DawnTown 2011: Floating Stage

A public international architecture ideas competition for a Floating Stage that will compliment the historic Miami Marine Stadium. Sponsored by Friends of Miami Marine Stadium, National Trust of Historic Preservation, and The Miami Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Produced in partnership with the Friends of Miami Marine Stadium, the City of Miami and the University of Miami School of Architecture.
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Competition Brief

1. About DawnTown

DawnTown is the annual public international architecture ideas competition for Downtown Miami. DawnTown's mission is to bring creative architecture to Downtown Miami, and to help tell the exciting urban story of Downtown Miami to the world. This year, we will expand by incorporating a design program within the limits of the City of Miami.

2. Site & History

Virginia Key is a 1,000 acre island in Miami Dade County, mostly within the City limits of Miami. It is connected to the mainland by the Rickenbacker Causeway toll road, which extends all the way to Key Biscayne. Virginia Key was originally the Southern end of a barrier island that extended from Fort Lauderdale to Key Biscayne. It was named by Frederick H. Gerdes of the U.S. Coast Guard Survey in 1849.

Virginia Key Beach was created in 1945 as a black beach—as all other beaches in Miami Dade County were whites only. The Beach continued to operate as a “separate but equal” beach until the 1960s. At that time, integration opened up Crandon Beach to blacks, and Virginia Key Beach began to decline. There were efforts made to create commercial development on this site, but a community effort lead to the designation of the Virginia Key Beach, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. The Virginia Key Beach Trust, an independent not for profit organization, is leading the effort to restore Virginia Key Beach and recognize its historical importance. The City has long recognized the potential of Virginia Key as it is only five minutes from downtown, offers remarkable views from Miami, and has tremendous potential.

In July, 2010, the Miami City Commission approved by a 5-0 unanimous vote the new proposed Master Plan for Virginia Key. The plan concepts include public access and enhanced public amenities, much less commercial development than had been proposed previously, and an emphasis on heritage and conservation. The Miami Marine Stadium—which had been either eliminated or surrounded by parking garages in earlier drafts of the plan, is now a central feature.
Designed initially for boat racing, the Miami Marine Stadium and basin were built in 1963 by the City of Miami. Cost of the Stadium was approximately $1,000,000. The Stadium sits on land that was dredged for the Marine Stadium Basin—and the cost of creating the Basin was $900,000. The Stadium was designed by Hilario Candela, then a 28 year old architect with Pancoast, Ferendino, Grafton, Skeels and Burnham. Candela has gone on to have a long and stellar career. Candela was born in Cuba and emigrated from Cuba in 1958. He took courses at the University of Havana and got his architectural degree from Georgia Tech. Candela apprenticed with Max Borges, Jr. a well known architect who, designed many buildings during his long career in the United States and Cuba including the famed Tropicana Nightclub in Havana. He was President of the firm Spillis Candela which designed all three campuses of Miami Dade Community College and was at one time the largest Hispanic owned architectural firm in the United States. The engineering work was done by Jack Meyer of Dignum Associates and the building was built by a local firm, Millman Construction.

The Marine Stadium is unique as it is all poured in place concrete. It emerges from a tradition of “sculptural concrete sport stadiums in Europe and Latin America in the 1930s-1950s. Architectural influences for this very unique concept include Le Corbusier, Luigi Nervi and Felix Candela, who is a distant relative of Hilario Candela. The most unique feature of the Marine Stadium is its roof, a series of eight bays and hyperbolic paraboloids that are 328 feet long. At one time, it was considered the longest span of cantilevered concrete in the world. One third of the structure is built over the water, and the grandstand is open from all four sides, which allows the breezes off the water to make sitting in the Stadium very comfortable.

The Marine Stadium Basin, specifically designed for boat racing, is 6,000 feet long by 1,200 feet wide. By way of comparison, the length of the Washington Mall can fit inside the Marine Stadium Basin. Its oval shape is the same as the Circus Maximus in Rome, one of the world’s most iconic shapes for athletic events. As the Basin is a man made body of water, it is not part of the Bill Sadowski Critical Wildlife Refuge or in a Manatee Protection zone. An island at the end of the basin was created as a “breakwater” to reduce tides for the racing boats and a bow tie” was made just to the West of the Marine Stadium as a pit area for boat racers.

