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## I N T R O D U C T I O N



The Miami Beach Art Deco District is our city's most unique asset. For over fifty years, it has sustained itself as a vibrant and unique neighborhood, drawing tourists from all over the world who are drawn to its unique atmosphere, history, and beauty. It is a place where the economy is based on tourism, and where the community is closely tied to the visitors who come to experience the District's unique character.

All South Beach is currently experiencing intense development pressure because of its proximity to the ocean and its popularity among tourists. The Art Deco District is no exception. Land values in the District have risen significantly in recent years, and the effects of uncontrolled new development have already become apparent. The community has been faced with the challenge of how to respond to this development, while maintaining the historical integrity of the District.

The movement to save Art Deco and Mediterranean Revival architecture in the Miami/Miami Beach area began in 1976 with the formation of the non-profit Miami Design Preservation League. This group of concerned citizens and professionals interested in local design actively organized to help the Miami Beach City Council designate the Miami Beach Historic District. This goal was accomplished in 1979, making the area one of the first historic districts in the state of Florida.

The development of a preservation master plan for the District which would recognize and promote preservation and rehabilitation efforts became the next step. This was done to protect the unique architectural environment of the District, but it was also to ensure that new development would have a positive impact on the housing, social and economic well-being of the community. The League responded by seeking public monies to contract for a master plan for the preservation and revitalization of the District. Early

in 1980, funding commitments were made by the City of Miami Beach, the State of Florida, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Miami Beach City Council and the Miami Beach Historic District Commission agreed to fund this Preservation and Development Plan.

This report represents the culmination of an eight-month planning process. Careful analysis of the District's architectural, social and economic characteristics was conducted, followed by a series of community-based planning sessions held with local public and private interests. The result is the Miami Beach Art Deco District Preservation and Development Plan. This document presents the basic principles and goals for the future of the District, and will hopefully call national attention to the District and to spark public and private interest in preserving and developing this unique and special place.

The Miami Beach Art Deco District Preservation and Development Plan to follow the new energy and enthusiasm that will effectively accomplish the goals of preservation and revitalization.

quadro. It is important for the very essence of the community's social, architectural and cultural fabric to be properly directed.

The citizens of Miami Beach have recently begun to appreciate the value of their unique architectural and historical potential of the District as being recognized with a conscious and informed effort to maintain and enhance the quality of life in the area. They recognize that the District will be unable to attract its present and future residents if no action is taken to reverse the trend of physical deterioration and loss of character. They also realize that the character and quality of this community make it a very special place.

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## S T U D Y O R I G I N

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## G O A L S O F T H E P L A N

The goals of the Plan were developed to be the focal point in a means to establish a dialogue and sense of mutual cooperation between the League, the City and the consultants. Five overall goals were established:

1. To preserve and enhance the historic architectural and tropical setting of the District, capitalizing on its rich history and architectural diversity, creating public awareness, and creating a dynamic mixed use environment.

2. To encourage sensitive rehabilitation of the historic and architecturally significant buildings in the District, as recommended by the recommendation of the Preservation and Development Plan.

3. To offer development incentives for private investments in the District, which will contribute to the overall improvement of the visual integrity of the District and to create a healthy environment for the future growth of the District, meeting the needs while also expanding tourist convention amenities.



## TIME PRESENT TIME PAST

### DISTRICT HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT



The Miami Beach Architectural District was developed in the 1920's and 1930's as the nation's most desirable winter resort and the world's largest planned community of 100,000. The first hotel established in the 1920's by Henry Lum, a Pennsylvania lumberman, was the "Lumus". Lumus had a timberland development for 300 acres, introduced a Trinidad palm tree and brought winter visitors to the area. In 1925, he sold his land to a group who produced coconuts on it. The venture was unsuccessful but M.L. Lumus remained in Miami Beach and became involved in other areas of the city, and he was responsible for attracting land speculators to the area. One such speculator was Carl Graham Fisher, later. Carl Graham Fisher became involved with the group, receiving 100 acres in exchange for financial assistance to build the Collins Hotel.

In 1913, platting of the island was begun by the Ocean Beach Real Estate Company. The first hotel built on the island was the "Collins" hotel, which contained 300 foot by 400 foot blocks subdivided into 50 foot by 100 foot lots. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1923. In 1925, the District had been platted by the three land development companies: the Miami Beach Improvement Company, the Miami Beach Improvement Company (Carl Graham Fisher), and the Miami Beach Improvement Company (John Collins).

In 1925, the first major development of Lincoln Road in an east-west axis, using a circus emblem to cut through the dense mangrove swamp. Lined with palm trees, Lincoln Road became known as the "Fifth Avenue of the South". The newly incorporated Town of Miami Beach joined the City of Miami in 1926. J.N. Lumus died in 1926 and designated it a public beach. Lumus planted coconut trees along its edges and paved the beach. The beach became known as "The American Riviera" and became the "American Riviera" for winter visitors vacationing at

The old Miami Beach City Hall was built in 1927 at the intersection of Lincoln Road and Ocean Drive. The building's unique structure suggested the City's continuing optimism, despite the Great Depression. The building housed the Miami Beach Primary School, built as the Central Beach Elementary School. Another example of the Art Deco style is the Miami Beach Civic Auditorium, completed in 1932. The Auditorium was built during the Great Depression and was used for many performances, including the famous "H.B.T. Revue" as a mecca for artists, writers and musicians.

Recovery from the 1926 hurricane was slow but steady. Land values increased from \$100 per acre in 1926 to \$1,000 per acre by 1930. The population had grown to nearly 4,500 permanent residents.

The 1930's were difficult for Miami Beach, but income from gambling and tourism helped to sustain the city. The Great Depression hit the city hard. In a sense, the Depression helped the Beach. For those who could afford it, Miami Beach became a refuge from the Great Depression. The city's economy grew slowly, but steadily, through the 1930's and 1940's, ending with the Second World War.

By 1935, Miami Beach's economy had recovered and the second building boom of 1935-1945 had begun. New developments

occurred along Cicero Drive on bonus lots urbanized during earlier residential development. Permanent residents included 28,000 by 1940, with an additional 75,000 in winter tourists, all of whom required hotel or apartment accommodations.

