



SARASOTA ALLIANCE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

QUARTERLY PRESERVATION NEWS FOR SARASOTA COUNTY

A GLIMPSE INSIDE



The newly restored Golden Host Resort and Bahi Hut welcome guests in midcentury style
by Barry Preston



Up, Up, and Away...an immersive preservation experience in NYC
by Tom McArdle



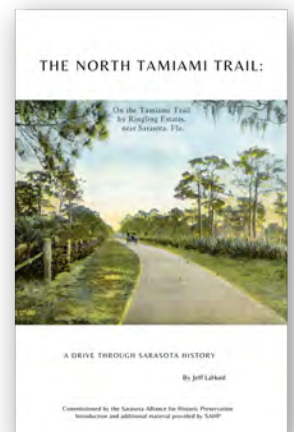
2022 Annual Preservation Awards Program
by Lorrie Muldowney

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Erin DiFazio, *President*

Life is racing back to its pre-pandemic pace as the weather cools and the holiday season looms. Thank you to those who were able to join us at our Historic Granada Walking Tour on November 7th. With such an abundance of unique homes, we might just have to revisit to tell more of the story. The juxtaposition of the sore-thumb infill structures next to the preserved historic bungalows made for some fascinating conversations about how to help neighborhoods grow without losing their identity.

Managing change is an important element of preservation. We recognize that communities are living organisms, and architecture is not a static construct. Buildings must adapt and shift along with the needs of the humans who inhabit them. Keeping those changes sensitive to the original building fabric and in context with the larger community and our planet as a whole is the challenge. This is the driving force behind our latest publication...**The North Tamiami Trail: A Drive Through Sarasota History**, by **Jeff LaHurd**.




A pictorial history of this under-appreciated corridor, this publication provides readers with a look at what we have lost, what we have held onto and how it has all changed over the years. Poised on the brink of redevelopment, we hope that this resource will help guide the area with positive growth that respects the artistry of those that came before. The book will be available for purchase soon on our website and in local bookstores.

SAHP has been working hard to shore up our infrastructure so that we can have a greater impact, preserve more of the historic places that make Sarasota special, and strengthen the voice of the community. It is our hope that if we all work together, the citizens with their feet in the sand, not the developers with their hands full of cash, will write the future of this magical place.

Be kind and stay warm.


Fondly,

Egan



[Docomomo US announces 2021 Modernism in America Award for Sarasota High School](#)

[Sarasota's Midcentury Architecture spotlighted in Travel & Leisure Magazine](#)



[Peek inside this newly restored St. Petersburg School](#)

For more information, click to visit websites

THE NEWLY RESTORED GOLDEN HOST RESORT

Barry Preston, *Director*



The Golden Host Resort on the North Trail opened in February 1959 as “plush”, “super Deluxe” with “lush landscaping” and as the newest motel on the west coast, according to the Sarasota News – the dream project of developer W. W. Johnston. In 1965 it won a Herald Tribune award as “a model of tropical landscaping”. Now, after years of decline as the keys developed, owner Bob Brown and his partners have done a complete retro renovation of the Golden Host. A visitor will find the tropical pastel paint scheme and lush tropical landscaping harkening back to the glory days of the ‘50s, and interiors that have been creatively restored to a 50’s look with retro appliances and furnishings.



The Golden Host resort also now includes the Bahi Hut – which opened 1954 is one of two original

tiki bars in Florida and one of the oldest in the United States. Mr. Brown and his partners have retained its original interior -- a must see. Our hats are off to Bob Brown and his partners for a sensitive and superlative restoration of a North Trail Classic.

For more information, click to visit website

GOLDEN HOST RESORT • BAH I HUT

UP, UP, AND AWAY...

Tom McArdle, *Treasurer & Secretary*

Preserving our historic buildings is an important priority. Providing access to them is important as well to gain an appreciation for how we once lived, and how these buildings accommodated our lifestyles. We recently had the opportunity to experience a uniquely immersive trip into the past with a stay at the newly restored TWA Flight Center (Hotel) at JFK Airport in New York.



Sarasota is renowned for its mid-century modern Sarasota School of Architecture designs, and its contributing architects including Paul Rudolph, Ralph Twitchell, Victor Lundy and Phillip Hiss. Their contemporaries included I.M. Pei, who designed portions of the campus of the New College of Florida, and Eero Saarinen, also a well-known architecture and furniture designer whose creations made their way into many of our city's mid-century homes.



Eero Saarinen (1910-1951) is noted for the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, Washington Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C., and the subject of this piece, the TWA Flight Center at JFK International Airport in New York. He is equally well known for his furniture creations, including the 'Tulip' table and chair collections and 'Womb' chairs, all manufactured by the Knoll Company from the '40s to the '60s.

Saarinen received the commission to design the TWA Flight Center in 1956 when the airline was still owned by Howard Hughes.

