

Posted on Friday, 12.03.10



Share 2

[email](#) [print](#) [comment](#) [reprint](#)

DawnTown competition dazzles with Miami seaplane terminal designs

Like 20

 BY CHARLES RABIN AND ANDRES VIGLUCCI
 CRABIN@MIAMIHERALD.COM

Blend a touch of the Everglades with a rooftop garden of native vegetation over a sleek hangar shaped like airplane wings. Underneath, leave plenty of open space with an airy feel open to the water. And of course, top it off with an unobstructed view of downtown Miami's skyline.

Presto! Miami finally has the sexy, sleek seaplane terminal at Watson Island that industry and city leaders have craved for decades.

The dream -- the reality is not much has been built on the main link between Miami Beach and mainland, and nothing is expected any time soon -- was envisioned Friday thanks to an architectural competition called DawnTown. It's the third year of a worldwide competition of dazzling ideas sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Downtown Development Authority.

This year's winning entry was "Miami Glades," submitted by Trevor Curtis and Sylvia Kim of CA Landscape of Seoul, South Korea. Other entries were offered from Moscow, even Bulgaria. The winners and runners-up were announced at Miami Dade College's Batten Room in downtown Miami Friday.

"Wonderful designs flowed in from all around the world," said Andrew Frey, credited with creating the DawnTown theme and putting the pieces together.

With most of the contestants thousands of miles away, Friday's audience was entertained with a host of videos, many quite funny. A shaggy-haired fellow in Moscow stood before pictures of a giant clam-like structure that opened and closed as planes entered and exited.

Gerd Wetzel and Marty Plock of Basel, Switzerland -- coincidence as this week's art events abound -- finished in third place with plan called "Miami Loop." The structure looked like a giant circular earring with an off-kilter doughnut hole in the middle, that could be pushed partially into the bay.

Locally, the team from NC-Office of Miami pieced together "Large Roof," which from above looked much like crinkled paper, but inside offered a cavernous, castle-like feel.

The video and project pieced together by Florida International University professor Nik Nedev, his brother Peter Nedev, Elizabeth Cardona, Cristina Canton and Jorge San Martin was the funniest, as they filmed what looked like someone eyeing the structure from inside an airplane made of cardboard with a cut-out window as it flew to Watson Island. The goal of the architectural competition is to solicit dazzling ideas to spiff up downtown Miami's worn public infrastructure, which has failed to keep pace with the district's burgeoning revival.

Last year's winning entry, from Australia, proposed putting a shell-like "diaphragm" over the long-shuttered Bicentennial Park Metromover tracks, and setting it aglow. The previous year, the whimsical winner was a scheme to cover the park's drab sewage pump station, which fronts Biscayne Boulevard, with a giant, writhing and very orange anemone-like creature.

Neither scheme has been realized. But the competition's sponsors have met with city and Miami-Dade County officials, hoping they can take some elements -- or, at least, inspiration -- from the conceptual plans as they transform Bicentennial Park into the long-planned Museum Park.

The contest, the brainchild of Frey, a Miami lawyer and former urban planner, has drawn scores of entries from around the world since its inception. This year, DawnTown received more than 100 submissions.

The three winners -- selected by a panel of local experts -- receive cash prizes, with first place getting \$8,000.

Second place and \$4,000 went to a plan called "Amphibian," composed by a group from New York City. The seaport would be made of four rectangular tilted prisms on various angles that touched the water and reached toward the sky. "Miami Loop" won its creators \$2,000.

[NEWS](#)[SPORTS](#)[ENTERTAINMENT](#)[BUSINESS](#)[LIVING](#)[OPINION](#)[CLASSIFIEDS](#)[SERVICES](#)[Site Map](#) +
[RSS](#) | [MY](#) | [My Yahoo](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Widgets](#) | [Mobile](#) | [Alerts](#) | [Twitter](#)
[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [About our ads](#) | [Copyright](#) | [About The Miami Herald](#) | [About the McClatchy Company](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Work for Us](#)

 Partners: [El Nuevo Herald](#) | [Newspaper in Education](#) | [WLRN](#) | [Miami Herald News](#) | [CBS4 WFOR-TV](#) | [More](#)