

Library Competition

The University of Miami's Department of Architecture and Architectural Engineering of the School of Engineering and Environmental Design received an educational enrichment grant last February from C. Randolph Wedding A.I.A. of St. Petersburg, Fla. Mr. Wedding is a prominent Florida architect and is currently serving as the mayor of St. Petersburg.

In announcing the grant, Mr. Wedding said, "This is part of my continuing program to provide assistance in the development of qualified design professionals who can contribute more effectively to the state's quality of life."

Ralph Warburton, Chairman of the Department of Architecture and Architectural Engineering said the grant had been used to sponsor a fourth-year student design competition for a new Dade County Public Library to be located in downtown Miami.

Associate professor Ronald E. Frazier and assistant professor Tomas Lopez-Gottardi were the design critics and Cecil Beach, Florida state librarian, was the library consultant on the project. Bertram Berenson, Dean of the College of Architecture at the University of Illinois,

served on the architectural design jury along with Mr. Wedding, Mr. Barth and professors Warburton, Frazier, and Lopez,

Others to actively participate in the project were Alf Barth, architect for Dade County, Edward Sintz, director of the Dade County Public Library system and his colleague Ms. Emmie Hayes, head of Adult Services with the same organization.

Entries submitted in the design competition came from groups of three and two persons along with many individual entries as well. In all, there were seventeen design entries for the project.

There were eight cash prizes awarded that markedly enhanced the keenness of the competition. Along with several honorable mention awards of ten dollars each, there was the second runner up of fifty dollars, first runner up of one hundred dollars, and the grand prize winner of two hundred dollars.

After the design presentations were all concluded, the jury deliberated and shared the belief that this assembly of designs was one of the finest they had ever witnessed and their decisions concerning final winners were going to indeed be difficult ones.

First Place:

THE DESIGN THAT CAPTURED THE INTEREST OF THE JURY AND WAS HENCEFORTH ACCOLADED AS THE GRAND PRIZE WINNER WAS THE SO-CALLED "SCHEMA" DESIGN SUBMITTED BY THE TEAM OF DAVID M. HARPER AND ROBERT P. HERTIG.

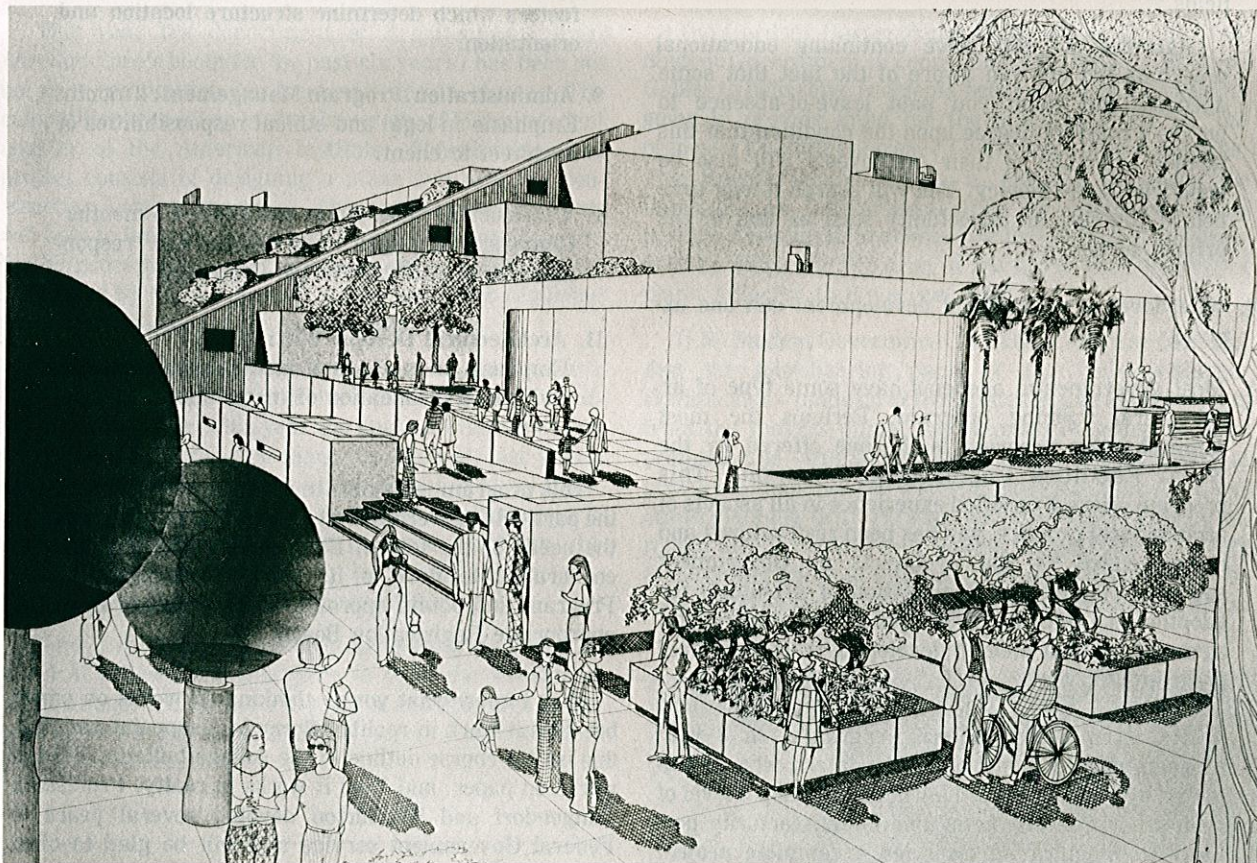
Following a very professionally coordinated and timed verbal presentation by both partners, the jury's initial reaction to this project was stated quite precisely by Mr. Berenson. "This," he said as he slowly nodded his approval, "is a first-rate project."

