

Meridian Construction and Development was featured in the Fort Myers News-Press on 3/13/08. The article was titled "Building the Impossible" and was written by Don Manly. The entire article is reprinted by permission on the pages following this one.

Summary:

Meridian Construction and Development has nurtured a reputation within the commercial construction industry for being not only unafraid, but eager to tackle any project, no matter how challenging.

Lynn Murtagh, C.E.O. of the company explains why Meridian has positioned itself this way:

"It's just more of a challenge," he said. "You get more of a sense of accomplishment and there just seems to be less competition. The competition is less of a factor, though. We like to be able to say, yes, we can do that."

The article goes on to discuss some of the more difficult projects the company has undertaken:

The conversion of an old movie theater into a church, that required the removal of a major load-bearing wall, the insertion of a 17,000 pound support beam and the addition of a second floor and an elevator shaft, all while the building was in use.

A large steel and glass greenhouse that was built around an existing private home, which was converted into office space.

A blast- and bullet-resistant structure currently under construction in Dade County, for the Federal DEA.

The writer also sought out information and quotes from some of the development companies that have hired Meridian in the past:

JP Group, an Orlando-based commercial real estate development company, has used Meridian as the construction contractor for four Social Security office buildings in Florida, including one in Naples, as well as one in Biloxi, Miss.

Jeffrey Ganote, JP's president and C.E.O., said the projects in Naples and Gainesville were especially difficult, but Meridian more than met those challenges, impressing him and the Social Security Administration.

"How I would sum up Meridian is they go above and beyond the call of duty," he said. "You can tell that they're looking out for the long term relationship and not the short term gain of what they are going to get out of it."

The article concludes mentioning Meridian's recent accreditation by the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) project, and quotes Mr. Murtagh saying, "I'm just trying to stay on the cutting edge, plus I think it's the right thing to do. All the economic benefit in the world won't do us any good if we have no air to breathe or water to drink."