

**MERRICK PARK HOTEL, Coral Gables**  
***“ART IN PUBLIC PLACE”***  
**Concept Submittal 06/28/2018**

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# Michele Oka Doner

## Biography

**Michele Oka Doner** is an internationally renowned artist whose career spans four decades. The breadth of her artistic production encompasses sculpture, furniture, jewelry, public art, functional objects, video, as well as costume and set design. Whether large scale architectural projects or intimately scaled objects, Oka Doner's work is fueled by a lifelong study and appreciation of the natural world, from which she derives her formal vocabulary. She is well known for creating numerous public art installations throughout the United States, including *Radiant Site* at New York's Herald Square subway, *Flight* at Washington's Reagan International Airport and *A Walk on the Beach* at The Miami International Airport (1995-2010), which features nine thousand unique bronze sculptures inlaid over a mile-and-a-quarter long concourse of terrazzo with mother-of-pearl, one of the largest public artworks in the world. Oka Doner's other public art projects can be found in federal courthouses, public libraries, hospitals, universities, other transportation centers and public parks.

Oka Doner is represented by Marlborough Gallery, New York. In addition to major solo exhibitions at Marlborough, her artwork can be found in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs at the Louvre, The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, The Dallas Museum of Art, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the St. Louis Art Museum, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, The University of Michigan Museum of Art, the Yale Art Gallery and the Princeton University Art Museum, among others. She has created collections with Steuben in glass, Christofle in silver and Nymphenburg in porcelain. Publications about her work include three monographs: *Natural Seduction* (Hudson Hills Press, 2003), *Workbook* (Oka Press, 2004), and *HumanNature* (Edizioni Charta, 2008). Her most recent book is *Into the Mysterium* (Regan Arts, 2016).

<http://www.micheleokadoner.com>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michele\\_Oka\\_Doner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michele_Oka_Doner)

Contact: Michele Oka Doner 212 334-9056

[info@micheleokadoner.com](mailto:info@micheleokadoner.com)

Updated: December 1, 2015

## ARTIST'S CREDENTIALS

Artist: **Michele Oka Doner**

*Past Works*



Queen Bee, 2007  
Joyce Boutique, Hong Kong  
Gilded steel, cast bronze, sterling silver  
23 x 23 x 3 feet  
Budget 1,000,000

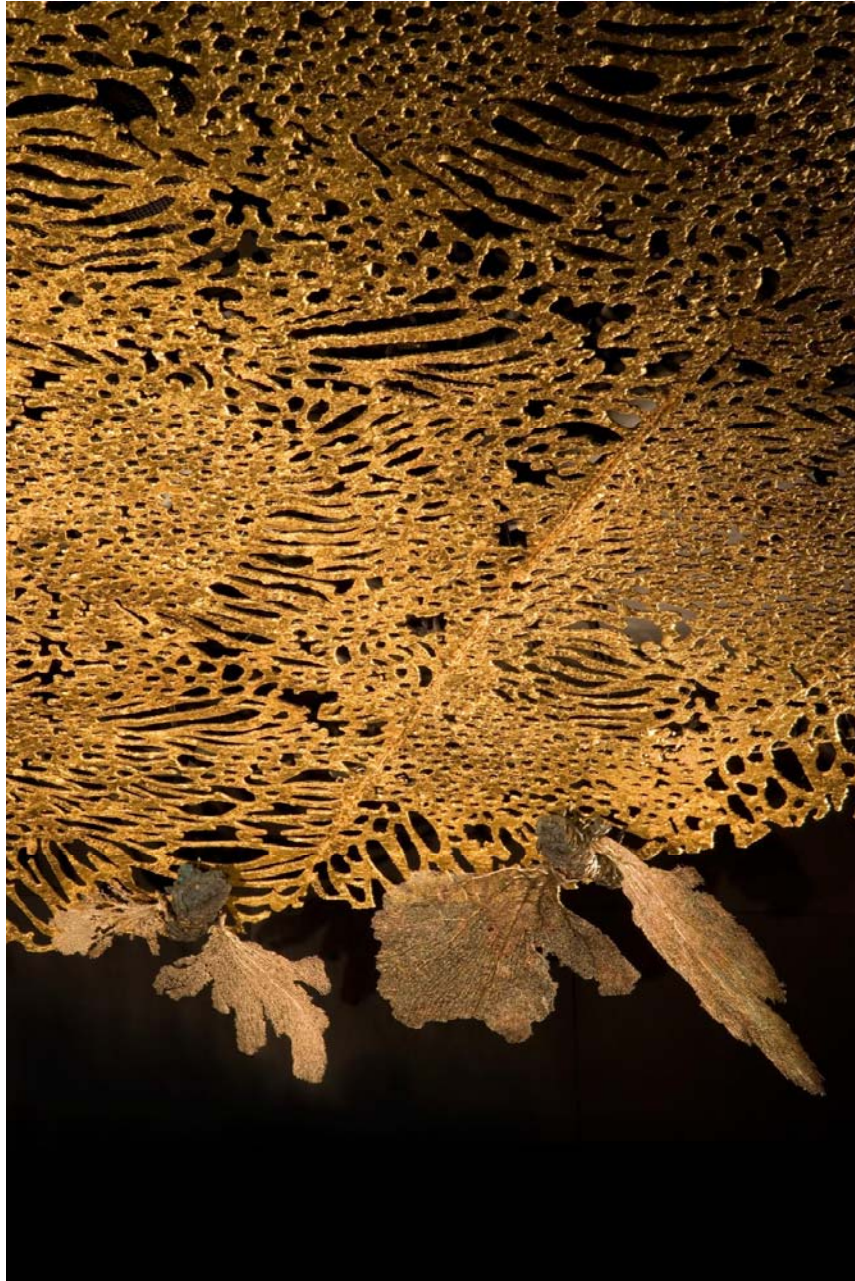


Miami International Airport (MIA)  
Galaxy, 2008  
Cast bronze in terrazzo with mother-of-pearl  
.5 inches x 30 feet x 6600 feet  
Budget: 6,000,000

