DawnTown 2008: Waterworks

An architectural ideas competition for a new waterworks building in Downtown Miami.

Presented by the University of Miami, Florida International University, and Miami Dade College schools of architecture, the Miami Mayor's Office, the Miami Downtown Development Authority, and the Miami Art Museum.

Sponsored by the Miami Downtown Development Authority, Akerman Senterfitt, Burt Hill, HOME Miami, and Brickell Financial Centre.

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Competition Brief

1. Objective

DawnTown 2008: Waterworks invites designers, students, architects, landscape architects, and artists worldwide to generate innovative design proposals for a project that will contribute to the 21st century vision for Downtown Miami. Entrants are directed to redesign an existing infrastructure element at the edge of waterfront Bicentennial Park and the renovated Biscayne Blvd in Downtown Miami, and transform it into a public icon of the new Downtown.

The particular infrastructure element is the pump station operated by the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department. The pump station was built in 1951 on one of the old port piers. The concrete, windowless, flat-roofed building is currently an unsightly structure hiding the important environmental functions contained within. Chain-link fence separates the pump station from its surroundings, thus it does not interact either with the park around it or with Biscayne Boulevard that it faces.

The City has plans to transform Bicentennial Park into Museum Park, and has budgeted a substantial sum to do so. As a result, DawnTown 2008: Waterworks has the potential to inspire what happens to the pump station as part of the park's transformation. Miami Mayor Manny Diaz is supportive of the competition and topic.

Competitors are asked to rethink the envelope of the pump station – symbolically, cosmetically, and functionally. A new enclosure shall be designed to “re-wrap” the existing structure, make it more attractive and better-integrated with the redesigned boulevard and the master plan for the future Bicentennial Park, to be renamed Museum Park, by Cooper Robertson. The pump equipment shall remain completely functional, and access to it by service vehicles must be maintained along the south and east sides.

Competitors should take into account the two important neighbors that will be built within the next five years in Museum Park: the proposed new Miami Art Museum designed by Herzog & De Meuron and the proposed new Science Museum designed by Nicholas Grimshaw Architects.

The new waterworks enclosure should express civic pride through the ambition and the quality of its architecture. Particular attention will be given to the role that the new pavilion would play as an iconic structure during daytime and nighttime

At the same time, the function of the structure shall be better revealed by integrating, without or within the new enclosure, a public space to provide information about the facility's environmental function and raise the awareness of water as an essential component of the life, image, and subsistence of the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, and Florida as a whole. One example of this type of function is the "Info-Box" that was used in Berlin for the reconstruction of important public places during the last decade.

Entries will be judged by an international jury led by the Miami Art Museum's Director, Terry Riley, see Section 5 below. Winners will be announced at a special ceremony during Art Basel Miami Beach. The top three projects will receive cash prizes; the jury will also have the liberty to award special mentions as it sees appropriate.

2. Program

The basic program for the ideas competition includes but is not limited to the following points:

- Imagine a new enclosure or "skin" for the Pump Station, that integrates the use better within the future park design and with the renovated Biscayne Boulevard. The nature and dimensions of this new enclosure are left to the discretion of the competitors. Proposals may range from a new skin applied to the existing walls of the concrete structure, to the creation of entirely new spaces around, in front, or above the existing structure.

- Create a public information space that will provide public information about its environmental function and raise the awareness of water as an essential component of the life, image, and subsistence of the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, and Florida as a whole. One example of this type of function is the "Info-Box" that was used in Berlin for the reconstruction of important public places during the last decade.

- If possible, incorporate "green" design techniques.

- Maintain truck access from Biscayne Blvd along the southern and eastern façades. Although the Museum Park master plan maintains a continuous open space around the structure, the competitors are encouraged to design alternative access solutions in order to reconnect the structure with the Biscayne Blvd sidewalks and the renovated park to the north, see Appendix A – Links for the Bicentennial Park master plan.

3. Existing building

The existing pump station is located on the east side of Biscayne Blvd, just south of the intersection with NE 10th St, in Miami, FL. It was designed in 1951, constructed of

concrete, and measures approximately 145 feet by 60 feet. The central section measures 100.7 feet by 59.6 feet. The northern addition – dumpster and filter area – is approximately 16 feet by 47 feet. The southern section is 31.5 feet by 67.1 feet. The highest portion of the flat roof (parapet) is about 30 feet above main floor elevation for the central section; the other sections are lower. The main floor elevation is 7.74 feet above sea level.

