

The Suburb Beautiful

By Mr. Frank M. Button, F. A. S. L. A.

Note—Mr. Button is a landscape architect of national repute, a graduate of the University of Vermont with the degree of Civil Engineer, and a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects. His work has been country-wide in scope, having been in charge of landscape development at Glenview, Indian Hill and Audlotion Golf Clubs, the most famous of golf links near Chicago; the beautiful grounds of Lincoln Park and of the Municipal Tuberculosis Hospital, Chicago; the magnificent 1,000-acre estate of ex-Governor Louden, Oregon, Ill.; the estate of ex-Governor Smith of St. Albans, Vt.; the Charles Dearing estate, Miami, and numerous parks, estates and subdivisions of note throughout the country.

CORAL GABLES, with its immense acreage of gently rolling and undulating land, offers rare advantages for the best that the landscape architect can produce. Its broad vistas invite the greatest freedom in planning spacious boulevards, delightful parks, charming recreational centers and many other features which are possible under exceptional conditions. With splendid natural advantages it combines the most appropriate settings of tropical and sub-tropical foliage, and permits the lover of harmonious landscape a field for work and an opportunity for achievement that is not often enjoyed in the most ambitious projects of this country.

It has been my privilege for the past year to work all of these delightful elements into a harmonious sitting. In planning the extensive system of avenues and streets all favorable conditions were utilized to the utmost. The imposing entrance to the property at Southwest Eighth Street (Tamiami Trail) has been beautifully developed, with careful preservation of trees and full advantage taken of hills and hollows. This splendid boulevard, one hundred feet wide, which has been named Granada Boulevard, extends in one unbroken line for two miles through Coral Gables, with delightful plazas at Coral Way and Avenue Sevilla, terminating in another imposing gateway to be built at the Coconut Grove entrance on Bird Road.

The first half mile of Granada Boulevard forms an unbroken parkway 240 feet wide, planted with a great variety of rubber, acacia, pithecolobium, royal poinciana and eucalyptus trees, making an informal botanical collection of unrivalled beauty along the parkway, and setting off the broad boulevard most attractively. The entrance at Southwest Eighth Street and Granada Boulevard is of the most imposing Spanish type, 240 feet in width, offering a most cordial welcome to the visitor.

Another of these most excellent boulevards which add to the crowning beauty of Coral Gables is Alhambra Circle. One hundred feet wide, with a parked area in center for the electric trolley to be built on the property, this fine boulevard circles practically the entire length of Coral Gables. Perhaps no better idea of the size of this development can be given than the mere statement of fact that Alhambra Circle is three and one-half miles in length.

On all of the principal boulevards at Coral Gables have been laid out delightful parks, plazas and rest spots, one-half to five acres in area, that break the vista of the avenues and provide the most charming possibilities for landscape work of the most effective kind.

A large portion of Coral Gables is now covered with bearing avocado, grapefruit, mango and other tropical fruit trees, presenting a delightful background for the extensive improvements carried out in parkways and boulevards. Whenever possible fruit trees in parkways between sidewalks and streets have been preserved, and for miles the visitor to Coral Gables walks through veritable bowers laden with delectable fruit.

The two golf courses offer advantages of other kinds that will appeal strongly to future residents of Coral Gables. These are bordered with native palms, pines, live oaks, wild figs, ferns and other tropical shrubbery that delight the nature lover and make ideal surroundings for golf. The nine-hole course is well under way now, and is 2,900 yards in length, with a 500-yard hole which will be a test for even the par golfer. The 18-hole course will have three holes of over 500 yards, and the entire course will be 5,574 yards, with good fairways, grass greens and traps and hazards of the most modern kind. Imposing club

houses with every convenience for members are part of the work planned for the delightful social life at Coral Gables.

The Golf Club house at Greenway Drive and Boulevard Granada will also be a recreation center for all of the residents of Coral Gables, with tennis courts and other amusement features inseparably linked with the happiness and enjoyment of all well-ordered communities today.

Large plots have been set aside in prominent locations for churches, schools, library and other community centers. And even the business section on the Plaza Augustine has been made attractive by parked boulevard and inviting rest spots.

The splendid soil conditions at Coral Gables permit of the most varied gardening operations. The famous plantations operated so successfully here for years are a sufficient guarantee of the possibilities of the land, while the flora of Southern Florida, more varied than that of any other part of the United States, will be utilized to the utmost to add to the attractiveness of plazas and boulevards and make most pleasing rest-spots amid delightful surroundings.

From even the most conservative viewpoint, Coral Gables offers possibilities for beauty that make it distinctive among developments of this kind. Wind-ing boulevards encircle the entire tract; diagonal streets make every part accessible; broad vistas and charming hammocks of pine, oak and palm delight the eye on every side, and with the extensive planting of coconut, rubber, royal poinciana, greville, pithecolobium and bamboo trees, and shrubbery such as acalypha, hibiscus, oleander and jasmine, with almandas, bougainvillea and many other varieties of vines, Coral Gables will present a homesite development unsurpassed for ideal living conditions.

This is the second of a most interesting series of articles prepared and written especially by the famous men who are molding CORAL GABLES into MIAMPS MASTER SUBURB. The next of the series will be by Mr. Denman Fink, an artist of international fame and a recognized authority on Spanish art and architecture. Mr. Fink's designs are a notable feature of Coral Gables. The Grand Opening Sale at Coral Gables will soon be announced. It will be the event extraordinary of the year! Watch—wait—for the date of the first offering.

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