

FULLERTON DIAZ

January 9, 1996

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for John Deinhardt, an individual whose many talents were effectively used to do what most observers thought would be impossible. He was hired to oversee and direct the restoration and adaptive reuse of the historic Miracle Theater, a beautiful Deco Moderne movie house, built in the nineteen-forties in Coral Gables, Florida, and a superb example of the style.


In recent years this theater had undergone several unsympathetic interior modifications to the lobby, main auditorium, balcony and all support areas which divided the spaces into four smaller theaters. The City of Coral Gables purchased the building after much study and controversy and contracted with The Actors Playhouse to transform this now derelict building back into the showpiece that it once was. By contract, this had to be done within a very tight time schedule, one which knowledgeable professionals said could not be met.

As the architect for the project, I had my doubts. I felt that if everything went exactly right between the City of Coral Gables, the Building Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department, the Historic Preservation Board, the Coral Gables Board of Architects and the many vendors and sub-contractors, we might make it happen. This was a task of epic proportions. Many of the vendors, materials suppliers and sub-contractors were donating their services or materials on a pro-bono basis and were therefore on their own schedule. It was difficult to make schedule demands on people who were giving their expertise, material or services.

Somehow, Mr. Deinhardt did it. And he did it in seven weeks. This, by all rational estimates is about one third of the time it should have taken. I credit John with this accomplishment. His professionalism, attention to detail and his ability to manage the intricate planning to facilitate the sequence of the building process while keeping overworked and exhausted workers motivated to accomplish the goal was amazing. This was a very stressful and exhausting task and John seemed to be right at home in the middle of it.

I would recommend him enthusiastically for the management of any construction related project and hope that he will never be put under the pressure he experienced at the Miracle Theater.

Sincerely,



John P. Fullerton, AIA, President
FULLERTON DIAZ ARCHITECTS, INC.