

Synalovski Romanik Saye

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Successful by Design

BY LAUREN MIRO



Whether it's brick by brick or floor by floor, Manuel Synalovski knows how to build a community.

As the founder and managing principal of the Fort Lauderdale-based architectural firm Synalovski Romanik Saye, Synalovski has spent the past 25 years leaving his mark on local communities.

"The community we've probably had the most impact on is Weston," he says. "It went from being cow fields to what it is today. I designed every public building – from City

Hall to the fire stations and parks."

A Cuban native, Synalovski grew up in Puerto Rico and moved to Miami in 1981 to attend the University of Miami.

Synalovski, now a Plantation resident, started his firm in 1988. Since then, it has grown into one of the premier architectural firms in the area and also specializes in planning and design.

"We're a very diverse company," Synalovski says. "In the public sector, we have designed police and fire stations, parks and educational facilities. In the private sector, we design everything from office and retail to residential properties and places of worship."

To help make a clients' vision a reality, Synalovski said communication is key.

"You have to be able to communicate in two directions, listen to clients and respond to their needs," he says. "It's also important to be able to represent your ideas graphically as well as verbally."

It's not just the brick and mortar that Synalovski contributes to his community. He's a strong supporter of giving back, whether through volunteerism, donations, or using his professional skills.

"In some cases, just building the infrastructure is not enough," Synalovski says. "You have to step up and lead. If you don't, someone else may not, either. You have the opportunity to make a difference. Our firm does a lot of work with nonprofit organizations, and that gives us an opportunity to give back."

His work in the community, notably with the Young Judeaea International board of directors, the Jewish Federation of Broward County, and the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County, has helped entrench Synalovski in the community both professionally and personally.

"We're big on community," he says of his firm. "We believe in building communities one story at a time, one house and a time, one block at a time."

From the ground up

We asked Synalovski how he's managed to build trust among his clients...

Build a partnership. "You need to look for someone you can communicate with – someone who will respect and react to you. It's a team effort, and you need to find a team player."

Treat every day like your first day. "Every day, you have to come in as if it's your first day at a new startup. Every day is a chance to start anew and be more successful."

Create strong relationships. "We have been really blessed with support from so many people along the way. The opportunities we had to build their trust became stepping stones toward larger successes."