## ARTIST'S CREDENTIALS

Artist: Michele Oka Doner

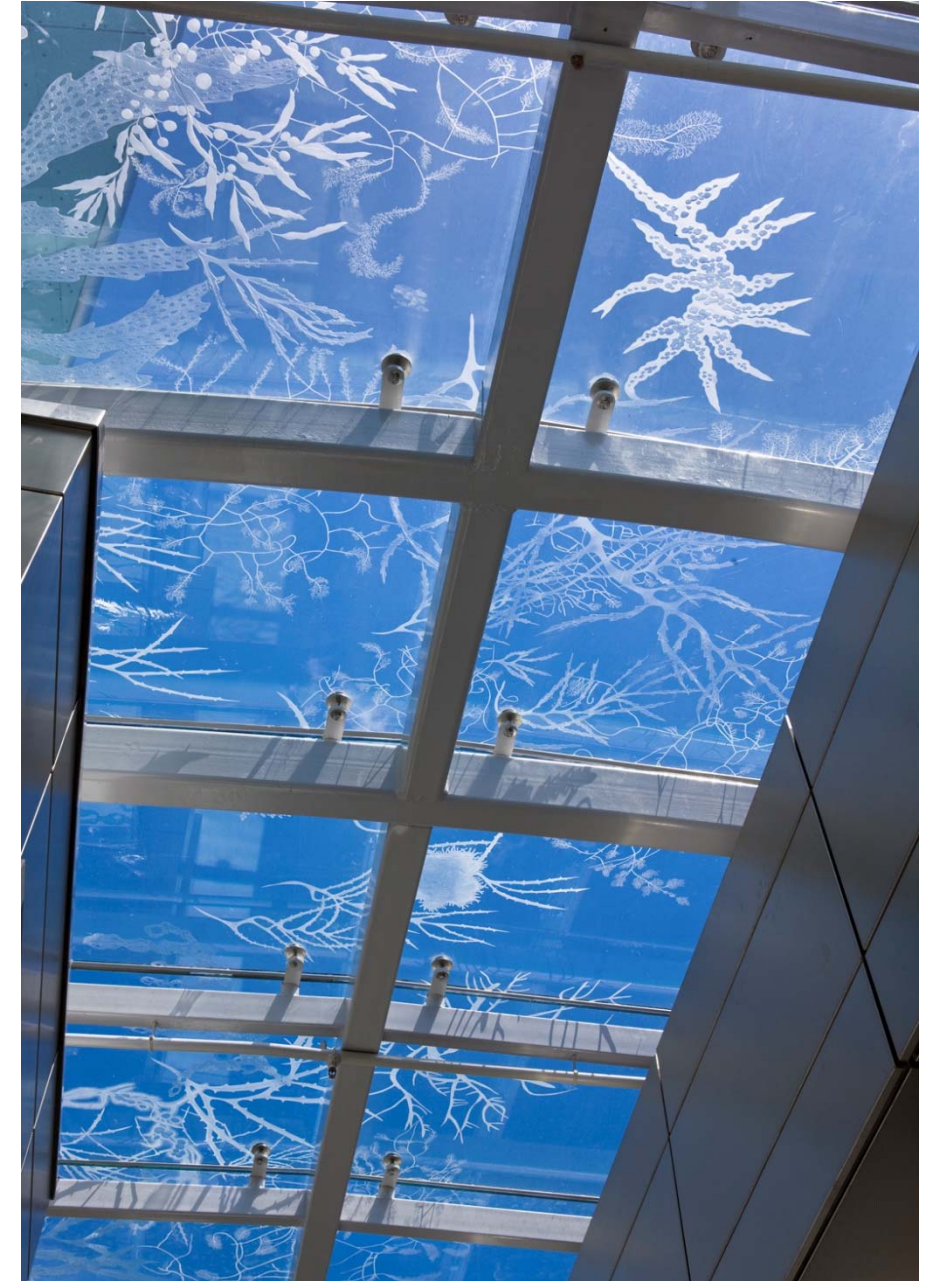
Past Works



Queen Bee, 2007  
Joyce Boutique, Hong Kong  
Gilded steel, cast bronze, sterling silver  
23 x 23 x 3 feet  
Budget 1,000,000



Miami International Airport (MIA)  
A Walk on the Beach, 1999-2008  
Cast bronze in terrazzo with mother-of-pearl  
.5 inches x 30 feet x 6600 feet  
Budget: 6,000,000



Sargassum, 2012  
Miami Intermodal Center, Miami, FL  
Hand etched and sandblasted glass  
19 x 42 x 45 feet  
Budget: 725,000

## ARTIST'S CREDENTIALS

Artist: **Michele Oka Doner**

CV Highlights:

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016 How I Caught A Swallow in Mid-Air, Perez Art Museum Miami, Miami Florida  
2015 Mysterium, David Gill Gallery, London, UK  
Feasting On Bark, Marlborough Gallery, New York, New York  
2014 The Shaman's Hut, Christies, New York, New York (catalog)  
2012 Earth, Air, Fire, Water. Art Association of Jackson Hole, Jackson Hole, Wyoming  
2011 Michele Oka Doner: Exhaling Gnosis, Miami Biennale, Miami, Florida (catalog)  
Neuration of the Genus, Dieu Donné Gallery, New York, New York (catalog)  
2010 Down to Earth, Nymphenburg Palace, Munich, Germany (online catalog:  
<http://www.nymphenburg.com/en/products/editions/down-to-earth>)  
Spirit and Form: Michele Oka Doner and the Natural World, Frederik Meijer  
Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan (catalog)  
2008 Michele Oka Doner: HumanNature (Bronze, Clay, Porcelain, Works on Paper),  
Marlborough Gallery (Chelsea), New York, New York (catalog)  
2004 Four Decades, Four Media, Marlborough Gallery, New York, New York  
2003 Michele Oka Doner: New Sculpture, Marlborough Gallery (Chelsea), New York,  
New York (catalog)  
Fleeting Moments, MIA Gallery, Miami, Florida (catalog)  
Polarities, Lobby Gallery, The Wall Street Journal Building, New York, New York  
Palmacae, Christofle, Paris, France, 2001 ELP Studio, Rome, Italy  
2000 Paper/Papers, Willoughby Sharp Gallery, New York, New York  
A Fuoco, Studio Stefania Miscetti, Rome, Italy  
1998 Ceremonial Silver, Primavera Gallery, New York, New York (catalog)  
1991 Michele Oka Doner Sculpture. Feigenson/Preston Gallery, Detroit, Michigan  
Full Circle: Works in Bronze. Gloria Luria Gallery, Miami, Florida  
1990 Art et Industrie, New York, New York (catalog)  
The Pewabic Society, Detroit, Michigan  
Michele Oka Doner: Works in Bronze. Alice Simsar Gallery, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Mid-Career Retrospective, Meadow Brook Art Gallery, Oakland University, Rochester,  
Michigan (catalog)  
1989 Art et Industrie, New York, New York  
Burning Branches. Furniture of the Twentieth Century, New York, New York  
1988 Figures & Fantasy, Gloria Luria Gallery, Miami, Florida  
1987 Sculpture, Diane Brown Gallery, New York, New York  
Protista, Forecast Gallery, Peekskill, New York  
1984 On Broken Form. Germans Van Eck Gallery, New York, New York© 2015  
Michele Oka Doner 2

