



**For Immediate Release**

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## **SCHENKEL SHULTZ BREAKS GROUND ON LOCAL THERAPY CENTER AND ACADEMY DESIGN PROJECT**

Orlando, FL – August 28, 2024 – Schenkel Shultz, a Central Florida-based architecture and design studio, announces the groundbreaking of Quest Therapy Center & Academy. Led by Ekta Desai, AIA and Zoran Lozanovski, this new educational facility symbolizes Quest, Inc.’s unwavering commitment to inspiring and improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities.

For over six decades, Quest, Inc. has transformed the lives of thousands of adults and children with developmental disabilities in the Orlando area. Through adaptive reuse of the organization’s existing building at 500 E. Colonial Drive in downtown Orlando, the design team is converting the existing aged structure into a modern academic and therapy center. With a project cost of \$7,700,000, this 16,070 square feet building will become a ‘North Star’ for individuals with Autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, learning delays and related disabilities.

Strategic design elements include expansive windows designed to maximize daylighting and establish a connection to the outdoors. In addition, a bi-level break space will provide exterior views of the active commercial corridor along Colonial Drive.

A previously dark and enclosed structure will now become a functional and thriving space for students, clients and families. The facility will feature purpose-filled spaces with collaborative hubs, outdoor zones and high and low stimulus areas. Inspired by Quest, Inc.’s brand motto, “Reach for the stars,” the design will infuse “earth” and “sky” motifs throughout the therapy and academic areas. Sensory zoning will support transitional calming zones, predictability, simple vision cues and increased personal space.

“Our design supports Quest’s mission of assisting people with disabilities to experience a full life,” said Design Lead Ekta Desai, with Schenkel Shultz. “This modern facility will effectively serve the community through stimulating and enriching environments that foster learning and growth.”

The project aims to enhance Colonial Drive’s urban edge by integrating murals and super graphics into the vertical retaining wall, creating a playful and distinct brand identity. This transformative renovation not only reflects Quest, Inc.’s inspiring mission but also reinforces its commitment to serving and connecting with the broader community.

## **About Schenkel Shultz Architecture**

As a member of the Central Florida community for 40 years and headquartered in Downtown Orlando, Schenkel Shultz is committed to inspiring the community through impactful design. The architecture and interior design firm has built a legacy of success through a continued focus on design excellence that responds to the distinct needs of each client. Rooted in critical thinking, research, collaboration, and personal experiences, the firm is passionate about design and creating meaningful community partnerships.