The station has an extensive collection system of wastewater that serves the northeast portion of the City of Miami. The station consists of five 350 horse power pumping units in a wet well/dry well configuration. Flows enter the station via a 72-inch main pipe and a local collection system from the adjacent Bayside area. Flows are screened to remove solid debris and than transmitted underwater to the Central Wastewater Treatment Plan on Virginia Key.

Currently the structure is very uninviting and not compatible with the new structures being built in the area and the proposed Bicentennial Park master plan. The pump station is basically shut off from pedestrians by landscape mounds and chain-link fences. Trucks circulate around the entire structure.

4. Context

The pump station was constructed in 1951 when the surrounding area consisted of industrial facilities and cargo docks. When the Port of Miami was finally moved to Dodge Island across from Downtown and the MacArthur Causeway (I-395) leading to Miami Beach, the cargo slips were filled in to provide space for what became known as Bicentennial Park, which was inaugurated in 1976. Only one deep-water slip remains and it is located immediately to the south of the pump station.

At the present time the pump station is located on the east side of Biscayne Blvd in Downtown Miami, within Bicentennial Park and at the edge of the deep-water slip. Further to the south is the American Airlines Arena (home of the Miami Heat basketball team) designed by Arquitectonica. South of the AAA is an entertainment and shopping center known as Bayside, and south of that is another waterfront park known as Bayfront Park.

To the north of the Pump Station is Bicentennial Park, opened in 1976 on the location of the old piers of the port of Miami. The park will be transformed in the years to come into Museum Park. The Master plan by Cooper Robertson includes the complete redesign of the access and paths to and within the park, new landscaping, and the construction of two museums along the park's northern edge, which is bounded by the expressway to Miami Beach known as I-395 and the elevated Metro Mover. Plans are underway for the Miami Art Museum designed by Herzog & De Meuron with a groundbreaking scheduled for early 2009. The Museum of Science and History has been commissioned to British architect Nicholas Grimshaw, but no plans have been released.

On the west side of Biscayne Blvd and across from the pump station is the Freedom Tower, formerly the headquarters for the Miami News, and now property of Miami Dade College, which uses it as an exhibition space. To the north and the south of the Freedom Tower – from the Arsht Center to Flagler St – one can find a series of new residential skyscrapers of 40 to 50 stories or more. North of I-395 is the Arsht Center, designed by Cesar Pelli & Associates and consisting of performing arts buildings on both sides of Biscayne Boulevard, a symphony hall and a ballet/opera hall. The historic Sears Tower stands next to the ballet/opera hall and may re-opened as a bar and café.

The reconstruction of the Biscayne Blvd was completed in 2008 according to plans designed by the late Brazilian landscape architect, Roberto Burle Marx. Sidewalks were dramatically widened on both sides and a landscaped median installed. All of these new surfaces now show Burle Marx's trademark multi-color tile pattern and an informal planting scheme made famous along the Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro.

5. Jury

Members of the jury are as follows:

- Terry Riley, Director, Miami Art Museum
- Alex Wall, Professor of Urban Design, University of Karlsruhe, Germany
- Loretta Cockrum, CEO, Foram Group
- Cathy Leff, Director, The Wolfsonian-FIU
- Raymond Jungles, Landscape Architect

The organizers reserve the right to modify the composition of the jury without notice.

6. Competition Awards

The jury will award prizes based on subjective evaluation of how each entry addresses the objective, program, and context outlined in this brief. Prizes will be as follows: first prize $8,000; second prize $4,000; third prize $2,000. Additional mentions will be awarded as the jury sees appropriate but additional cash prizes are not guaranteed.

In addition, the City of Miami and the Miami Downtown Development Authority will work with the winning team or individual to determine the feasibility of the proposed redesign.

7. Schedule

- September 22, 2008 Competition brief available and registration opens

- October 17, 2008 Questions deadline, 5 PM
- October 24, 2008 Answers emailed to registrants
- November 7, 2008 Registration deadline, 5 PM
- November 21, 2008 Entry materials deadline, 5 PM
- TBA Exhibition of entries
- December 5, 2008 Jury results announced during Art Basel Miami Beach

8. Eligibility and Registration

The competition is open anyone around the world such as students, designers, artists, architects, landscape architects, and other professionals in related fields.