1978 Works in Progress: Michele Oka Doner, Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit, Michigan  
(catalog)

1975 Burial Pieces, Gallery Seven, Detroit, Michigan

1971 Ceramic Sculpture, Gertrude Kasse Gallery, Detroit, Michigan

1968 Forsythe Gallery, Ann Arbor, Michigan

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015 Philodendron: an Interdisciplinary Survey Following Tropical Plants from the Jungle to  
the Home, The Wolfsonian-FIU, Miami Beach, Florida

VERSTECKT/hidden, NG39 Art Space, Raiding, Austria

Art in Embassies Exhibition, U.S. Embassy, Singapore (catalog)

2014 Another Look at Detroit, Marlborough Gallery and Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York,  
New York

The Human Condition: The Stephen and Pamela Hootkin Collection. Chazen Museum  
of Art, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin (catalog)

Committed to Paper: Master Drawings and Prints by Sculptors. Frederik Meijer  
Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan

"SoulCatchers" and "Glyphs" videos, GardenMusic Festival, Fairchild Tropical Gardens,  
Coral Gables, Florida

2013 Paperworks, The Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

From Picasso to Koons, Bass Museum, Miami Beach Florida

The Distaff Side, The Granary: Collection of Melva Bucksbaum and Raymond Learsy

Die Tasche, Bayerische National Museum, Munich, Germany

MYTHOS: Visions from Mythology and Legend, Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, New  
Jersey

The Dorsky Collects: Recent Acquisitions 2008-2012, The Samuel Dorsky Museum of  
Art, State University of New York, New Paltz, New York

2012 Selections from the Collection in Conversation with Contemporary Works, Bass  
Museum of Art, Miami Beach, Florida

Describing Labor, The Wolfsonian Museum, Miami Beach, Florida (cat.)

Making Ideas: Experiments in Design at Glasslab, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning,  
New York

New York, New York. Christina Grajales Gallery. New York, New York

Sitting Naturally, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Coral Gables, Florida

Fundamental, 2012, Sagamore - Art Basel Exhibition, Miami, Florida

Kleinarbeit – Small Works for a Small Town, Raiding, Austria

"Mark Making: Prints from Wildwood Press., St. Louis University Museum of Art (cat.)

Instagram Art, Whitney Museum/Grey Area, New York, New York

Made in New York: Furnishings and Objects. South Street Seaport Museum, New York,  
New York

Ronaldus Shamask: Form, Fashion, Reflection, Philadelphia Museum, Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania

## ARTWORK DETAILS

**Artist:** *Michele Oka Doner*

**Title:** *A Fertile Portal*

**Year:** *2019*

**Size:** *Overall dimensional coverage: Approx. 14' wide x 12' tall x 3" thick*

**Materials:** *Gilded, metal artwork embedded into laminated glass.*

**Description:** *The artwork is an intricate, decorative gilded metal artwork that will be embedded into the main entry glazing. The unique pattern is organic in its' geometry and will encompass the entire glazing area of the main entry door system of the proposed Merrick Park Hotel. This coverage will be made up of several glazing panels that will be inset into the storefront as part of the door assembly.*

