

## HERITAGE

# ADDISON'S ARCHIVES

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ICONIC ARCHITECT VIA HIS PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS, SCRAPBOOKS, AND MORE

BY MARIE PENNY

Prior to his arrival in Palm Beach, Addison Mizner led a life of adventure. From panning for gold in the Yukon to boxing in Australia, he wore many hats before he became an architect. The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach has recently published the first book about Mizner's life for young readers: *Addison Mizner, Visionary Architect* explores those early years and how they shaped his architectural vision. Mizner's archives (located at the Preservation Foundation, The Society of the Four Arts, and the Historical Society of Palm Beach County) were vital to the research for this book. These three entries illustrate his origins and evolution.



### 1. INSPIRATION: SANTA CRUZ CHURCH, ANTIGUA, CIRCA 1904

Mizner's early exposure to Mayan and Spanish Colonial architecture in Guatemala shaped the architectural vocabulary that would come to define Palm Beach. Guatemala's original capital, Antigua, particularly captured his imagination. Whether by photograph or sketch, Mizner documented everything he saw in his scrapbooks, which served as a valuable resource for creating his story.

### 2. CATALYST FOR CHANGE: PALM BEACH VERNACULAR, 1918

Mizner spent his first days in Palm Beach recuperating on Paris Singer's porch on Peruvian Avenue. This image from the Mizner archives at the Preservation Foundation may or may not be Singer's house, and yet it fits the "beach shack" description



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LEARN MORE: "ADDISON MIZNER: LETTERS AND MANUSCRIPTS," AN EXHIBITION CELEBRATING ADDISON MIZNER, VISIONARY ARCHITECT, IS ON VIEW AT THE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION THROUGH FEBRUARY 2.

that Mizner wrote of in his memoirs. Buildings like these fueled his desire for a new type of architecture in Palm Beach.

### 3. A NEW VISION: THE EVERGLADES CLUB, 1919

Far from Bradley's Club and Flagler's Royal Poinciana Hotel, the Everglades Club was unlike anything built on the island at the time. Mizner's first major commission in Palm Beach set the bar for residential commissions that followed soon after. Part of the original plan included an assortment of villas along Worth Avenue that are no longer extant.



ALL OTHER IMAGES COURTESY OF THE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH

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