

Design Elements

From about 1945 to the mid-1960s, the widely popular MiMo style was applied to hotels, apartment houses, commercial buildings and single-family homes throughout Miami Beach.

MiMo style buildings generally made an extensive use of plate glass, poured concrete and special materials such as glass mosaic tile, architectural screen block, crab orchard stone, as well as expansive use of high-grade marble, and rare hardwoods on the public interiors. They often mixed two or more textured surfaces together (i.e. stucco with stone, brick, or tile, as well as contrasting smooth and patterned stucco surfaces). The style featured such dramatic elements as accordion-like folded plane roofs and walls, acute angles or subtle angles, dynamic parabolas, delta wing shapes, sweeping curved walls, and soaring pylons.

Other commonly occurring design elements and materials were added to the MiMo architectural vocabulary. They included [brise-soleils](#), architectural accents with exotic themes, and often wall sculptures in relief, brick or stone faced feature areas. Cast concrete decorative panels were displayed with geometric patterns. There was a remarkable use of architectural [screen block](#) in a wide variety of design patterns lending itself so well to natural air flow in this tropical environment. Architect Morris Lapidus further expanded the architectural language of this style when he made popular "[cheese holes](#)," "[woggles](#)," and "[beanpoles](#)."