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To join our lead donors and help make a difference please consider donating to the studio building. For more information on donor recognition opportunities, contact Karina Alvarez, Director of Development, at 305-284-5841.

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THOMAS P. MURPHY, JR.

Thomas P. Murphy, Jr. is Founder, Chairman & CEO of Coastal Construction Group, one of the largest construction management/general contracting firms in the state of Florida with more than $4.0 billion in active commercial and residential projects throughout the state.

At the age of 19, Murphy became the youngest contractor in state history, earning his contractor’s license while attending the University of Miami. At the age of 20, he started his own company renovating the fraternity house where he was living. Murphy Construction eventually became Seaboard Construction, which he sold to Turner Construction Company 18 years later in 1986. Murphy founded Coastal in 1989 on the principles of Best in Class Quality, Integrity and Transparency, with the goal to become “The Most Preferred Contractor in Florida.”

Today, Coastal maintains five offices in the state and has a diverse portfolio that includes hospitality, luxury residential, market rate and workforce apartments, educational, commercial, retail and mixed-use developments. Among its recently completed and active projects are the St. Regis Resort & Residences Bal Harbour, Four Seasons Resort Surf Club, Porsche Design Tower, The Plaza in Coral Gables and Water Street Tampa.

Coastal has received numerous industry awards, including being named the Southeastern United States ‘Contractor of the Year’ by Engineering News Records (ENR).

Murphy serves on the Board of Directors of St. Joe (NYSE) and Interval Leisure Group (NASDAQ). He is also an Honorary Board Member of Baptist Health Systems of South Florida, a member of the Construction Industry Roundtable, Associated General Contractors of America, Associated Builders and Contractors and National Association of Home Builders.

ARCHITECT’S STATEMENT

Designed by Arquitectonica, the Thomas P. Murphy Design Studio Building is the newest addition to the University of Miami School of Architecture, where it will provide a space conducive to learning, but also serve as a teaching tool by illustrating the tenets of modern architecture.

Stocked with studio spaces, digital fabrication facilities, exhibitions areas, and ample room for social and public functions, the design of the scheme synthesizes aspects of 21st-century pedagogy into a cogent whole, packing them into a simple envelope: the building is essentially an oversized shed, featuring a vaulting roof suspended over a floor by steel pipe columns and fixed walls to create a sense of openness and allow natural light to permeate throughout the building. The open plan accommodates a variety of workstation configurations, which permits the space to be adaptable to student needs. Much of the indoor and outdoor space is strategically tall and flexible in order to allow the building to evolve with ever-changing architecture and design practices.

Arquitectonica’s commission for the University of Miami School of Architecture not only cements its commitment to its hometown, but also affirms its dedication to leading the next generation of architects with a one-of-a-kind design laboratory.

WELCOME

Lorena Knezevic
BARCH ’18

Rodolphe el-Khoury
Dean, School of Architecture

REMARKS

Julio Frenk
President, University of Miami

Richard D. Fain
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Thomas P. Murphy, Jr.
Honoree
Founder, Chairman and CEO,
Coastal Construction Group

Reception immediately following