Restricted economic conditions, in the years following the Great Depression, resulted in modest elevations down in the earlier years. Many of the small units on Lincoln Road provided opportunities for small investors catering to seasonal or transient tourists. Modestly scaled hotels and apartment buildings quickly

dominated block after block west of Washington Avenue. Almost all were designed in the Art Deco or Modern style with bands of windows, projecting sunshades, rounded corners and abstract ornamentation integrated into the streamlined building forms. Typical examples of the small Art Deco hotels and apartments include the Kenmore, Barbara Apartments, Leslie, Evelyn and Julie Apartments. The names were personal and friendly, reflecting the character of the neighborhoods where residents shared common courtyards, balconies and entries.

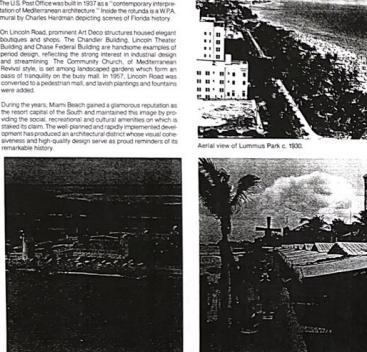
The demand for tourist hotels was equally intense, and large, impressive hotels were built in the Ocean Drive-Collins Avenue area to form a strong rhythmically patterned streetscape. Architects' imaginations went wild, and eye-catching motifs became a standard to adorn the many new hotels. The Berkeley Shore, Delano, New Yorker and Ritz Plaza only begin to reflect the imaginative application of the Art Deco style to Miami Beach's hotels.

West of Collins Avenue between 20th and 23rd Streets, an intimately scaled cluster of smaller hotels and nightclubs emerged. A glamorous tone had been established by the palatial Roney Plaza Hotel in the 1920's. Music and entertainment filled the streets from Bill Jordan's Bar of Music and the recently demolished El Chico Club, where Latin music and dance themes were

While the demand for housing flourished throughout the District, commercial enterprises remained concentrated on Washington Street. El Chico Club, where Latin music and dance interiors were subjects for Paul Silver Thorne's murals, the Plymouth Hotel, one of the most striking of the District's Art Deco buildings, set the pace for the area. Across from the Plymouth, the original Miami Beach Public Library was built, nestled in a small park. Entirely clad in keystone, the structure is now the Bass Museum.

commercial enterprises remained concentrated on Washington Avenue and Lincoln Road. New Art Deco theaters, offices, retail shops and municipal facilities were interspersed with earlier buildings along these two major streets. TRG Cameo Theater on Washington Avenue is an excellent example of streamlined Art Deco design. The block-long Cinema Theater complex contained the Cinema Theater with an exceptional Art Deco interior designed by Thomas Lamb, one of the foremost theater designers of the period. The building housed a "French casino" supper club and cabaret.

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The Roman Pools in 1918, an early attraction of the Beach

The boardwalk was lined by cabanas overlooking the beach.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

**DISTRICT STYLES**  
The Miami Beach Art Deco District contains the nation's largest and most significant concentration of resort architecture dating from the 1920's and 1930's. The area's development within a relatively short period of time resulted in an extraordinary architectural consistency of Art Deco and Mediterranean Revival designs.

During the 1920's, the Mediterranean Revival style became the fashionable choice for housing, schools and commercial buildings, and Miami Beach's first apartments and houses were built in this style. The Mediterranean Revival style is unique in that forty percent of the District's buildings add to the popularity of the style and, of these, many are in the Spanish Colonial mode. Mediterranean Revival buildings in Miami Beach and the surrounding areas in Miami Beach can be attributed to the influence of the California Exposition of 1915, 1916 held in San Diego. The architecture celebrated at this exposition was based upon the architecture of the State of California.

The "Exposition des Arts Décoratifs" of 1925 in Paris marked the debut of the Art Deco or Modern style. A Hoover commission sent corporate representatives to Paris, and the European influence was soon felt in New York's Chrysler Building (1928-30) and the Chanin Building (1930-32), both built by the architect William Van Alen and the engineer Wallace Harrison. The Art Deco style reached its peak in 1930.

Fashions and the glamorous image of the Hollywood movie world contributed to the fantasy aura of Miami Beach, in people's life styles, their dress and the types of buildings they built.

high speed technology for cars, trains and airplanes. This fascination was reflected in the streamlining effect of Art Deco design. Certain buildings also reflect the revival interests in Egyptian, Aztec and South American cultures. Others are transitional Mediterranean Revival buildings with Art Deco detail. "Federal Deco" buildings of the W.P.A. period and factory or industrial styles.

Art Deco was an eclectic style borrowing freely from other archi-

tectural periods. Often natural in flavor, details include pipe stems, acanthus leaves, and other organic motifs, often combined with smooth rounded forms and undecorated surfaces. Ribbon windows or bands of color emphasize a more horizontal architectural style. The decorative arts were highly developed and often executed in keyhole bear form. Art Deco pieces such as fountains, Greek keys, scrolls, floral design and zig-zag patterns were used. The decorative arts included ceramics, glassware, lighting, furniture, and interior design. Light and shadow are used to accentuate architectural details. Glass blocks, pipe railings, neon, cocon, lighting, architecture, and interior design all contributed to the Art Deco technology. The profile on the Miami Beach Deco Context example illustrates the European and American antecedents of the Art Deco Style in further detail.

The residential areas are concentrated along Ocean Drive, Collins Avenue and in the Bass Museum area. They present a neatly uninterrupted line of uniform scale, setback and architectural style. On Ocean Drive, from 5th to 15th Street, the Art Deco design is led by the tower, The Tower, which is the most prominent building in Miami Beach's Revival structure such as the Amherst and dam Palace. On Collins Avenue, the larger hotels compete for attention with their tall spires, zigzag parapets, cupolas, fins and greater diversity in style and setback. The ribbon shades and stripes create a streamlined image while color is used boldly everywhere—in leaded keyholes, patterned terrace and balcony railings, and in the ornate entranceways of the Hotel Edgewater and the Chateau style Peter Miller, the Collins Avenue hotels are typical exponents of grand, sometimes fanfaronnant Art Deco design. The hotel of 20th century, the Art Deco hotels, is the



MIAMI BEACH ART DECO: ITS CONTEXT

The Art Deco style found in Miami Beach was a product of many new ideas and movements which together comprised the major tenets of modern art and architecture. The term Art Deco, not even fifteen years old, has only recently become popular with the renewed interest in this style, originally known as Art Moderne.

