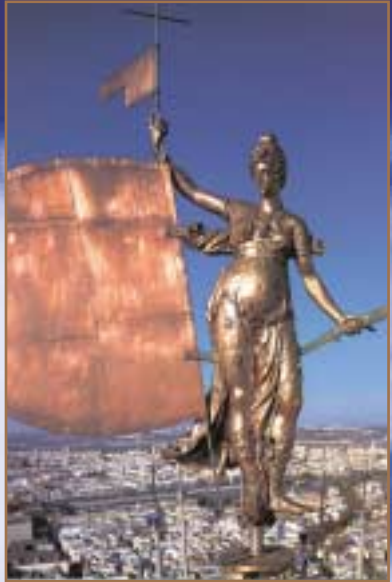


# ALHAMBRA TOWERS



*The Giraldillo*

A faithful reproduction of the statuesque weathervane that graces the Giralda Tower at The Cathedral of Seville, Spain, has been commissioned to crown the West Tower of Alhambra Towers.

## *The Inspiration*

From the beginning Alhambra Towers was different.

All of our preceding 77 development projects began with a business plan and usually a corporate anchor tenant. Alhambra Towers began with a Spiritual Inspiration.

The beginning of the inspiration was this triangular block at the most important crossroads, in the most beautiful community business center in Florida - downtown Coral Gables.

What would be worthy of this extraordinary property?

What would honor the legacy of the great church which once stood on this site?

What would honor the vision and inspiration that George Merrick and Walter deGarmo brought to the creation and architecture of Coral Gables?

*continued*



## Art & Inspiration... continued from cover

What would express the spiritual inspiration of enduring values more than the construction of just one more office building?

Would there ever again be great inspirational cathedrals with towers to draw our hearts and spirits heavenward?

Could a "Cathedral" be created combining the inspiring architecture, stained glass, and music with the honored value of creative commerce?

Could we blend spiritual inspiration in the beautiful design, colors, and sounds with functional integrity?

The great poet and priest, Gerard Manley Hopkins, believed it so:

*Glory be to God for dappled things, . . .*

*Landscape plotted and pieced-fold, fallow, and plough;*

*And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim. (Pied Beauty)*

In this poem, Hopkins saw God's glory in nature and in man's labour.

Alhambra Towers is a celebration of form and function with color, design, history, stained glass, sculptures, soft Italian marbles, colorful hard granites, carved stone, polished brass, natural mahogany, together with fiber optics, high-speed telecommunication and fine cuisine.

### The Secular and the Spiritual

I have often felt the conflict between Business and Spirituality. In truth, the human experience is both Physical and Spiritual. It seems we were created to live in the paradox with one foot in the Physical Secular World and one foot in the Eternal Spiritual World.

It has been said that we are physical beings seeking a spiritual experience in our lives. Maybe it is more true that we are spiritual beings having a brief physical experience.

The greatest Spiritual Values and Truths are empty without action. The most skilled business and creativity is meaningless without eternal Spiritual Values.

Even when we try to separate the Physical from the Spiritual we cannot. Our business and our economy are entirely based upon faith. Faith in the future. Faith in one another to fulfill our agreements. Faith in our government to promote justice and safety. In America, our currency is backed not by gold or silver, but by the "promise" of the Federal Reserve Bank - a "promise" based on faith in our Government. Appropriately, our currency also reminds us "In God We Trust."

### The Art

Alhambra Towers is modeled after the Cathedral Towers of Sevilla, Cordoba and Leon. Spires to carry our eyes heavenward. Atop the West Tower - The Giralda Tower- stands the *Lady of Faith*, a reminder that Faith stands alone above all else. In the Lobby are the stained glass windows from the church, which stood on this site for 44 years, depicting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. This Psalm, the most beloved in the Bible, reminds us of God's care and provision for us - even in the face of Fear. The reminder that in God's care we need not fear.

The carillon sounds as a tribute to the familiar bell tower of the First Presbyterian Church. The Church, famous for its stained glass and its carillon bells, serenaded the surrounding community with its inspiring message of God's love. This great message was symbolized by the sights and sounds enriching all who passed by.

It is our hope that this Historic Legacy and Eternal Values will inspire the best of business and faith. . . faith in mankind, faith in the future, and faith in God.



W. Allen Morris



## "GIRALDILLO" The Lady of Faith

The Lady of Faith was originally crafted in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century by an unknown artist to serve as an inspiration and as a working weather vane atop the Giralda Tower of the Cathedral in Sevilla, Spain. She stands at sixteen (16) feet, towering over the Plaza. It is the largest bronze sculpture in Spain

Her nickname "Giraldillo" means "spinner" because the changing wind direction spins the giant statue around. The Cathedral tower itself was named after the weather vane, the Giralda Tower.

