



## Friends of Marine Stadium Newsletter

March 1, 2011

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Dade Heritage Trust (DHT) is the umbrella organization for Friends of Marine Stadium. It is the foremost organization devoted to Historic Preservation in Miami Dade County. DHT has been the "parent" organization of Friends of Marine Stadium, providing us with assistance and an administrative "umbrella". For more information on Dade Heritage Trust, click [here](#)

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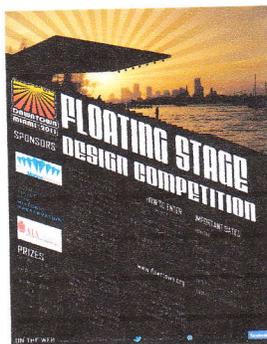
# of people on Friends of Marine Stadium email list...1805

We respect your time and only send emails on average once a month. We do not give or sell our email list to anyone.

To: Miami Marines

We're off to a great start in the new year.

## Floating Stage Design Contest Off To a Flying Start



In early February, we opened our contest to design a new floating stage for the Marine Stadium. The contest is administered by [DawnTown](#), a Miami based not-for-profit organization that organizes architectural design contests. Co-sponsored by the Miami Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the purpose of the contest is to generate new ideas for the floating stage-and "buzz and excitement" about the Marine Stadium. This is an ideas contest, so the final decision about Floating Stage will be made by the operator.

The original floating stage, which featured many live performers, was an old oil barge, approximately 50' x 100' which was towed from the opposite side of the lagoon for performances. We know that the proposed designs for the new stage will be spectacular-and we can't wait to see the results.

The contest has already generated a strong response. As of Feb. 25, 59 teams have registered for the competition. We already know that this contest will have a strong international flavor. Our web traffic is way up, and we are seeing especially strong response from Russia, The Netherlands, Hungary, Italy, Bulgaria, and France.

If you know anyone who may be interested in this contest

## Memories of Miami Marine Stadium

We continue to collect stories of the Marine Stadium for our book, which will be called If Seats Could Talk.

Collecting these memories has been fun. Opera Singer [Bella Smith](#) has provided us with the program from her performance of selections from Madama Butterfly at the Marine Stadium in 1966. [Kevin Kauffman](#), who's Dad ran concessions at the Stadium, has provided us with a wonderful memory. If have a great story about your experience at the Marine Stadium, please email [Hannah Imberman](#), our girl scout who is spearheading this project. You can write up your story-or we can interview you.

# of Marine Stadium Memories received to date.....99

## Thank You Walter Ferguson!

We here at Friends of Marine Stadium have worked hard over the last three years to bring back this marvelous structure. We are all volunteers, and we have remained diligently focused on our mission.

Although we have spent little time fundraising (we would rather work on the Marine Stadium!), this is an extremely important aspect.

In that spirit, we'd like to give a big THANK YOU to Walter Ferguson of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club for his generous and unsolicited donation. Walter's contribution has allowed us to fully finance our share of the Floating Stage

(submitting a design is free), please refer them to the website of DawnTown, [www.dawntown.org](http://www.dawntown.org) Registration deadline is April 11 and designs must be submitted no later than April 15. We will be announcing the awards ceremony which will be held in early May.

## Press



We've had a great month in the press. Our Floating Stage Design Contest has generated interest. The [Miami Herald](#) had an excellent story on cover of the Metro Section. In addition, we have been featured in Architecture and Design Blogs and Web Magazines worldwide. Here's one story from the informative design website [Architects and Artisans](#)

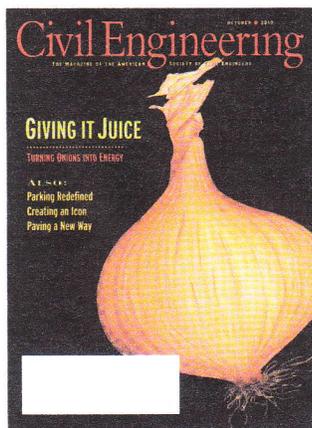
Mike Brainerd, Matt Bronski and Gustavo Tumialan of Simpson Gumpertz and Heger, our engineering firm, wrote a story documenting the structural condition of the Marine Stadium for [Concrete International Magazine](#).

February was Boat Show month in Miami. We were fortunate that [International Yachtsman Magazine](#) ran a six page feature story on the Marine Stadium. Written by Friends of Marine Stadium Co-Founder Don Worth, it provides an up-to-date summary of the stadium's progress. The Magazine was an insert in the Miami Herald and was distributed in many other places.

