



José María "Chepe" Serrano, CCIM
2019 Chairman of the Board
MIAMI Association of REALTORS®

Miami's Entertainment Options Enhances Real Estate Market

American Airlines Arena in Miami ranks as the 18th-most-popular venue in the world by annual ticket volume, according to a new study from Pollstar. The ranking highlights South Florida's growing entertainment options and showcases why Miami real estate is a robust investment.

South Beach, the international capital of late-night fun, is known throughout the world, but now Miami's other entertainment options are becoming acclaimed as well.

In addition to South Beach and American Airlines Arena, Miami is home to the breathtaking Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts and the internationally-acclaimed Perez Art Museum (PAMM). South Florida's new science wonderland — the \$300 million Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science — is located across from Perez Art.

Pro Sports Teams in World-Class Venues

Basketball's Miami Heat, baseball's Miami Marlins and football's Miami Dolphins have each won championships. The Heat have a long-term lease at their downtown arena; the Marlins recently opened a state-of-the-art, indoor park and the Dolphins' home stadium has hosted five Super Bowls.

The Miami Dolphins will host its sixth Super Bowl in 2020 (Super Bowl LIV) at Hard Rock Stadium. Also, Miami is expected to field a Major League Soccer team by 2020.

Miami's Urban Core

Once a quiet 9-to-5 job district, downtown Miami has transformed into one of America's most exciting, thriving areas.

A growing population of young professionals are living, working, and playing in downtown, which today boasts the highest concentration of cultural institutions in the Southeast and almost 400 restaurants and bars.

South Florida is no longer a resort town known only for its beaches. Today, South Florida is a leading global center with world-class amenities and entertainment options.

José María "Chepe" Serrano, CCIM
New Miami Realty Corp.
(305) 635-5000
jserrano@newmiamirealty.com

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FROM PAGE 3C

AWNING

Retractable awnings can be operated manually or be motorized, usually with electricity, but some are solar powered. Don't want to worry about remembering to pull them in? Some have wind and rain sensors and will retract automatically when weather events occur. Some can be hooked into a smart home system so they can be controlled by

virtual assistants like Alexa or Google Home, or remotely by phone.

Both fixed and retractable awnings have pros and cons. "We replace a lot of retractables because people forget to pull them in," Perez said.

"Fixed awnings get blown to shreds and are often damaged by hail," Lienberg said.

CREATE AN OASIS

A canopy over a patio or pool can make outdoor living more comfortable.

TECHNOLOGY

Is your home getting a bit too smart for you?

BY JOSEPH PUBILLONES
Creators Syndicate

Sometimes I think we are living in the futuristic era of the Jetsons. At other times, it's George Orwell's "1984." A recent online search for an office coffee maker literally put me over the edge. I like all the fancy coffee concoctions made by hipster, handlebar mustachioed baristas as much as anyone. Of course, I love the foamy cream with the heart-shaped caramel drizzle, but what that has done to the coffee makers is beyond my comprehension. Now there are capsules, large and small, of every flavor imaginable, machines that make coffee short or long and accompanying equipment to make milk frothy hot or cold. Oh, the possibilities!

Some newer homes are now considered "smart." These are homes often with automated doorbells with cameras. Their climate can

be controlled with a tap of your phone. Coffee can be started so it is ready by the time you wake up, and music and information can be commanded out of thin air by speaking loudly so that a home-automating apparatus can execute online searches and get your favorite tunes playing at your whim. Rosie the robot has been replaced by a small round disc that vacuums on a regular basis without even being asked. But how much technology is too much?

Of course, our desire is to keep up with the latest innovations. Many of you who are of a certain age may remember the 1960s television cabinets that came with built-in speakers, a record player on one side and a bar cabinet on the other, the 1970s beds that had speakers on the headboards and a slot for your 8-track tapes or the massaging beds that made you feel like hurling — especially after dinner and

"You can create your own oasis in your yard," Marten said.

A louvered canopy can be opened to let in sunshine and breezes, or closed for shade and protection from rain. "In a hurricane, you'd keep them open so the wind can blow through," Marten said.

Accessories can dress up a canopy. Draperies can simply be decorative, or functional to create privacy when it's wanted. LEDs add drama at night, and ceiling fans can increase comfort.

Want to keep out insect pests? "You can install motorized screens," Marten said.

CHOOSING A COMPANY

Choose a reputable company. How long has it been in business? Ask for references and read reviews on social media. What warranty does the company offer? Is the warranty on materials, workmanship or both?

"Look at some of the company's previous jobs," Perez suggested. "You might get ideas for your own home."



Some newer homes are now considered 'smart.'

a couple of cocktails.

Today's furniture makers have taken notice and have begun to incorporate technology in ways never before imaginable. Beds can be made softer or firmer according to your sleeping habits and try to adjust themselves to whether you snore or not. The newest selections of sofas and comfortable chairs for family rooms are equipped with USB ports for recharging your tablets, laptops and phones. Recently, there are even wallpapers woven with LED lights in them and fiber-optic fabrics that can change colors at your desire.

I enjoy the novelty of these innovations as much as any consumer, but knowing how quickly technologies change nowadays, I'd think really hard before

spending any significant amount of money on any of these trendy items. There are some innovations that work really well, such as those that turn lights on and off, as well as surveillance and security systems that allow you to see what is going on in and around your home for protection. But sometimes, your home may be getting too smart. As a matter of fact, the other day, I was just thinking out loud and the home-automating apparatus that sometimes goes by a single name answered me back. Talk about creepy.

Joseph Pubillones is the owner of Joseph Pubillones Interiors, an award-winning interior design firm based in Palm Beach, Florida. His website is www.josephpubillones.com.

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