The Miami Marine Stadium opened on December 23, 1963. The initial performance featured the Charley Spivak Orchestra, a chorus of 40 from the Miami Opera singing selections from Die Fledermaus, the Tommy Bartlett Water Show which featured water skiers parachuting from the sky, and fireworks. The Stadium featured a wide variety of events—hundreds of boat races, concerts such as Jimmy Buffett, Ray Charles, the Miami Philharmonic, and Mitch Miller singalongs, Easter Sunrise Services, TV shows such as Mike Douglas and Phil Donahue, and political rallies—when in 1972 where Sammy Davis Jr. hugged Richard Nixon. Elvis Presley even filmed a movie at the Marine Stadium’ “Clambake”.

The Marine Stadium was operated by the City of Miami and during the late 1980s especially, usage declined. After Hurricane Andrew in 1992, the City made the decision to shutter the facility and demolish it. The City alleged that the Stadium was damaged by the Hurricane and subsequently applied to FEMA for $1,000,000 for demolition. Funds were received by the City, but the City’s insurance company stepped in and hired an engineering firm, Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger (SGH) to examine the Stadium for damage. SGH evaluated the Stadium and
concluded that no damage was caused by Hurricane Andrew. Instead, they noted that there was deferred maintenance on the facility of about $2-3 million. The City of Miami then returned the FEMA money and shuttered the Stadium.

Since 1993, the Marine Stadium has remained closed and has been subject to much vandalism. As was previously noted, the initial Master Plan for Virginia Key proposed by EDSA in 2007 assumed demolition of the Marine Stadium. In February of 2008 a new group, Friends of Marine Stadium, was formed to promote restoration of the Stadium. The Friends group is an all volunteer coalition of individuals and organizations under the administrative umbrella of Dade Heritage Trust, Miami Dade County’s foremost historic preservation organization.

Very quickly, a groundswell of community support has developed. The first public event was held at the Miami Rowing Club adjacent to the Marine Stadium and co-sponsored with Team Row, a not for profit organization dedicated to encourage young people to row. The event was a sellout, attended by over 400 people and received significant coverage in The Miami Herald.

In October of 2008, the City of Miami’s Historic and Environmental Preservation board designated the Miami Marine Stadium and the Basin as Historic. The Stadium increasingly has been recognized as a highly significant structure: it was named to the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s “’ Most Endangered List” for 2009, the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation’s “11 Most Endangered” List for 2009 and 2010 and the World Monuments Fund Watch List for 2010. Even Jimmy Buffett, perhaps the most beloved performer to play at the Marine Stadium, cut a public service video promoting restoration in September, 2009.

The election of Tomas Regalado to Mayor of Miami in November of 2009 has given additional momentum to restore the Marine Stadium. Regalado has been a big supporter of the Stadium and has made it a key item on his agenda. The Stadium received an additional boost in January, 2010, with the results of an engineering study financed by the World Monuments Fund and other local and national organizations. Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger, (SGH) the same firm that had examined the structure in 1993 examined the Stadium again and found concrete restoration of the structure would cost anywhere from $5.5-$8.5 million, depending upon how much work was done to extend the usable life of the structure. This was approximately ½ of the City’s estimate of $15, million. SGH also recommended that additional work be done to examine the pilings of the Stadium.

In April of 2010, County Commissioner Carlos Gimenez sponsored a resolution-approved by a 12-0 unanimous vote-to authorize $3 million from the Historic Preservation Bond Fund for the restoration of Miami Marine Stadium. All Commissioners present voiced support and talked about events they had attended at the Stadium. In September of 2010, the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Commission authorized $175,000 for an analysis/design/permit study of the waterside pilings and structure of the Marine Stadium. In November, 2010, the City matched this amount, as required by the FIND Commission.

While restoration and reuse of the Marine Stadium remains a large and complex task, progress towards that goal has been consistent and gaining momentum.
3. Floating Stage Program Criteria

Early on in the Marine Stadium’s history, it became apparent to the City that boat racing was not enough to sustain the Marine Stadium. In 1965, the City purchased an old oil barge to be used as a floating stage. Cost of the barge was $62,000. The barge measured 45’ x 100’. It was moored in a slip directly on the other side of the lagoon and was towed and moored in front of the Marine Stadium for performances. The stage would be positioned closer-or farther back from the Stadium, depending upon the size of the crowd. A floating dock would extend from the Stadium to the barge so that performers could get to the dressing rooms in the Stadium and electrical service could be provided. The barge featured a “roof” to protect performers from the elements.

