



MIZNER INDUSTRIES/ MIZNER STYLE

an exhibition presented by the

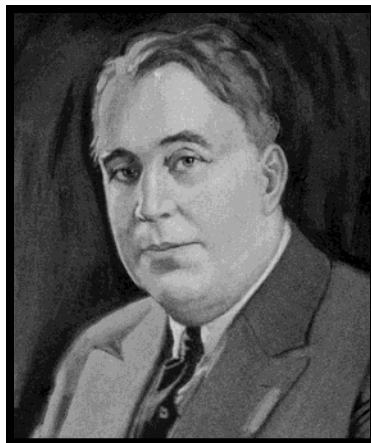
BOCA RATON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Opening date December 2009



Society architect Addison Mizner created the “Palm Beach style” with his design for the Everglades Club on Worth Avenue in 1918. He quickly found that he was not able to purchase through local suppliers the tile and iron work he needed for his Spanish design. He took over a blacksmith shop to make lighting fixtures and ornamental grills and built his own kilns to make the roof tiles. As his commissions grew, he purchased various craft shops to supply the décor and materials for his projects. Mizner Industries grew into one of the largest manufacturing companies in Palm Beach in the 1920s. The company made tiles, hand made pottery, wrought iron and stamped metal fixtures, cast stone columns, windows and door surrounds, indoor and outdoor furniture, and art glass. The furnishings and other details were often distressed to give them the appearance of antiquity. Mizner Industries also imported antique furniture, decorative tiles, and other accessories to supplement the locally made products. Together these items helped furnish homes through South Florida built in the “Mediterranean Revival” style.

By the 1950s, these furnishings and details were no longer in vogue; many were lost in the demolition of Palm Beach estates or the various renovations of the Boca Raton Club. Because of Boca Raton’s close ties with the architect, “Mizner Industries” has been a focus of the Boca Raton Historical Society’s collections since the 1970s. Here we present a sampling of our current knowledge of both known Mizner Industries products (a rarity) and artifacts which represent the “Mizner style,” popular once again.



Addison Mizner



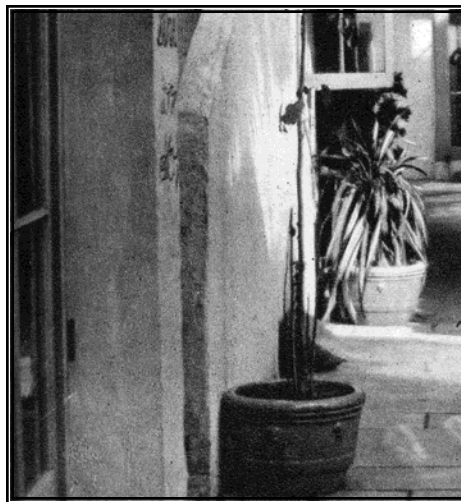
EAST WALL, SOUTH SIDE

Wooden floor lamp imitative of a baroque candle holder, possibly Mizner Industries. Collected from Administration Building.

Copy of Las Manos Pottery catalogue from the 1920s. Las Manos was the name of the Mizner Industries factory producing decorative pottery, floor and roof tile, and garden urns and ornaments.

Mizner blue glazed jardinière made by Las Manos and originally from Via Mizner, adjacent Addison Mizner's apartment "Villa Mizner." It features the popular "Mizner blue" glaze over a red body. Mizner Apartment Collection.

Similar jardinière shown in ca. 1928 photo of Via Mizner, Palm Beach. Photo from Florida Architecture of Addison Mizner.



EAST WALL SOUTH SIDE DISPLAY CASE

Top shelf, left to right

Las Manos decorative tile, Las Manos Pottery. Loan of Frederick H. Herpel, Herpel Inc.

Spanish style stamped door stud or escutcheon, possible Mizner Industries. Dambres Collection.

Stamped metal light switch cover, possible Mizner Industries. Provenance Unknown.