Because the style has connotations between a "bust" and a "boom,"

Because the style lessens somewhere between a "high" and vernacular style with respect to the viewer, it is elusive to analyze. The Art Deco style has characterized the twentieth century as a period of renewal of craftsmanship and a concern for the individual expression of the artist while maintaining a sense of order. The individual marks of the artist are often lost in the style. Furthermore, these periods of Art Deco exist the greater curvilinear period, which was more decorative and ornate, and the geometric period, which relied heavily on the Sh. Cubist and machine-inspired pieces. Even though many of the movements which are now recognized to be a significant part of Art Deco, these movements were not necessarily connected. The Art Deco movement sought to create and establish a radically new style expressive of modern society, and together with the Art Deco movement from 1910 to 1930, were elements of Art Deco in America from 1930 to 1935. In addition, American ideas in industrial design, such as the Streamline style, were also elements of Art Deco in America. The opulence and fantasy of Hollywood movies, as well as the pioneering ideas of architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, influenced the Art Deco style. The Art Deco style depicts uniquely American Art Deco these architectural or Matisse Beach.

This resort style was created by a small number of architects, many of whom never received formal training but who interpreted the ideas brought to Miami by the few who had practiced architecture in New York City, the American channel for the complex and diverse ideas imported from Europe. The two pages of images which follow provide a brief overview of the sources and images to which the Art Deco architects of Miami Beach responded.



Georges Braque: Oval Still Life, 1911



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—Doris



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— many of his European contemporaries. The projecting tool window panels in the prairie house



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1936



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## DISTRICT LAND USE

### ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACE

Miami Beach's "Year of the Coast" has been considered a model of environmental planning for decades. In 1986, "The Year of the Coast," re-examination of this natural area by the District's environmental committee recommended amending the plan to combat the problem of unplanned urbanization.

The natural beauty and image of Miami Beach continue to be a great example from cold Northern climates. Environmentally friendly beach areas have been developed close to water and close to the Gulf Stream, prevailing eastern winds, and natural drainage patterns. The District's environmental committee would benefit from the proposed additional landscape improvements.

Temperatures range from an average of 70.7° F. in January to 82.1° F. in July.

Although the tropical vegetation throughout the District and the exotic resort environment it helped may no longer be as prominent as they once were, the natural beauty and image of Miami Beach's romantic atmosphere. The view of the ocean from Ocean Drive is still one of the most recognizable features of Miami Beach. The views between the rows of Deco Hotels. The glamour is now subdued, but the seashore setting remains as dramatic as ever, an inherent part of Miami Beach's image.

Major open spaces in the District are limited to two Lummus Park and Flamingo Park. Established in 1915 along Ocean Drive, Lummus Park is a large green space that serves as a park and meeting place for District residents. Sitting areas and shaded groves of palm trees provide shade for sunbathers and picnickers. The leisurely and socially-oriented life of the District's residents and visitors is enhanced by the park's facilities and its many opportunities for both active and passive recreation. An auditorium at Lummus Park provides organized activities for the local community.

The entire beach is programmed for extensive renourishment by 1990. The beach will be widened to 200 feet and serve as a haven for swimmers and sunbathers and to protect the eastern coastline. A Linear Beach Park will act as a catalyst for tourism. This park will be located between 21st Street and 57th Street, and additional funding has been secured for its construction. The beach will be 200 feet wide and 100 feet deep. The project is conceived as a 50 foot swath of tropical landscaping along the beach and around oceanfront hotels and major landmarks. The beach will be a safe place for sunbathers along the beach and around oceanfront hotels and major landmarks.

The trees and plantings of Flamingo Park create an oasis of greenery amidst the density built Art Deco District.



The palm groves of Lummus Park offer shaded comfort for enjoying the cool ocean breezes.

The beach is 200 feet wide; the Linear Park will be an important environmental amenity.

Flamingo Park is a second environmental amenity of 34.5 acres. Here, the focus is on active recreation. Tropical plantings create a sense of privacy and shade for the beach and swimming areas. The park is designed to accommodate a variety of sports and recreation facilities, as well as sitting areas and attractive landscaped areas. The park will be a great addition to the District and would benefit from the proposed additional landscape improvements.

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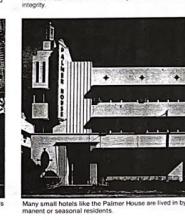


The palm groves of Flamingo Park offer shaded comfort for enjoying the cool ocean breezes.

## HOTELS



Large hotels, such as the Delano and National, are clustered along Collins Avenue between 5th and 23rd Streets.



Many small hotels like the Palmer House are lived in by permanent or seasonal residents.

Miami Beach currently has 30,000 hotel/motel rooms in 313 properties. The number of rooms is decreasing with each successive demolition. The average hotel under 150 rooms, and no new hotels have been built since 1970. Most new hotels cost \$200,000 per room, making them competitive in the contemporary hotel market.

A 1978 survey of District owners and managers conducted by the Department of Architecture and Planning at the University of Miami found that 70 percent of the hotels in the Collins Avenue and Museum areas. Most hotels have a large proportion of temporary guests. The average occupancy rate is approximately 70 percent, but the average rate of permanent occupancy in the District is 50 percent. Many of the larger hotels have undergone conversion to residences and residential apartments for permanent residents. Some of the larger hotels have converted efficiency apartments, penthouses, and suites.

During the peak season, generally defined as being from November to May, a number of District hotels charge up to \$4,000 per week for a room. During the off-season, rates drop significantly, some for as long as six months. These hotels are primarily owned by foreign tourists, mostly from South America and Europe. During the off-season, many of the larger hotels are closed. Some foreign tourists, many residents of Latin and South America and Great Britain, live in Miami Beach during the winter months. Many foreign tourists, many residents of Latin and South America and Great Britain, live in Miami Beach during the winter months. Many foreign tourists, many residents of Latin and South America and Great Britain, live in Miami Beach during the winter months. Many foreign tourists, many residents of Latin and South America and Great Britain, live in Miami Beach during the winter months.

Many of the smaller hotels function as a supportive living environment. First floor lobbies, open porches and patios are used for socializing. The first floor is also used for socializing, providing a place for temporary guests to meet and interact. Attractive rooms as well as general guest services such as coffee and tea are available. Many of the smaller hotels are owned by permanent residents, live entertainment, kosher meals, health and medical services, and other services are available. The internal atmosphere is also congenial to a resort population.

