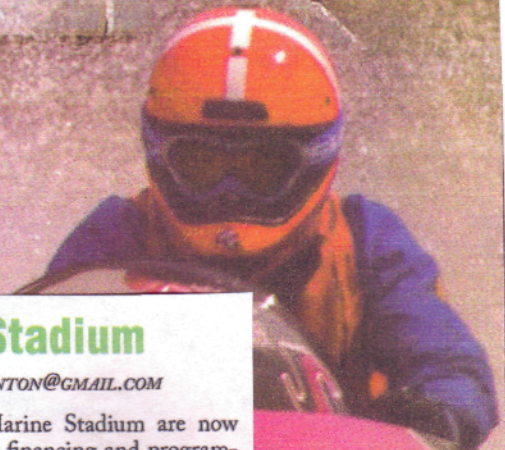


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Movement to save Miami Marine Stadium

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Can Miami Marine Stadium be saved and revitalized? Recent articles about this great place have appeared in *Propeller* ("Remembering the Miami Marine Stadium" by Carl Wilson, April 2008 and "How to Save a Memory" by Verticus in January, 2008).

There is now a serious movement afoot to bring back the Stadium, and it is gaining momentum. Beginning in April of 2008, Friends of Marine Stadium (www.marinestadium.org) launched a focused lobbying effort; and progress is being made.

The Friends of Marine Stadium is a broad-based coalition of individuals and organizations under the administrative umbrella of Dade Heritage Trust, Dade County's foremost organization devoted to historic preservation. In addition to its great boat racing history, the Marine Stadium is admired by preservationists and architecture buffs worldwide as a remarkable piece of mid-century architecture. Its folded plate roof, which used revolutionary (at the time) thin shell construction, is one of the largest spans of unsupported concrete in the world. The Stadium is also one of the first major structures in the United States designed by a Cuban immigrant—architect Hilarío Candela.

Friends of Marine Stadium has applied for historic designation, and the application for nomination as a historic structure was approved by the City of Miami Historic and Environmental Preservation Board by a 7-1 vote on July 1, 2007. The Marine Stadium returns to the Board on October 7 for final designation. Once so designated, the Stadium cannot be demolished—although this decision can be appealed to the Miami City Commission.

The Friends of Marine Stadium are now working on plans for financing and programming. You can view some of the concepts by going to the website.

Based on extensive discussions with potential users, Friends of Marine Stadium see a broad

Dreams and memories: At left, a schematic of a restored Miami Marine Stadium, and (below) racing at the Stadium in its glory days. Douglas Wood & Associates



array of uses: power boat racing (of course), entertainment, film and TV shoots, special events, sculling and dragon boat races, other athletic events such as triathlons and wakeboarding; and one-of-a-kind special events that could only take place at the Stadium.

Support for the Stadium's renovations is as wide as its potential uses. Organizational sponsors include the American Power Boat Association, the American Boat Racing Association, the Miami Dragon Boat Club, the Rhythm Foundation, the Miami Chapter of the American Association of Architects, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the powerful Kiwanis Club of Little Havana.

Convincing the City to bring the Stadium back is not an easy task. But the group has excellent momentum. If you love the Stadium for what it was—and what it can be—check out www.marinestadium.org and join our cause.