Entrants may submit as individuals, teams, and/or firms. Members of the committee of architects involved in the preparation of these DawnTown 2008: Waterworks competition materials are excluded from the competition.

In order to register, an entrant must send an email by 5 PM on November 7, 2008, to Gabriel Delgado at gdelgado@mdc.edu and include all of the following information:

- Name of entrant, whether individual or team
- If team, names of all members
- Email address for entrant
- Phone number for entrant
- Mail address for entrant

Upon receipt of such email, the organizers will reply with a four-digit entry identification number. This identification number serves as confirmation that registration has been received, and must be used on final entry images, both dry mounted and electronic, to identify the entrant.

9. Requirements

Entries will only be accepted from entrants that registered by the deadline for registration. No entries will be accepted from entrants that failed to register by the deadline.

- All entries must be presented on a maximum of two 24 inch by 36 inch images. Images must be oriented vertically, i.e. with the long dimension vertical. Any image must include the entrants identification number in letters at least 1/36 of the height of the image, as well as the DawnTown 2008:

Waterworks logo enclosed at least 3/36 of the height of the image. An image may not contain any drawing or text that may identify the entrant or team members, other than the entrant identification number.

- Images must be submitted in two forms: dry mounted on “foam core” or other rigid board, and as high-resolution electronic jpg files.

- One of the images must include the following: 20 inch by 20 inch perspective rendering of the design, and at least 100 but no more than 300 words of text explaining the design. Text should outline general material, structural, and construction techniques, and be of a size to be easily legible. This image may also include other drawings or representations.

- The other image may include any drawings the entrant deems appropriate, but no additional text other than labels of. Such drawings may include elevations, plans, axonometric views, diagrams, details, and additional perspectives to more fully elucidate the design.

One physical model will be accepted but is not a requirement of the competition. The maximum dimensions of such model are 20 inches by 20 inches by 20 inches.

An entrant or team member may submit more than one entry.

Dry mounted images must be sent to DawnTown at the following address:

DawnTown 2008: Waterworks
c/o Andrew Frey
1 SE 3rd Ave, 25th Floor
Miami, FL 33131

Dry mounted images may also be printed in Miami for pickup by DawnTown organizers at the following location:

Fed Ex Kinko's Office & Print
200 S Biscayne Blvd #300
Miami, FL 33131
305-372-3780
kinkos.com

If dry mounted images are printed at the above location, they must be ready for pickup at 5 PM on the entry materials deadline date, and you must send an email confirming that they are ready to be picked up also by 5 PM on that date to Andrew Frey at andrew.frey@akerman.com.

Images in high-resolution electronic jpg format must be mailed to Andrew Frey at andrew.frey@akerman.com by 5 PM on the entry materials deadline date.

If the organizers have not received both the dry mounted and high-resolution electronic images by 5 PM on the entry materials deadline date, the entry will be incomplete and will not be judged. However, any incomplete entry materials received will not be returned to the entrant and may be used by the organizers for contest purposes.

Questions regarding contest brief and requirements may be emailed to Andrew Frey at andrew.frey@akerman.com. The Deadline for questions is October 17, 2008, and responses will be emailed to all registrants as of October 24, 2008.

10. Authorship

All competitors, individual or team, in entering the competition agree that the work they submit is entirely there own and does not infringe any patent or copyright. Likewise, they release all rights of publication and exhibition of their design to the organizers.

11. Ownership and Use of the Design Submissions

Professionals retain control of intellectual property; however, the organizers will retain the ownership of all entries. The organizers will not return any entries. For this reason competitors are advised to make record copies of their design submissions prior to sending them. No restriction is placed on the use of any design submission by its authors.

12. Disqualification

Any competitors who break any of the competition rules or who fail to fulfill the requirements of the competition program will be disqualified and their submission will not be considered.

