Business Hub

The Golden Hog—
A Smorgasbord of
Good Taste

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In the Village of Key Biscayne, islanders are reputed
for their discriminating tastes and high standards.
Jorge Gonzalez-Capiello, owner of The Golden
Hog since 2009, is well prepared for the challenge
of piquing the interest of his discerning customers.
Formerly known as the Farmer’s Market, he has main-
tained the convivial and relaxed atmosphere of a
neighborhood market, providing an array of services
such as bakery, deli, produce market, and gro-

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Spotlight on Key Players & Exclusive Interviews

The Miami Marine Stadium: Back to
the Future or A Matter of Time

By: Marlene Sholod
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Gazing at the derelict Miami Ma-
rine Stadium on Virginia Key - the
starkly handsome structure standing
amid lush foliage and tropical wa-
ters like a forgotten ancient temple,
rainbow splashes of graffiti giving
it the appearance of an aging grande
dame wearing too much rouge and
eye shadow - it takes some vision to
imagine what it once was and what
it well may be. In fact, it is the cur-
rently existing centerpiece of a pro-
posed world class waterfront
destination and part of a larger mas-
ter plan for Key Biscayne.

Designed in 1962 by architect Hi-
liario Candela, then just 28 years old
and newly-arrived from Cuba, the
stadium is a marvel of Miami Mod-
ernism. Its iconic, origami-like roof
was, at that time, the longest span

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South Florida Bon Vivant

The Mandarin Oriental Miami, The
OM Experience In An Opulent Venue

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Simply: Journeysing to the
Mandarin Oriental Miami
is a delightful experience,
particularly if the journey begins on
Key Biscayne. An oasis of re-
laxation opens up as one drives
over Bear Cut Bridge, and then
the grand dame better known as
the Rickenbacker Causeway
bridge, with panoramic view of
our majestic city by the bay and
Brickell Key, home of the Man-
darin Oriental (MO). A few
miles, and the traveler reaches an
even smaller yet transformational

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The Miami Marine Stadium: Back to the Future or A Matter of Time

of cantilevered concrete in the world. Larger than a football field, it has faithfully sheltered the 6,566 seat amphitheater for more than 50 years and through many hurricanes, including the infamous Andrew.

Candela has remarked that, although built for watching speed boat racing, the stadium soon adapted itself to what the community wanted it to be. Indeed, it became a remarkable number of things to and for a wide range of audiences. Gloria Estefan, Jimmy Buffet, Ray Charles, Queen, Dave Brubeck, the Beach Boys, and The Who are among the internationally-known stars who performed on the stadium's unique floating stage - one of the few venues of its kind in the world. Some of the more memorable scenes of Elvis Presley's otherwise forgettable movie "Clambake" were filmed at the stadium. Inspiring many couples to coupe, it was the scene of the historic, strictly platonic embrace between Sammy Davis, Jr. and then president Richard Nixon. Facing east, it was the site of awe-inspiring sunrise religious services.

In 1992, the Stadium was shuttered and left neglected. Fortunately, it had friends - specifically the Friends of Miami Marine Stadium (FMMS). Created in February 2008 by preservationist Don Worth and architects Candela and Jorge Hernandez, FMMS, now incorporated, began as an all-volunteer non-for-profit organization advocating the restoration of the stadium under the administrative umbrella of the Dade Heritage Trust.

With growing support from many other organizations, both for and not for profit, agencies, and individuals, FMMS was able to accomplish a great deal in a short time. After winning a historic landmark designation from the city, the stadium was named the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2009 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places and later designated a top National Treasure. In 2010, the World Monuments Fund added the stadium to its

Watch list. 2013 was an extraordinarily productive and auspicious year for the stadium. On July 14, Miami's City Commission approved FMMS's plan and gave the organization 18 months to raise $30 million. It is important to note that the plan encompasses reopening the stadium as a self-sustaining event venue that would include a public park and a Maritime Museum - the latter funded and operated by the Antiqua Boat Museum of Clayton, New York, the largest fresh water maritime museum in North America.

Despite being closed to the public, the stadium was constantly in the news, both local and global, with cultural and star-studded events, such as a fundraiser with spokespersons Jimmy Buffet and Gloria Estefan literally singing its praises; a striking Art Basel Miami Beach onsite installation; a critically-acclaimed exhibition at Coral Gables Museum; and a visit by New York's Friends of the High Line (who urged FMMS to keep some of the stadium's graffiti).

In 2014, FMMS will be focused on "a quiet campaign" - contacting major donors, selling naming rights to parts of the stadium - including 6,000 seats - and soliciting legacy gifts. The only event scheduled thus far is in May, through Tourism Cares, three to four hundred U.S. travel agents and tour operators, as well as other travel and tourism companies, will visit and assist with the stadium's clean up and restoration efforts.

(Tourism Cares has visited include Gettysburg and Valley Forge.) FMMS stresses that their aim is to create an exceptional waterfront space so that both residents and tourists can experience the city's greatest asset - water - in many different ways. When his wife and lifework's partner Nina mentions "the democratization of the waterfront," Don Worth elaborates: "This is the people's stadium. Everyone has a waterfront seat. Everyone's a VIP." Worth goes on to say, "This will be a famous place, our Sydney Opera House. This is the year for us. If the community steps up to the plate, we can do this."

In recent years, Miami has not been immune to the creeping blight of sameness that is erasing the character from unique locales around the world. Our city has established its world class, modern, urban credentials with a bounty of art and culture and a spate of starchitect-built, instantly iconic edifices. However, the Miami Marine Stadium embodies a unique combination of timeless architecture, a starring location, and rich historical and cultural legacy. Besides being a link to Miami's past, it is a nod to its future and an acknowledgment of our city's extraordinary beauty, both manmade and natural.

If you would like more information or to join the Friends of Miami Marine Stadium, visit www.marinestadium.org or Facebook page/miamimarinesstadium.