

HOME & DESIGN

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MICHAEL STAVARIDIS



MIAMI'S ARCHITECTURAL GEMS

The American Institute of Architects Miami Chapter presented 19 awards for outstanding design and 20 community, trade and professional awards to architects, designers, students and community leaders at its 54th Annual design competition last week. Three winners, above, include (clockwise from top left) Midtown2, Zyscovich Architects'

residential building near the Design District and part of the larger mixed-use Midtown complex of residences, shops and plazas; Rene Gonzalez's Rivo Alto garden at a home on the Venetian Islands, and Mateu Architecture's sleek Casa Grove I interior with red highlights. A list of winners, Page 4H.



AT WORK: Marjorie Brown examines a plant at a botanical illustration class. Above, one of her botanical notecards.



PATRICK FARRELL/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

PLANT PAINTINGS

Late-blooming artist specializes in Florida natives

BY GEORGIA TASKER
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She retired at age 72 in 1996 as a public health pediatrician and traveled extensively to more than 50 countries. On those journeys, Marjorie Brown would notice the occasional artist sketching a beautiful scene, and she'd think, "Wouldn't that be fun?"

So when she was not quite 80, Brown took her first art class.

Now 86, she's selling her native plant paintings on cards and posters to benefit the Miami-Dade chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

"I always thought I wanted to paint or draw," she said. "I thought, I'll try, and I ended up in botanical art. It suits my style."

With vivid blue eyes and short-cropped white hair, she is as delighted at her second career as she can be. "I feel so fortunate at my stage to have a new interest and new friends," says Brown, whom her friends call Marge.

Brown's husband, Harvey Brown, is a rheumatologist who tools around the Veterans Administration hospital and Jackson Memorial in his wheelchair. Medicine is his life, says his wife.

They met at medical school in Milwaukee, then interned together in Richmond, Va. The couple moved to Miami in the mid-1950s, when Harvey took a job at the VA. He was then invited to join the UM Department of Rheumatology. "He wanted to practice medicine 50 years, and he's done that," she says.

"I had the first of our children and then

• TURN TO BROWN, 5H

VISUAL ARTS

Exhibit shows paintings morph into tapestries

BY GEORGIA TASKER
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Contemporary tapestry art both builds on and transcends those famously hand-knotted Medieval unicorns surrounded by fields of

flowers that adorned castles and homes. A collection of tapestries — images produced from paintings specifically created for that purpose — will be on display this week as a satellite of Design Miami during Art Basel Miami Beach.

The exhibition, called *Demons, Yarns & Tales*, features subjects that range from the alphabet to a 19th Century lynching of a black child. The artists are American, Pakistani, British, Egyptian, Iranian and Brazilian.

In a work by British painter Grayson Perry called *Vote Alan Measles for God*, a teddy bear



BIRD LIFE: Fred Tomaselli's *After Migrant Fruit Thugs* is woven with gold and silver threads.

• TURN TO TAPESTRIES, 4H



VISION IN TEAK: This minimalist apartment designed by Rene Gonzalez for the arts philanthropist Ella Cisneros won an award of excellence. It is a 5,000-square-foot penthouse in the Murano Grande in Miami Beach. Shown in the entryway is the Chester bench by Amanda Levete next to a table made of a century-old tree root from the Amazon. The floors, walls and ceiling of this particular space are clad in teak and leather.

AIA AWARD WINNERS

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

- Architecture: Arquitectonica for Mangrove West Coast
- Architecture-unbuilt: Marilys R. Nepomechie, FAIA, and Marta Canaves, ASLA, IIDA, for Sustainable Green Infill, Smoketown, Ky.
- Interior design: Rene Gonzalez for the Murano Grande Penthouse

TRADE AWARDS

- Firm of year: Bermello Ajamil & Partners
- Architect of year: Jaime Canaves, FAIA
- Life achievement in architecture: John P. Fullerton, AIA, of Fullerton Diaz Architects
- Silver medal for design excellence and community service: Michael H. Kerwin, AIA, of Spillis Candela DMJM

AWARDS OF MERIT

- Oppenheim Architecture + Design, LLP, for Ten Museum Park
- Ferguson Glasgow Schuster Soto for the Jorge Perez Architecture Center Glasgow Lecture Hall
- Max Strang Architecture for the McKenna residence
- Mateu Architecture for Casa Grove I
- Zyscovich Architects for 2 Midtown
- Green building: Spillis Candela DMJM for Calgary Courts Centre
- Historic preservation: De La Guardia Victoria Architects & Urbanists for the Jack Weiner house