Special Thanks

Special thanks for their roles in organizing DawnTown 2008: Waterworks go to: at the Univeristy of Miami, Jean-Francois Lejeune for drafting the brief; at Florida International Univeristy, Adam Drisin and Nat Belcher; at Miami Dade College, George Andrews, Vivian Rodriguez, and Aristedes Sanchez-Breton for his web design; at the Miami Mayor's Office, Suzanna Valdez and Kathryn Moore for guiding selection of the competition topic; at MAM, Terry Riley for leading the jury; at the Miami Downtown Development Authority, Loretta Cockrum, Alyce Robertson, and Leo Zabezhinsky; at Burt Hill, Julian Palacios; and at Home Miami, Beth Dunlop. Very special thanks to DawnTown creators Neisen Kasdin, Kai van Hasselt, and Andrew Frey.

Appendix A – Links

The existing pump station is located on the east side of Biscayne Blvd, just south of the intersection with NE 10th St, in Miami, FL. For an excellent introduction to the existing pump station and its surroundings, please see Google Maps (Street View):

http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=25.784522,-80.189375&spn=0.001321,0.002414&t=h&z=19&layer=c&cbll=25.783909,-80.189697&panoid=5Exkp_J9s6Cc32tZsH1wNQ&cbp=1,134.24685556431072,,0,5

Or Microsoft Virtual Earth (Bird's eye view):

http://maps.live.com/default.aspx?v=2&FORM=LMLTCP&cp=n8xjmt89hv55&style=b&lvl=1&tilt=-90&dir=0&alt=-1000&scene=9369952&phx=0&phy=0&phscl=1&encType=1

Aerial Photos

http://virtualaerodrome.com/image_detail.html?p_aircraft_id=8&p_image_id=1646&offset=108
http://virtualaerodrome.com/image_detail.html?p_aircraft_id=8&p_image_id=840&offset=180

Bicentennial (Museum) Park Master Plan

http://www.miamigov.com/Planning/pages/urban_design/Bicentennial.asp

Miami Downtown Development Authority Downtown Master Plan Executive Summary

http://gallery.miamidda.com/Executive_Summary92507.pdf

Downtown Miami new residential buildings

http://www.miamidda.com/business-search.html (For buildings closest to pump station, select from the "District" drop-down menu the "Park West" district.)

Waterworks Examples – Boston and Cambridge

http://flickr.com/photos/jpbergstrom/193475606/
http://flickr.com/photos/tomtheman5/2447432383/

Waterworks Examples – Philadelphia

http://www.aapvrf.cornell.edu/images/graphicimages/waterworks1.jpg
http://z.about.com/d/philadelphia/1/0/z/a/waterworks1.jpg

Appendix B – Images

Figure 1. Historic photo of site before construction of pump station (pre-War) showing docks. (Historical Museum of South Florida)

Figure 2. Historic photo (1950s) of area south of pump station site. Pump station is just outside the image to the right. Area at center is current location of Bayfront Park, the Freedom Tower is at right. (Historical Museum of South Florida).

Appendix B – Images

Figure 3. Doxiadis Plan for Biscayne Boulevard, Bayfront Park and the redevelopment of the former Port. (1966, Doxiadis Associates)

