

ARCHITECT HERMES MALLEA PRESENTS *Great Houses of Havana: A Century of Cuban Style*

New Orleans, LA - On Friday, April 7, 2017, the New Orleans Hispanic Heritage Foundation (NOHFF) will sponsor renowned Cuban author and architect Hermes Mallea with the presentation of his book *Great Houses of Havana: A Century of Cuban Style*, the Monacelli Press, November 2011. At the presentation, Mr. Mallea will give an insider's tour of some of Havana's most important architectural homes built between 1860 and 1960 and discuss the fascinating personal histories of these homes alongside Havana's architectural patrimony.

"Great Houses of Havana celebrates the sophistication of architecture and design in the city accomplished before the 1959 Revolution. Readers find it surprising that a Caribbean island was producing architecture at this high level. The fact is Havana was anything but provincial with architecture directly influenced by design trends going on elsewhere in the world. My book is a celebration of these accomplishments – and it's been gratifying to see the pride felt by Cubans readers on the island as well as those living in exile – a pride in our architectural patrimony that unites us. New Orleans and Havana have had a historic relationship for several centuries – involving culture, music, architecture, maritime trade – cocktails! I am excited to be presenting my Cuba research to the New Orleans Hispanic Heritage Foundation, a group whose cultural and scholarship activities are preparing a new generation of Hispanic professionals I so admire."

This exciting and timely event will be held in the Auditorium of the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA), 1 Collins Diboll Circle, New Orleans, LA 70124, with the lecture starting 6:00 PM, and book signing at 7:30 PM. Following the presentation, Mr. Mallea will sign copies of his book which will be available for purchase at the NOMA Museum Shop for \$75. The event is open to the public. Admission is free for NOMA members, \$12 for non-members, \$10 for seniors and active military, and \$8 for students.

Hermes Mallea, who lives in New York City, received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Miami, attended the Master's Program in Historic Preservation at Columbia University, and is a licensed architect in the State of New York and a member of the AIA. He has published and lectured extensively in the U.S. and abroad on the subjects of Caribbean architecture and historic Cuban family life in Havana and elsewhere and has presented papers on the design links between Paris and Havana, historic photographs of Cuban domestic interiors, and Havana lifestyles stories chronicling the individualism and self-expression that has been accomplished in Cuba in spite of the island's severe constraints over the last fifty-seven years.

Collaborators of the New Orleans Hispanic Heritage Foundation's Hermes Mallea presentation include the New Orleans Museum of Art, Beatriz Ball, JW Marriott, Jahncke & Burns Architects, the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, Ileana and José Suquet, Tulane School of Architecture's Master of Preservation Studies and Tulane University's Cuban and Caribbean Studies Institute.

More information is available at www.nohff.org.

Additional background information on Hermes Mallea can be found in the following links:

- <https://www.google.com/amp/www.architecturaldigest.com/story/hermes-mallea-havana-book-interview-article/amp?client=safari>
- <http://anthonylawrence.com/blog/2015/02/10/great-houses-of-havana-hermes-mallea/>
- <https://www.google.com/amp/s/miamiherald.relaymedia.com/amp/news/local/community/miami-dade/community-voices/article13879838.html?client=safari>
- <http://www.miamiartguide.com/escape-the-heyday-of-caribbean-glamour-by-hermes-mallea/>



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