

Let The Music Play!

Band Shell & Town Square Homestead, FL Honorable Mention—Division I

After the devastation of Hurricane Andrew, Homestead, Florida was struggling to revitalize its center and re-ignite economic development. Creating a central town green and building a live performing band shell provided just the spark that this historic town needed to come back to life.

In this case, the tragedy of the hurricane created opportunities which might have otherwise gone unnoticed. Its destructive forces cleared vacant land which could be developed for retail storefronts and commercial businesses, while a gazebo previously located at this site had become an eyesore prior to the storm.

The band shell uses traditional Florida building materials to achieve a seamless look as well as fight the tough climate. A verdigris metal roof with low emissivity protects its interior, while a continuously vented cupola vents hot air from below. "Whole house" exhaust fans and rear wall windows allow for cross ventilation. This system also allows for the dissipation and absorption of sound, critical to the performers and audience.

Construction challenges included the replacement of an original contractor with a new one, who was asked to complete work in a far shorter schedule than planned. Some pre-fabricated elements, such as wood trusses, helped accelerate the process, but with the support of the team already in place, the contractor renegotiated all materials

and subs, and achieved an on-time, on-budget project.

Homestead's street life has been renewed, creating more opportunities for mixed-use economic development. The band shell provides an old fashioned, historic feel to the redeveloped square, embracing Homestead's past while looking toward its future.

Contractor Firm: Rex R. Oleson, Homestead, FL

Architecture Firm: Robert Barnes & Associates, Inc., Homestead, FL

Landscape Architecture Firm: Curtis & Rogers, Coconut Grove, FL

Developer: City of Homestead, Homestead, FL

Engineering Firm: Maurice Gray, M. Hajjar & Associates, Miami, FL