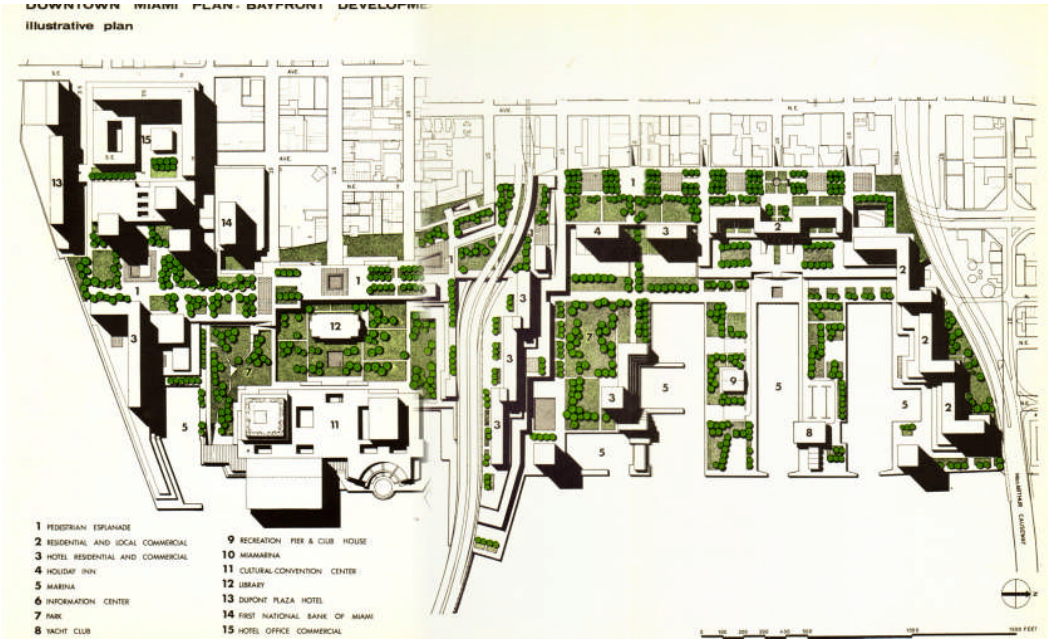
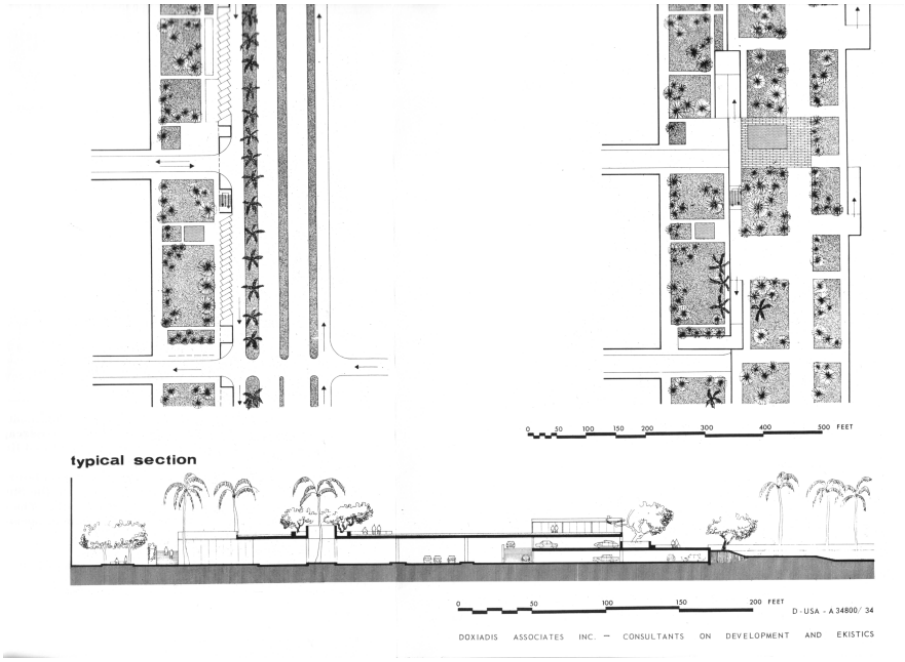


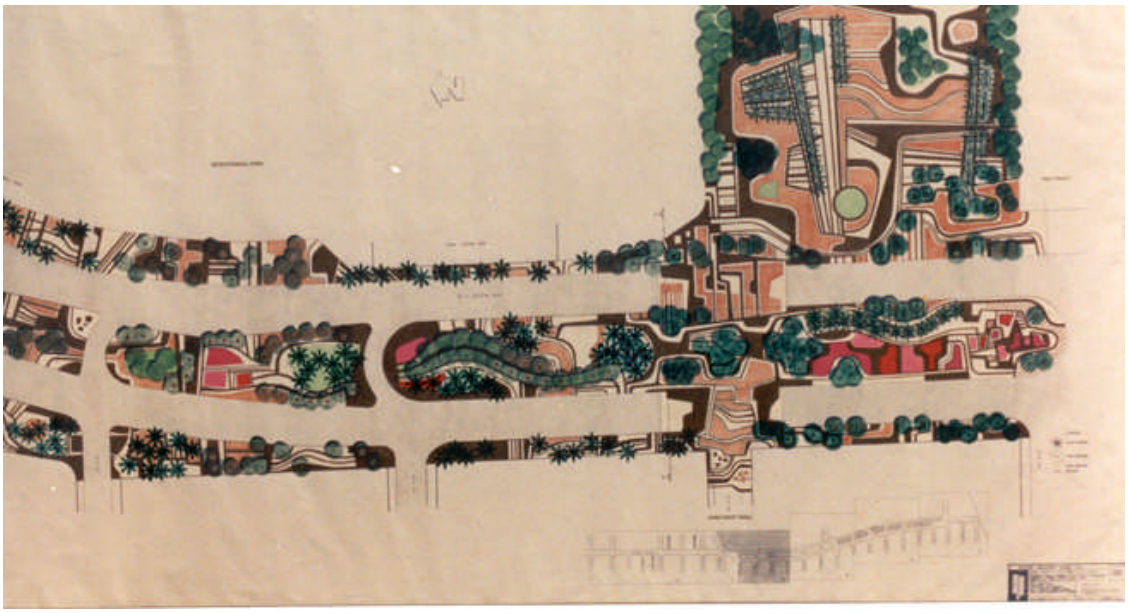
Figure 4. Doxiadis proposal for the section of Biscayne Boulevard. (1966, HMSF)