**Images:** Refer to following pages.

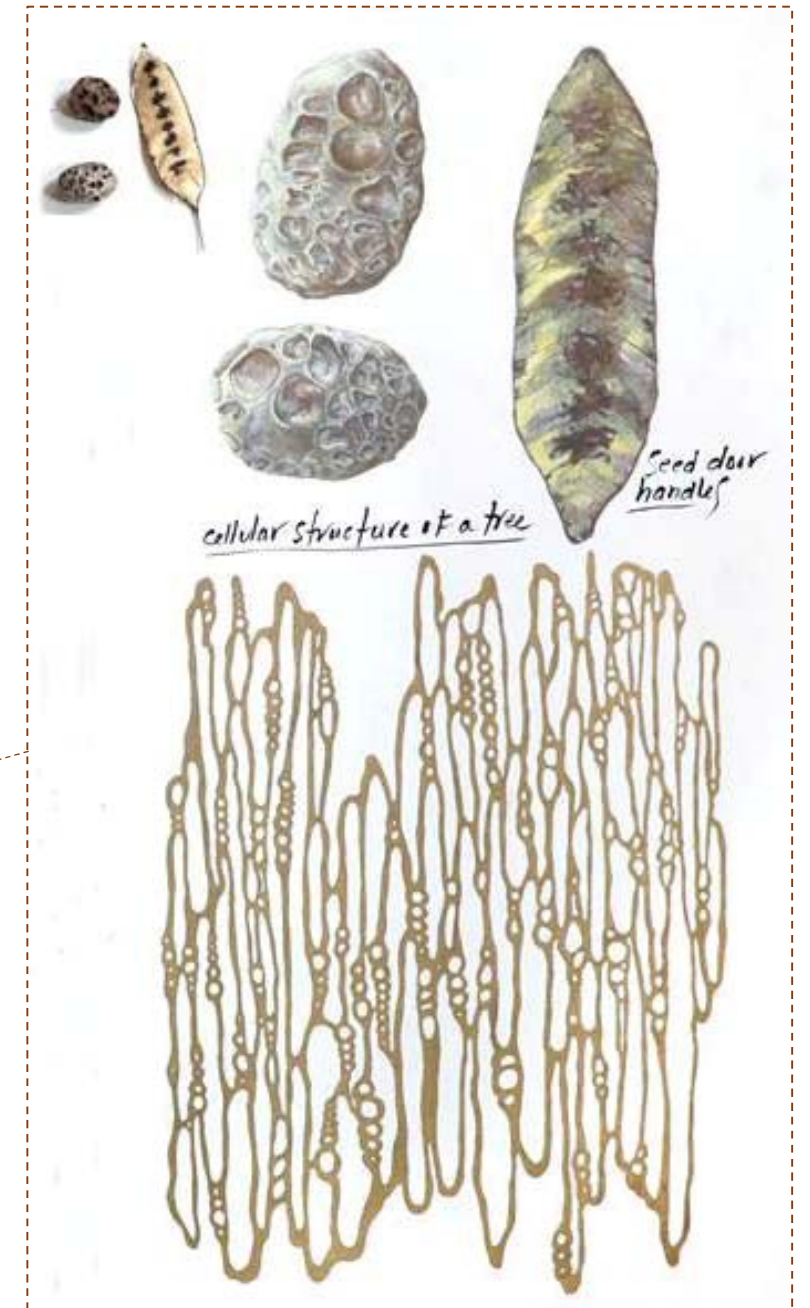
**Installation Method & Requirements:**

*Entry assembly to be fabricated offsite and installed during the storefront installation phase of the construction schedule.*

**Appraised value:** *Refer to last page 16.*

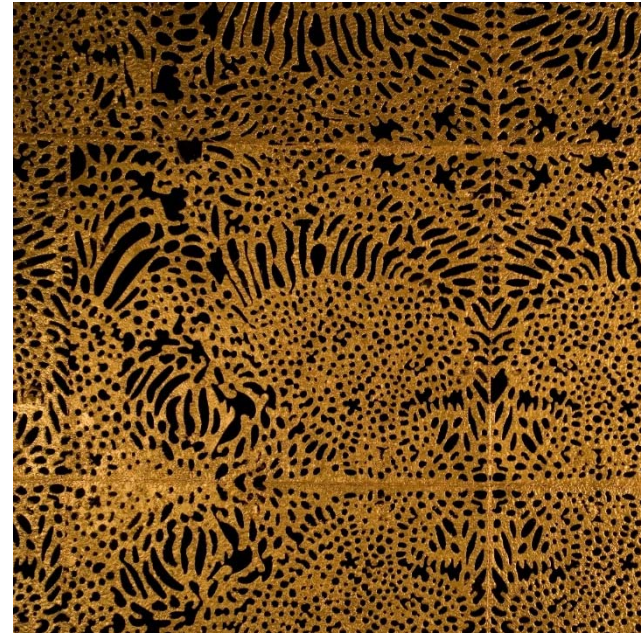
**Maintenance Requirements:** *To be provided upon completion of fabrication.*

# PROPOSED ARTWORK IMAGERY





# PROPOSED ARTWORK IMAGERY

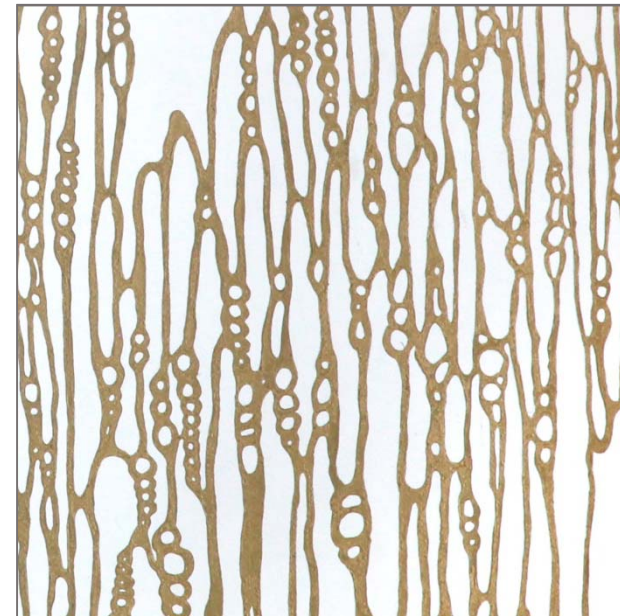


**MATERIAL STYLE SAMPLE INSPIRATION**

Queen Bee, 2007  
Joyce Boutique, Hong Kong  
Gilded steel, cast bronze, sterling silver  
23 x 23 x 3 feet  
Budget 1,000,000



**FINISH SAMPLE**



**ENLARGED DETAIL**



**ACTUAL GLAZING SAMPLE**

# Doner Studio

**Merrick Park Hotel**  
Coral Gables, Florida

## *A Fertile Portal*

### Concept statement for artwork by Michele Oka Doner

The Merrick Park Hotel in Coral Gables presents a wonderful opportunity to enrich one of the great pillars of the South Florida community. Coral Gables itself, filled with old growth and a massive tree canopy, represents the rare urban stability in a touristic environment.