It was completed in 1962 during the period often referred to as the Golden Age of flying and when the 100 seat Lockheed Constellation Turboprop was the workhorse of the TWA fleet. It was also the dawn of the jet age, with Boeing's introduction of 707 into service in 1958. By 1970, the Boeing 747 Jumbo jet hit the runways and essentially rendered the TWA terminal obsolete.

The Flight Center earned critical praise for expressive design. "It featured a prominent wing-shaped thin shell roof supported by four "Y"-shaped piers. Inside was an open three-level space with tall windows enabling views of departing and arriving jets. Two tube-shaped, red-carpeted departure-arrival corridors extended outward from the terminal, connecting to the gates."¹

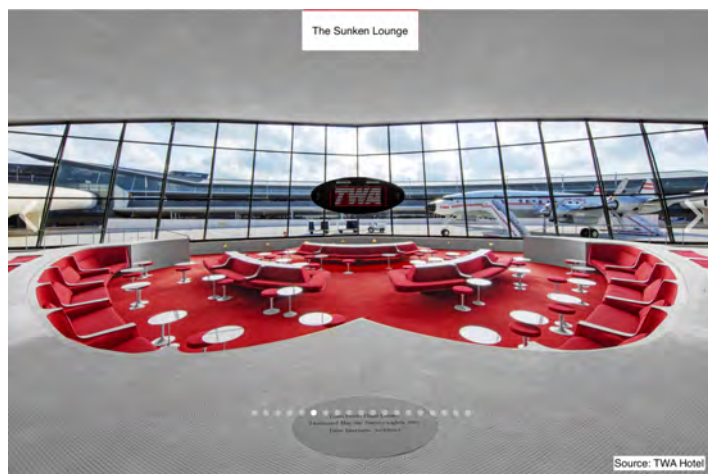




Despite its landmark status, renewed threats appeared by 2001 when American Airlines, which had bought TWA's assets several years earlier, ceased operations in the Flight Center and it was abandoned. Its future was further aided when the TWA Flight Center Terminal was added to the National Register of Historic places in 2005.

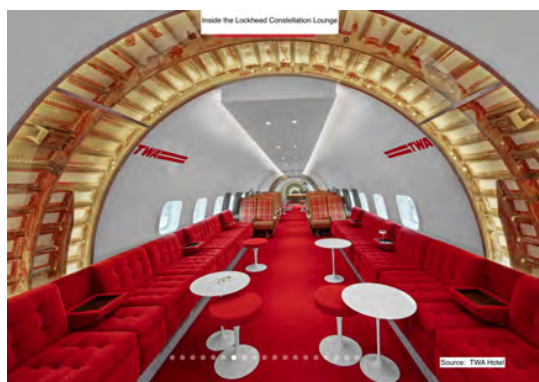
The owner of the Terminal, the Port Authority of NY-NJ was not bound by the limitations of landmark status, but nonetheless it began to develop plans to re-purpose the empty building while constructing a new Terminal 5 behind it for Jet Blue Airlines.

However, by the 1990s the changes in the airline industry and increased passenger volumes combined to form a cloud over the future of the terminal. This was compounded by pressure to replace it with a newer terminal needed to accommodate the needs of modern aviation. Fortunately, the preservation movement focused on saving Saarinen's creation, which was landmarked in 1994. The NYC Landmark Preservation Commission described the Flight Center as "...perhaps the quintessential modern form, expressing movement and the whole concept of flight".²



Fast forward to 2016, and design and construction began on preserving key elements of the original TWA terminal and using it as the focal point for construction of a new 512 room hotel.

The TWA Hotel opened in 2019. Two new hotel wings, the Saarinen and the Hughes, were constructed behind the original terminal building, and are accessed through the original red carpeted curved tubes that led to the original gates, and now connect to the new Jet Blue Terminal behind the hotel. In its new incarnation, TWA Hotel offers an immersive venture back into the 1960s.



The new hotel offers top shelf amenities and accommodations, though most of the original terminal has survived, and many of the original details have been kept or replaced with sensitive updates. The bustle of a hotel lobby may not be on par with that of an 21st century airline terminal, but amidst the activity, decor and layout one easily feels transported back to that Golden Age.

The rooms are outfitted with martini stations, mid-century touches like a mini Etch A Sketch, vintage rotary phones, color shaded pole lights, pencils and notepads. The lobby space includes interpretive exhibits showcasing vintage TWA retro flight attendant uniforms, vintage cars and TWA memorabilia. The Paris Café, the Jean-Georges

restaurant on the mezzanine, is furnished in custom Saarinen Womb chairs and Tulip chairs and tables from Knoll. A lobby shop stocks all manner of TWA-branded red-and-white merchandise.

On the tarmac next to the Lobby area sits 'Connie', a restored Lockheed L-1649 Starliner Constellation that's been retrofitted as a cocktail bar. And of course, the sounds of the '60s emanate from the speakers, including Frank Sinatra, the Beatles and Dusty Springfield, among others.

Anyone wanting to reignite the memories and feelings from this era in their lives, or want to appreciate how it felt to be around back then, will not be disappointed by a stay at this fun, iconic property. It's a great place to visit as well, and easily accessible from the other JFK terminal buildings by air train if you have time on your hands during a lay-over while in route to your future on faraway continents and exotic locales.