Appendix B – Images

Figure 5. Bicentennial Park in the 1980s, pump station is visible at upper left. (Historical Museum of South Florida)

Figure 6. Roberto Burle Marx proposal for Biscayne Boulevard (early 1980s), pump station site is at center of drawing to the left of proposed plaza.



Appendix B - Images

Figure 7. Image from Bicentennial Park Master Plan, 2007 version. (Site indicated with red arrow)

Appendix B – Images

Figure 8. Image from Bicentennial Park Master Plan, 2008 version. (Site indicated with red arrow)

Appendix B – Images

Figure 9. Photo of existing pump station, taken from south-west across Biscayne Blvd. (August 2008)

Figure 10. Photo of existing pump station, taken from the north. Sidewalk at right is new but based on design by Roberto Burle Marx. Distance between façade of pump station and edge of the sidewalk is approximately 60 feet. (August 2008)

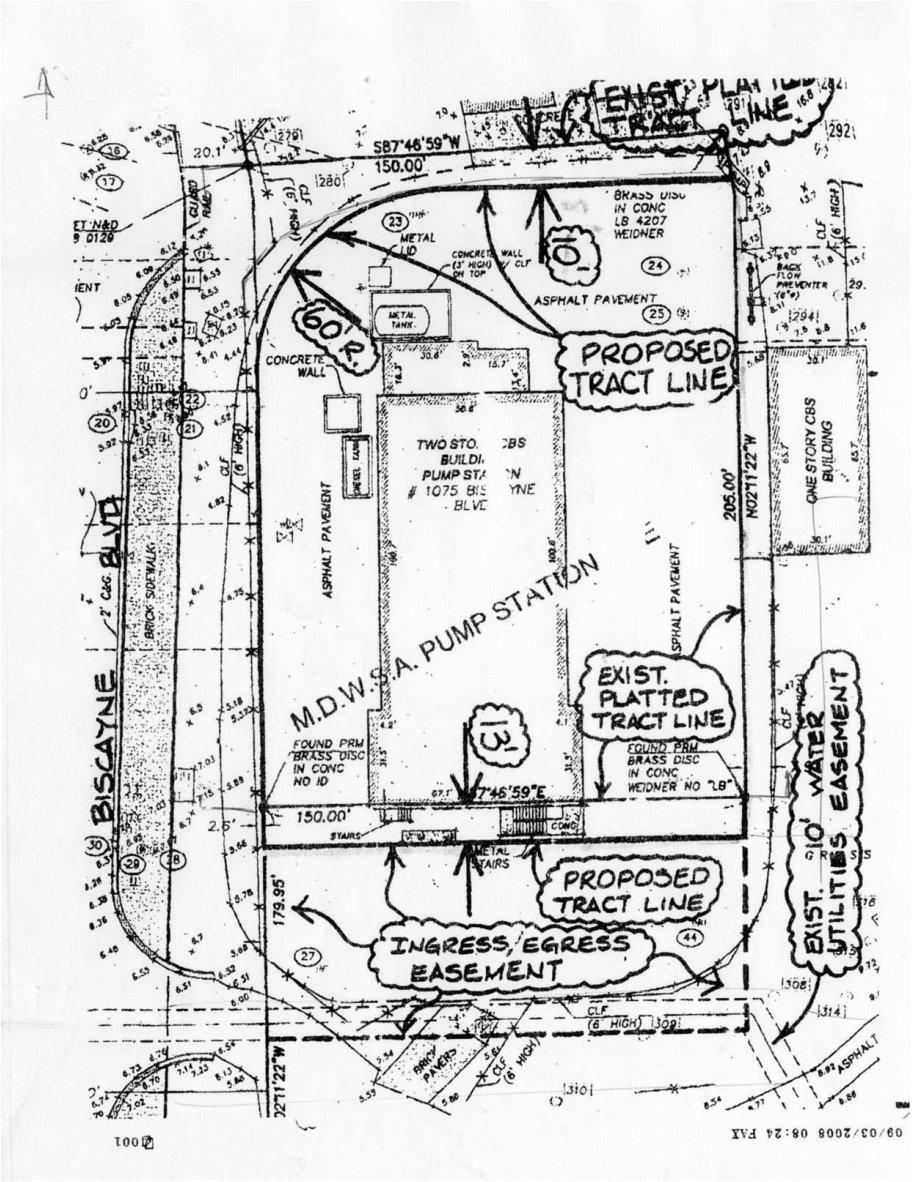
Appendix B – Images

Figure 11. Photo of existing pump station, taken from the north-west, view of façade facing Biscayne Blvd. (August 2008)

Figure 12. Photo of existing pump station, taken from the south-east. Entries must allow truck access to south and east sides for service. (August 2008)

Appendix B - Images

Figure 12. Site plan showing access area to south of existing pump station.



Appendix B – Images

Figure 13. Former site plan.

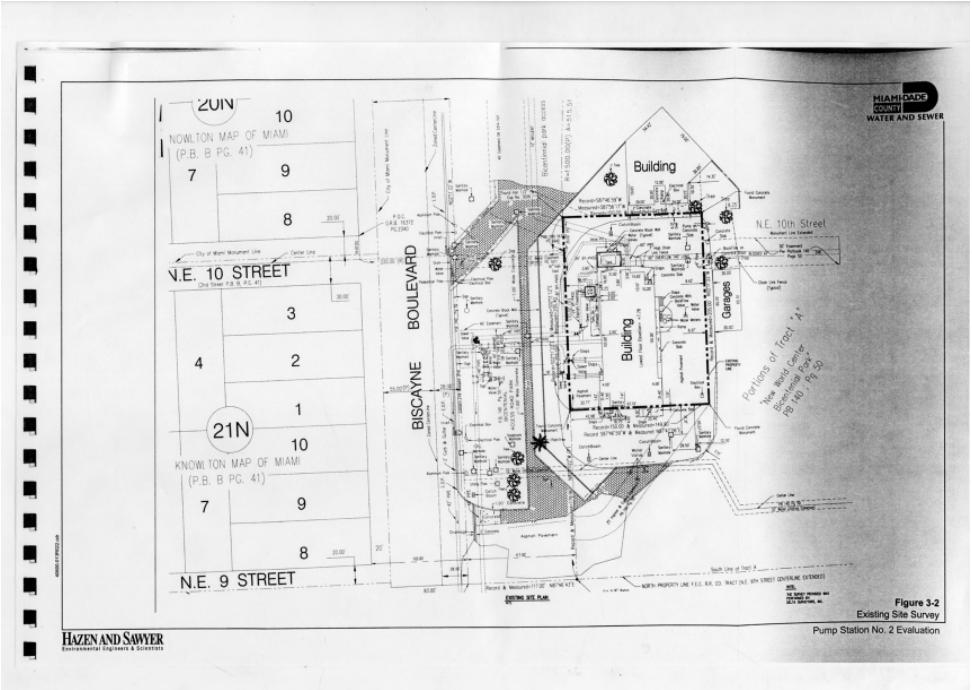
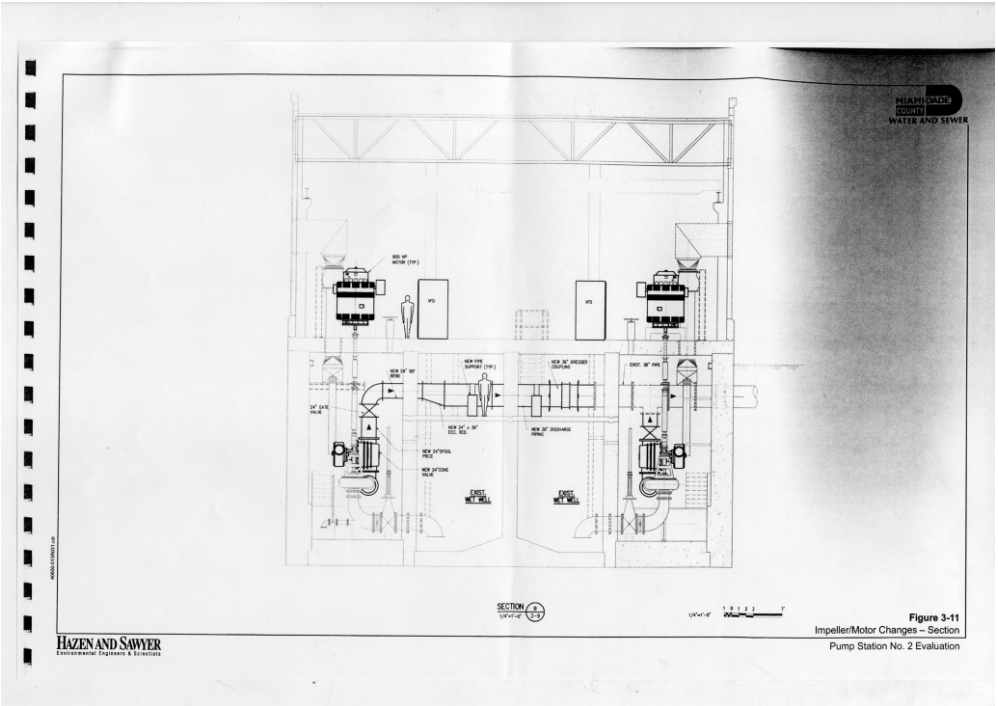


