coming together”, says Giancarlo Pietri, B&A’s Tree Design team leader. “The Holidays are about coming together; B&A is about designing spaces with materials and placing them together; Kamper is about building things and joining them together”. “This design captures the synergetic efforts of B&A’s ID Studio and Kamper Contracting.”

The B&A team behind the design included Giancarlo Pietri, Giovanna Brin, Mark Croes, Oscar Pelaez, Rebeca Cañas-Chamberlain, and Victor Santiago and Diana Farmer-Gonzalez. This year’s trees were recognized and judged by the following design critics: Marianne and David Russell of Arango and Gaspar Gonzalez of Blueprint magazine. All eighteen Festival tree designs may be view by the public at the lobby of 801 Brickell through December 28.

About B&A

Founded in 1939, Bermello Ajamil & Partners, Inc. (B&A) is a global architecture, engineering, planning, and creative services firm with offices in Florida, New York, and the United Arab Emirates. The award-winning firm specializes in providing multi-faceted design services for education, transportation, maritime, aviation, municipal, healthcare, corporate, urban residential, mixed-use development, and community planning projects.

For more information about B&A, please visit www.bermelloajamil.com.

About Kamper Contracting, LLC

Kamper Contracting provides comprehensive solution for custom interior construction needs. For more than five decades, the award-winning company has combined the best available technology with the finest traditions of European craftsmanship to create everything from floors to ceilings, in wood, stone, metal, and glass.

For more information about Kamper, please visit <http://kamper.us/>.