The original statue has recently been restored and a museum created in its honor at The Cathedral in Sevilla. All of the details of the original statue have been reproduced by the sculptor Gary Rager, of Rager Studios, Orlando, Florida, keeping the image true to the original.

The Lady of Faith is a picture of strength and vigilance. Her strength is displayed in her military helmet and her boots. Her vigilance is evident in her alert gaze. Her vision for a prosperous future is seen in the shaft of wheat in her outstretched hand. And her dependence on God's love as the object of her Faith is demonstrated in the cross held high.

Mr. Rager utilized cast fiber-glass over stainless steel with a faux finish in bronze and copper to create this twelve foot replica. Rager's Studios designed a specially engineered mechanical rolling system with space-age materials at the base of the statue which will allow it to move freely with the wind.

## George E. Merrick's Dream...Coral Gables

Growing up, George E. Merrick dreamed of "Castles in Spain." Coral Gables, the suburb where Castles in Spain ARE MADE REAL, is largely Merrick's creation. Artists and architects, under Merrick's guidance, designed "a distinctive American suburb reflective of the enchanting architecture of Old Spain, yet subject to adaptation to its setting and modified to modern ways of living."

One of the best-remembered architects, Walter deGarmo, found Spain to have a rich blend of Roman, Islamic and Gothic styles. Later, other Mediterranean-style motifs have been added to the Spanish-style architecture. These are the bases for the planned community which has become coveted for local and international business and an ideal place to work and live.

Merrick's first major building, the Biltmore Hotel, was inspired by Spain's beloved Giralda Tower. Across the street, another tower forms the defining feature of a Congregational Church - built in memory of his father, a Congregational minister.

The Great Depression and World War II financially devastated Merrick after only seven years of developing the City. After World War II, much of the building was not consistent with Merrick's architectural vision. Thus, by the 1970s, much of the original feeling of Coral Gables had disappeared. The City of Coral Gables enacted ordinances to preserve historic buildings and encourage new construction in the original Mediterranean style. New skyscrapers have arisen in response to bonuses for Mediterranean Revival-Styles with each having different interpretations of that style.

The Allen Morris Company returns to Merrick's original vision today with Alhambra Towers. This is the first high-rise commercial office building since the Biltmore Hotel to use the Mediterranean theme wholistically. It has all the features and amenities of modern, corporate, professional and business offices, yet it is patterned after the classic skyscrapers of Merrick's day. Alhambra Towers combines the best of the past with modern building techniques. It is destined to become Coral Gables defining 21st century landmark and a model for the future.

### Site of George E. Merrick's Triangle Building & The Coral Gables Post Office



Long before the First Presbyterian Church occupied this site, the U.S. Post Office and The Bank of Coral Gables (1924) had offices in a beautiful building designed by Walter deGarmo. The Cla-Reina Hotel, now the La Palma, is seen in the background.

If you stood here in 1924, you could have walked through this beautiful arcade into an open patio between the Post Office, on the left, and The Bank of Coral Gables.

Today, Alhambra Towers occupies this important site.

## Spain's Renaissance

The design of Alhambra Towers is greatly influenced by the Spanish Renaissance. All three of the towers have taken their inspiration directly from famous Renaissance Cathedrals of Spain. Allen Morris has commissioned noted artists to paint seven of Spain's well-known architectural landmarks. All of these influences can be seen in Alhambra Towers.

The Allen Morris Company and the architects have endeavored to incorporate the best in Renaissance and modern architectural design to create a new landmark for Coral Gables.

The Renaissance was the first period in history to be aware of its own existence and to coin a label for itself.

The aim of the Renaissance was not to duplicate the works of antiquity but to equal and, if possible, to surpass them. This meant that the authority granted to the ancient models was far from unlimited, and new heights were reached. The Renaissance led to an outpouring of creative energy such as the world had never experienced before.

Coral Gables' founders looked to these European influences to create a combination of architectural influences that would adapt to their new city in Florida.

Alhambra Towers is an endeavor to continue in this legacy and usher in a *new renaissance* in Coral Gables.



The Cathedral of SEVILLA & Giralda Tower

The seven Cathedrals featured in the paintings in the north lobby correspond to the names of the seven upper office floors. The floors are named for seven Cities of Spain famous for their Cathedral Towers: Sevilla, Santiago, Barcelona, Leon, Cordoba, Granada, and The Alhambra.

These seven Cathedrals inspired the paintings on display in the lobby.





The ALHAMBRA



The Cathedral of SANTIAGO de Compostela



The Cathedral of LEON



The Cathedral of BARCELONA



The Cathedral of GRANADA



The Cathedral of CORDOBA

### The Artists - Carlos and Guillermo Arriola

The crowning of the West Tower is a celebration of the Spanish influence in the City of Coral Gables. On permanent display are seven paintings by the brothers Carlos and Guillermo Arriola of various cathedrals of Spain, and the early use of this site serve as an inspiration for the design of the lobby.

