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Who Make a Difference

Meet some public-spirited people who
have stepped up as impact players.

BY DENISE SCOTT

Photography by Brian Tietz



Line it up: Architect David Corban is giving Naples a modern look with such award-winning designs as his Haldeman Creek home.

DAVID CORBAN

Architect, Naples

THE CAMBIER PARK BAND shell. The Art League of Marco Island. Chops City Grill on Fifth

Avenue South. These are just a few of the renovations and original projects through which architect David Corban is making his mark on Naples and surrounding areas. The buildings stand out from the crowd of Mediterranean designs with a more contemporary look. But is he trying to change Naples' skyline with sleek modern lines?

"I don't really go into a project thinking about a style," Corban

says. "Style has to do with decoration. If you do a building that's well detailed, responds to the environment and the client, then you don't have to add decoration to it."

That is evident in his Haldeman Creek home. It's rectangular with clean lines that jut out over a boat dock. The house has a two-story wall of windows and an outdoor movable shade structure suspended by wires above a deck. Corban reused 30 percent of the original cypress wood from the site's former boat house.

"This house is an updated Old Florida, rendered in a more 21st

century way," he says. "A lot of people think modern architecture is futuristic, is new, but really it's not. Good contemporary architecture looks to the past, not for style but for functionality. I want my projects to feel like Florida."

His designs include large overhangs to keep the rain and sun out, and windows that open when air conditioning isn't necessary. Requests for Mediterranean come less often these days. "The tide is shifting toward me," he says. "My impact is getting people to recognize that architecture is something that should be thought about. It's not just a product."