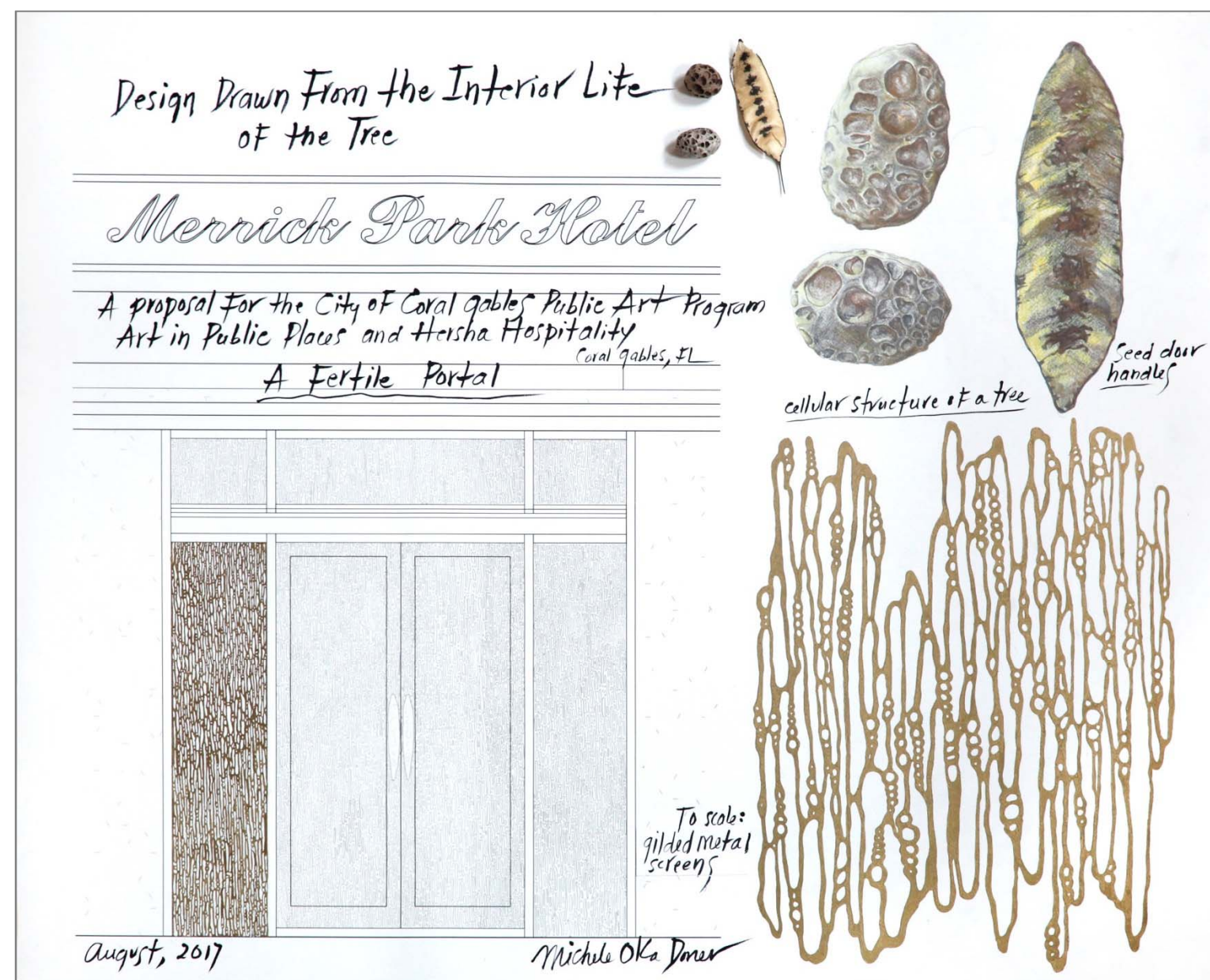
As a native Miamian, and an artist both seeped in and familiar with the particular landscape that surrounds Coral Gables built environment and surrounding streets, I'm excited to be engaged in creating an entrance façade that will immediately present a recognizable face to both visitors and locals alike.

Drawing inspiration from the natural world will add rhythms and patterns to the structure inherent in the building, creating an identity that resonates with the architecture and design created by AvroKo for the public spaces. For example, abundant seed pods, encountered daily by pedestrians underfoot, translate seamlessly into hardware for the front entrance doors. When translated into a sculptural form in the studio and cast into bronze this inspiration will seemingly imply that the entrance to the Merrick Park Hotel relates to the Garden of Eden.

Adding to the narrative will be gilded metal screens with a design drawn from the interior life of the tree, the actual cellular structure, bringing the detail both to the macro level and an imagined place.

Even the notion that this beautiful tree is used everywhere to create shade lends ballast to its use at the Merrick Park Hotel. It is also a tree designated for environmental management, yet another note, that will resonate in the years ahead.