Carlos Arriola is an architect turned oil painter born in Guatemala. His wife, Carolina, who assists him in his work, is originally from Spain. He was taught by his father, a master artist, Victor Arriola. He has won acclaim for his realistic style throughout Latin America. He specializes in the depiction of the splendid architecture of Hispanic colonial courtyards and European architecture. He was chosen "Artist of the Year, 2001" by Fort Lauderdale's "Billfish Foundation". He received a "Best Showing" prize at the "Members Exhibition" of The Ridge Art Association in Winter Haven, FL, September, 2001.

*These Paintings are on permanent exhibit in the lobby area of -*

**ALHAMBRA  
TOWERS**





In honor of **The First Presbyterian Church of Coral Gables** which ministered on this site from 1954 to 1998 and from whose sanctuary the stained glass pieces seen in this lobby were taken.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm was displayed in the nave of the church while the abstract glass allowed the morning sun to light the sanctuary.

The stained glass was produced by the Willet Studios of Philadelphia using a technique of encasing thick, colorful slabs of cut glass in a matrix of epoxy. Although the windows depicting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm in the lobby, are displayed in order, going clockwise from the SW corner to SE corner and on the north side of the vestibule are artificially lighted, the windows over the entrance have the benefit of the natural light.

The stained glass windows shown on these pages tell the story of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

When we surveyed and measured all of the stained glass windows, we noticed that these were the only windows which would fit in the new Building.



The Lord is my Shepherd. . .



The First Presbyterian Church  
of Coral Gables  
Chapel Site 1954-1998 AD

### *The Carillon Bells*

The Alhambra Towers carillon will from time to time play some of the favorite hymns heard from the Church's bell tower for those many years.

There is a carillon system installed in the Western Tower that is linked to the US atomic clock in Ft Collins, Colorado, to assure the accuracy when it sounds on the hour.

Manufactured by BRG Carillon Bell Systems, Inc., the carillon is capable of sounding nearly 2,000 hymns, bells, tolls and classic chimes, to sound the time.



He leads me beside the still waters. . . .

*The Lord is my Shepherd,*

as I am a needy sheep

*I shall not be in want.*

because He supplies everything

*He makes me lie down in green pastures,*

where I am fully cared for

*He leads me beside the still waters,*

where my daily thirst is quenched

*He restores my soul.*

my inner identity is recognized and valued

*He leads me in the paths of righteousness*

He knows how easily I get off course, so He keeps nudging me forward

*for His name's sake.*

I have been given the privilege of bearing His name or His mark

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,*

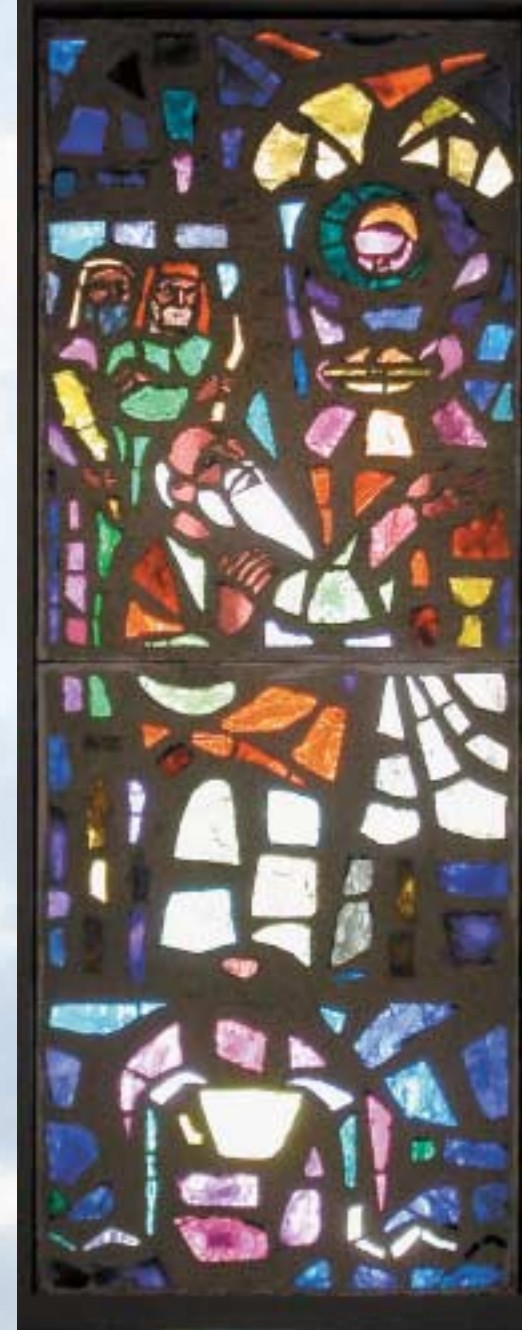
knowing there are grievous seasons of life and deep hardships

*I will fear no evil,*

I, the sheep, will let go of my tendency to feel and believe the worst



I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. . .



