



GEORGE LAKIS
PHOTOGRAPHY



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Quality Framed Art & Photography

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF CORAL GABLES

Reverend Solomon Greasley Merrick and his wife, Althea Fink moved their family from Duxbury, Massachusetts, to the Miami area in 1899, purchasing a 160-acre tract of land west of Coconut Grove. The Merricks cleared the land of pine and palmetto, and planted grapefruit trees, avocado trees and award-winning green beans as well as peppers, guava, tomatoes, eggplant and okra. They constructed a home of coral rock quarried from what would later become Venetian Pool and named their new home “Coral Gables.” By 1920, George Merrick had expanded his land holdings to 1,600 acres, and by early 1921 assembled a team of architects, artists and engineers to create the City, which was incorporated on April 29, 1925.

Much of Coral Gables was built at meteoric speed between 1921 and 1926, including several significant structures such as the Congregational Church, the Coral Gables Elementary School, and the Miami-Biltmore Hotel. The Biltmore, which is now designated as a National Historic Landmark, was designed by well-known New York architects Schultze and Weaver and formally opened on January 15, 1926. George’s brother, Charles, constructed the Granada and Alhambra Entrances, probably learning his stonemasonry trade from the Bahamians who worked for the Merricks on their original Coral Gables Plantation. By October 1926, Coral Gables boasted more than 4,000 structures representing an investment of more than \$150 million.

CORAL GABLES TODAY – WHERE WORLDS MEET

As early as 1925, George Merrick predicted Coral Gables would serve as “a gateway to Latin America.” Currently, Coral Gables is regional headquarters for over 175 multinationals and over 25 consulates and foreign government offices. In addition, the City has forged lasting relationships with its Sister Cities: Aix-en Provence, France; Cartagena, Colombia; Granada, Spain; La Antigua, Guatemala; Province of Pisa, Italy; and Quito, Ecuador.

The City also provides impressive cultural offerings including four live theaters, two art cinemas, the Coral Gables Museum, the Lowe Art Museum, the Merrick House, numerous galleries and live music performances and festivals including, the Tropical Baroque Festival, and the Beaux Art Festival. Coral Gables is home to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, an internationally acclaimed botanical garden with 83 acres of rare and beautiful gardens, and The Montgomery Botanical Center, an intensive scientific research facility drawing scientists from around the world to study palm trees and cycads. In addition, Coral Gables has been named a Tree City USA for the last 24 consecutive years by the National Arbor Foundation. One of the greatest resources and distinctions of the City are its trees, which, along with the wonderful architectural diversity of the homes that are maintained through strict zoning laws, responsive municipal services, and beautiful residential areas -including a large coastal area with waterfront homes- make Coral Gables a sought after address. Many properties are on the National Register of Historic Places, and over 1,000 properties are on the Coral Gables Register of Historic Places.

Coral Gables is truly a unique gem in the heart of South Florida where many worlds meet to do business, live, and play.