Figure 14. Typical cross-section of existing pump station.



Appendix B – Images

Figure 15. Diagram of flows in and out of pump station.

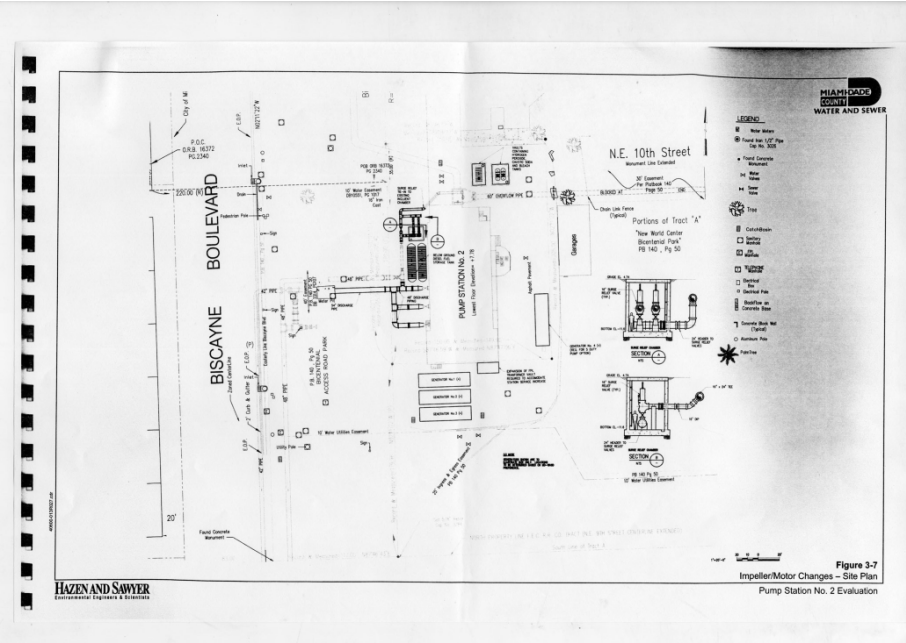


Figure 16. Photo of model of conceptual design of new Miami Art Museum by Herzog & De Meuron (Miami Art Museum, 2008). For more information see miamiartmuseum.org.