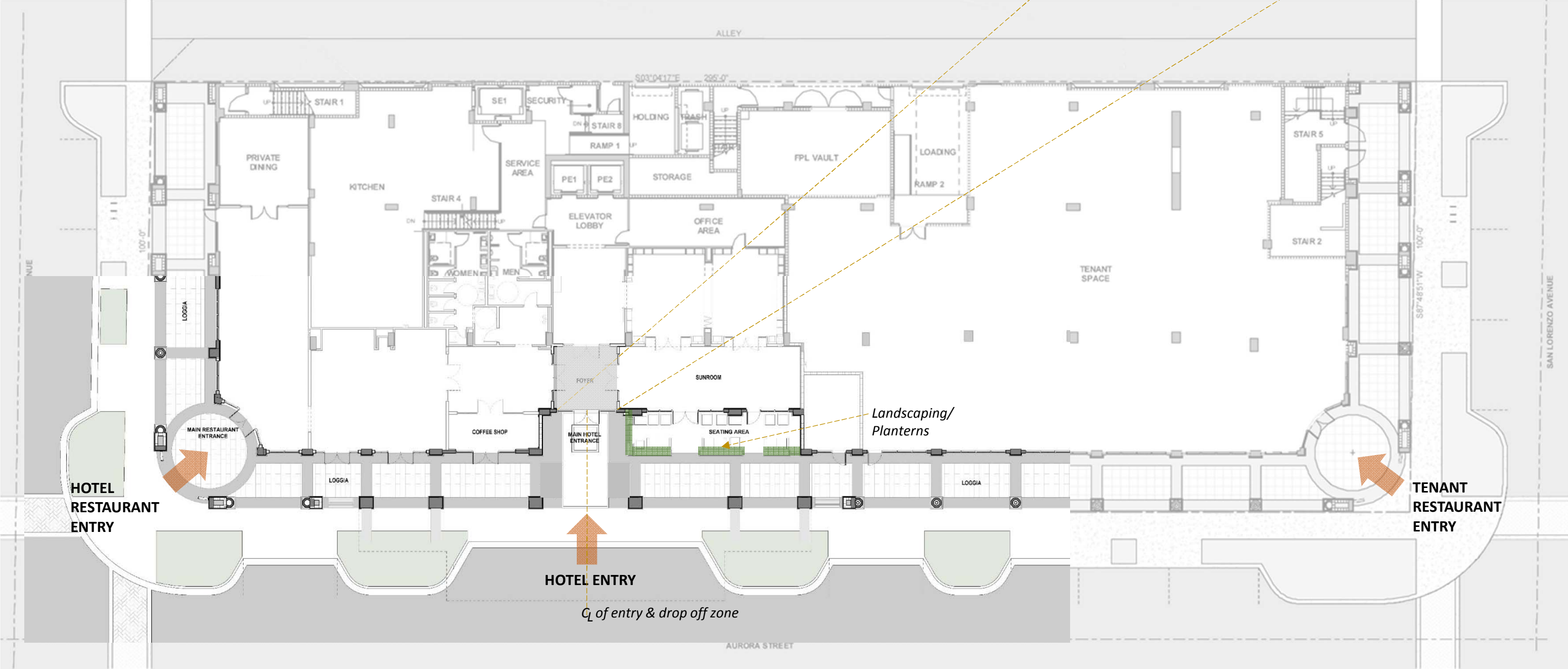
Michele Oka Doner  
July, 2017



CONCEPT PROPOSAL (Plan)