The floating stage should, and can, accommodate a variety of programs such as, such as, but not limited to TV shows, live performance concerts, large orchestras, live theater, projected movies, additional seating and sporting events.

In order to be considered meritorious by the jury, each entry must address the following program, which includes architecture and urban design.

- The floating stage should be designed to be positioned in front of the Marine Stadium for performances. It should be movable (different distances from the Stadium) and be storable some place within the Basin or vicinity. While in operation, the stage should be moored so that it remains stable.
- The stage should be built of materials which consider the climate of Miami including heat, humidity and the impact of water.
- The stage should be mobile so that it can service other waterside locations in Miami such as Vizcaya or Downtown Miami. The stage should be able to benefit the entire Biscayne Bay area.
- The needs of the performers should be considered and there should be weather protection for performances. Backstage requirements should be taken into account. It will be permissible to have a walkway(s) from the stage to the Marine Stadium. Backstage facilities can be coordinated with the facilities contained in the Marine Stadium.
- A key to the success of the Marine Stadium will be the diversity of events that can be held there. The floating stage should be flexible and provide for as many opportunities as possible.
- The Floating Stage, in its design and operations, must be environmentally compatible with the Marine Stadium basin and Virginia Key.
- Availability of power (lighting, amplification other electrical needs) should be taken into account. Any lighting and sound specs should be compatible with the environment and the neighborhood.
- Provisions should be made to how the stage is loaded or changed for each performance.
- There are no specific dimensions listed for the floating stage. However, applicants are encouraged to submit ideas for larger, temporary structures that could be added to the stage to increase the diversity of events at the Stadium. This also includes concepts for additional seating on the three other sides of the stage (“an aqua theatre in the round”). Any additional structures must be easily movable and storable. The possibility of having more than 1 stage is allowed.
4. Schedule

Launch Date   Thursday 02/02/2011
Questions Deadline  Wednesday 02/21/2011
Answers Posted  Monday 02/28/2011
Registration Deadline  Wednesday 04/11/2011
Materials Deadline  Thursday 04/15/2011
Award Ceremony  Friday 05/06/2011

5. Jury

The following individuals have agreed to participate in the Competition jury:

- Walter Meyer, *Principal and Founder of Local Office Landscape*
- Jorge Hernandez, Principal of JLH Architects, Program Director of Historic Preservation at the University of Miami’s School of Architecture.
- Lawrence Scarpa, *Principal of Brooks + Scarpa*
- Frank Sanchis, *Director of US Programs for the World Monuments Fund and Senior Advisor to the Municipal Art Society.*

NOTE: DawnTown reserves the right to substitute or otherwise change jury membership at their sole discretion and without notice. The jury acts completely independently of DawnTown, its directors, officers, employees, and agents. The jury will make its selections based on subjective evaluation of how well each entry addresses the program and context outlined above.

6. Award Ceremony

An Awards Ceremony will be put on by Friends of the Miami Marine Stadium to announce winners and present many, but not all, competition boards. The event is to be determined but will occur after the jury has selected their winners.

Prize winners will be contacted in advance of the award ceremony, and must submit a max 3-minute video (maximum 30MB) which explains their project. The video will be played during the ceremony.

At the award ceremony, many entries will be displayed on easels and/or video screens. However, space and time limitations will most likely preclude display of all entries. DawnTown reserves the right to select entries for display at its sole discretion.
7. Prizes

Prizes will be as follows: **first prize $5000; second prize $2500; third prize $1000; fourth prize $500; fifth prize $250;** There will also be 5 honorable mentions (*honorable mentions do not receive a cash prize).

**NOTE: CASH PRIZES MAY BE CONSIDERED INCOME BY THE UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE ("IRS"), AND MAY REQUIRE WITHHOLDING OF ESTIMATED TAXES. NO PRIZE SHALL BE PAID UNLESS AND UNTIL THE WINNER PROVIDES DAWNTOWN WITH A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR OTHER UNITED STATES INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER. DAWNTOWN SHALL, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, DETERMINE ANY AMOUNT TO BE WITHHELD. AFTER A PRIZE IS PAID, THE WINNER MAY REQUEST FROM THE IRS A REFUND OF THE AMOUNT WITHHELD. DAWNTOWN SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR ANY SUCH REQUEST FOR REFUND OR ANY DECISION OF THE IRS REGARDING SUCH REQUEST.**

