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# Commercial Comeback

Two modern buildings grow out of historic roots. **BY ERIN MARVIN**

**S**un-N-Fun has been a Sarasota institution for more than half a century, welcoming snowbirds and vacationers of all ages to its 177-acre property. The family-friendly resort and campground's newest addition, a \$5 million modern indoor pool and wellness center, is also Sarasota County's latest LEED Gold certified building.

Steel, concrete, wood and glass rise off the ground like a breaking wave. Curved glulam beams bend up and over to meet wide walls of glass on the north and east sides, which pull in copious amounts of natural light to interior spaces and reveal stunning views of the outdoor pool and surrounding property. The 18,000-square-foot structure holds a 25-meter indoor pool, therapy spa, steam and sauna rooms, exer-

cise and aerobic areas and locker rooms on two floors. Three 20-foot glass accordion walls on the east side fold open to the existing outdoor pool and deck, providing a direct physical connection between indoor and outdoor spaces.

"When you start working on a project, there are a lot of different influences that can go into it," says design architect Jedd Heap of Carlson Studio Architecture. "We wanted to focus on the existing outdoor pool, which is what people think of when they think of Sun-N-Fun, and expand the outdoor deck. From a sustainability point, we wanted to bring in as much light from the north as possible. It made sense to slope the roof up towards the north to bring in glass to let in the light and face east with as much glass to create a view out to the water." A main directive from the client was

that the new lifestyle and wellness center not only be aesthetically pleasing and functional, but focused on sustainability. Non-toxic low-chemical finishes, insulated glass, super-insulated walls, LED lighting, solar hot water panels and a 10,000-gallon cistern that captures rainwater for irrigation and flushing toilets are just some of the green initiatives that helped the project achieve LEED Gold certification. Moving forward, the resort is dedicated to making all new projects as green as possible. glass to create a view out to the water."

"It's clearly very different than what they have out there," says Carlson Studio Architecture's Michael Carlson, architect of record for the project, noting the resort's many small-scale vernacular buildings.