

To the **Board of Architects**,
Coral Gables

'A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children.' - Proverbs 13:22

My name is **Tarell Alvin McCraney**, may this statement serve as a letter of intent by the property owner, myself, regarding the proposed new residence at
126 Oak Ave, Coral Gables, FL.

BACKGROUND

My great-grandparents, Hilda and Howard Demeritte, came to Miami from the Bahamas when they were 14 years old. Over a decade later, in 1926, they purchased land in the McFarlane Subdivision in the West Grove. Originally, they dreamt of a two-story home at Oak Ave, but the historic storm of 1926 decimated Miami and their dream with it. Not to be deterred, they eventually built a single floor, three-bedroom, one-bathroom home on the 1/5-acre lot. I, sadly, never met my great-grandparents. They left their home to my father's generation. They believed that inheritance was for 'the children yet to be born'. As a child, though, I enjoyed the museum-like visits to the Bahamian Cottage style house, with its interior covered front porch, high ceilings, and huge crawl spaces. By 1992, all those visits would come to an end with Hurricane Andrew. The house fell into disrepair and was torn down in 2002. I purchased the land at 126 Oak Ave from my family in 2018 and seek to build a home for 'the children yet to be born': our family home.

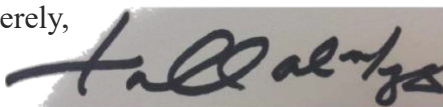
WORK/SCOPE

Inspired by the original 1926 plans, the goal is to construct a two-story, energy efficient home, with the most sustainable weather integrated materials to date. *Twice*, in the past, a significant storm has affected the longevity of this property. We want to ensure hurricane impact windows, doors, and re-enforced structures surround the house. We have worked to adhere to all easements and setbacks while designing a 3-bedroom-single family home with space to comfortably host occasional family gatherings. Community is important. Our grandparents chose this neighborhood for its culture of hard work and education. Over the past two years we have worked, with historic preservation division oversight, to draft plans that allow the home to blend with other modest houses in the area and reflect the culture and heritage of the community. My great-grandfather, a minister and great believer in American Democracy, is quoted as wanting to make sure his family had a place where *'they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid.'* – *Book of Micah, KJV*. (A favorite verse of George Washington.) This inspired the courtyard in the center of the home: creating a place to gather and call home.

This is a family project, blueprints to a homecoming nearly 100 years in the making. We greatly appreciate your consideration and care in this modest labor of love.

Please see all renderings, drawings, and excavations for more specific reference.

Sincerely,



Tarell Alvin McCraney

[Academy Member](#) [MacArthur Fellow](#)