Mr. Harper's and Mr. Hertig's chief design criterion was to provide the public with a simple but inspiring space that would facilitate a sense of total awareness of library activity and function. Their goal was beautifully achieved and presented in such a way as to completely, clearly and concisely indicate to the jury total understanding of the project. "The verbal presentation was very good and you stated precisely your points," remarked Mr. Frazier, "but your graphics just say it all."

Mr. Harper later pointed out over cocktails that, due to his and Mr. Hertig's association in the interior design consulting business, their relationship was one of business and accomplishment. He also added, "Bob and I immediately realized at the very beginning of this competition that the winner would be that presentation which overshadowed all rivals in verbal and graphic expression."

Mr. Wedding brought out the extreme sensitivity of the auditorium-plaza-collector area to the urban setting of the downtown Miami government area. He also said, "This is the only project so far that demonstrates sensitivity to the sub-tropical South Florida climate conditions."

When later asked their reaction to the events Mr. Hertig stated that his and his partner's uppermost consideration throughout the project was to create a design of the highest standards of quality and that the cash awards were purely secondary.



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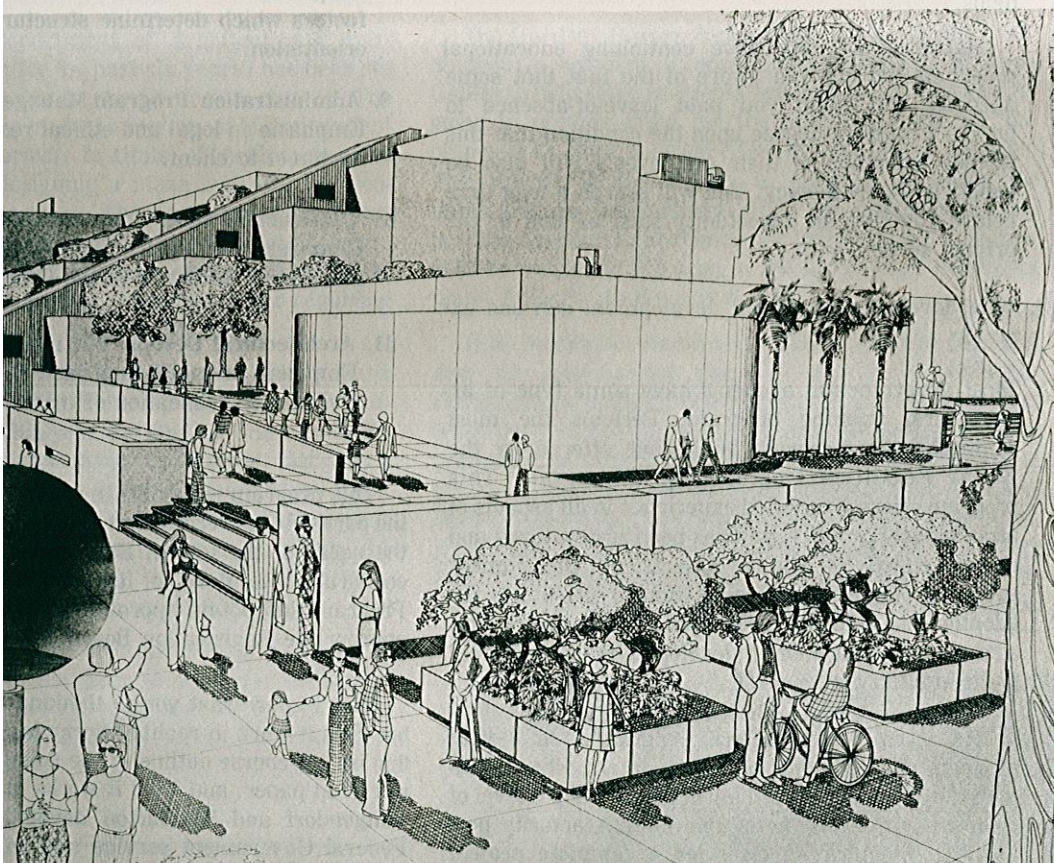
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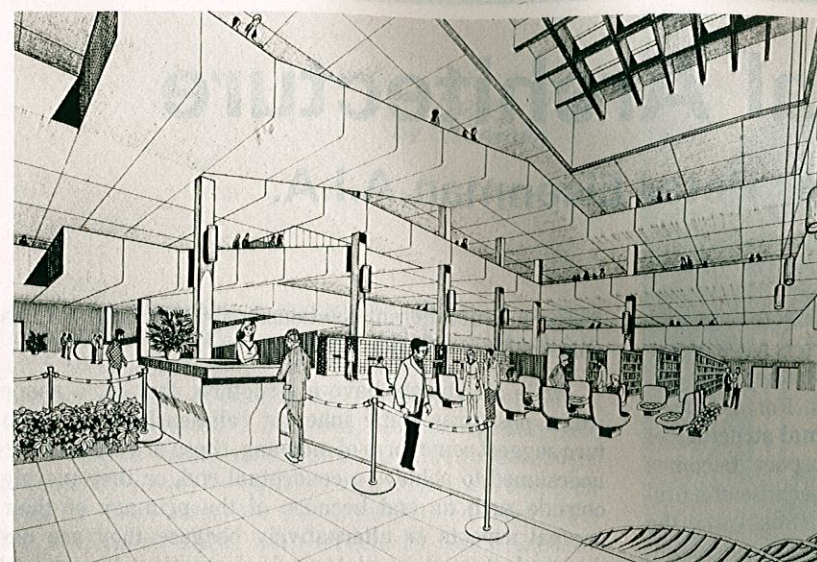
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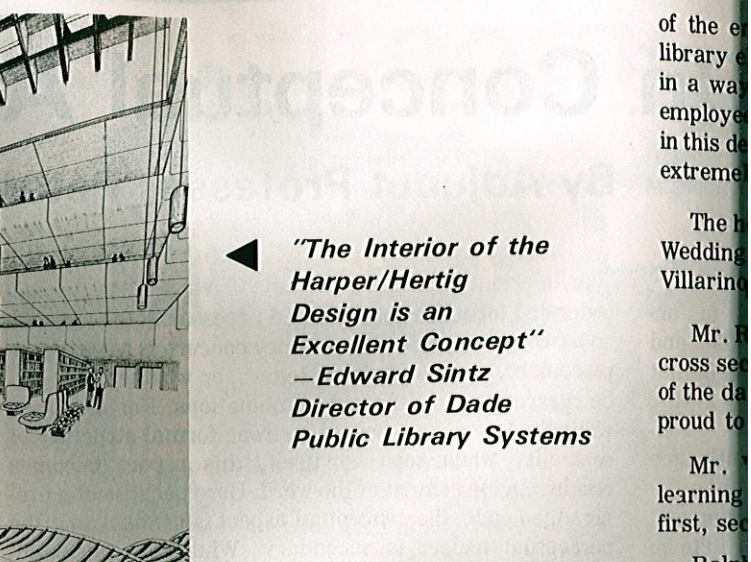
◀ "The Interior of the Harper/Hertig Design is an Excellent Concept" —Edward Sintz Director of Dade Public Library Systems

