

DOCOMOMO & MiMO—Preserving Modern Miami

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INTRODUCTION

This session focuses on preservation efforts that address modern architecture in the Americas, and specifically in the city of Miami. The international organization DOCOMOMO has made preservation of buildings of the modern movement its mission, while MiMO, a regional movement that emerged in the late 1990s to preserve post-war Miami architecture, is an example of the kinds of regional and local affiliations that have responded to DOCOMOMO's initial efforts. As popular resort cities like Miami make their way onto historic registers, they are changing the face of preservation in America. How are the two movements responding to the changing terrain?

The acronym DOCOMOMO stands for DOcumentation and COnservation of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the MODern MOVement. Initially founded in 1988 in The Netherlands, there are now DOCOMOMO working parties in over 40 countries. The organization is dedicated to the study of significant works of Modern Movement architecture, landscape design and urban planning around the world. In the Americas, DOCOMOMO International includes working parties in Canada, Argentina, Brazil and the Dominican Republic, as well as DOCOMOMO US. MiMO refers to the postwar architecture of Greater Miami. It is famously represented in the 'flabbergast' hotels of Morris Lapidus, whose Fontainebleau, Eden Roc and Americana Hotels of the 1950's challenged the American modern movement's notions of architectural propriety. However, MiMO covers a broad range of architecture built in Miami, from the modest apartment buildings of Miami Beach's north shore to industrial sites, the air and seaports and the University of Miami.

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