



AWARD WINNER — LeJardin Community Center.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS LEADER

Barnes wins architectural award

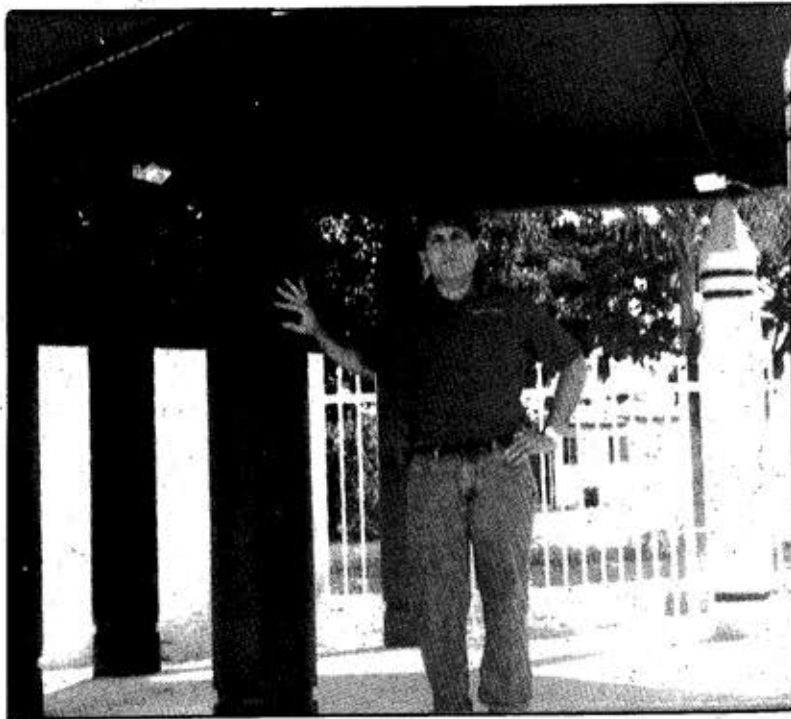
Robert Barnes of Robert Barnes & Associates, Inc., in conjunction with Miami Awning Company, has won an Outstanding Achievement Award for the Commercial Canopies Category for its entry, LeJardin Community Center, in the Industrial Fabric Association International competition judged at the annual convention held in Nashville.

The Center, a day care facility for children, is located in Homestead. It is a not for profit organization whose executive director, Homestead Councilman Eddie Berrones, worked with Barnes on the project.

The original LeJardin site was inadequate, creating an unsafe environment for the children during drop off and pick up times and while at play outside the building.

The need for a well organized site plan for child safety, identifying architectural elements to accentuate a sense of place and enhance the interest to learn inspired Barnes. He created a playful environment of building blocks and crayons.

Walkways and parking areas were separated to provide the highest level of safety. Landscaping softens and defines the play



NEWS LEADER PHOTO

UNIQUE DESIGN — Eddie Berrones, a Homestead councilman and executive director of LeJardin, poses among the giant 'crayons' designed by local architect Robert Barnes.

yard, entry and driveways.

A limited budget required innovative solutions. Acrylic awning canopies worked perfectly — adding a variety of roof shapes and color broke the existing monotony and allowed for rebirth and expression of the serious

work of education always performed indoors.

Construction was handled by Two Brothers Construction Inc. of Homestead.

The award was presented to Barnes and Miami Awning Company.