

Deco Delights Preserving Miami Beach Architecture

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a magnificent testimonial to the continuing commitment to the preservation of the art deco district add of miami beach fl a unique architectural enclave that is the largest and most important district of its kind anywhere in the world originally this district was the creation of a gifted team of architects who designed some of the most colorful and sophisticated examples of crisp modern american architecture of the 1930s the add exists today chiefly because of the inspiration and leadership of capitman who has been determined to make people aware of and care about the beauty and significance of the small hotels and apartment buildings illustrated in these photos

born out of fantasy and speculation designed for fun and profit miami beach has been from its inception a city of mythical composition its famed art deco district was designated a historic district by the national register of historic places in 1979 and today the area is basking in a revival of interest and attention

nevertheless while fashion photographers and entrepreneurs artists developers restaurateurs and club owners flock to the neighborhood it is still struggling after years of deterioration and neglect to recreate itself out of its own forgotten glamour despite a new palette of confectionery colors and the renovation of numerous buildings the art deco district remains in need of urban cultivation of a reinterpretation that transcends its original resort identity author laura cerwinske introduces tropical deco the architecture and design of old miami beach by discussing both the area s past and its future throughout her comprehensive exploration of the most concentrated neighborhood of art deco buildings in the world she details the style s evolution and examines its design tropical deco the architecture and design of old miami beach treats its readers to a delightful view of a unique adaption of a historic architectural style for while miami beach s art deco architecture derives its stylistic roots from the streamlined and electric visions of the cosmopolitan north tropical deco design is much softer and more temperately seductive these are buildings whose narrative and evocative nature is at once sophisticated naive and filled with humor publisher

yet what makes miami beach remarkable is not only the way in which dixon and his colleagues used art deco to meet the local need for lower cost resort architecture but the way in which they adapted the style to incorporate local motifs and historical styles the result is the unique architecture of south beach as it is now known the largely restored international vacation hotspot and the country s first twentieth century architectural district to be placed on the national register of historic places

focusing on images of new york the rural south and miami from the 1890s to the 1940s mary n woods explores the ways photographers used the built environment to explore not only the gulfs but also the overlaps between modern and traditional culture in america during the early twentieth century

alice friedman argues that the aesthetics of mid 20th century modern architecture reflect an increasing fascination with glamour a term used in those years to characterise objects people experiences as luxurious expressive even magical

steven brooke whose dazzling photography of miami s art deco district once helped spur the area s preservation now captures the incredible architectural restoration of this glamorous international playground during the 1930s miami beach emerged as an epicenter of art deco architecture against the azure sky gleamed buildings that boasted voluptuous curves nautical elements jazz age ornamentation and seductive neon after the area fell into decline in the 1970s and 80s steven brooke and others successfully campaigned to protect the art deco district s architectural treasures from the wrecking ball now with the district s buildings finally restored to their eye popping glory brooke offers miami and art deco lovers the most up to date celebration of the inimitable architecture that has made the city a style magnet for artists designers and travelers from around the globe

art deco buildings still lift their modernist principles and streamlined chrome into the skies of baltimore and washington d c second place winner of the design and effectiveness award of the washington publishers the bold lines and decorative details of art deco have stood the test of time since one of its first appearances in

the international exhibition of modern decorative and industrial arts in paris in 1925 reflecting the confidence of modern mentality streamlined chrome and glossy black along with simple elegance sharp lines and cosmopolitan aspirations art deco carried surprises juxtaposing designs growing out of speed racecars and airplanes with ancient egyptian and mexican details visual references to russian ballet and allusions to asian art while most often associated with such masterworks as new york s chrysler building art deco is evident in the architecture of many u s cities including washington and baltimore by updating the findings of two regional studies from the 1980s with new research richard striner and melissa blair explore the most significant art deco buildings still standing and mourn those that have been lost this comparative study illuminates contrasts between the white collar new deal capital and the blue collar industrial port city while noting such striking commonalities as the regional patterns of baltimore s john jacob zinc who designed art deco cinemas in both cities uneven preservation efforts have allowed significant losses but surviving examples of art deco architecture include the bank of america building in baltimore now better known as 10 light street and the uptown theater on connecticut avenue nw in washington although possibly less glamorous or flamboyant than exemplars in new york or miami the authors find these structures along with apartment houses and government buildings typical of the deco architecture found throughout the united states and well worth preserving demonstrating how an international design movement found its way into ordinary places this study will appeal to architectural historians as well as regional residents interested in developing a greater appreciation of art deco architecture in the mid atlantic region

a state by state survey of important architectural designs includes drawings background information and descriptions of the most interesting structures

there is no better way to appreciate a work of architecture than to see it for yourself this compact book takes you through 220 important american buildings and provides architectural and historical information addresses phone numbers visitor hours everything you need to understand the structure and plan your trip to see it you simply can t open the whitney guide without gaining new insights about the buildings and builders of this most vital part of the american heritage book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

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