

Culinary Institute Cooks Up Great Design with Bio-Glass®

Miami, FL April 15, 2011 – Miami Dade College’s new Miami Culinary Institute, located in downtown Miami, is a perfect blend of technology, sustainability and world-class education. A significant contribution to the sustainability of the project’s design comes from the Cradle-to-Cradle certified Bio-Glass slabs made from 100% post consumer recycled glass. STA Architectural Group provided the interior design for this state of the art, LEED certified building, which was honored with “Green Project of the Year”, by NAIOP – the Commercial Real Estate Development Association. Isabel Tragash, principal at STA Architectural Group notes that Bio-Glass was chosen “first for its sustainability and second for the material’s translucency and luminousness characteristics which provide an ethereal backdrop to the institute’s restaurant and café.” Bio-Glass is featured in key spaces such as the ground floor café and lobby and on the 8th floor restaurant; the back wall features Bio-Glass as a backdrop for a linear gas fireplace.

Not only does this project perfectly illustrate up-cycling by reclaiming ordinary glass bottles and transforming them by hand into an aesthetic architectural material, it also vividly shows how full loop recycling works as the same bottles that are used in service at the restaurant are returned into a beautiful detail of the space. And, if ever the Culinary Institute should decide to make a change, the glass can once again be recycled as it is 100% glass without resins.

The Miami Culinary Institute is an architectural and engineering marvel based on a small footprint and space utilization. It features general kitchen labs, a baking lab, a food and beverage theatre, a first-floor bakery and café and other amenities to enrich the students’ experience and the community’s involvement. The state-of-the-art building will be a goldmine for food culture innovation offering a slew of programs and activities that will please the palate whether one is a student, food enthusiast or culinary industry professional.

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