

Tibor Hollo was instrumental in creating Miami's skyline



Tibor Hollo: "It gives me a lot of satisfaction to continue to create."

BY MARILYN BOWDEN

Miami's distinctive skyline, with elegant high-rises set like jewels against the bright tropical sun, is recognizable around the world. Its development can largely be attributed to the vision of one man: Tibor Hollo, chairman and president of Florida East Coast Realty, the company he founded more than 60 years ago.

When Mr. Hollo first came to Miami in the mid-1950s, he found a typical Southern town. He saw the possibility of something greater, and created a blueprint for the city's future with the construction of the first high-rise in Brickell.

"I set the stage with the new skyline," he says, "to elevate Miami from a rural community to the capital city of the southeast United States."

Throughout his career, Mr. Hollo has continued to break new ground. Florida East Coast Realty's projects in the Greater Miami area include a significant number of major high-rise residential, commercial and mixed-use properties, among them 2020 Ponce, a Class-A office tower in Coral Gables; the Biscayne Bay Marriott Hotel, and many more.

His projects include two US Treasury buildings, and the US Justice Department Building in Downtown Miami. Mr. Hollo

also repurposed, developed and provided management services for the SOC 1 Type 2 Report Certified Miami Data Vault, a state-of-the-art telecommunications/data center in the Little River section of Miami.

"Right now," says Jerome Hollo, Florida East Coast Realty's executive vice president and general counsel, "we are focused on bringing the largest, most prestigious mixed-use project to the best location in Downtown Miami, One Bayfront Plaza. With it, we not only feature breathtaking Biscayne Bay-view luxury rental and AAA office product, but we will add a brand-new luxury hotel and badly needed retail and restaurant space."

The global landmark, at 100 S Biscayne Blvd., is to cover more than 3 million square feet. It will soar 1,049 feet about Biscayne Bay, which would make it the tallest building in the downtown Miami skyline.

"Jerome Hollo, my son, has been groomed for two decades under my tutelage," Tibor Hollo said. "He is ready to become a star."

That preparation included obtaining a Juris Doctorate in 1993 and several years at the helm of a transactional practice with the law firm of Rosenthal, Rosenthal, and Rasco as well as intimate involve-

ment in all facets of the business.

Other current projects, Jerome Hollo said, include the repositioning of Colonnade Plaza at 1201 Brickell into a short-term stay property, in partnership with San Francisco-based Sonder Holdings, a next-generation hospitality company with properties in hub cities including Denver, San Francisco, Montreal, London and Amsterdam.

Also, he said, Panorama Tower — the luxury residential apartment building at 1101 Brickell, completed in 2018 — "is being modernized and upgraded with a full lobby redesign and the arrival of a new trendy restaurant coming by year's end."

"It gives me a lot of satisfaction," Tibor Hollo said, "to continue to create living facilities such as Panorama Tower and now One Bayfront Plaza."

"This is only the beginning," Jerome Hollo said. "We see a continuing evolution from what was once a tourism-driven economy into a modern, 24-hour destination city with a growing business-technology-entrepreneurship ecosystem. With the scarcity of buildable land, we also see continuing urban redevelopment in the core Miami-Dade's business and residential markets, with mass-transit and ride sharing playing a supporting role."



Jerome Hollo: Focusing on the largest project, One Bayfront Plaza.