



ADAMS PHOTOGRAPH, 1938 COURTESY OF L. MURRAY DIXON ARCHIVE AT THE BASS MUSEUM

ADAMS: HISTORY 1938

The Adams Hotel is located at 2040 Park Avenue on the corner of 21st Street and was designed by the master Architect L. Murray Dixon as a three story apartment-hotel in 1938.

“Resort owners from the Catskills, whose early development pre-dated Miami Beach, expanded out in the 1930’s. Thus the...Adams Hotel belonged to the ‘White roe’ group. Emerging from the regular mass of the building the facade transformed itself into a stepped tower element - a miniature skyscraper - topped by a romantic lantern. It was a strategy that Dixon would repeat, most notably at the Adams Hotel (1938). By selectively and rather creatively applying the Modernist classical vocabulary until 1942, Dixon demonstrated a pattern of synthesis and continual recombination that allowed new themes to develop while maintaining consistency and continuity. “ (1)

The Adams Hotel ...was another large deco-style building that integrated streamlined elements. It was the first multi-story structure,, along with Hohausers Essex hotel, to feature a curved facade as compositional center symmetrically composed about the diagonal. “(1)

The brilliant original design shows the interplay of the elongated vertical second floor windows with the ribbon banding of the third floor windws creates a wonderfully tensioned corner design reminiscent of streamlined ocean liners with smoke stacks looming overhead. This 1938 historic photograph above also shows the original casement windows, parapet railings and weathervane.

“The rooftop tower of the Adams is a hard-to-see masterpiece of whimsy. A touch of futurism and fantasy is added through finials inspired by the space age needles or trylons of Buck Rogers movie lore” (2)

(1) Jean Francois LeJeune and Allan Shulman: The Making of Miami Beach, The Architecture of L. Murray Dixon

(2) Deco Delights by Barbara Baer Capitment, 1988



ADAMS: HISTORY 1999

At this time the Adams was still occupied as an apartment/hotel. The raised square medallions are a prominent design feature along the facade utilized in a vertical pattern.

