

**For immediate release**

ATTN: Transportation Reporters and Editors  
CONTACT: For more information contact: Ric Katz, 305-573-4455



## **MIC RAIL STATION DESIGN HONORED BY AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS**

**MIAMI, FLORIDA (Tuesday, November 16, 2004)** – The design for the **Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) Rail Station Phase One** has been recognized by the Miami Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for an award in the “Unbuilt” category. Produced in the Earth Tech Miami Architecture Studio headed by Steven Thompson, and under the design leadership of Ricardo Fernandez, the design is for a component of the MIC Central Station. The honors were presented during the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual AIA Design Awards Gala on Thursday, November 11, at the Holly Hunt Gallery in the heart of Miami’s Design District.

A project of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 6, the MIC Rail Station Phase One is currently in the final phase of structural engineering for a curved, tri-cord truss roof, a specialty component of the design. Its site will be located to the north of the existing Tri-Rail station and upon completion, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority will be relocated. The station will accommodate the Tri-Rail tracks, station platform and canopy. There will be adjacent surface parking and facilities for car and bus drop-offs, ticketing, concessions and rest-rooms. Subsequent phases will provide additional tracks and platforms for national Amtrak and local Metrorail rail service.

**“The MIC Rail Station is the start of the new dynamic transportation grid being built that will connect South Florida’s existing and future transportation systems,”** said FDOT District 6 Secretary John Martinez. **“We are taking a regional approach and focusing our efforts on transportation solutions that accommodate South Florida’s expansion, trigger economic development and enhance the quality of life.”**

The MIC is comprised of the Rental Car Facility (RCF) and the Central Station, which will be a connecting point for all forms of ground transportation in Miami-Dade County. The RCF is currently under construction on the site bounded by NW 25<sup>th</sup> Street on the north, NW 38<sup>th</sup> Court on the east, NW 21<sup>st</sup> Street on the south and LeJeune Road on the west. It will help alleviate traffic congestion in and around Miami International Airport (MIA) by taking circulating rental car vans off the airport roadways.

Other future phases of the MIC will include an Automated People Mover Station linking the MIC with Miami International Airport; a facility for local and inter-city buses; a parking structure; and an elevated pedestrian link with automated walkways connecting the various MIC Program components.

Kouroche Mohandes, FDOT Senior Manager for the entire MIC Program, said **“This recognition of the MIC design team acknowledges our commitment to make the MIC a landmark entrance to Miami and to fulfill State Secretary José Abreu’s promise to deliver structures that are as efficient as they are appealing.”**

In remarks made six years ago to the Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization, Secretary Abreu 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.

Mohandes added, **“In partnership with Miami-Dade County, other government agencies and private sector businesses, we are developing the MIC to provide a Central Station where many modes of transportation will connect and to decongest the roadways leading to and around the airport, the county’s number one economic generator.”**

- over -

---

**Miami Intermodal Center Public Affairs Office**  
4141 NE Second Avenue, Suite 101D, Miami, FL 33137  
Tel: 305-573-4455 Fax: 305-573-4466  
Toll Free: 888-838-5355  
Website: [www.micdot.com](http://www.micdot.com)



**MIC RAIL STATION DESIGN HONORED BY  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS**  
*Page 2*

Earth Tech is the international consulting firm retained by FDOT to manage planning, design, and construction of the MIC. The Earth Tech South Florida office is managed by Tom Marwood. Earth Tech's **MIC Rail Station Phase One** architectural project team is headed by Steven E. Thompson, AIA, who is also MIC Program Manager, and Lead Designer Ricardo Fernández, also MIC Facilities Manager.

Steven Thompson said, **"This award is about partnership. We are working hand-in-hand with FDOT and it has enabled us to form a team able to produce extraordinary results. We are not only creating an urban gateway for Miami, we are also striving to create better coordination between various modes of transportation, transportation connections and choices for Miami-Dade's residents and visitors."**

Ricardo Fernández states, **"We set out to design a distinctive facility that would be an urban gateway, as well as be harmonious with its environment and adapt to multiple phases of construction. This recognition motivates us to keep working to make the MIC Program an incredibly valuable resource for all of South Florida."**

The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual AIA Design Awards Gala is part of the Miami Chapter's celebration of its 75<sup>th</sup> year. The AIA Design Awards is a yearly event that recognizes the distinguished work of Miami's top designers, architects, students and firms. The selection committee for this year's awards are all distinguished Los Angeles, California based architects. For additional information about this award or the AIA Miami chapter, contact Mike Brazlavsky, Executive Director, AIA Miami at 305-448-7488 or visit [www.aiamiami.com](http://www.aiamiami.com).

**PHOTO CAPTION:**

Left to right:

# # #

For additional information:

- About the design of the MIC Rail Station, including requests for a design specification fact sheet, contact Ricardo Fernandez at [ricardo.fernandez@earthtech.com](mailto:ricardo.fernandez@earthtech.com) or 305-716-5203.
- About the MIC Program, contact Ric Katz at [rkatz@communikat.com](mailto:rkatz@communikat.com) or 305-573-4455.

**High Resolution images of the MIC Rail Station and other MIC Program projects are available at [www.micdot.com](http://www.micdot.com). Requests may be made by emailing [gugalde@communikat.com](mailto:gugalde@communikat.com) or calling Communikat at 305-573-4455.**