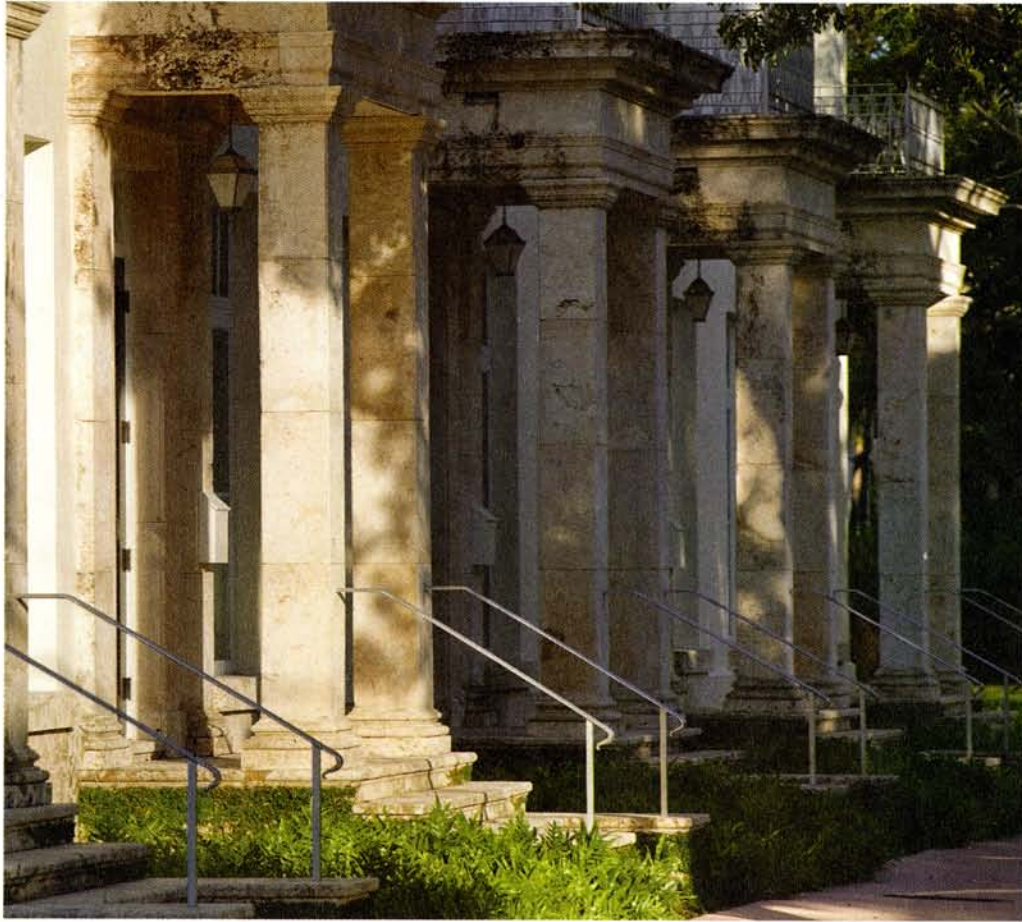


HOME

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Influenced by early 20th-century townhouse architect Mott B. Schmidt, the two-story Almeria Row residences have introduced a new style of living to Coral Gables.

Coral Gables: Urbane Planning

text Marlene Sholod photography Jonathan Whittle

●● The City of Coral Gables' new civic slogan could be: "If we build it, they will walk." Planned as a classic city by George Merrick in the 1920s, Coral Gables earned the title "The City Beautiful." Today, a new generation of urban planners, developers and architects is collaborating with public and private institutions to make this Old World-style city a model of the New Urbanism.

In 2002, the University of Miami's School of Architecture joined with the city to hold a charrette to address the needs of the city's downtown, or "Miracle Mile" as it is known. The charrette's recommendations included:

1. The addition of a mix of shops, restaurants and residences, a place

"where people live in comfort beneath canopies of street trees, arcades, colonnades and awnings."

2. Refining public spaces "that are no longer islands in a sea of traffic but comfortable gathering places for workers on their lunch hour, retirees, families with children and evening visitors."

3. Buildings that reflect "Mediterranean urbanism."

Today, efforts to create pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods within the larger Miracle Mile neighborhood can be seen in three very different developments: **Almeria Row**, **Casas Sevillanas** and the mixed-use **Old Spanish Village**, now under construction.



Cool, distinct furnishings define interior spaces at Almeria Row. BELOW (from left): Entrances to Almeria Row residences require passage through coral-stone columns and architraves. Private courtyards are surrounded by raphis palms, guava trees and bamboo. A coral-stone bench beneath an Asian waterfall is a perfect spot to relax quietly.

