



# CAPITAL

**IDEAS**

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## *Welcome to the Oasis*



complete harmony with the surrounding environment. He met the challenge head on with creativity, imagination, energetic vision and an enterprising approach, all the while adhering to the strict requirements for foundation design, site drainage, building lighting and AIA access.

Characterized by a twenty seven million dollar promenade on the beach, the Fort Lauderdale Beach Revitalization Project embodies the true spirit and fun of Fort Lauderdale. Just has perfectly captured the vitality of this spirit in the Official Visitors Welcome Center and Oasis Cafe.

The rounded arches of the cafe and red barrel tile roof pleasantly complement the undulating lines

"Welcome to the Oasis." These words conjure up positive, inviting images and they are best epitomized in Fort Lauderdale's distinctive landmark, the Official Visitors Welcome Center and Oasis Cafe. This is where the

Situated center stage between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway on a peninsula where A1A north and A1A south converge, this building is a true visual surprise. It is a testimony to the conceptual talent, energy, and vision of its architect, Paul W. Just III, President of Architectural Building Technology. In association with internationally known landscape architect Edward Stone (EDSA), Just has created a welcoming oasis which offers lush surroundings, a refuge for the beach goer, a welcome for the tourist and a distinctive landmark for the city.

The creation of a building on this particular site was no easy feat. The Florida Departments of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Transportation set the stage with the toughest of state mandated building constraints on projects within the Coastal Construction Zone. The Welcome Center/Oasis Cafe was to be no exception. Architect Just offered a masterful solution in

of the beach wall and red brick beach promenade. The building itself gives the observer a feeling of circular, harmonious proportions, and infinite motion in keeping with the continuous curling waves of the Atlantic.

The site, originally a forties-something gas station, offers a perfectly enchanting three-sided panorama featuring the Atlantic Ocean, the Intracoastal and the skyline of downtown Fort Lauderdale. To fully capitalize on this, the most perfect of spots, Just had the foresight to add a second story to his design. Relax upstairs, cold drink in hand, and watch watercraft of all sizes ply both the Intracoastal and the open ocean. Sit downstairs and watch the world walk, jog, bike, or rollerblade on the beach promenade. Paul Just has given us the best of both worlds. "Welcome to the Oasis."

by Cheryl Ribback

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"welcome" and the "oasis" are appropriately coupled under one roof, virtually symbolizing the gateway to the fun and the pleasures of Fort Lauderdale Beach.

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