



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
TRAVELER

October 2004 - Vol. 21, No. 7
Page 43

Miami: Back to the Future

By T.D. Allman

... Every night, the Art Deco Historic District of Miami Beach is an open-air fiesta. **Miami's Design District**, after years of abandonment, **is thriving once again**. New condos are rising along Biscayne Boulevard. Just to the south, the immense new Performing Arts Center is going up, while an imaginative restoration of the city's Bicentennial Park is also underway. Nearby, on the waterfront of Miami's city center, sits the American Airlines Arena --- home to the city's pro basketball team, the Miami Heat --- and the Bayside Marketplace, with attractions ranging from deep-sea fishing charters to outdoor dancing. Downtown is now a great place to take the kids. Besides sports events and waterfront activities, there are family-friendly museums, including the Miami Art Museum and the Historical Museum of Southern Florida.

Best of all, you can reach these points of interest via the snazzy, automated Metro mover --free of charge. The tram line loops around downtown and has a spur across the Miami River to **Brickell Avenue**, which **is becoming one of the city's most desirable residential as well as commercial areas**.

As usual, the latest good times have produced a Miami building boom. **Global corporate giants like the HSBC bank are moving into signature skyscrapers along Brickell, where small businesses are also opening**. "We expect to grow into a national and international brand," said Tulin Tuzel, the general manager of an informal stylish restaurant called Pasha's. Tuzel, originally from Istanbul, added, "We chose Miami as our base because it epitomizes accessible style. You can combine the modern and traditional in a very natural, comfortable way."

At the moment no other U.S. city has so much style, so little attitude, makes such good eye contact, and is so much fun. To see what I mean, spend an evening on **Lincoln Road in South Beach, without doubt the single best place to be in Miami right now**. Arrive late. The place hits its stride around 10 p.m., when you encounter everyone from shirtless body builders and op artists exhibiting in the local galleries to cultural crossover record producers...