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The planning for Primera Casa (first in Spanish) the first major building on the Tamiami Trail campus of Florida International University, began in 1969, two months after the planning team arrived in Miami. The architects appointed by the Board of Regents were Greenleaf/Telesca, the same firm that had been retained to work with the University in developing the master plan. While the University's planning team recognized the advantages of completing the master plan project in one design, it was obvious that the project would be completed in two phases.



Since the University's primary objective was to obtain additional campus space, the design was oriented toward providing a high density of working space. The design team adopted a modular design approach. The design included a central core area for faculty offices, administrative offices, and service facilities, to be surrounded by classroom and media center.

During the design process, a decision was given to building by building. This concept was adopted to provide a design that was economically feasible. To be more feasible, office areas were designed to be flexible. The design team also considered the needs of the future. Even at the time of the design, the design team was flexible.

PRIMERA CASA

When the design team was given the task of designing the first building, they realized and were it was determined that faculty offices and general offices would be housed in the second building, the design that had been designed for faculty offices in the first facility were conveyed to make student activity areas, faculty and student lounges, expanded media center and general

The planning for Primera Casa (first house in Spanish) the first major building on the Tamiami Campus of Florida International University, began in November, 1969, two months after the planning team arrived in Miami. The architects appointed by the Board of Regents were Greenleaf/Telesca, the same firm that had been retained to work with the University in developing the master plan. While the University's planning team recognized the advantages of completing the master plan prior to building design, it was obvious that time would not allow this luxury.

Since the University had no assurance of obtaining additional capital funds, the initial planning was oriented toward opening with one building; thus, the working name of "Multi Purpose Building" was adopted. Included in the functions to be accommodated were classrooms, teaching laboratories, faculty office areas, administrative office areas, library, food service facilities, book store, student activity areas and media center.

During the early planning, emphasis was given to making the building very flexible. This concept was adjusted to provide a building that was economically possible. To the degree feasible, office areas were designed to be convertible to other functions such as classrooms, laboratories, lounges, etc. Even as the building was being constructed, the flexibility was utilized. When funds for the second building were received and when it was determined that faculty offices and general classrooms could be housed in the second building, the areas that had been designed for faculty offices in the first facility were converted to house student activity space, faculty and student lounges, expanded media center and general

classrooms.

In addition to the building architect, other professional advisors in the areas of landscape and interior design were engaged by the University. The firm of James E. Voss designed the landscape plan which integrated the various planters with the roadway, the building and the buffer zone. To advise on interior, the University employed the nationally known firm of Henry End, Incorporated.

Perhaps the most outstanding exterior features of the building are the concrete and bronze mural and the heavily textured wall panels. Al Vrana was responsible for the design of both these elements, and his description of the mural is on page 4.

Primera Casa will be completed by the construction firm of McDevitt & Street of Charlotte, North Carolina, and turned over to the University by the middle of June. All staff scheduled to be housed in the building should occupy quarters in it by July 15th.

Listed below are some of the "vital statistics" of Primera Casa:

Total Gross Area	200,350 sq.ft.
Total Cost of Building	\$5,678,550
Cost per Gross Square Foot	\$28.34
Construction Period	18 months
Number of General Class- rooms	42
Number of Student Stations in Classrooms	1,992
Number of Teaching Labora- tories	12
Library Area	29,312 sq.ft.
Book Stack Capacity	150,000 volumes

The interior roads and parking lots now under construction will accommodate traffic from the University's main entrance, providing parking for approximately 1,500 automobiles. This project, designed by Greenleaf/Telesca and coordinated through the State Department of Transportation, is being contracted by Troup Brothers, Incorporated.



One of two major buildings which will be ready for occupancy in 1972 is this five-story Multi-purpose Building.

Conception and Statement of Al Vrana

Title: LAS CUATRO RAZAS (The Four Races)

As we stood at the ground breaking ceremonies for this first building, I heard Mr. U Thant, Secretary General of the United Nations, appeal for international understanding. "How fitting," I thought, "that F.I.U. will soon dominate higher education in South Florida. Miami points like a probe into Latin American culture to the south. It would not be enough for F.I.U. to be international in name only, but to be truly international it must recognize the opportunity to inject a mixing of culture in the life that surrounds it.

This influenced me to title my sculpture "The Four Races" (in Spanish). I hope this may begin to expose the student body to a new realization of internationalism, different races and ethnic backgrounds. I chose the theme "The Four Races" because I see in the lack of understanding between races the biggest obstacle and the continued division of the world's population. Compatibility between races is of monumental importance to the youth of today, for it stands as the largest roadblock toward a real one world.

The bold, massive architectural design, the use of natural concrete, the sculptured, textured walls in concrete and the pedestrian traffic flow all dictate an environment in which I feel my sculpture must be an integral part. The sculpture must relate to this specific area. So with these predetermined components well in mind, I proceeded with my design in bronze and concrete.

With my sculpture for the Multi Purpose Building, I have tried to show a three-dimensional contemporary interpretation of the four races of man. Interconnected yet separate, with a common background. Some say this background resembles an urban skyline. I leave the viewer to his own personal and different interpretations. The relationship to a family concept, I think, is most strong. The sculpture also points out the division, yet the beginnings of understanding.

In my design of bronze and concrete, I hope to project the viewer's thinking into the unity of the human family and the advantages of related differences, but most of all to the direction young people have taken toward compatibility.

A. Vrana