MAIN HOTEL ENTRY



HOTEL ENTRY

*C<sub>L</sub> of entry & drop off zone*

SITE PLAN

**MAIN ENTRY RENDERING**



**VIEW OF MAIN HOTEL ENTRYWAY**

**EXTERIOR RENDERING AND FRONT ELEVATION**

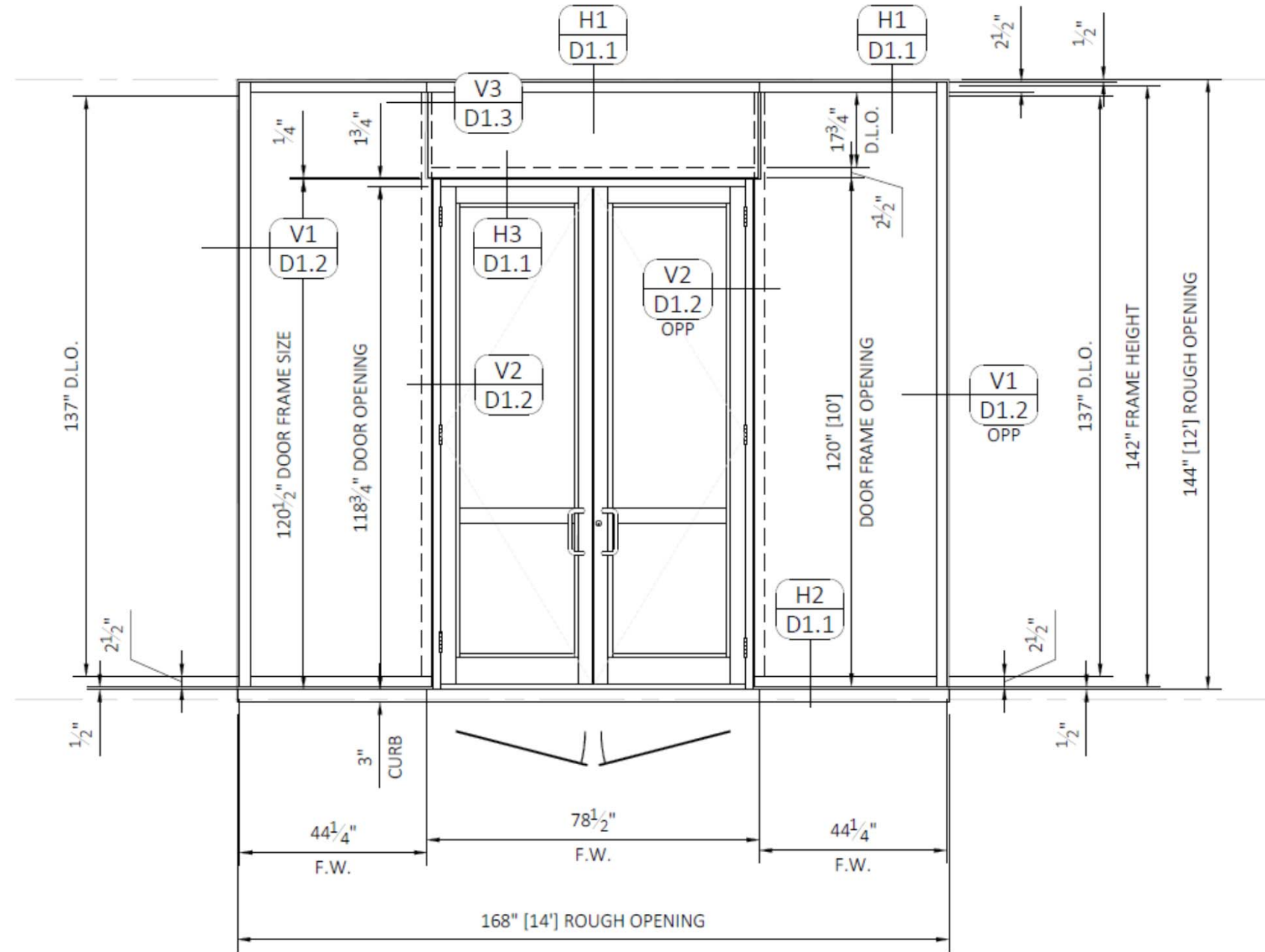


**EVENING VIEW**



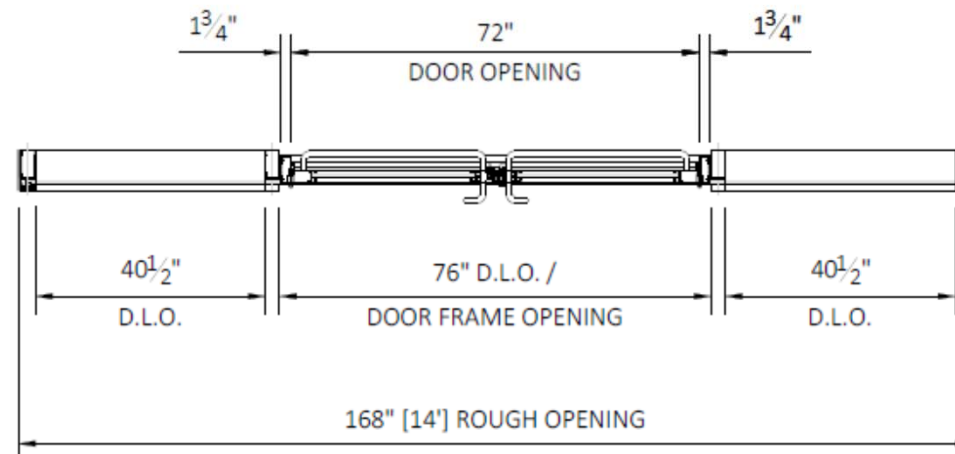
**FRONT ELEVATION OF MAIN HOTEL ENTRY**

# SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS

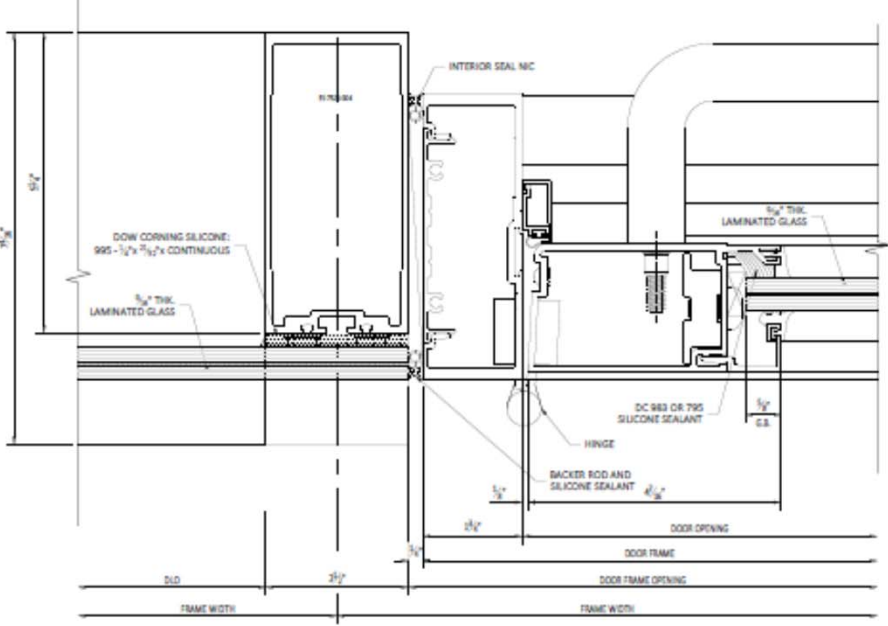
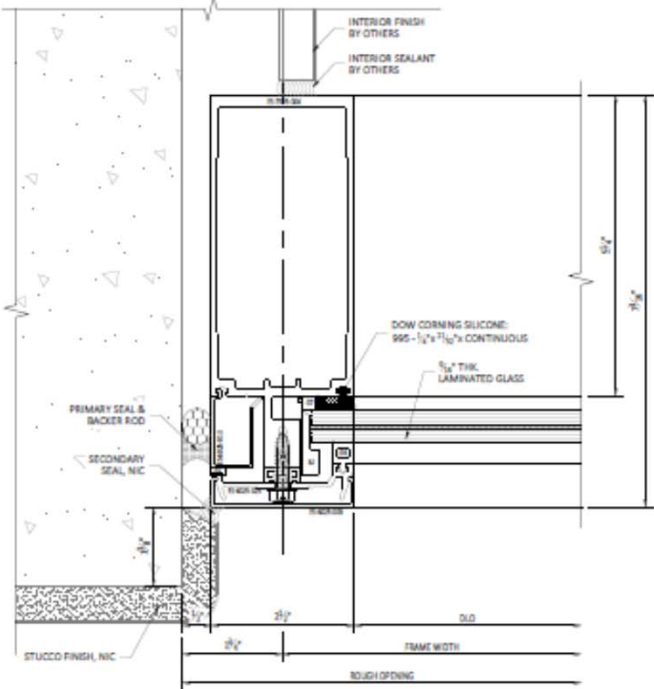
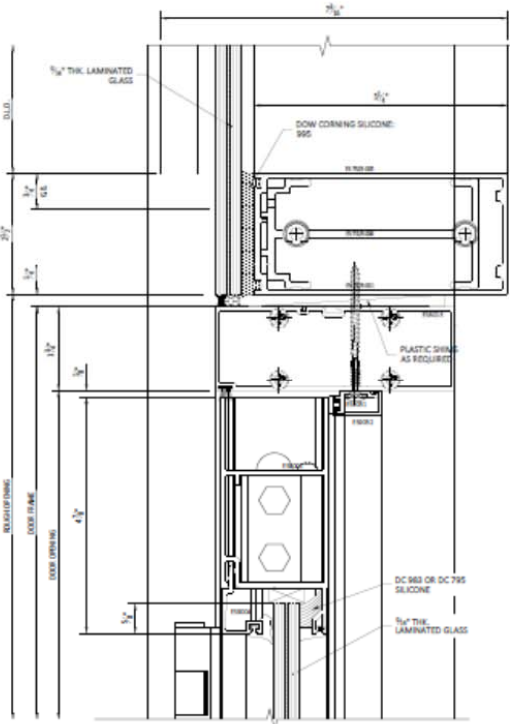
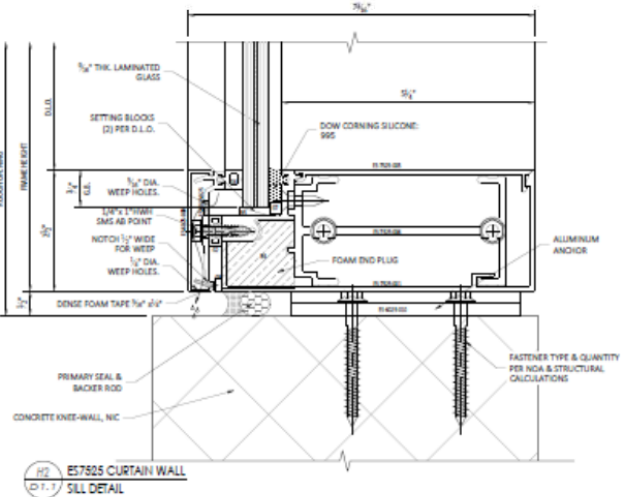
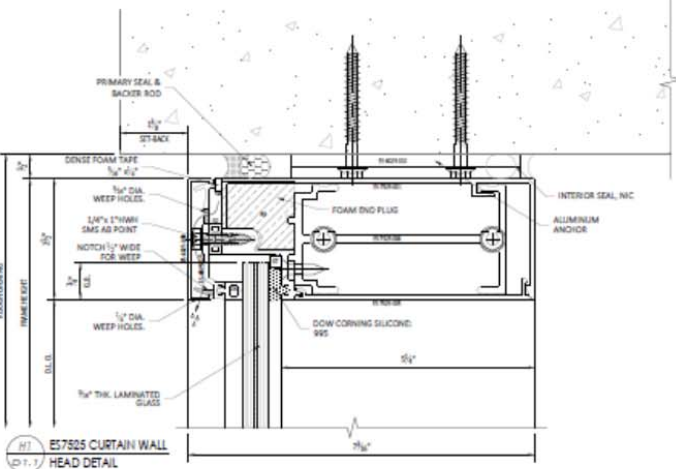


