

645 COLLINS AVENUE, MIAMI BEACH, FL

This property occupies Lot 14 of Block 11 in the Ocean Beach Addition 1 Subdivision of Miami Beach. This subdivision was platted in 1914, before Miami Beach was incorporated. This is part of the Ocean Drive-Collins Ave Historic District & the National Miami Beach Art Deco District.

The City issued a building permit for a Synagogue on January 23, 1961, to the Sephardic Jewish Center. The Synagogue flourished until the late 1980's. the building design was symmetrical with a centered double door entry up three steps accentuated by double arches. Representing the 10 commandment tablets flanked with linear rows of Star of David's horizontally on each side. There were no front facing windows. The lot is 50 x 140 feet and the building was constructed approximately the same width by 110 feet deep for a total of 5,500 sq.ft. there was a subsequent addition at the rear in 1967.<sup>1</sup>

The building was sold in 1991 and in 1992 was renovated & converted to the star night club. There was a surge of night clubs in the area. Microfilm reveals an angular canopy supported by cables, along with symmetrical ramps on either side and angular hand/guard rails.

In 1994 young Architect Ari Sklar returned from college to his hometown of Miami Beach and met his wife at this club. During a fundraiser event. Coincidentally, Ari became the Architect for the subsequent renovation & conversion to a retail store in 1996 when the building was sold. The design for the store at that time was symmetrically based upon the original structure. Store front windows were installed on both sides along with double glass doors in the center. A round metallic modern/postmodern tower was the focal piece above the door & parapet with a central sign for the Owner's business called Deco Denim.

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<sup>1</sup> Permit Card #177, Miami Beach Building Dept.

The angular ramp railings were maintained and those features were replicated in the tower as well. In 2006 the building went under a renovation to remove the tower and install a flat linear awkward awing which is still in place today.