ARCHITECTURE UNBUILT

- Beilinson Gomez Architects, P.A., for the Barbara residence
- Jacob Brillhart for A Mechanical Dwelling
- Shulman + Associates for the Sea Spray. (Also, honorable mention for the Fairwind Hotel)
- Spillis Candela DMJM for Four Corners, Dallas
- Test of time: Mateu Architecture for Luminaire Showroom
- Historic preservation (interiors) MC Harry & Associates for Dade County Courthouse
- Landscape design: Rene Gonzalez for Rivo Alto Garden
- Student design at FIU: Glen Santayana Jr. and Pedro Gomez for White House Redux Competition
- Interior designer of year: Diana U. Farmer-Gonzalez, Associate AIA
- Young architect of year Agustin J. Barrera, AIA
- Urban design: Suria Yaffar, Associate AIA
- Landscape architect of year: Carolyn Mitchell, RLA, LEED AP, ASLA
- Education leadership: Mario F. Ortega
- Governmental leadership: Miami-Dade County Commissioner Katy Sorenson
- Environmental preservation: Gary Shlifer, MS, LEED AP
- Writing about architecture: Sara Giller Nelson and Norman Giller, FAIA
- Historic preservation: Kobi Karp, AIA
- General contractor of Year: Odebrecht USA, Gilberto F. Neves, CEO
- Consulting engineer of year: Leopoldo F. Rios, P.E.
- Community leadership: Rick D. Ruiz, Associate AIA
- Architecture Students of Year: Raksmei Praing at FIU, Danay Morales at UM, Caio Barboza at Miami Dade College, Alejandro Diaz at Design and Architecture Senior High (DASH)

See images at www.aiamiami.com.



TROPICAL SETTING: The McKenna house in Miami was designed by the Coconut Grove-based Max Strang, a modernist whose work is known for its sensitivity to nature.



OPPRESSION: Kara Walker's *A Warm Summer Evening in 1863* portrays a lynching at a burning orphanage.

Paintings become tapestries

•TAPESTRIES, FROM 1H

named Alan Measles is surrounded by symbols of Mid-east violence: machine guns, helicopters, knives, explosions. The design is based on Afghanistan war rugs made during the 1970s when that country was occupied by the Russians.

“The teddy bear is in the center of all this chaos, and you can't tell if he's causing the chaos or redeeming it,” said Christopher Sharp, co-owner of The Rug Company and co-creator of the tapestry project.

The tapestries collectively were commissioned more than three years ago by Sharp and his wife Suzanne, who called their commissioning organization Banners of Persuasion. The results drew positive reviews when the exhibition opened last month in London. None of the artists had designed tapestries before.

Sharp said, however, “We have been dabbling with making tapestries for a long time. In the Renaissance, they were a collaboration between artists and tapestry workshops. I thought it would be a fabulous experience to recreate that relationship.”

PRODUCED IN CHINA

The couple, who established a London rug gallery 10 years ago, arranged for the tapestries to be produced in China north of Shanghai, then they approached artists. “We spent a lot of time thinking about whose work might translate well,” Sharp said. “And we ended up with a list of 14. We have a mix of established artists and newcomers.”

Two of the tapestries are in shades of gray. One is by American artist Kara Walker, who is famous for her large exhibitions of silhouettes depicting African-American history; she received a MacArthur Genius Award in 1997.

Walker's work, *A Warm Summer Evening in 1863*, “is about slavery and oppression,” Sharp said. “She found a lithograph of an orphanage being burned to the ground by Irish rockers. As the children came running out, guys were there with sticks and beat them. She has [imposed on top of the lithograph] a silhouette of a child being hung.”

An opposite feeling is



INTRICATE DESIGN: Tapestry by Shahzia Sikander is called *Pathology of Suspension*.

IF YOU GO

Demons, Yarns & Tales is a satellite show to Design Miami, an interior design forum occurring simultaneously with Art Basel Miami Beach. Design galleries, talks and performances are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday in Miami's Design District, throughout the block at Northeast 39th Street and First Court. In addition to gallery displays, interior design satellites include the Glass Lab from The Corning Museum of Glass, where viewers can watch hot glassmaking; Al Sabah, furniture upholstered in embroidered textiles; Luminaire's Paperlove, an auction of primarily paper pieces to benefit Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center; Mallet-Meta Content, historical and contemporary furniture, and Kaikai Kiki, a studio for artists and design products. For more information: www.designmiami.com.

achieved by another American artist, Fred Tomaselli, with birds and flowers with silver and gold threads. The five-foot-eight tapestry is called *After Migrant Fruit Thugs*. The avian “thugs” are actually lovely, in shades of red and purple.

Each of the works took from four to 12 months to be woven.

“When they started coming back, the artists were really, really pleased,” Sharp said.

Five copies of each rug will be produced. Some were sold during the London exhibition, but works will be available for the Miami show, although there is a delay for the time it takes to weave them. Prices range from \$25,000 to \$150,000.

The most surprising result, said Sharp, was created by Paul Noble. The 15-by-15-foot work in 60 shades of gray shows shapes resembling Henry Moore figures. It took a year to knot.

“For us to make, it was a nightmare,” Sharp said.

“When dying wool, it's hard to get even shades of a color, especially gray. Eventually we got there, but there were times I felt like saying, ‘Listen pal, forget it.’”

The Sharps have lived “all over the world,” he said, returning to London from Malta when their four children were ready for school. Throughout their travels, they collected rugs, and when they landed in London, they found “the rug business was in a real mess. We thought there was a market for a beautiful shop with good retail practices and things that are priced properly,” Sharp said.

DESIGN DISTRICT

The company has offices in Los Angeles and New York and is opening a store in Miami's Design District with the Design Miami launch.

“The economy is not great,” Sharp said, “but from the bigger point of view, it's a good time to be growing.”



IN THE GARDEN: Ghada Amer and Reza Farkhondeh created the airy *The Bugs and the Lovers*.