**WINNERS HAVE 6 MONTHS TO SUBMIT THEIR INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION FROM THE TIME OF BEING NOTIFIED OF WINNING THE AWARD. PRIZE MONEY THAT IS LEFT UNCLAIMED AFTER THE 6 MONTHS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOREFIT AND USED TO FUND FUTURE COMPETITIONS.**

For instructions on how to obtain an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, please see:

[www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=96696,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=96696,00.html)

8. Registration Eligibility

The competition is open anyone anywhere in the world, including architects, landscape architects, designers, engineers, artists, and students, and excluding members of DawnTown and its Topic Committee.
9. Registration Procedure

Registration may be as an individual or team. To register, an individual or team must send an email by the Registration Deadline to dawntownreg@gmail.com and include all of the following information:

- Emails and Names of all team members.
- City of each individual
- Country of each individual
- Team name, if any

Only an individual or team that strictly complies with these requirements will be registered for the Competition ("Registrant"). Within five business days of receiving such email, DawnTown will reply with Registrant's registration confirmation and number, which must appear on all required entry materials, i.e. each drawing sheet, both physical and/or electronic ("Materials").

10. Entry Materials

In order for a Registrant to be reviewed by the jury and eligible for placement, Registrant must file all Materials by the Materials Deadline listed above. Only Registrants may file Materials. Each Registrant is responsible for ensuring and confirming that all Materials are received by DawnTown on or before the Materials Deadline. **Required Materials are two sheets of original drawings, subject to the following conditions:**

- Each sheet must be rectangular and horizontally (landscape) oriented. Vertical (portrait) submissions are not allowed.
- Each sheet must be of 24 inches by 36 inches, and Registrants are encouraged to maximize the dimensions of their sheets.
- Each sheet must include the Registrant’s registration number in characters at least 1/36 of the height of the sheet, and no other identifying information that could be connected to an individual or team member. This requirement will be strictly enforced to ensure each Registrant’s anonymity and the impartiality of the jury.
- Each sheet must also include the DawnTown Miami 2011 logo (see link in the Appendix A) at least 1/12 of the height of the sheet.
- One of the two sheets must include a perspective rendering at least 15 inches by 15 inches, including blank space, with no other images superimposed over it. The same sheet must also include at least 50 words of text describing the main ideas of the proposed design.
- The other sheet may include any drawings the Registrant deems appropriate. Such drawings may include plans, elevations, axonometric views, details, and additional perspective renderings.
Sheets must be submitted in two forms: printed and mounted on "foam core" or other rigid board, and as high-resolution electronic jpg files. There is no guarantee that the boards will be returned as they become property of DawnTown.

11. Shipping & Printing

OPTION 1 (Recommended if you are printing internationally)
In order to protect the environment by reducing packaging materials, sheets must be printed in Miami at FedEx Office and Ship Center. FedEx Office will print 24x36 inches or similar, full-color photographic quality on heavy paper, and will mount printed sheets on foam core board and laminate with UV-protection coating. The retail price for printing two such boards is $180 plus tax, but FedEx has arranged a discount for DawnTown Registrants of $10 per board and taxes included, for a total of $160.48.

To print your sheets, if the image files you want to print are 8 MB or smaller, you may email files and a scan of the payment form fully completed (in space for "Customer Name," write name and registration number) to USA5045@fedex.com and copy mgr5045@fedex.com. In the body of the email, you will need to write “PLEASE WAIVE PROOF” since you will not be picking up the poster.

If your image files for printing are larger than 8 MB, you must use FedEx Office Print Online. Detailed instructions on how to use FedEx Office Print can be found in Appendix E of this document.

If you have any questions or problems, call +1 305 672 1177 and ask for Pablo Lopes Da Silva. He can also be reached at the following email: Pablo.Lopesdasilva@fedex.com

Printed sheets must be ready for pickup from FedEx Office at or before 5 PM on the Materials Deadline. Please plan on sending the files 2 days in advance to the FedEx office.

Drawing sheets must also be filed (in electronic form) directly with DawnTown by sending an email to dawntownmaterials@gmail.com with "DawnTown Materials [registration number]" as the subject and jgps of the sheets as separate attachments, each between 1 MB and 5 MB file size. This email with attached jgps of the sheets must be received by 5 PM on or before the Materials Deadline.