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Coral Gables

Architecture



Coral Gables

Architecture





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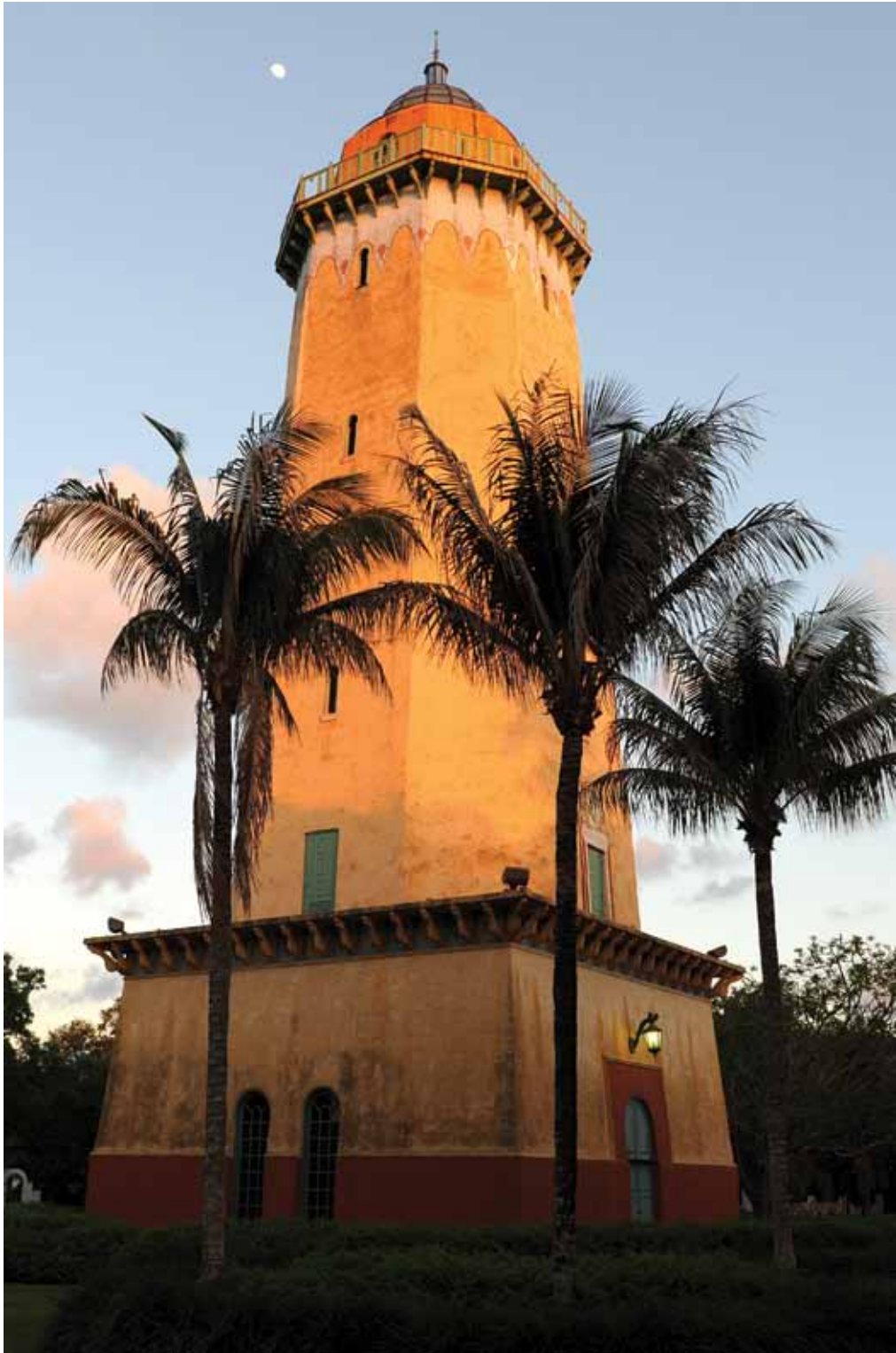
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Coral Gables

Water features



Coral Gables

Water features





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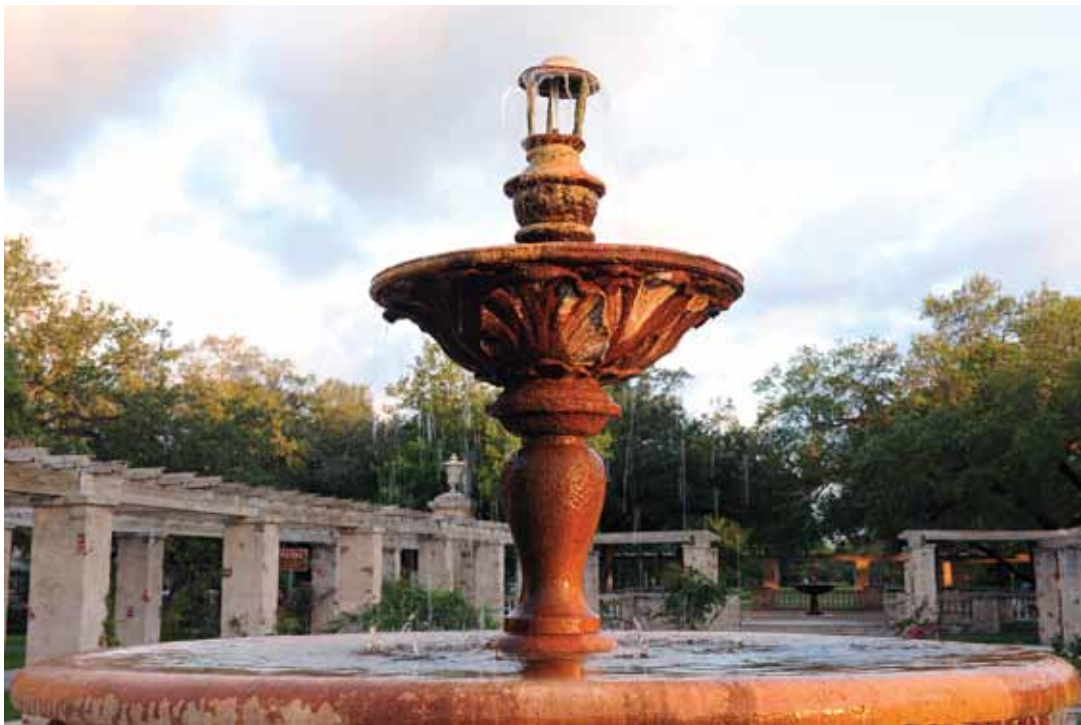
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Coral Gables

