

Biscayne Blvd. & New Thresholds in Urban Architecture

By D.B. Lewis Architecture+Design

Architect Dean B. Lewis AIA, a member of Commissioner Johnny Winton's special committee on design guidelines for the SD-9 overlay, introduces his latest projects for the Biscayne Boulevard corridor.

The Urban Residence

Projects such as "Avant" "Equinox" and "Quest" are 15- to 25-story mixed-use condominium developments that are bringing viable new architectural thresholds of modern, urban-conscious, tower compositions to life. Lewis affirms that these projects combine European urban living with American standards of prosperous living surrounded by exceptional natural beauty.

"In Miami's case, we prioritize view angles and light corridors toward the bay, the ocean and downtown. We strive to compose scaled urban compositions that respond to neighboring residents by assuring that our buildings step down to equivalent scale and heights in order to respect light and view angles. Furthermore our facades integrate 'green' buffer walls of planters and suspended gardens facing adjoining residential neighbors. We are also integrating commercial and residential townhouses to further line the site perimeters and hide structured parking



Picture provided

Above is a rendering of remodeling planned for 6444 Biscayne Boulevard

behind. At the Boulevard side of the equation we have introduced a 5 to 7 story building volume that transitions the project's scale from the residential high-rise tower down to the pedestrian street level scale.

Architectural Vocabulary

Free plan and open section loft volumes offer cosmopolitan buyers the chance to live and compose their own lifestyle. Owners are surrounded by the advantages

of urban amenities while overlooking nature's chef d'oeuvre, the Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean beyond.

With each of our modern projects we strive for poetics as well as excellent project serviceability on both the private and public scales. Image presence and spatial integrity are very important to us. The actual promenade of spaces or how one circulates through and experiences our buildings within its built and natural environment is the key. Our vocabulary of circulation includes ramps, panoramic elevators, open elliptical stairs, bridges and water features establishing thresholds of entry and passage.

The Skyline Threshold or how our buildings embrace and meet the sky is also paramount. Framed sky views, suspended roof canopies and or large scale trellis components provide building profile. This well done can alleviate the stan-

dard black box elevators and mechanical shed profiles that plague so many unfinished buildings. Doors are not just for shutting closed; they symbolically define passage from the public to the private realms, and are therefore designed accordingly: primary entry doors do not just open, they turn or pivot, they are translucent, or include *sidelites* allowing visual connections between the interior and exterior. There is an omni-presence of symbolic passage inviting you to new thresholds of spatial experience.

Composition of Light and Shadow

Geometric shadows and direct daylight are framed, and coveted and to release throughout our buildings their volumetric character and presence. Surfaces and forms are composed by orchestrated play of light and shadow on transparent, opaque and translucent solids.

Firm Profile

DB Lewis Architecture+Design (DBL-A), located at 100 N.E. 38th St., Suite 2, is a full service architecture firm originally founded in 1997 by the Architect, Dean B. LEWIS, AIA. With headquarter offices in Miami, DBL-A focuses on bringing together insightful professional experience from both Europe and America in order to provide extensive practical knowledge and competitive design innovation. Mr. Lewis brings to light in Miami over 17 years of Euro-American professional experience. Since 1989 he has worked on various projects in Europe, the Near East, Northern Africa, the eastern United States and the Caribbean. For more information: www.dbla1.us.



A rendering of "Avant," a 25-story mixed-use condominium development.

Picture provided