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Miami Intermodal Center



News Clip

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TODAY'S NEWS

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Plans scaled back for Central Station, but 'it will be pretty'

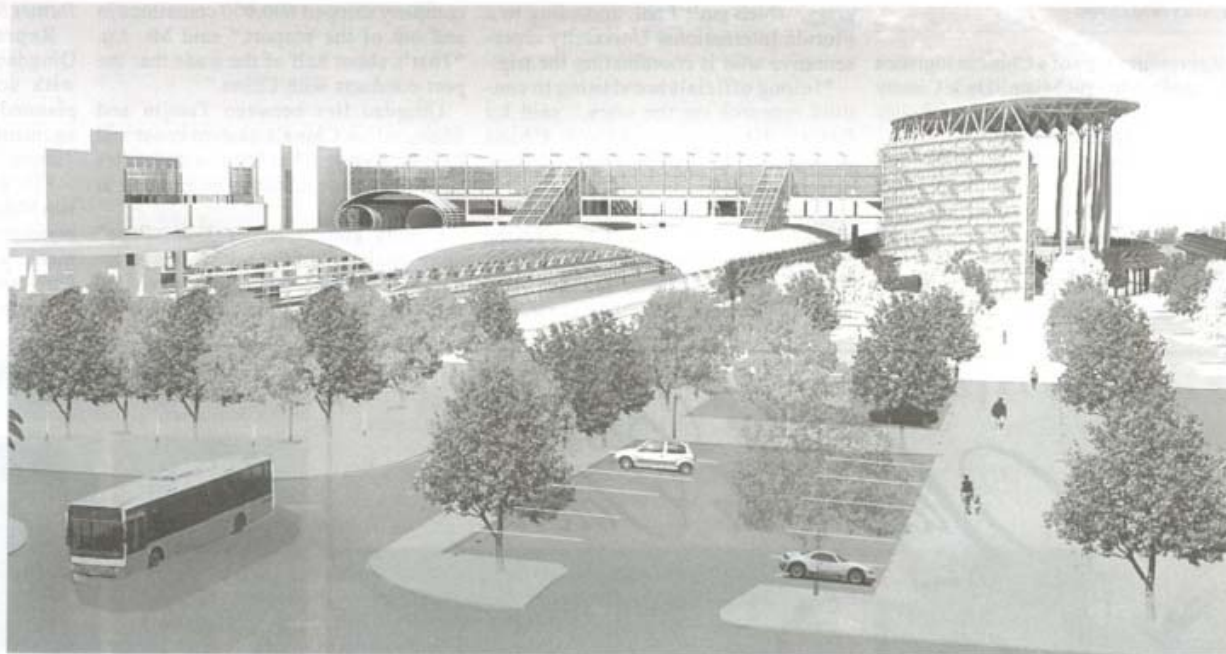
By CHARLOTTE LIBOV

In its original brochure, the Florida Department of Transportation heralded the design of the Miami Intermodal Center's Central Station as "a Central Station like no other in our region."

The latest rendering of Central Station still looks like no other, although some main features have changed.

Originally, the station was supposed to be reminiscent of a modern-day version of another fabled station — New York's Grand Central — complete with vaulted ceilings. The redesigned version retains the space-age look, but the vaulted ceilings have disappeared, said Ric Katz, the project's public-affairs spokesman.

"When we started the planning for this in 1993, I think we knew a lot less — people were thinking of vaulted ceilings," he said. "But what we have come to realize is that those stations were built in the '20s, '30s and '40s. Even today, Grand Central is a place where you come to sit for the trains to arrive.



The Miami Intermodal Center, seen in this rendering, will link several forms of public transportation near Miami International Airport.

The concept of the Miami Intermodal Center has evolved. It will be pretty, but it won't be exactly the way it was envisioned."

The station is still designed to

be the integral part that pulls the intermodal center together, he noted.

"This is what turns piecemeal transportation into an integrated system because you can move

from one mode of transportation to another," he said.

The station is to link Tri-Rail, Metrorail, public and private bus services and taxi cabs as well as the county's bikeway program,

the state's high-speed intercity rail service and train connections.

Said Mr. Katz: "It will be the Crown Jewel of the intermodal center."