Second Place:

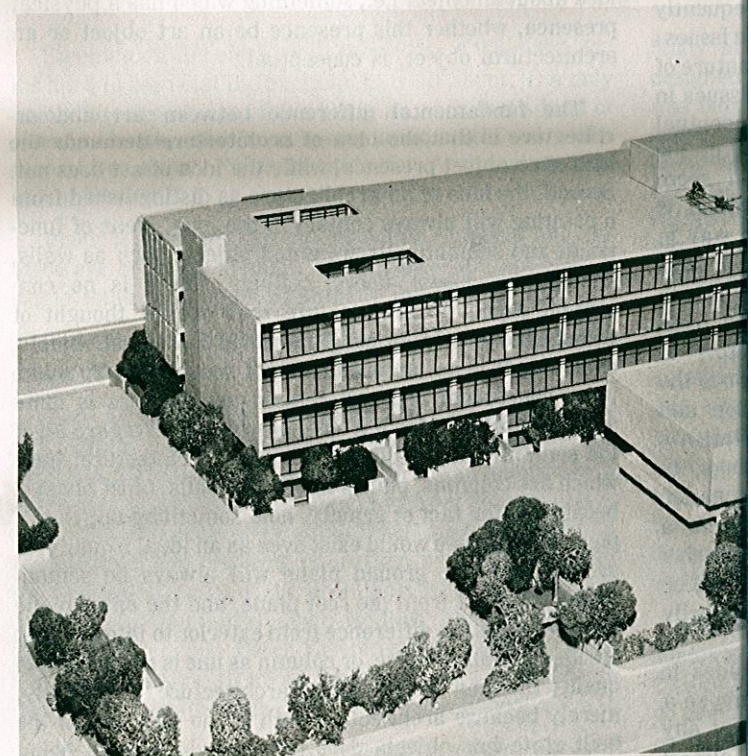
FIRST RUNNER UP WAS AWARDED TO THE TEAM OF CARLOS RUIZ, NESTOR VEGA, JUAN CRESPI who presented a very pleasant conservative design demonstrating strongly their understanding of a highly functional learning facility. Mr. Ruiz, the team spokesman, articulated his verbal presentation quite professionally in bringing home the strong aspects of their plaza-community relations-auditorium areas. The plaza area was designed to take into consideration sun conditions, the future government center and the eventuality of a rapid transit system running past the site. Auditoriums and community relations areas were specifically designed to be useful regardless of library hours. The high quality of design, consistent throughout the building, and the attention paid to flexibility and expansion rated high on the list of positive aspects noteworthy in the eyes of the jury.

Third Place:

THE SECOND RUNNER UP WAS TERRY NICHOSON'S unique project utilizing a structural scheme of massive steel trusses spanning eighty feet between load-bearing walls to achieve open, flexible areas virtually column-free. Library patrons would, by virtue of large glass areas, be able to witness this eye-opening structural scheme from certain vantage points throughout the building. Members of the jury were impressed with Mr. Nicholson's sensitive use of his entrance plaza in combination with reflecting pools and the free-form structure of the auditoriums enhancing the warmth



SECOND PRIZE



THIRD PRIZE

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