



## LOST LANDMARKS: MIAMI PUBLIC LIBRARY

After World War II, Miami's leaders knew the city needed a grand library it could be proud of, but the question of where to build it sparked a fierce debate that stretched for five years. It ended up being constructed in the middle of Bayfront Park, and as work started in 1950, angry residents objected that it blocked the view of the bay, where Flagler Street met Biscayne Boulevard.

Three decades later, an equally contentious debate waged for several years about whether to tear it down as part of a massive renovation of the park. In 1986 a wrecking ball destroyed the two-story marble-covered building.

"That's where I grew up in the '50s and '60s," said William Urbizu, assistant director of the Miami-Dade Public Library System. "It had beautiful windows overlooking the bay. It was a very inviting place to sit and read."

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