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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE OPENS IMMERSIVE-LEARNING FACILITY FOR DESIGN/BUILD PROGRAM**

**The B.E. & W.R. Miller BuildLab Was Developed to Provide a Physical Space Where Students Can Execute a Project from Start to Finish in a Safe, Properly Equipped Environment**

Coral Gables, FL – – The University of Miami this year unveiled the B.E. & W.R. Miller BuildLab, a physical space created by and for the Department of Architecture, where students are able to execute a modern architectural project from start to finish in a real-life design/build context.

Designed by Professor Rocco Ceo, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB, Design/Build Studio students were tasked with completing the furnishings and interior and exterior details of the open-air building, which has a 40-foot by 40-foot concrete frame with 17.5-feet-high ceilings.

The BuildLab is currently operational and housing projects underway. Prior to its construction, students’ projects were built outside, exposed to the elements; the BuildLab provides a dedicated, protected space for students to see their concepts become reality.

As part of its construction, a series of containers were outfitted to hold building materials and tools surround the structure’s perimeter, allowing the main space to remain open and useable for physical work. The building’s walls are composed of louvered Kebony modified wood panels with inset doors that encourage air circulation and secure the site during off-hours.

“Kebony was the material of choice for the BuildLab’s louvers due to its remarkable uniformity, density, and ease with which to work,” Ceo said. “Kebony’ is also sustainably produced and therefore is an ideal material to impart the environmental values we aspire to for material selection in our design/build program.”

A double-height roll-up door located on one side of the building, with a built-in ramp, is dimensioned to the Florida Department of Transportation’s specifications to accommodate loading projects on a flatbed truck for transportation to the site for assembly.

The BuildLab also enables students to construct their designs in a setting streamlined for the projects they undertake, from eco-tents for the [Everglades National Park](https://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/flamingo-eco-tent.htm), to a mobile orchid propagation lab for [Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden](https://www.fairchildgarden.org/). And the space is scaled for modular buildings that, once completed, can later be transported to the communities they will serve. It is an as an incubator of projects that solve real problems in tangible and meaningful ways while deepening the school’s commitment to immersive learning.

**About Kebony**

The company's global headquarters is based in Oslo, Norway, with production facilities in Skien, Norway, and Antwerp, Belgium. The Kebony USA team is located in St. Clair, Michigan, with local representation both on the East and West Coasts. Kebony has received numerous awards for its environmentally friendly technology and innovation, including its naming as a World Economic Forum Technology Pioneer and a Global Cleantech 100 company. Kebony has been embraced by leading architects, designers and developers, which are served through a global sales and distribution network.

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