You prepare a table before me. . .

*for You are with me;*

You, the Good Shepherd, have never left me alone

*your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

the Shepherd's implements of love direct and protect me during their constant use

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*

I am directed to the tablelands of growth and maturity amidst those forces that would work against me

*You anoint my head with oil;*

me, this ever-unpredictable sheep, is given the oil of healing and blessing from the Shepherd's hand.

*my cup runs over.*

I feel alive and energized by the goodness of my caretaker

*Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life,*

I have grown in confidence to understand how secure my future is under the Shepherd's leading

*and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

as a sheep in the fold of this Good Shepherd, I am guaranteed a place with Him for all of time

*A Psalm of David, King of Israel, 1025-985 BC*

Interpretive text by Diane Morris



You anoint my head with oil. . .



Surely goodness and mercy will follow me. . .



## Architectural Team

## THE DESIGN OF THE TOWERS

The inspiration of Alhambra Towers is based on the renaissance of George Merrick's vision, the founder of Coral Gables. Mr. Merrick envisioned a city of towers and spires. After much research of significant Coral Gables landmarks through visits, historical photographic and drawing archives and reflecting upon the towers and spires of Spain, it became apparent what the solution should be. Very early in the design process this property at the corner of Ponce de Leon Blvd. and Alhambra Plaza possessed a genuine and unique quality for a landmark building to rekindle the romantic notions and whimsy of yesteryear.

The soaring towers you now see anchoring the three corners of the site were the obvious and appropriate solution, artistically, contextually and historically. The primary westerly tower in mass, scale and detail draws its inspiration from the Sevilla Tower in Spain and pays homage to the Biltmore Hotel. The north east-

erly and the south easterly towers draw their inspiration from the Spanish towers of the Cordoba Cathedral and the Leon Cathedral.

The success of the overall composition of the building is founded in the towers anchoring the corners and the classic architectural principles that a tower have a "base, middle and top". To enrich the composition and to ensure that the community experience a true human or pedestrian scale at street level these principles were implemented. At street level the base has a highly articulated stone two story colonnade, the middle sets back at the tenth floor to provide a rich garden terrace which further liberates the towers to soar in the air and the top is graced by a two story colonnade defining the two penthouse levels capped in clay tile roof. The three towers are free at this point to touch the sky.

The new Alhambra Towers is a quintessential Coral Gables landmark building celebrating the city's rich heritage, arts and cultural foundations.

Written by the architects; **Associated Consultants International**  
Winter Park, FL



John A. Cunningham  
Design Architect



John A. Cunningham,  
Larry H. Adams, Jr.  
William J. Weeks  
Design Team

## Development Team



**The Allen Morris Company**, one of the Southeast's premier real estate companies, is the developer, manager and leasing agent for the ALHAMBRA TOWERS.

Founded in 1958, The Company developed many of the area's firsts; Miami's first regional shopping center, the first Federal Reserve Bank in Florida, the first multi tenant office building on Brickell Avenue. To date the company has successfully developed or rehabilitated 78 office/commercial projects throughout Florida and Georgia.

**Macdonald West**,  
CRE, FRICS, MBA, *Project Manager*

*"In over 30 years of developing properties in Florida, this has been the most inspirational and exciting project."*

**H. Leland Taylor**  
*Development Coordinator*

*"I take pride in being part of the design and construction of the most exciting and challenging project in my 20 years with Allen Morris."*



W. Allen Morris  
Chairman & CEO

## Attention to Details

## Lobby Chandeliers

Installed in the lobby of Alhambra Towers is an outstanding example of an Etruscan Chandelier. Manufactured by the Metropolitan Lighting Company of New York, heavy cast bronze accents adorn the chandelier. Note the rams heads at the top of the chandelier, the double cast bands around the center bowl, the heavy bronze arms with leaf motif, and the massive top loop. The alabaster stone cups and bowl are hand dyed and rubbed to achieve



a striking brandy patina. This special finishing of the alabaster brings out the beauty of its mineral graining that cannot be achieved in its natural state. The alabaster was quarried, fabricated and stained in Spain.

## Antique Mailbox

This old mail drop box was from the 1920 landmark McGraw Hill Building in Chicago, at 520 North Michigan Avenue. The building has been renovated and is now the Le Meridian Hotel.

For More Information on Alhambra Towers:

**The Allen Morris Company**

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BORNSTEIN DESIGN