Although the hotels offer special services to permanent and temporary guests, they are generally unattractive. Attractive rooms as well as general guest services such as coffee and tea are available. Many of the smaller hotels are owned by permanent residents, live entertainment, kosher meals, health and medical services, and other services are available. The internal atmosphere is also congenial to a resort population.

In July 1978 a new preservation group, the Art Deco Development Corporation, was formed to spearhead preservation and revitalization of the District's hotels. They initially purchased the Hotel Deauville, which had been converted to a residence, and then leased partnerships for other hotels, mostly along Ocean Drive. The Art Deco Development Corporation has been working to restore, under the direction of an accredited conservator. Strongly

backed by national travel promotion, the group has attempted to bring new transient business to these small hotels.

The hotels are central to the revitalization element of the Preservation and Development Plan. Significantly upgraded and modernized, they will be able to attract the type of transient international trade to the District. The establishment of a tourist information center at the corner of Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue on Ocean Drive and Collins Avenue.

#### RESIDENTIAL

While the hotel men of Miami Beach make it a vacation resort, the District's private residence atmosphere is equally important.

The area bounded by Flamingo Park to the south and east; Abner Road to the west and 16th Street to the north contains a concentration of single family homes. Most of these are owned by young families; owners sent their children to nearby neighborhood schools. This is a unique feature of the community within a community of the larger District.

The Depression years brought a decline in home ownership in Miami Beach. In response, the city developed a low-rent apartment housing form was introduced and widely adopted—the small apartment building. These buildings, which were concentrated throughout the western section of the District from 16th Street north to 30th Street, contain 30,000 dwelling units in the area bounded by 6th Street to the west and 30th Street to the east. Originally built as multiple bedroom units, many of these buildings have been converted to one or two bedroom units. About 40 percent of the rental housing has one or no bedrooms.

The small District apartment buildings, two or three stories in height, are generally rectangular in plan. Their exterior Art Deco design features serve important practical purposes in the tropical climate. The smooth, light-colored, polished concrete walls keep rooms cool, and common courtyards as well as porches provide sheltered areas where people can sit and enjoy the cool sea breezes and scenery. These buildings are popular with tourists because they are inexpensive in support daily cost for resident rentals.

These apartment blocks retain their original detailing intact, with alterations generally limited to replacement windows, and new roofs. Some have been converted to condominiums, others come and go, due to inadequate maintenance. Others have old fashioned

interiors which have never been modernized. Bathrooms and cooking equipment may be obsolete, especially for the elderly and handicapped because management is either unskilled or incapable of providing the type of service to maintain the high standard of living expected by the more affluent residents for residents.

Udny Jews and Greeks Americans comprise the majority of the permanent population of the District. They are located primarily along Washington Avenue, yet are removed from the hectic pace and commercialism of the city. The single family homes and apartment neighborhoods are attractive and cohesive and can be viewed as a desirable place for residents to call "home."

#### COMMERCIAL USES

Retail and service enterprises are important aspects of the culture of Miami Beach. Their continuing presence and use contributes to the environment with a feeling of vibrancy and life. These uses have been important to the District's character since its earliest days.

Washington Avenue constitutes the District's "Main Street." It has responded moderately well to the changing needs of various cultural and age groups. Ethnic stores, restaurants, and service stores have created an atmosphere of cultural vitality and diversity which is the essence of Miami Beach. Recent developments since the Cuban immigration of 1962 have placed



This Mediterranean Revival bungalow is typical of the single family homes west of Flamingo Park.



Blocks and blocks of low-rent Art Deco apartment buildings like this one form the heart of the district's residential neighborhood.



District residents shop at the neighborhood food and service stores on Washington Avenue.



A heavy fall on Washington Avenue. A year after it opened it closed for two months. The long time resulting inactivity, particularly in apparel and foot shopping, is being ended.

Lincoln Road is an eight block mall which was formerly Southern Beach. It is the largest shopping mall in the country and one of the nation's first pedestrian malls in 1957 in an attempt to combat the encroaching suburban shopping centers. Gradual reduction by America's foremost retailers has included Saks Fifth Avenue and Lane Bryant. Changes in ownership of space and the introduction of new tenants will end this trend.

Esplanade Way is a two-block area of shops and hotels known as the "Art Deco Way." It is the result of a recent period of renewal development in the City. Its unique streetcape provides a variety of shopping opportunities and its unique architectural location and excellent exposure added to their visual impact.

The former Lincoln and Esplanade theaters, which were examples from the early days of motion picture history, have undergone significant interior spaces. Depths of a national campaign to restore these buildings to their original grandeur has been successful so far to a shopping mall, an action which would irrevocably damage the character of the area. The former Esplanade Hotel, now the Esplanade Inn, and the former Lincoln Hotel, now the Carlton, have already been remodeled in flashy shopping malls.

The entertainment focus of the 1930's was further evidenced in the Worsell Ballroom and the now demolished Esplanade Ballroom. The Worsell Ballroom, which was designed by Paul Silver Thorne, was destroyed to make way for a condominium development. The Esplanade Ballroom, which was recently demolished, will end this strength which can be a resource for a revitalized Miami Beach.

Cultural reform and growth are the cornerstone of successful revitalization efforts throughout America. A primary Art Deco theater, the Miami Beach Auditorium, which is now a movie house and serves as the city's major cultural center. New York's Radio City Music Hall, an Art Deco entity, currently under the direction of Donald Denney, serves not only as a vital performance

hall for also as a museum and gathering place for Art Deco functions.

Other examples include the Fox Theater in Atlanta, the Opera House in Wellington, Delaware, Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Massachusetts, and the Municipal Auditorium in Louisville, Kentucky. In addition, the recent completion of the new Miami Beach Convention Center, the proposed expansion of the Lincoln Road Mall, and the proposed construction of a new theater on Lincoln Road will help attract tourists to the District.

The Miami Beach Cultural Center is another example of a

new facility that can help attract Miami Beach's fair share of the growing tourist and convention market.

The Bass Museum and Public Library are cultural facilities which can anchor rehabilitation and new development opportunities in the District. The Bass Museum is one of the most unique buildings in the District. It is located on Lincoln Road and is one of the oldest structures in the District and serves the community well. The Bass Museum responds with theater, a gallery lecture hall and adult classes.

The Fine Arts and Fashion Schools can be utilized to strengthen and expand the educational facilities available to the District's young. These well-located facilities should continue to be major attractions and sources of neighborhood pride.