Signed hand made roof tile, Las Manos Pottery. Dambres Collection

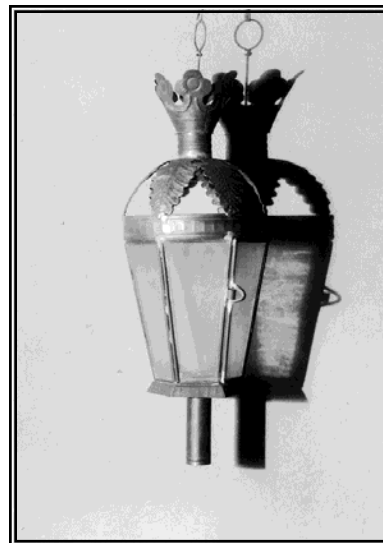
Star shaped metal and glass light fixture, possible Mizner Industries. Dambres Collection.

Las Manos decorative tile, Las Manos Pottery. Loan of Frederick H. Herpel, Herpel Inc.

Lower shelf, left to right

Stamped metal and glass pole lantern, Mizner Industries. See accompanying photo taken for the Mizner Industries catalogues. Dambres Collection.

Photo showing the same style lantern is from the Mizner Industries catalogue photos made by Ray Dame. Photo courtesy HSPBC.



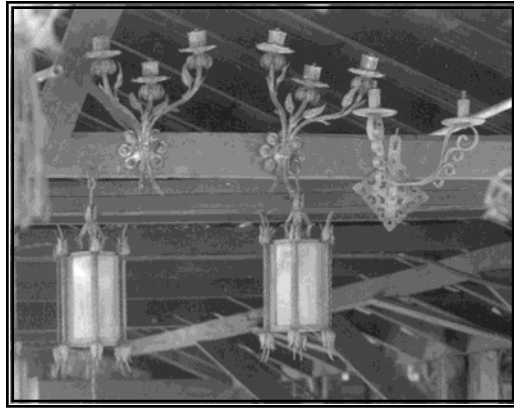
Cast stone frog shaped fountain head, possible Las Manos pottery. Dambres Collection.

Small cast stone capital, possible Mizner Industries. Dambres Collection.

EAST WALL SOUTH SIDE DISPLAY CASE, CONTINUED

Lower shelf, left to right continued

Iron floral wall sconce, possible Mizner Industries. Dambres Collection.



Floral sconces and lanterns in the Mizner Industries metal shop, 1920s.

Las Manos decorative tiles, Las Manos Pottery.. Loan of Frederick H. Herpel, Herpel Inc.

*Woodite plaque, Mizner Industries. Woodite was a cast composite material much like the products used in architectural details today. It was created from wood shavings, plaster of Paris and fibrous material cast into molds to form ceiling and wall panels and decorative objects, like the mirror frame with *putto* located in Town Hall's lobby. Ray and Jessie Dame Collection.*

Photo from the Woodite, Inc. catalogue showing similar decorative panels.



Small stamped metal and glass lantern, possible Mizner Industries. Dambres Collection.

Paper and stamped metal lantern from a house in Old Floresta, possible Mizner Industries. Lyster Collection.

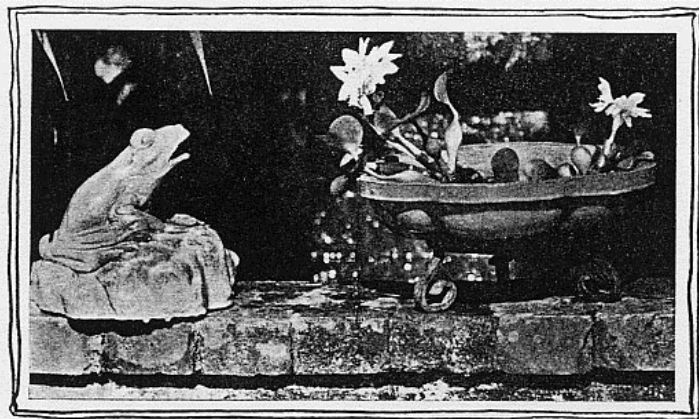
EAST WALL SOUTH SIDE DISPLAY CASE, CONTINUED

Lower shelf, left to right continued

Mizner blue glazed bowl, reportedly an experimental piece made by the Las Manos Pottery establishing the distinctive glaze color. The donor's father was Roy Manwaring, an associate and friend to Addison Mizner. Huber Collection.

