

# Florida design center under way

Marvin I. Danto, chairman of the board, Danto Investment Co. and developer of Michigan Design Center of Troy, and John C. Portman, Jr., owner and developer of the Atlanta Market Center, are equal partners in the Design Center of the American (DCOTA) in Dania, Fla.

Phase I of DCOTA, now under construction, includes a four-story, 255,000-square-foot building. Phase II is 80 percent leased or committed and will open next month.

Zoning for an additional 750,000 square feet of design center has been approved on the 44-acre site at I-95 and Griffin Road in Dania, adjacent to the Fort Lauderdale International Airport, providing easy access from most of the U.S., Latin America and Europe.

The DCOTA complex will eventually include four wholesale interior design showroom buildings, totaling 1 million square feet upon completion.

Now under construction and connected to the center will be the 250-room Sheraton Design Center Hotel and Office Plaza.

Danto said, "DCOTA will house one of the largest collections of fine, high-end interior furnishings and contract design sources anywhere for interior designers, facility managers, architects and specifiers."

"Such a wide selection of quality merchandise will attract the design

trade from the eastern U.S., Florida, the Caribbean, South America and Europe."

DCOTA will offer one-stop shopping under one roof for the designer. There will be ample parking, a skylit, air-conditioned atrium, landscaped grounds, lodging and restaurants within the complex.

Financing arrangements for Phase I were made by Sonnenblick-Goldman Southeast Corp., Danto said. Financing of \$16 million for Phase I was obtained from FBS Mortgage of Milwaukee.

Future plans for the use of DCOTA facilities include educational seminars and design conferences.

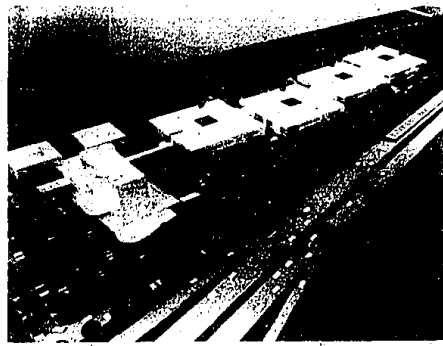
Danto opened the first phase of his first design center in Troy in the late 1970s on 19 acres just north of Maple on Sixty Drive. The center has close to 80 showrooms which are open to the trade.



Marvin I. Danto



John Portman Jr.



The scale model of the Design Center of the American (DCOTA) shows the four connecting showrooms interior furnishings showrooms buildings totalling 1 million square feet when completed.

## Foundation gives grants

Grants totaling \$7,150 were recently awarded to eight state organizations by Michigan Foundation for the Arts (MFA).

The award recipients were: Alma Symphony Orchestra, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, Midland Art Council, Plymouth Symphony Society, Pontiac Art Center, Michigan Very Special Arts Festival (Lansing), Rochester Symphony Orchestra and the Young People's Theater (Ann Arbor).

Established in 1966, Michigan Foundation for the Arts is a non-profit organization that encourages and supports excellence in the arts through grants, scholarships, awards and commissions to Michigan artists, art students and cultural groups.



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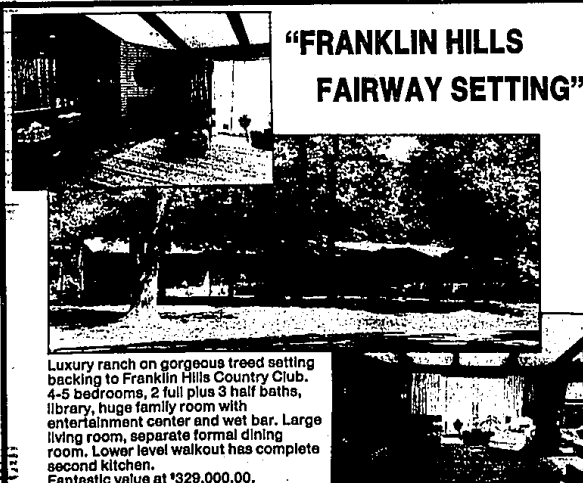
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