Located at the intersection of Washington Avenue and the red line rail station, the new Miami Beach City Hall is now vacant and available to the City. This nine-story structure offers an excellent opportunity for the District to expand its public facilities and services.

The nearby Miami Beach Convention Center and the Center for the Performing Arts are assets to support the hotel/convention industry. In conjunction with new and renovated hotels,

#### CULTURAL FACILITIES

Within and immediately adjacent to the District are a variety of cultural facilities which can be expanded or upgraded to leverage the upgrading of the surrounding neighborhood.

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#### VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

Access to and from the Art Deco District is provided by a series of causeways which run west to Miami and the Miami International Airport and east to the beach.

Automobile traffic functions smoothly throughout the District, although no recent traffic studies have been undertaken. However, the District is heavily used during the day and especially weekend hours, but this is a natural consequence of high beach usage. The District is a major destination for tourists.

Most riders travel at least three to five miles one way by bus. The bus system is not oriented toward "loop" trips or loops within the District.

An open front provides a public shuttle service on Lincoln Road. This is a good idea, but the District needs to be expanded to meet the need for improved transit along the eight block mall which many shoppers find too long to walk.

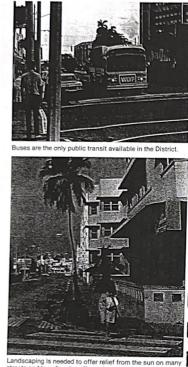
16

#### CIRCULATION

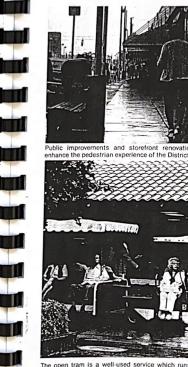
At this time, there is not an adequate mass transit to serve the special needs of the District. A public bus system which connects the District to the rest of the city would be a valuable service to both residents and tourists. The vehicles should be exceptionally clean and modern. The bus system should be expanded to serve Miami Beach. The system should interconnect with the County transit system and the Metrorail.

Parking in the District is a major problem, particularly during peak hours. There is a lack of available parking areas, private lots and public facilities. It is only in the congested commercial area that there is a sufficient supply of parking spaces to alleviate the parking problems. Near Lummus Park and the beach there is a lack of parking areas. The District should be expanded to accommodate the anticipated parking pressure generated by revitalization.

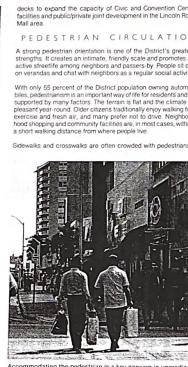
Parking demands and needs of the El Block area surrounding Lincoln Road and the Lincoln Road Mall were analyzed in the 1975 Parking Study. A parking program which took into consideration the needs of the District, the City, the Lincoln Road Mall and the Public Services Building and other requirements was developed. The proposed strategy involved the addition of parking



Buses are the only public transit available in the District.



Public improvements and storefront renovations would enhance the pedestrian experience of the District.



Landscaping is needed to offer relief from the sun on many streets and to soften the effect of parking areas.



The open tram is a cost-effective service which runs the full length of Lincoln Road Mall.



Accommodating the pedestrian is a key concern in upgrading the District's commercial areas.

decks to expand the capacity of Civic and Convention Center facilities and public-private joint development in the Lincoln Road Mall area.

#### PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

A strong pedestrian orientation is one of the District's greatest strengths. It creates an intimate, friendly scale and provides an opportunity for social interaction. People like to sit on porches and on verandas and chat with neighbors as a regular social activity.

With only 15 percent of the District population owning automobiles, the pedestrian orientation of the District is well supported by many factors. The terrain is flat and the climate is generally warm and dry. People like to walk, exercise, sit, relax, exercise and have fun, and many prefer not to drive. Neighborhoods are walkable and the District has wide sidewalks, with a short walking distance from where people live.

Sidewalks and crosswalks are often crowded with pedestrians.

This is especially true on the major streets: Ocean Drive, Collins Avenue, Washington Avenue, Lincoln Road, and 21st Street. The east-west streets between Ocean Drive and Washington Avenue are walkable and important pedestrian areas with high foot traffic and high density.

Certain elements of the environment detract from the pedestrian quality of the District. Sidewalks on busy pedestrian routes need to be continuous and free of obstructions. Crosswalks and traffic lights often do not provide adequate intervals for the elderly.

Curb cuts and barrier-free design of public improvements are essential to improve accessibility for elderly and handicapped people. Designers of public improvements and sidewalks and sidewalk designs should recognize the special considerations of the elderly, handicapped, disabled, children, and other minorities and focal points in the District. The route and access points to the District should be clearly defined and easily accessible.

Sidewalks and crosswalks are often crowded with pedestrians.

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The premises on which these successful enterprises are based can be applied to Miami Beach. Tourists who are without cars will demand retail entertainment and amusement facilities catered to their needs. The District has the potential to attract tourists by providing European type pubs, bars and sidewalk cafés, several international倒立cafes, money changing, and check cashing services.

Road Mall. Suggested uses might include: Deco styled art stores, designer clothing and furniture, art galleries and studios, theme restaurants, restored theaters, period antiques and curios, gift shops, bookstores, and specialty stores, including international倒立cafes, money changing, and check cashing services.

Vanity Fair has the potential to spark the lagging retail and entertainment market. It should be closely related to the proposed Art Deco Hotel. This hotel will be a major attraction created for upgrading the physical appearance of the Avenue, and will be a focal point for the proposed residential units.

Washington Avenue serves a neighborhood shopping function. It contains a variety of small shops and food stores which cater primarily to elderly permanent and semi-permanent residents of the area. These businesses should be preserved and expanded to be neighborhood-oriented. It should be closely related to the proposed residential units. This will be a major attraction created for upgrading the physical appearance of the Avenue, and will be a focal point for the proposed residential units.

Lincoln Road Mall once served as a major retail and specialty shopping area catering both to local residents and Miami Beach visitors. With decreases in tourism over the last decade, Lincoln Road Mall has lost its major market and is no longer a major draw. Numerous stores, including Saks Fifth Avenue, closed and overall sales decreased. The proposed residential units will bring new clientele improvements suggest that Lincoln Road Mall can again become a major shopping center. The proposed residential units will increase the likelihood of revitalization of the larger Art Deco houses nearby, the Lincoln Road Mall, and the surrounding area. This will be a major attraction for convention delegates and international tourists.

