

**Interview Subject: Margaret Doyle, wife of Andrew Capitman,  
son of Barbara Capitman**

**Date Recorded: 1-13-12**

**Location: 2655 Pine Tree Drive, Miami Beach**

**Date of Birth: 9-12-43**

Margaret was recruited by Barbara Capitman to assist with the historic restoration of a group of hotel her son Andrew bought. Margaret designed the interior of the Cafe Cardozo, one of the first places serving food on Ocean Drive in the new era.

Margaret Doyle is the daughter in law of Barbara Capitman, married for 32 years to Barbara's son Andrew, who was the primary organizer of the initial phase of restoration. Margaret was a historic preservationist, whom Barbara met, enlisted in the cause, and introduced to her son.

Main thrust of the interview: Barbara Capitman had the idea about saving the Art Deco district but she could not have done it without her son Andrew, who was the organizer.

She talks in detail about refurbishing the hotels that started the core of the restoration and preservation movement -- the Cardozo, the Carlyle, the Victor and the Senator.

Margaret did the hotel interiors with help from Leonard Horowitz, the lead colorist of the restoration effort. She talks about the planning and creation of the Cafe Cardozo, which became the first "in" place to eat on South Beach. "The Cafe had to be a little jewel and it was." She won a beautification award from Miami Beach for her work on it.

She describes how you could sit on the porch of the hotel and see the water then because the beach was much narrower, not like now.

Margaret says when she first came to the Beach she was shocked by the rundown condition of the hotels and the fact that they were all painted the same colors of beige and brown with an occasional white building. She

started painting the exteriors. Color was important to highlight the architectural details and attract attention.

She goes into details about the restoration of the Victor Hotel.

There were not many people involved in historic preservation here in those days (early 80's). She gives credit to Ivan Rodriguez and Vogue Wallan as helping establish the bona fides of the Miami Beach effort. Ruth Shack pushed the historic ordinance through.

Margaret describes Barbara's brilliance at public relations and how she managed to get famous designers and artists like Michael Graves and Andy Warhol to come down to MB.

Margaret describes Barbara's home, the scene of endless parties promoting the Art Deco district. Margaret tells how she and Andrew went to London, had meetings with Freddie Laker, owner of Laker Airlines, who starting flying to Miami because of their efforts.

Margaret describes her troubled relationship with her mother in law and Barbara's personality. Other difficulties she encountered were the "byzantine politics" and corruption and the lack of understanding and acceptance for the historical importance of Miami Beach.