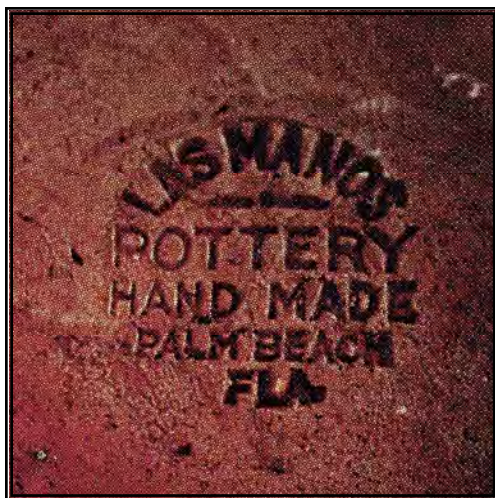
Mizner blue ceramic frog fountain head, Las Manos Pottery. Provenance unknown.

*Page from Las Manos
catalogue*



Mizner blue and Mizner yellow flower frog, Las Manos Pottery. Provenance unknown.

Yellow and green glazed ceramic bowl, stamped with the Las Manos Pottery mark on bottom. Ray and Jessie Dame Collection.



*Las Manos Pottery mark
featured on yellow green
bowl*



SOUTH WALL

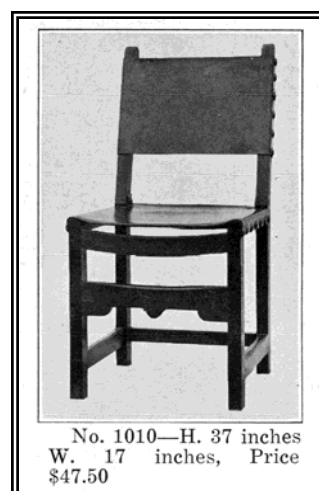
Pedestal east side

*Photo of the Cloister Inn dining room look south. Mizner's original dining room employed many Mizner Industries products and was reportedly based on a 15th century hospital at Vich, Catalonia. Today this is the site of the Mizner Room, Serendipity, and Morimoto at the BRR&C. Photo from the 1928 *Florida Architecture of Addison Mizner*.*

Free standing iron candelabrum, possible Mizner Industries, from a Palm Beach Estate. Loan of Historical Society of Palm Beach County.

Cloister Inn dining room chair, Mizner Industries. This Spanish inspired leather backed chair was commissioned specifically for the Cloister Inn dining room (see photo on south east wall). Collected from Administration Building.

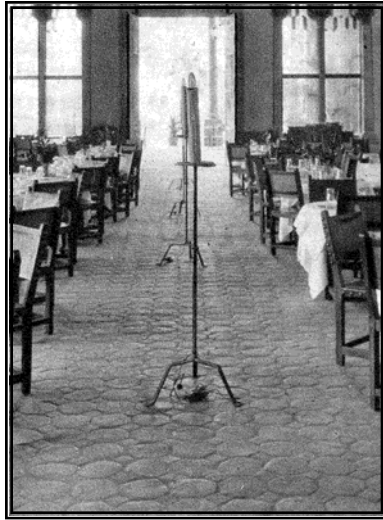
This chair is identified as "Cloister Dining Chair" in the original Mizner Industries catalogue photos.



SOUTH WALL

Pedestal east side continued

Iron prickets or candle holders, Mizner Industries. These prickets adorned the dining room at the Cloister Inn as shown in the photo on the southeast wall. Collected from the Administration Building.



Iron prickets from the Cloister Inn dining room. Photo from Florida Architecture of Addison Mizner, 1928.