- 1 Wikipedia
- 2 "Preserving an icon" by Sara Firshein. CURBED NY. July 23, 2019.

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

Members of the Board of Directors of your Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation recently voted to chair the annual Historic Preservation Awards Program for Sarasota County. The project will build upon the program started several years ago by the History and Preservation Coalition. It was developed to recognize outstanding achievement in the areas of history education, archives management, historic preservation and archaeological research. As in the past a goal of the program is to consider nominations from individuals and non-profit organizations throughout the county. These nominations will be reviewed by professionals and enthusiasts with knowledge about the established categories and award winners will be announced in the Spring of 2022.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH THIS EXCITING PROGRAM. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, PLEASE CONTACT SAHP BY DECEMBER 15TH

[Lorrie Muldowney, EEP Chair](#)
[click to email](#)

ADVOCACY ALERT: LUXE ON 10TH

Recently a development called the Luxe on 10th Street was approved by the Sarasota City Commission at a density higher than ever before approved within the City of Sarasota. Sadly, it will adversely impact the Central Coconut neighborhood, a National Register Historic District. Approval of the Luxe illustrates the potential dangers of the city's attempts to create affordable housing without sensitively applying good design standards and adequately considering the importance of neighborhood preservation.

In this case, the development team requested approval to rezone ten (10) parcels totaling approximately 3.5 acres from Residential Multiple Family 3 (RMF-3) and Industrial Light Warehouse (ILW) to Residential Multiple Family 7 (RMF-7), and approval of a proffered site plan for the construction of 157 residential units. The applicant is also requesting approval of a street vacation for a portion of the north/south alley between 10th and 11th Streets.

As a community, we need to keep our eyes open. This is the kind of out-of-scale development which results in the displacement of long-term residents, demolishes affordable existing housing stock, and erodes the unique character which draws significant annual revenue in the form of heritage tourism.

Other development with the potential of disturbing existing historic neighborhoods includes:

The Bahia Vista Apartment and redevelopment of the Sarasota Kennel Club Property on Old Bradenton Road. Details on these proposed developments follow:

22-SP-03, 22-RE-01 Bahia Vista Apartments (2750 Bahia Vista Street): The applicant is proposing to construct a four-story building with 250 residential units. The existing parking garage, approximately 400 spaces, is to remain, and the existing medical office building and outparcel building in the southeast corner of the site are proposed to be demolished. Access is proposed from Briggs Avenue and Tuttle Avenue. The parcels are currently zoned Medical Charitable Institute (MCI). To facilitate development, a Rezone petition is required to Rezone the parcels to Residential Multiple Family 7 (RMF-7). A concurrent Future Land Use Map amendment (21-PA-03) is being processed to change the Future Land Use of the parcel from Multiple Family (Medium Density) to Multiple Family (High Density). [AP] Under completeness review, 30-day period ends 11/3/21.

22-SP-04, 22-RE-02 Sarasota Kennel Club Property (5400 Old Bradenton Road): The Applicant is seeking Rezoning with Site Plan Approval to develop 372 multi-family residential units, 751 parking spaces, and on-site amenities on a 25.8 acre parcel. Vehicular access is proposed from Old Bradenton Road. The Applicant is requesting the site be rezoned from Commercial Intensive (CI) to Residential Multiple Family 4 (RMF4). Comprehensive Plan Amendment (21-PA-01) is being processed to change the Future Land Use of the site from Community Commercial to Multiple Family-Medium Density. A 3.24 acre portion of the site is the subject of an Application for Annexation. The subject property has been utilized as a parimutuel facility that is proposed to be demolished. [AP] Under completeness review, 30-day period ends 11/17/21.

Ways to get involved:

To review a list of recently approved development projects in the City of Sarasota, click [HERE](#).

Go to the public meetings of the Commission and the Planning Board, read their agendas and minutes. You can sign up for notifications on the City's website: click [HERE](#)

Write to your City and County Commissioners to share your ideas and opinions about the ways in which Sarasota grows.

Attend the meetings of your local neighborhood association. There is often key information distributed regarding upcoming projects, that makes it well worth attending.

SIX TO SAVE - OPEN COMMITTEE SEATS

**Do bulldozers give you nightmares?
Does the loss of our iconic architecture and character fill you with despair?**

Here is an opportunity to help keep our history alive for future generations. The Six to Save program, brought to you by the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation, in partnership with the History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County is a list of imminently threatened historic structures that is promoted with the intent to spark conversations around potential strategies for preservation. The program is managed by the Six to Save Committee and there are still seats open for 2022. It is a limited time commitment extending from December through March. Committee members will distribute nomination forms to the public and review entries for relevance, priority, and potential for intervention. The Six to Save 2022 list will be announced at our Annual Meeting Event in March, and publicized in local newspapers, magazines and through nonprofit partners.



[Click to email if you are interested in participating](#)

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