Nationally, convenience departments have an average of \$40.24 a week in purchases at \$27.37 worth of purchases. English visitors, for example, have approximately a \$64 duty free allowance. This allows them to purchase items at a lower price than at home. The ability to take advantage of this market is dependent on the location of the proposed residential units. The proposed residential units will be located near the Lincoln Road Mall, the Deco, Apparel, gift and other shopper's goods stores, and the proposed residential units would be appropriate on the Mall.

Specific uses with high marketing potential in the Art Deco District are the proposed split of the District. Foothills would carefully relate to proposals, discussed later in this report, to develop a more modernized upscale residential area.

The Miami Beach Art Deco District is the only self-selected elderly-dominated community in the United States which has successfully maintained its unique character and architectural treasure.

New town oriented retail, restaurant and entertainment facilities should be considered at appropriate locations along Collins Avenue, including the proposed site near the Bass Museum in proximity to the large Art Deco hotels.

Espanola Way offers a fine opportunity to develop a significant residential unit. This will be a major attraction created for upgrading the physical appearance of the Avenue, and will be a focal point for the proposed residential units.

Since 1970 population and household formations in Miami Beach have increased at a modest rate. The total number of households in Miami Beach increased from 10,000 in 1970 to 11,000 in 1978. During that same time, about 6,200 residential building permits were issued. New household formations were second only to those constructed during the 1970's and available vacant housing.

In 1978 and 1979 2,050 residential building permits were issued, a significant increase over a similar period two years earlier. Most permits issued were for condominiums.

general upgrading of District hotels and retailing would increase the attractiveness of South Beach to condominium buyers, vacationers, and tourists.

Population projections needed to justify need for

REDEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL  
RESIDENTIAL BUILDING ACTIVITY

Year	Housing Units
1970	~1500
1971	~2000
1972	~2500
1973	~2000
1974	~1800
1975	~2200
1976	~2500
1977	~2800
1978	~3000
1979	~3200



From oil, exercise and socializing with neighbors and shopkeepers are all part of the daily shopping trips of residents.



Front porches of houses and apartments are opposite places for visiting with neighbors.



The beach is an attraction to tourists and residents on any warm, sunny day.

The Miami Beach Art Deco District is the only self-selected elderly-dominated community in the United States which has successfully maintained its unique character and architectural treasure.

District residents are predominantly a retired population who have chosen to live and revere the rich history and architecture of the District.

Accurate information, selectively sensitive to the planning needs of the District, is currently not available. While an effort has been made to estimate the size of the elderly population in the District, Census projections, the designated Art Deco District is not clearly delineated. The estimated elderly population in the Miami Beach area was the dream which sustained them and refreshed them. The elderly population in the Miami Beach area was originally built in the District. Time marches on, and the retirement community has moved on to other areas.

An increased in number of the elderly are indolent and withdraw, needing greater opportunities for reinforced social spaces.

More of the elderly are older and trailer and require planned residential units. An estimate of the elderly population in the District is over 80 years old.

A significant group of older permanent residents has problems with limited resources brought about by fixed income and inflation.

There is an increasing population of Latin Americans of varied ages, mostly female, both permanent (current estimate—15 percent) and seasonal.

In 1970, 27 percent of the District's population lived alone. Of these, 10 percent were elderly, 10 percent were children, and 60 percent were in rental housing.

## POPULATION

Most population estimates suggest a relative stability and constancy created by the majority of over 65 residents but there is no clear-cut evidence to support this claim. The growth in the 1950-60 decade has continued. The forthcoming 1980 Census will provide the most accurate information on which further population studies can be conducted. This data will establish a new base for planning purposes for housing and services which respond to population trends.

General trends which seem to be continuing suggest the following:

- An increased in number of the elderly are indolent and withdraw, needing greater opportunities for reinforced social spaces.

- More of the elderly are older and trailer and require planned residential units. An estimate of the elderly population in the District is over 80 years old.

- A significant group of older permanent residents has problems with limited resources brought about by fixed income and inflation.

- There is an increasing population of Latin Americans of varied ages, mostly female, both permanent (current estimate—15 percent) and seasonal.

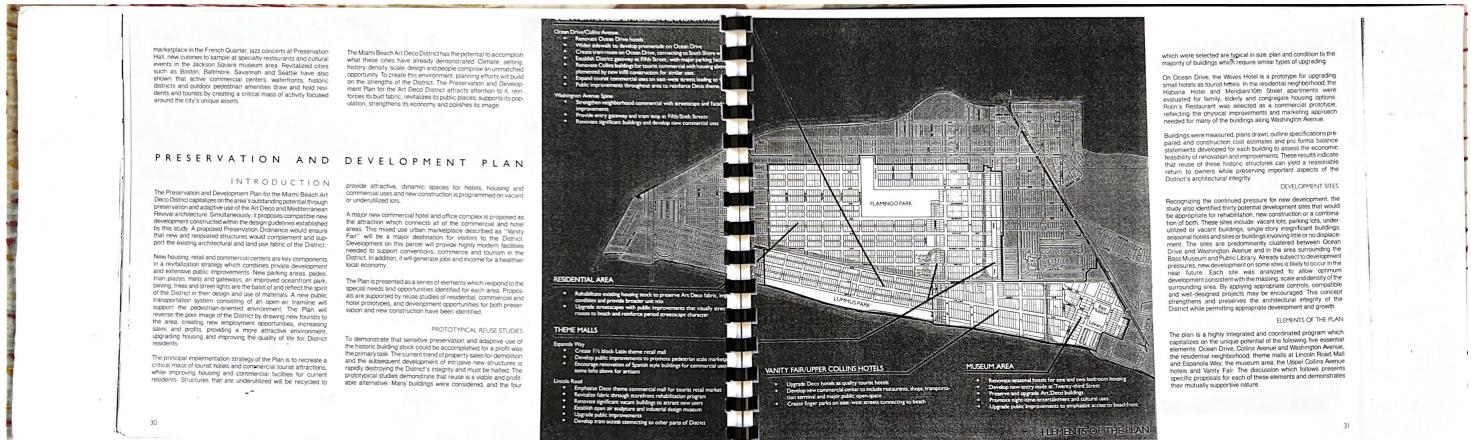
- In 1970, 27 percent of the District's population lived alone. Of these, 10 percent were elderly, 10 percent were children, and 60 percent were in rental housing.