Viscaya Museum and Gardens



Coral Gables

Viscaya Museum and Gardens





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Coral Gables

Plants



Coral Gables

Plants

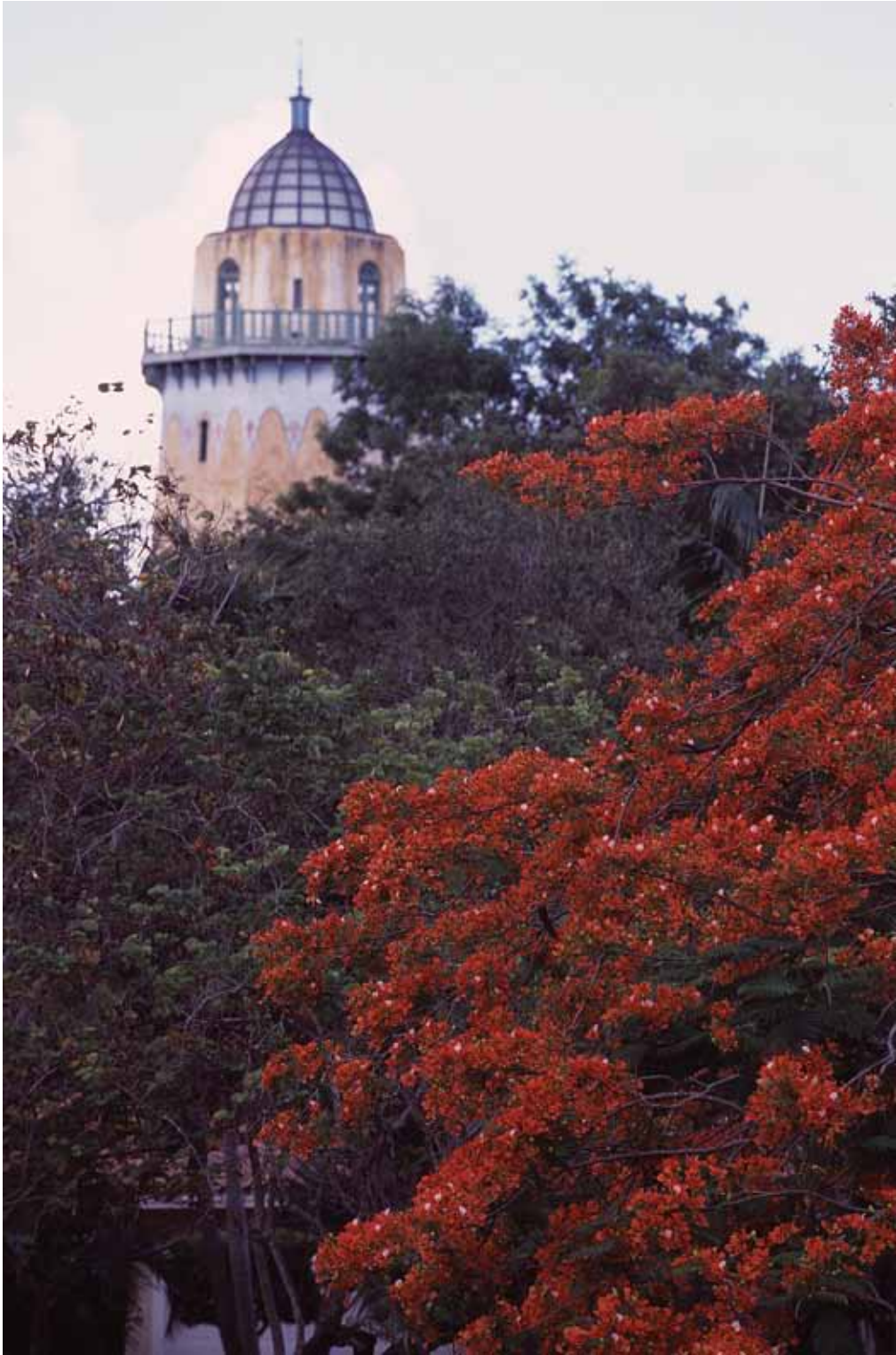




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Credits, Contributors, & Commendations

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»»» Project Lead

Hector Perez

»»» Creative Direction & Layout

Nancy Florian

»»» Catalog Introduction

Jordan Wilson

»»» Scanning Platform Lead

Josue Fieto

»»» Scanners

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Liliana Mora	Hector Perez
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»»» Meta Tags & Keywords

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