SOUTH WALL

Wall

Three headboards from the Cloister Inn, Mizner Industries. One of Mizner Industries' offerings was a headboard inspired by baroque Spanish models and decoratively painted and antiqued. Pairs of these headboard graced the Cloister Inn. According to contemporary newspapers an artist named Wilma La Poer created the designs, which vary greatly. Three are shown here; the BRHS has 41 in the collection. (Three others are on view elsewhere in Town Hall). There are two basic shapes: the crested fancy style and a plain rectangle. The beds did originally have footboards as well. Collected from the Administration Building.



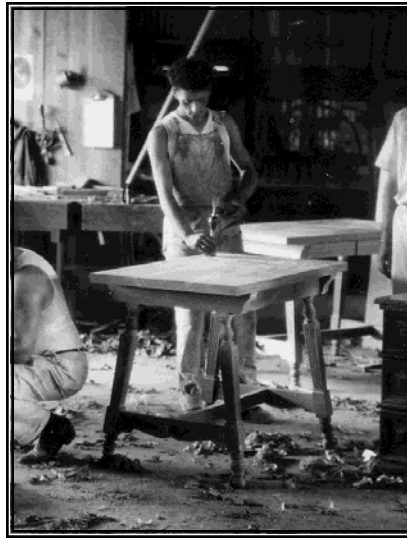
Beds being decorated at the Mizner Industries furniture workshop.

SOUTH WALL

Center

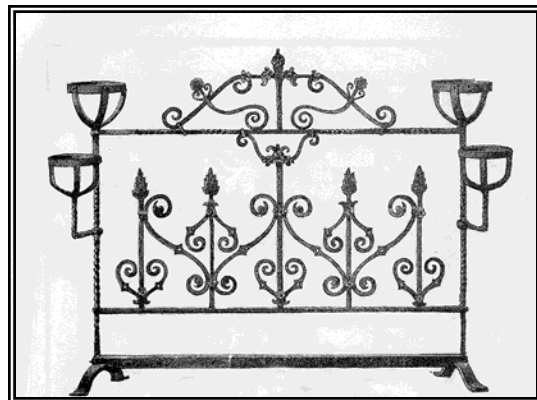
Fluted leg walnut table with drawers, Mizner Industries. This table originally came from the Boca Raton Hotel is an exact match to one from Mizner's apartment on view in the Mizner Apartment exhibit. It also appears in images of the Mizner Industries furniture workshop from the 1920s. It reflects more of a neoclassical influence rather than the usual Spanish inspiration of the Mizner Industries products. Collected from the Administration Building.

*Fluted leg table
under construction
in Mizner Industries
workshop.*



Large glazed bowl, Las Manos Pottery. This decorative bowl features a white slip over a pink-tan colored body and the classic Mizner blue glaze. Dambres Collection.

Wrought iron fireplace guard/ plant stand, possible Mizner Industries. This stand, imitative of a 17th century Spanish style, is one of two in the collections of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County. It served as a decorative plant stand for the baronial fireplaces of Palm Beach mansions. Loan of Historical Society of Palm Beach County.



*Example of actual 17th century
fireplace guard originally
published in the 1901 edition
of Artistic Ironwork.*

SOUTH WALL

Center

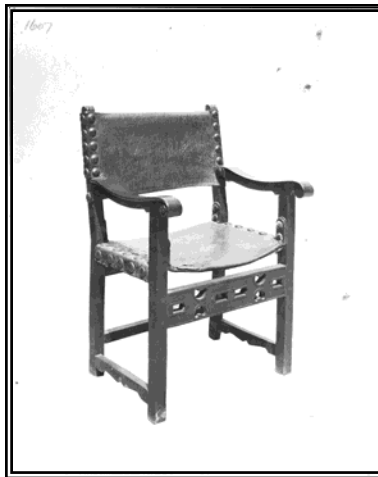
Glazed lion head jar, possible Las Manos Pottery. This fine example features the Mizner blue glaze. Purchased from Tinson Antiques.