If DawnTown has not received both required sheets in both printed and electronic form by 5 PM on the Entry Materials Deadline, the entry will be incomplete and will not be judged. Physical models will not be accepted. Any materials filed, whether complete or incomplete or not accepted, will not be returned to Registrants.
OPTION 2
If you have your own means of printing and shipping that is more cost effective than FedEx, then you should use option 2. 24” x 36” boards can be shipped or delivered to the following address below:

ATTN: Joachim Perez
University of Miami
School of Architecture
1223 Dickinson Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

Drawing sheets must also be filed (in electronic form) directly with DawnTown by sending an email to dawntownmaterials@gmail.com with "DawnTown Materials [registration number]" as the subject and jogs of the sheets as separate attachments, each between 1 MB and 5 MB file size. This email with attached jogs of the sheets must be received by 5 PM on or before the Materials Deadline.

If DawnTown has not received both required sheets in both printed and electronic form by 5 PM on the Entry Materials Deadline, the entry will be incomplete and will not be judged. Physical models will not be accepted. Any materials filed, whether complete or incomplete or not accepted, will not be returned to Registrants.

Please remember that you must still send electronic files to dawntownmaterials@gmail.com with “DawnTown Materials [registration number]” as the subject and jogs of the sheets as separate attachments. You must still send the boards under the same criteria under section 11, and they must be received at the above address by 5PM on or before the Materials Deadline.

12. Questions

Questions regarding contest brief and requirements may be sent to dawntownquestions@gmail.com by 5 PM on or before the Questions Deadline listed above. Responses will be posted on the competition website (www.dawntown.org) on the “Answers Posted” date listed above, and emailed to all Registrants as of that date.

13. Authorship

By filing any Materials, each Registrant certifies that such materials and their content are entirely the Registrant's own and does not infringe any patent or copyright, and releases to DawnTown, its successors and assigns, sponsors and partners, all rights of publication and exhibition of such Materials.
14. Ownership and Use of the Design Submissions

Each Entrant retains control of intellectual property contained in any Materials filed. However, by filing any Material for the Competition, each Entrant agrees that DawnTown owns any such material and may use such material for any purpose reasonably related to the Competition.

15. Disqualification

Any competitors who do not strictly comply with any of the rules and requirements set forth above will be disqualified and their Materials will not be reviewed by the jury.
Appendix A – Links & Resources

www.marinestadium.org  The website of Friends of Marine Stadium. A significant amount of information on the Marine Stadium. You can find historical photographs of the site here.

www.miamigov.com/planning/pages/master_plans/VKey.asp Website for the Virginia Key Master Plan approved by the City of Miami.

www.americanwindsymphonyorchestra.org/architecture.html Floating Barge designed by Louis Kahn. Another good source is the “My Architect” by Nathaniel Kahn, a documentary on the life of Louis Kahn which features the barge.

Virginia Key Basin and Miami Marine Stadium Site.

Biscayne Bay showing potential waterfront venues for a transportable floating stage.
Appendix B – Printing Instructions for FedEx

Please follow the printing instructions ONLY if your image files are larger than 8MB and need to use the Fedex Online Printing.

STEP 1: Go to: http://www.fedex.com/us/office/copyprint/online/print/index.html and click on Print Online Now:

STEP 2: Choose the CUSTOMIZE button
STEP 3: Upload your PDF files. You can enter each file one at a time or make a combined PDF containing both of your entry sheets. Make sure your sheets are at the right size of 24 x 36. Please name your files with your registration number and the letters A and B so FedEx knows there are 2 files. **EXAMPLE:** registration number 12345, then you would name the files 12345_A, and 12345_B.

STEP 4: Keep Paper Size. In the instruction box type: **“DawnTown Design Competition Quantity (2) 24x36 Color Mounted (mt) and Laminated on Foam Core and No Proof Needed”**. You will need to enter your credit card number and expiration date in order to pay for the posters. Hit continue until you reach the Select Delivery Options.
STEP 5: Make sure you select PICK UP AT FEDEX OFFICE. Under the Zip Code, enter: 33140.

STEP 6: Select the Miami Fontainebleau location
STEP 7: Fill out the next form as you see here. Your contact information goes below, under the gray bar where it says “Sender”

STEP 8: Place your order. Please remember to email Pablo Lopes da Silva at the FedEx office or call the FedEx office to confirm that your payment has been processed and your files were received.

Pablo’s email: Pablo.Lopesdasilva@fedex.com
FedEx center phone number: +1 305 672 1177