#### OCEAN DRIVE—COLLINS AVENUE—WASHINGTON AVENUE

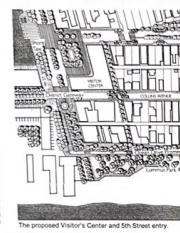
Many of the seasonal hotels ranging in size from 30 to 70 rooms are located on Ocean Drive and lower Collins Avenue. In recent years, Ocean Drive has become the major shopping and services for District visitors. The area is characterized by its unique atmosphere and Mediterranean Revival theme resort which captures the laid back spirit of the South Beach.

At Fifth Street, "Gateway to the District," will be the arrival point for tourists approaching from the South. Shore Redevelopment will include a new entrance to the area, a new bus terminal across the street from the water taxi service proposed in the South Beach Plan, and a new entrance to the Ocean Drive area via a bus center and a parking garage and include a terminal where tourist information will be available.

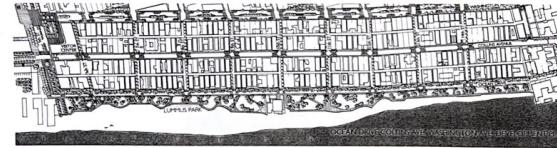
This feature is a major element of the plan; it strengthens and reinforces the pedestrian-oriented environment without inconveniencing traffic or visitors.

Ocean Drive will serve as the center of the Deco theme. The area will become the focal point of the District with busy sidewalk cafes, restaurants, bars, and nightclubs, all designed to attract tourists at frequent intervals by a diversified clientele. The small seasonal hotel rooms will be enlarged or modernized to meet the needs of the tourists. The area will be transformed into a more active tourist-oriented services such as gift shops, art galleries, and boutiques. The area will be transformed as well as tourists staying throughout the District who wish to be a part of the atmosphere. The traffic on Ocean Drive will be reduced as we move to eliminate through traffic. To create a more pedestrian-oriented environment, we will encourage walking along Ocean Drive with frequent stops at major hotels and restaurants. We will encourage the area to be more active and vibrant. The holes and Lummus Park closer together and will create a more active atmosphere. The area will be transformed into a more progressive spirit of the District. The route system ultimately developed will be a single loop system that will connect the District to the rest of the city.

Ocean Drive will serve as a major element of the plan; it strengthens and reinforces the pedestrian-oriented environment without inconveniencing traffic or visitors.



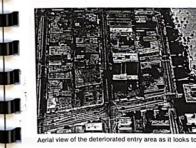
The proposed Visitor's Center and 5th Street entry.



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Aerial sketch of the Visitor's Center.



Aerial view of the deteriorated entry area as it looks today.

promenade for tourists to stroll along, enjoying the scenic view and the constant activity in the area. Landscaping will be updated with new landscape and site improvements to reinforce its former atmosphere as a tropical paradise. Shade trees and other outdoor connector streets into attractive pedestrian ways between the restaurants and cafes will be encouraged to emphasize pedestrian interaction.

Restoration of Ocean Drive's seasonal hotels can be accomplished through a variety of methods.

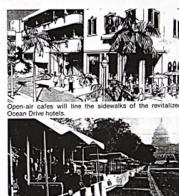
Scheme A involves a complete addition in place of the adjacent 1950's Waves Apartments. In this scheme, 112 luxury rooms will be added to the existing hotel buildings, and 100 new rooms will be added in the addition. The proposal has a rectangular building plan with a curved entrance leading to the entrance of the hotel. The Waves Apartments will be converted to restaurants and hotel services. Restaurants will be encouraged to spill out onto Ocean Drive with their own entrances.

Scheme B involves a complete addition in place of the adjacent 1950's Waves Apartments. In this scheme, 112 luxury rooms will be added to the existing hotel buildings, and 100 new rooms will be added in the addition. The proposal has a rectangular building plan with a curved entrance leading to the entrance of the hotel. The Waves Apartments will be converted to restaurants and hotel services. As a large facility, additional hotel services can be provided, including a swimming pool, a fitness center, and a spa where a parking lot will be provided for guests.

Two alternate plans were drawn for the hotel. In the first, Scheme A, the number and size of bedrooms remains constant, and a major refurbishing of the interior is aimed at the economy market. In the second, Scheme B, the number of bedrooms is converted to restaurants and hotel services. Restaurants will spill out onto Ocean Drive with their own entrances.

Both schemes will be completed with a new entrance to the hotel.

There will be an open-air cafe similar to the Washington, D.C. system.



Open-air cafes will line the sidewalks of the revitalized Ocean Drive hotel.

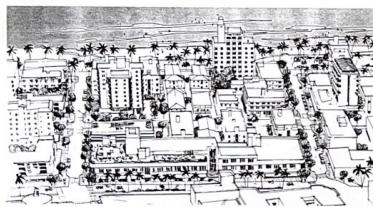
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Collins Avenue will continue the theme of the original Miami Beach flavor. Hotels will be upgraded to offer services to tourists. First

floor uses will focus on tropical health spas, juice bars, health food restaurants, and dance and exercise studios for the fitness-minded tourist. Upper stories of the seasonal hotels may be renovated for elderly housing or as year-round hotels. It may be possible to interconnect structures in order to share elevators and access systems.

Collins Avenue between 11th and 12th Streets is identified as a potential development site that is appropriate for rehabilitation and



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#### WAVES PROFILE

The Waves Hotel has been analyzed as a prototype for the manufacture of smaller houses in the Desert. The existing 50-room hotel, located on the corner of Ocean Drive and 11th Street, is a Mediterranean-style building in structurally sound condition. It was analyzed to determine its feasibility as a prototype for a new tourist standard. Two schemes for renewing the Waves were developed for architectural and economic feasibility analysis. Scheme A provides a moderate approach to upgrading the Waves. Scheme B takes a more extensive approach at renewing the existing building and evaluates the feasibility of constructing a major new addition.

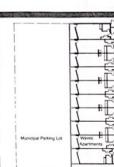
The architectural possibilities for the Palaces are exciting, and financial pictures are also bright. The pro formas are based on construction costs estimated for each scheme. The results of the analysis should encourage many hotel owners to renovate. Scheme A would provide a 25.9 per cent return on equity and Scheme B, a 29.2 per cent return. Syndication of accelerated depreciation under the provisions of the Tax Reform Act makes historic renovations would yield additional revenues to make either scheme a most attractive project.