SOUTH WALL

Pedestal west side

Frailero style chair, Mizner Industries. The frailero or monk's chair is another 17th century Spanish inspired design. A number of these armchairs, which originally had leather backs and seats, were used in the décor of the Cloister Inn. Each of the examples in the room feature different details on the front stretcher. Boca Raton Resort & Club Collection.

Frailero from the Mizner Industries catalogue photos taken by Ray Dame. Photo courtesy HSPBC.



Telephone stand, Mizner Industries. This utilitarian item was made of solid walnut and originally sold at \$30.00 each according to the Mizner Industries catalogue photos. They were a common item in the Cloister Inn, as can be seen in many of the historic photos of the hotel. Boca Raton Resort & Club Collection.



Telephone bench with drawer from the Mizner Industries catalogue photo collection. Photo courtesy HSPBC.

SOUTH WALL

Pedestal west side continued

Free standing iron candelabrum, possible Mizner Industries, from a Palm Beach Estate. Loan of Historical Society of Palm Beach County.

*Photo of the card room or smoking room at the Cloister Inn. This image reveals fraileros and telephone benches used at the hotel. Today this room is a part of the Serendipity restaurant, just west of the Bar Luna at the BRR&C. Photo from the 1928 *Florida Architecture of Addison Mizner*.*



WEST WALL

South side

Key stone fountain head, possible Mizner Industries. This fountain was reportedly collected from Villa Mizner on Worth Avenue. Mizner acquired the key stone quarry on Windley Key (south of Islamorada) in 1929 to provide an alternative material to his cast stone products. Dambres Collection.

Mizner yellow glazed jar, Las Manos Pottery. This jar features a white slip over a pink-tan colored body with the distinctive Mizner yellow glaze. Dambres Collection.

Photo of a guest room at the Cloister Inn. This image features the lamp, table, and chair which appear below it. The guest rooms were largely furnished with Mizner Industries products; the floor was reportedly "brown terrazzo."

WEST WALL

South side continued

Olla style table lamp, Las Manos Pottery. This is one of several lamps that once graced the Cloister Inn now in the collections of the BRHS. They appear to be thrown ceramic vessels with a cementitious fill to hold the lamp parts in place and cement slip rustically applied. I believe this was meant to imitate a long submerged ceramic olla or oil jar. This is combined with a hand wrought iron base. Modern shade. Collected from Administration Building.

Olla style lamp and trestle table in guest room at the Cloister Inn, 1926.



Trestle table, Mizner Industries. This simple table is one of two in the BRHS collections originally from the Boca Raton Hotel. The same style table originally stood in Mizner's apartment and can be seen in the exhibit across the hall. Collected from Administration Building.

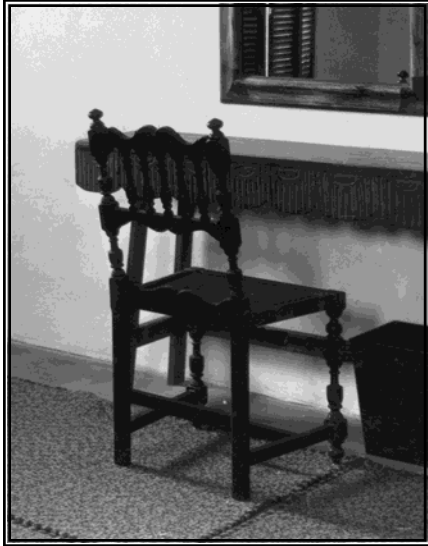


Trestle table from the Mizner Industries catalogue photo collection. Photo courtesy HSPBC.

