



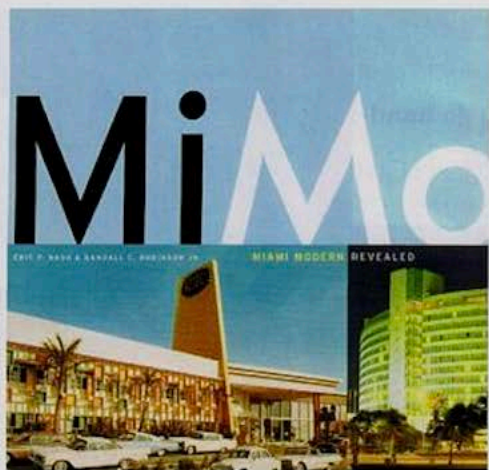
Photo by Joseph Pesce

MYLES CHEFETZ

By Tom Austin

Former real estate attorney Myles Chefetz is one of Miami's more adventurous restaurateurs. He has almost single-handedly developed SoFi, or the South of Fifth neighborhood, an area that has been struggling back from ruin in the '80s when its economy turned sour. The area today is an exclusive, artsy, residential area, due largely to Chefetz, who has opened three successful restaurants (Nemo, Big Pink, and Shoji Sushi) in a one-square block of the area since 1995. Now, sophisticated steakhouse Prime One Twelve (shown above) in the Brown's Hotel (Miami's first and oldest hotel) makes four for the neighborhood. "Too many places on South Beach are more like nightclubs than restaurants, but the interiors here are truly transcending," he says.

In the same way that he gambled on the overlooked neighborhood, the Miami native took a risk on the designer for Prime One Twelve. Wanting someone who was "off the commercial-project radar," Chefetz chose local designer Alison Antrobus, whose previous work is all residential. The resulting interiors blend Chefetz's affinity for classic style and Antrobus' forward-thinking design: "The rooms upstairs have Alison's custom furniture and old Dade County pine floors. In the restaurant, I play Frank Sinatra and run Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers movies on the plasma television over the bar."



RANDALL ROBINSON AND ROBIN HILL

By Pat Olsen

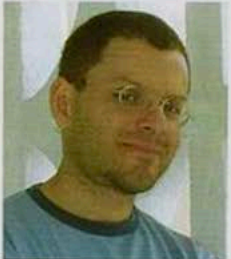
There's more to Miami than Art Deco. Photographer Robin Hill and local Miami Modern (MiMo) expert Randall Robinson's recent book project is creating buzz about Miami Beach's latest preservationist effort. Hill's stunning shots of the city's mid-century motels and other buildings (1945-1969) are featured in *MiMo: Miami Modern Revealed* (Chronicle Books, 2004), that Robinson co-authored with *New York Times* researcher Eric Nash.

Robinson, recently appointed director of the North Beach Development Corporation in Miami, coined the MiMo acronym with interior designer Teri D'Amico. He's now working to promote the historic buildings not only through the publication of the book but also as a member of the Miami Urban Arts Committee. "MiMo reflects the dynamism of a young, growing city in the decades after World War II. If Miami is to be a great city, then it needs to preserve the best of its architectural legacy," he says.

As the book states, the era isn't defined by a single style, but instead a confluence that includes the work of great architects Morris Lapidus, Igor B. Polevitzky, and Enrique Gutierrez, and hotels such as Sherry Frontenac and Casablanca. But one thing the buildings had in common: porte cocheres. "The MiMo buildings were all about the car," D'Amico says. "Those were the glamour days."



Photo by Gig Alina



Above, top to bottom: Myles Chefetz; Randall Robinson; and Robin Hill.