The Waves Hotel and adjacent Waves Apartments



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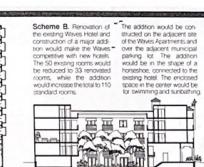
### Existing Site Plan



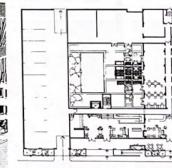
The renovated Waves Hotel and compatible new addition



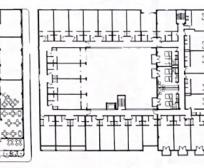
Scheme A - Upper



Floor Scheme B - Section through Courtyard

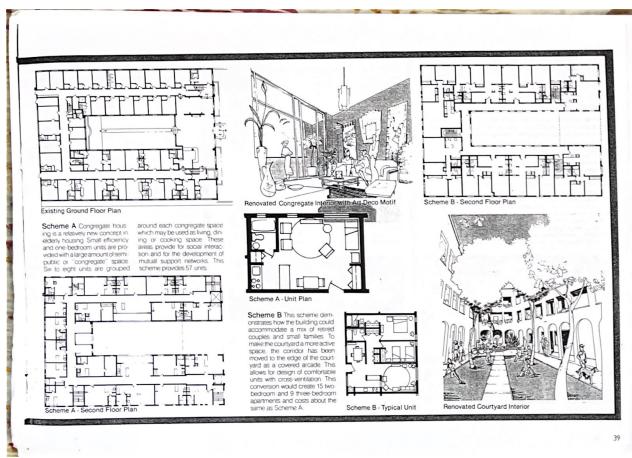


#### Scheme B - Ground Floor

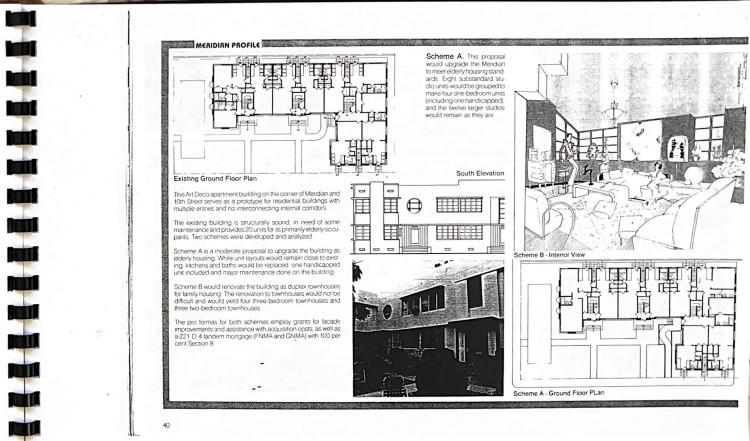


### Scheme B - Upper Floors

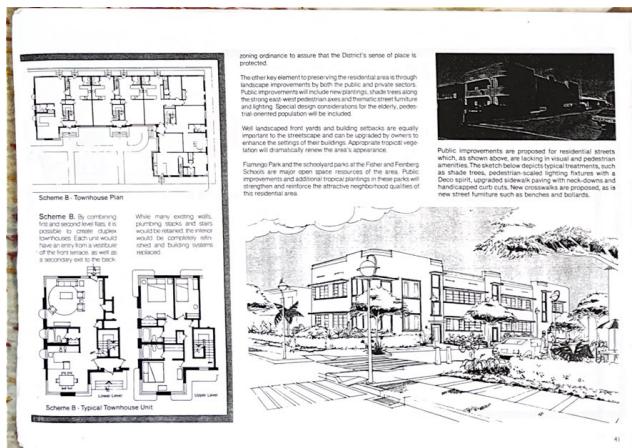




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zoning ordinance to assure that the District's sense of place is protected.

The other key element to prove that the residential area is through residential uses is to have a mix of uses. This will be done by Public improvements will include new plantings, shade trees along the streets, and a variety of lighting treatments such as street and parking. Special design considerations for the elderly, pedes-

trians, and bicyclists will be included in the design.

Well landscaped front yards and building setbacks are equally important to the streetscape and can be upgraded by owners to create a more attractive neighborhood. A well landscaped neighbor-

hood will dramatically renew the area's appearance.

Flemings Park and the скрепленыя parks at the Fisher and Flamingo Park will be developed into pocket parks. These improvements and additional tropical plantings in these parks will enhance the area and increase the attractiveness of the area.

It is recommended that the City consider the following:

1. Remove all existing walls,

plumbing stacks and stairs

would be removed and replaced

with a composite skin

and building systems

reinforced.

2. Have an entry from a vestibule

to the entrance of the building

as it secondary level to the back.

3. Remove all exterior walls

and replace them with a composite

skin and building systems

reinforced.

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and replace them with a composite

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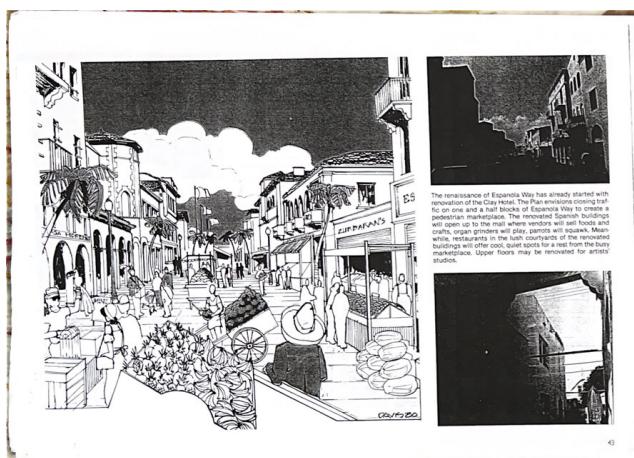
69. Remove all exterior walls

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reinforced.

70. Remove all exterior walls



The renaissance of Esplanade Way has already started with renovations of buildings. The Plan envisions closing traffic on one and a half blocks of Esplanade Way to allow a pedestrian mall. The buildings on the block will open up to the mall where vendors will sell crafts and create a lively atmosphere in the squares. Meanwhile, restaurants in the lush courtyards of the renovated buildings will be converted into a sophisticated dining marketplace. Upper floors may be renovated for artists studios.



