



A REAL GEM

DeAngelis Diamond founders David Diamond (left) and John DeAngelis.

Legendary animator Walt Disney surely inspired countless artists and storytellers, but it was his idea of building an experimental, self-sustaining city that struck David Diamond. Disney's concept—which morphed into the Epcot theme park—shaped Diamond's dream of a company that promoted creativity and innovation. In 1996, that vision manifested itself with his launch of DeAngelis Diamond Construction Inc., a multimillion-dollar firm based in Naples.

In recent years, his dream company had to co-exist with the reality of a building bust that has choked or killed others in his industry. When the economy soured, Diamond and his partners instilled in their staff that losing was not an option. "We found ourselves in this struggle, and we said, 'We've got to fight, and we've got to fight to win,'" Diamond says.

It's safe to say that DeAngelis Diamond has definitely won the battle. From 2009 to 2010 the company brought in an additional \$13 million in revenue to total \$60 million. In 2011, projections put the company at \$100 million. Diamond attributes this development to his stalwart staff and a shift in markets both categorically and geographically.

From the company's conception, Diamond always planned to

be a multi-faceted builder, but when the economy collapsed, the firm's two main markets, commercial and residential work, disappeared. Diamond and his partners began taking on health-care accounts and government work. Beyond changing their focus, they also expanded their borders.

"In the heyday, 95 percent of our work was between Collier and Lee counties," Diamond says. "Now, we're all over the State of Florida."

This summer Diamond is making the leap from a statewide company to a national firm focusing on the health-care market. Diamond hired Robert Young to lead the expansion of its operations as the president of DeAngelis Diamond Healthcare Group. The past-president of DeAngelis Diamond Healthcare Group, Reggie Morgan, was promoted to CEO.

The dream that Disney inspired came true, thanks to perseverance, pride and unwavering faith.

"We started our company on Christian values and biblical principles," Diamond says. "We don't try to promote our faith in that way, but we think that there are certain principles and values—whether you're Christian or not—that are just good principles. When we look at our success, we think we've been blessed," he says. —Kristie Aronow