## ELEVATION 1

QUANTITY R'QD: (1) ONE TOTAL @ GROUND FLOOR  
 SYSTEM(S): ES 7525 CURTAIN WALL  
 ES9000 SWING DOOR  
 NOA #(S): 12-0907.01(ES 7525), 13-0617.29 (ES9000)  
 GLASS TYPE: 9/16" Laminated  
 DESIGN PRESSURES: + xx / - xx



# SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS



# CONCEPT PROPOSAL

**Statement how proposed artwork addresses broader City Urban design goals:**

The proposed artwork references the natural world both surrounding and enveloping Coral Gables. It is drawn directly from the beautiful tree canopy that characterizes this city, and the waters surrounding. Coral Gables is justly proud of its commitment to nature throughout the past century and going forward, Fertile Portals will carry the vision into the built environment.

**Specific goals for the artwork:**

Fertile Portals brings a sense of growth to the streetscape that is usually found in the garden, a wonderful inversion of expectations. It functions on a cellular, visceral level as well as a purely aesthetic addition to The Merrick Park Hotel. This additional layer conveys a new understanding to visitors using the facilities as well as those who pass by in the streetscape, an inviting message that is thoughtful, and at the same time full of beauty.

**Process used for selection of the artist:**

The Hersha development team collaborated with Avroko Interior Design team to investigate artists who had successfully completed projects in the South Florida region prior. It was through this process that the focus landed on selecting someone who was part of the City of Coral Gables Art In Public Places – Pre-Qualified Artist List. We were drawn to Michele Oka Doner’s past work and believed her to be the best fit for this project.

**A schedule for the development and commissioning of the artwork:**

Lead time for fabrication and installation to be coordinated to coincide with construction schedule.

**Intended approach to managing the project:**

Project Manager will lead the design documentation and coordination required to ensure fabrication is initiated to align with installation schedule to be provided by General Contractor yet to be selected.

**Credentials of any consultant who will facilitate the process, if applicable:**

Sandra Cardona, VP Development & Capital Planning

**Budget**

The table below depicts the budget for the costs of design, production and installation of *A Fertile Portal* (the “Art Costs”) and reconciles those against Hersha’s contribution obligation under the City’s Art In Public Places Program.

Based on current estimates, Hersha will be overfunding its obligations by \$12,600 assuming an Aggregate Project Value (“APV”) of \$43.0 million and an Art Cost of \$442,600, which includes an adjustment for the \$22,500 of standard door system costs that *A Fertile Portal* replaces.

It is important to note that both the APV and the Art Costs figures are budgets that will need to be certified by Hersha once all supporting materials are available. While we believe the funds spent to deliver *A Fertile Portal* will meet or exceed our funding obligations, if there is a shortfall, Hersha will make that up with cash contribution to the Art Acquisition Fund.

Public Art Project at The Hotel at Merrick Park			
	Budget		Budget
<b>Contribution Requirement</b>		<b>Support Schedules</b>	
Aggregate Project Value	\$43,000,000	<b>Schedule A: Subcontractor Expense</b>	
Multiplied By: Contribution Percentage	1.00%	Architects & Engineering	12,000
<b>Contribution Requirement</b>	<b>\$ 430,000</b>	Wind Testing	10,000
		Insurance	3,500
<b>Art Project Costs</b>		Photography	5,000
Artist Fee	\$ 50,000	Plaquing	4,500
Artist Overhead	45,000	Subtotal	\$ 35,000
Subcontractor Expenses (Schedule A)	35,000	<b>Schedule B: Fabrication</b>	
Travel Expenses	3,500	Glass	\$185,000
Fabrication (Schedule B)	290,000	Bronze Pulls	30,000
Shipping & Handling	8,000	Framing/Structural Support	75,000
Installation	9,500	Subtotal	\$290,000
Developer's Art Consultants Fee	24,100	<b>Schedule C: Non-Art Credit</b>	
Subtotal: Out of Pocket Costs	465,100	Non-Art Doors	\$ 16,000
Less: Non-Art Credit (Schedule C)	(22,500)	Non-Art Support Steel	5,000
Net Contribution Credit	442,600	Associated GC Costs	1,500
Plus: Public Art Fund Cash Contribution	-	Subtotal	\$ 22,500
<b>Actual Contribution Credit</b>	<b>\$ 442,600</b>		
<b>Amount Overfunded</b>	<b>\$ 12,600</b>		