

The beach at Morada Bay was created by the firm Robert Barnes & . Associates.

Firm honored for Morada Bay design

Islamorada eatery built on parcel that was scarified

Robert Barnes & Associates, an architectural and planning firm, has won a Grand Award for new commercial development and environmental reclamation for its design of the Morada Bay Beach Cafe and Bar at mile marker 81.6 in Islamorada.

The honor was bestowed in the National Commercial Builders Council 1999 Awards of Excellence competition, judged at the National Housing Center in Washington, D.C.

Morada Bay sits on land that was stripped of its vegetation by previous owners. The barren conditions made reforestation and creation of a thickly vegetated native hammock and sandy beach a must. The re-built hammock was created with large canopy trees, essential to growth of

an understory forest.

Monroe County's growth laws presented several challenges, but they were met by owner firm owner Robert Barnes working with government land planners to meet the strict land-use requirements.

Morada Bay opened in March 1997.