

# Michael Singer Studio

## SWA Waste to Energy Facility

West Palm Beach, Florida 2009-2014

In early 2009 Michael Singer Studio joined the Malcolm Pirnie Design Team for the new Palm Beach County Solid Waste Authority Renewable Energy, Waste-to-Energy Facility. The Studio developed the conceptual aesthetic and environmental design for this new \$700M Facility and assisted in establishing design criteria for the design/build/operate team. Working with the necessary form and massing of the buildings, the design addresses aesthetic opportunities that can be realized through using the structural typology of common industrial pre-engineered steel buildings.

Translucent panels located in the upper areas of the walls, just below the roofs on the east and north facades, will illuminate the interior spaces. Transparent panels provide special views into the Facility from an elevated sky bridge that will be utilized by tour groups and the Facility staff. The stack shape, color and facades are designed to minimize its visual impact from communities to the north, to generate energy off of its south façade, and to support extensive planters with vines at its base. The buildings and landscape are designed to enhance the environmental systems of their surroundings. All roofs are sloped to accommodate rainwater harvesting from their vast surfaces, living wall screens of vines are attached to large areas of the building façades adding to dust control and improving air quality, native landscapes are prevalent as is overall stormwater management and filtration.

The unique visual experience of the Facility is joined with an educational and interactive plan welcoming residents of Palm Beach County and visitors and helping them understand and view the waste-to-energy process and its role in their everyday lives, defining this exceptional infrastructure project as a work of civic pride. This new Facility takes pride in its purpose, its engineered function, its safety, its positive environmental impact, as well as its dynamic visual design and exciting educational programming.

