

BEST PROJECTS

ENRSoutheast Best Projects Completed in the Past Year

HONORED WORK SPANS EXPANDED SOUTHEAST

ENR Southeast is expanding its editorial coverage area in 2017 **BY SCOTT JUDY**

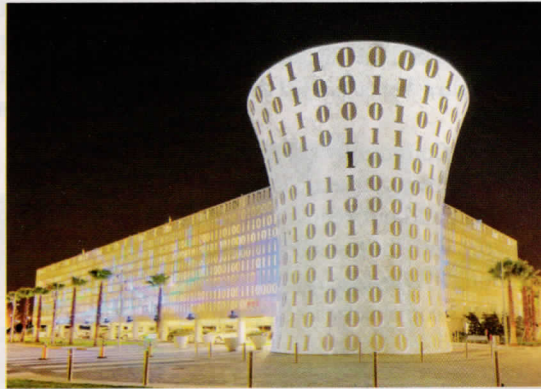
Now marking its 16th year, ENR Southeast's Best Projects contest has been recognizing construction and design excellence from across the region. For most of that time, the contest focused strictly upon the publication's four-state coverage area of Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. In 2011, ENR's regional publications took the step of making our Best Projects contest truly national, which for ENR Southeast involved including projects located in the "outlying" states of Alabama and Tennessee as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

This year marks the first time that a project located in the expanded region has won the Southeast Project of the Year award, which goes to the Grandview Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala. Submitted by general contractor Brasfield & Gorrie, the project illustrates a unique revival—the challenge of reconfiguring a decade-old medical facility that was never completed.

As it turns out, it's fitting that a project from our expanded coverage area should win the top award. That's because in 2017, ENR Southeast will permanently expand its regular editorial coverage area to include Alabama, Tennessee, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. ENR Southeast will regularly provide our readers with construction and engineering news and information about these markets and the projects being built there. We will provide more details about our expansion soon.

The Competition

For this year's contest, our independent Best Projects judging panel collectively reviewed and discussed 90 projects. Each was evaluated on the project team's ability to overcome challenges, as well as the project's construc-



EYE-CATCHING CONSTRUCTION
Nearly 40 projects from across the Southeast region were recognized in this year's Best Projects competition.

tion and design quality, safety record and contribution to the industry and community.

In all, Best Projects judges recognized 38 projects in 15 different construction categories. Serving as judges this year were the following industry representatives: Mike Baumback of BE&K Building Group, Charlotte; Keith Douglas with The Whiting-Turner Contracting Co., Atlanta; Jason Heffelmire, TLC Engineering for Architecture, Tampa; Ray Riddle, Holder Construction, Atlanta; Brooke Robbins, KBJ Architects, Jacksonville, Fla.; and Ron Whalen with Roger B. Kennedy, Altamonte Springs, Fla.

Additionally, a separate panel of safety experts reviewed and considered entries for our annual Excellence in Safety Award. Assisting us with that effort were George Guffey of John Moriarty Associates of Florida, Hollywood; and David Lockhart, Poole & Kent Co. of Miami.

As always, our judges excelled at choosing outstanding work to recognize. ENR Southeast invites its readers to review this year's impressive group of top projects.

SPECIALTY CONSTRUCTION ■ Submitted by Waldrop Mechanical Services

CUMMINS TECHNICAL CENTER - NEW CHILLED WATER PLANT & PIPING DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

North Charleston, S.C.

BEST PROJECT**OWNER** Cummins Inc.**LEAD DESIGN FIRM** RMF Engineering**GENERAL CONTRACTOR** Waldrop Mechanical Services**CIVIL/STRUCTURAL ENGINEER** ADC Engineering Specialists**MEP ENGINEER** RMF Engineering**BUILDING/SITWORK CONTRACTOR** Southcon Building Group**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR** Metro Electric Co.

In planning for the future expansion and improvement of its North Charleston, S.C., campus, Cummins Inc. selected Waldrop Mechanical Services to provide turnkey design-build/procurement services for the development of the new chilled water plant and piping distribution system project. This first phase of the company's master plan for the facility called for providing adequate chilled water capacity to service an existing test lab facility as well as increased chilled water capacity to support future planned facilities on campus. Upon completion, the project enabled Cummins to retire the facility's existing chiller and reduce its carbon footprint.

The mechanical contractor's responsibilities for the project—which was constructed on a small parcel adjacent to Cummins' existing test lab facility—included construction of a reinforced concrete masonry unit (CMU) structure to house the mechanical, electrical, building controls, plumbing and fire protection equipment, with cooling towers placed on a structural steel frame support above the finished roof; all site utilities; installation of a new, elevated chilled-water piping system with connections to exist-

ing equipment in the adjacent building; and demolition of the existing chilled water plant and piping system.

Problems with property acquisition encountered by the owner had condensed the original construction schedule to just five months. Builders encountered more challenges early on, with the site contractor penetrating two unknown underground systems during excavation, a result of limited original as-built drawings provided during the design phase. Additionally, due to an abnormally large amount of rain from November to January, construction crews lost 14 workdays.

Constructing the chilled water piping system in the test lab facility within a fully operational building and in close proximity to high-voltage electrical and pressurized fire protection and mechanical systems—sometimes located 20 ft in the air—presented unique challenges, according to the project team. A series of safe work practices, such as drug/alcohol testing, safety orientations for all workers prior to working on the job, daily risk assessments and a focus on fall protection, helped the contracting team achieve 22,745 worker hours with no lost-time accidents.