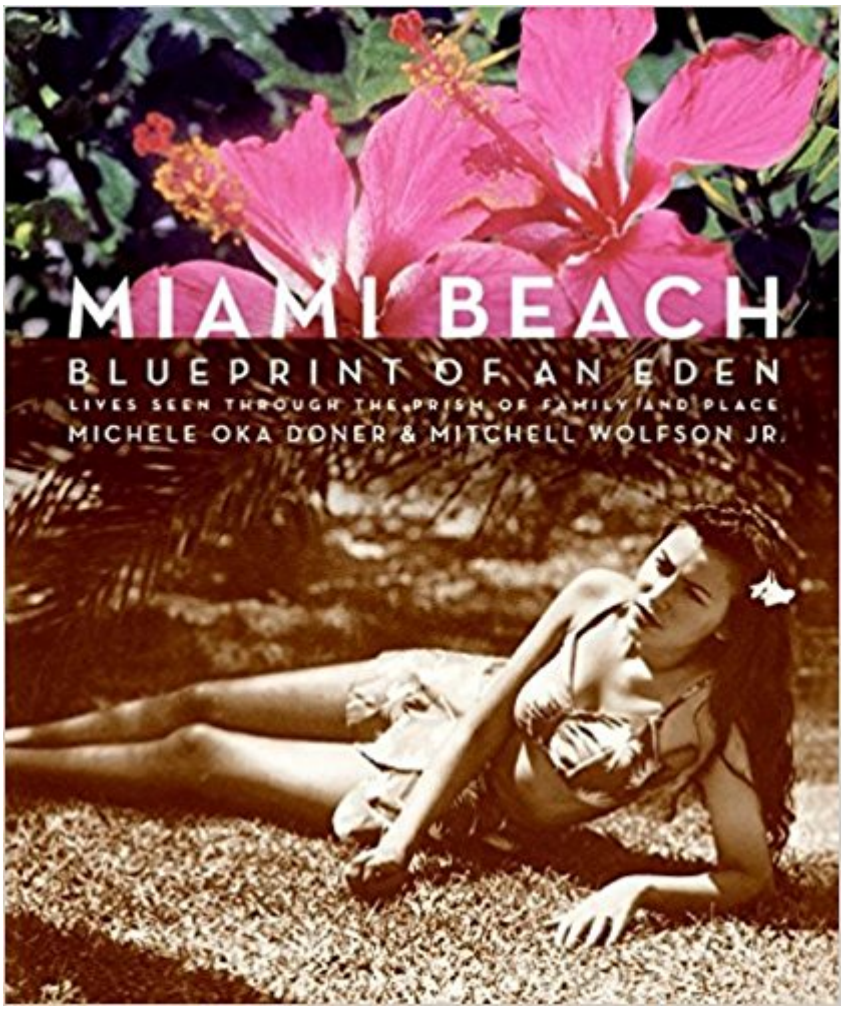
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Miami Beach: Blueprint Of An Eden



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Synopsis

Miami Beach is the story of an extraordinary time and place, told through the prism of two founding families, the Wolfsons and the Okas. The authors' fathers were each mayors of Miami Beach, one in the 1940s and the other in the '50s and early '60s, and their mothers were prominent first ladies, who regularly welcomed the crÃƒÂ¨me de la crÃƒÂ¨me of society to their enchanting city. The Wolfsons' and Okas' exhaustive family archives provide a rich cultural, architectural, political, social, botanical, stylistic, gastronomic, geological, and poetic history of the contemporary phenomenon that is Miami Beach. At once an intimate memoir, a sprawling history, and a work of great artistic integrity, Miami Beach invites you to step back into a world so visual, mythical, and filled with family lore that its local intensity illuminates a national character.

Book Information

Hardcover: 328 pages

Publisher: Harper Design; 1 edition (October 23, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061346160

ISBN-13: 978-0061346163

Product Dimensions: 11.7 x 9.9 x 1.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,511,269 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Beaches #5027 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Travel #7491 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference

Customer Reviews

"Eden Rocks! I'll spray my copy lavishly with orange blossom, kiss my key to the City and dive in." --Herbert Muschamp "The New York Times" --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

No other book on Miami Beach brings together Mickey Mouse, Eleanor Roosevelt, Madame Chiang Kai-shek, the composer Manna Zucca, the horticulturalist Tashiro family, opera singer Renata Tebaldi; the singing cowboy Gene Autry, master photographer Arnold Newman, Joan Fields and her Stradivarius, Oscar winner Geraldine Page, producer Robert Evans, architect Morris Lapidus, Jacqueline Kennedy, Anita Eckberg, Frank Sinatra, Jackie Gleason, concert pianist Gina Bachauer,

Maestro Leonard Bernstein, Joan Crawford, Bob Hope, Ed Sullivan, Zorita the snake charmer, John Wayne, Washington politicos, haute couture fashion runways, and pre-Vegas nightlife...in a memoir that is so visual, conversational, poetic and filled with family history, that its local intensity illuminates a national character. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

The book is a quick read and majority of it black and white,there are blueprints and some very good rare photos,there is a caption referring to the times as the cold war etc. didn't impress me and the photos of the Miami Beach Jaycees carrying FDR's Fascistic War Slogans,rumors start ...Our Enemies,etc. (Many people do not realize even though this was a time of war,FDR was a Fascist,the New Deal was.) . the book nonetheless is very interesting although very heavy on the botanical side,artsy elitist types, and on fashion,galas,what she is wearing etc.,my favorite is the WTVJ CHANNEL 4(then ch.4/Wometco,etc) photos and the fountainbleu spread.Nice big hardcover with No dustjacket. Can't complain I got a new copy for $3 from the store.I recommend reading Miami Beach Memories.

So many personal memories came to life because of this lovely book. There are many other readers like me who grew up in Miami Beach and perhaps also danced around the Maypole in North Beach Elementary. I especially liked the glamorous photos - the movie star quality of Gertrude Oka - and the dressed-up glitz of Miami Beach's image, where fur stoles were a must. There were pictures of many wonderful buildings, and many of these were given depth by architectural drawings and historical comments.

Love the stories & photos are from time pasted. Big heavy book...makes a great coffee table book. A must have.

As good as new! I am super pleased!

for my friend , great and good experience. Super product, great handle. Ordering another! love it . good product with high quality.

This fascinating look at the creation of Miami Beach and its early history is told by its authors through the looking glass of their prominent families. Both the Oka and Wolfson families have been highly visible players in Miami Beach's political and social life for decades.This book is filled with

interesting black and white photos -- many from family archives -- not found elsewhere. The book tells the story of Miami Beach from a uniquely personal perspective. From its early development from a huge mangrove swamp through the glamorous sixties when world famous entertainers lived, performed and partied in Miami Beach, this book is evokes Miami Beach's romantic past. [...]

I grew up in Miami Beach a bit later than the authors. When the book arrived I couldn't put it down. I loved the photos and historic reference; they showed just how special Miami Beach was. My only wish is that the authors would have expanded their history a bit.Perhaps add info on Central Beach Elementary, Ida M Fisher Junior and Miami Beach High as well as some of the other early landmarks (the Post Office on Washington Avenue). I realize the authors wrote through their own families' experience, but there is so much more... and so many others who contributed so much to the city.Hopefully one day they'll do another book to immortalize a truly "Magic City."

A stunningly beautiful photographic history of Miami Beach. The photographs are from the archives of 2 prominent Miami Beach families. They took the community from a small tropical village into a world class posh resort. Its fascinating to read and see the evolution of one of my favorite places. A great coffee table book.

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