Finally, a four minute spot on [WLRN/Miami Herald Radio](#) about the Floating Stage Design Contest.

Press is extremely important because it allows us to build momentum and generate contacts and awareness while we continue to work on feasibility issues.

## Was The Marine Stadium Damaged by Hurricane Andrew?



In a word.....No. This perception has existed for a long time and we would like to correct it. The Marine Stadium, which was run and operated by the City, was in decline in the late 1980s and early 1990s. After Hurricane Andrew, City officials alledged that the Stadium had been damaged by the Hurricane and applied to FEMA for funds to demolish the Stadium. The insurance company for the City then stepped in and funded an engineering study to determine if the Stadium was

Design Contest, which has already generated important benefits for us. Thank you Walter!

If you are interested in helping us out and making a donation, click [here](#)

damaged. The firm Simpson Gumpertz and Heger (SGH) was hired for this assignment. Click [here](#) to read the last page of the 1993 study. At that time, the Stadium would have required \$2-3 million of repairs as the Stadium had received very little maintenance during its 28 years of operation. None of this was due to the Hurricane.

in 2009, Friends of Marine Stadium, working with groups including the World Monuments Fund, the Villagers, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Office of Commissioner Carlos Gimenez and the John and Selene Devaney Foundation funded a second engineering study, also conducted by the firm of Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger. In addition to the article referred to above in Concrete international Magazine, [Civil Engineering Magazine](#) featured a story last fall on the structural condition of the Marine Stadium. You can read both the 1993 and the 2009 SGH studies by going to our website [www.marinestadium.org](http://www.marinestadium.org) and looking under "City Reports".

## Conference on Miami Modern Architecture



The term "MiMo" stands for "Miami Modern", a collection of architectural styles that defined Miami's flamboyant exuberant architecture of the mid-20th century. Our umbrella organization, Dade Heritage Trust, is sponsoring a comprehensive conference on March 11-12 featuring lectures, seminars, a luncheon honoring "MiMo" architects, tours, and a party on Friday night at the legendary Bacardi Building in Miami.

As you may imagine, the Miami Marine Stadium is front and center at the Conference. Hilario Candela, the architect of the Marine Stadium, will be honored at the MiMo Legends luncheon at the Eden Roc and one of Saturday's events is a boat tour of the Marine Stadium.

For more information and to register, click [here](#) to see the full brochure on the Conference.

## Conclusion

Our work continues on a host of issues and the future looks bright.

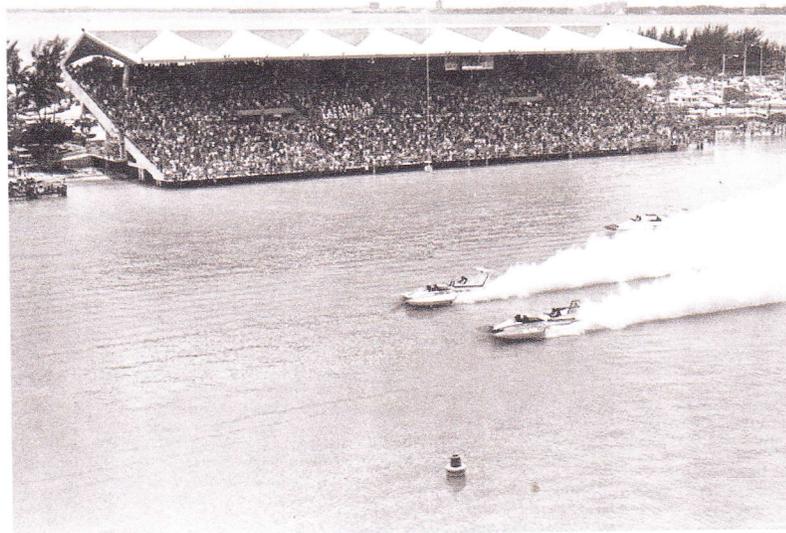
Jorge Hernandez  
Becky Roper Matkov  
Violette Sproul  
Don Worth

Friends of Miami Marine Stadium

[www.marinestadium.org](http://www.marinestadium.org)

P.S.

In January, representatives of Friends of Miami Marine Stadium and the newly re-formed Florida Inboard Racing Club went to Detroit to make a presentation at the annual meeting of American Power Boat Association (APBA), the organization that sanctions boat racing in the United States. The presentation was well received and the boat racing community is excited about resuming the sport in Miami. The photo below is from the Champion Spark Plug Regatta in 1975. We continue to work with APBA and many other promoters and user groups to develop a full range of events at the Marine Stadium.



Miss Budweiser, Pay 'N Pak, Miss Lincoln

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