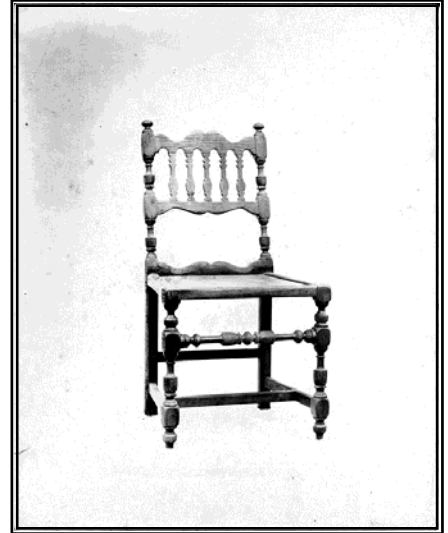
WEST WALL

South side continued

Spindle backed chair, Mizner Industries. This side chair is one of two from the Mizner Apartment collection. They are the same style of the one which appears in a photo of a Cloister Inn guest room (below). The back is actually “half-spindled,” with a flat surface facing the seated person’s back. The stretchers show the signs of wear and irregularity used to “antique” the Mizner furnishings. Mizner Apartment Collection.



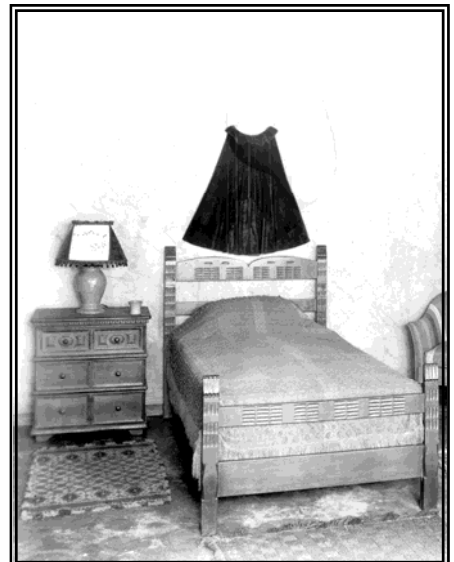
Half spindle back chair from a guest room at the Cloister Inn, 1926, left, and from Mizner Industries catalogue photos, right. Right photo courtesy HSPBC.



Three drawer chest, Mizner Industries. A 1926 newspaper account reveals that “110 three-drawer dressing tables” had been manufactured for the Cloister Inn. They were a feature of every guest room. The same style can be seen in two such chests from Mizner’s apartment, on exhibit across the hall. Boca Raton Resort & Club Collection.



Three drawer chest shown under construction at Mizner Industries workshop left and in guest room at Cloister Inn, right.



WEST WALL

South side continued

Mizner blue glazed ceramic frog fountain head, Las Manos Pottery. Dambres Collection.



WEST WALL

North side

Copy of a Mizner Industries catalogue from the 1920s. This catalogue features a sample of furniture and decorative accessories made by the Mizner workshops.

Pair of wrought iron candelabra, possible Mizner Industries. Purchase from Tinson Antiques.

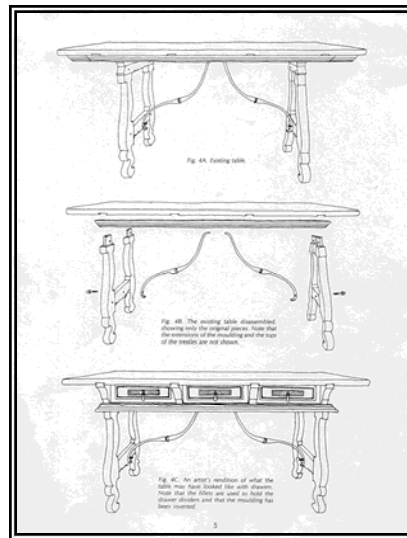
This image of a Mizner Industries workshop features a similarly styled candelabrum.



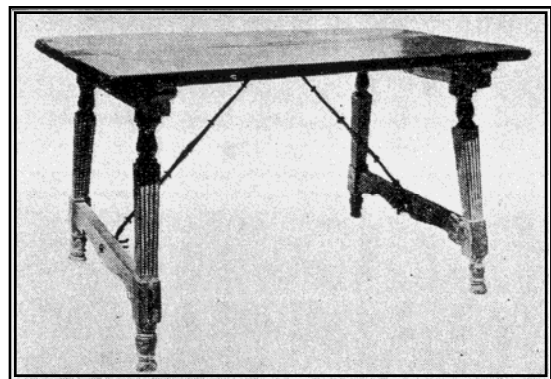
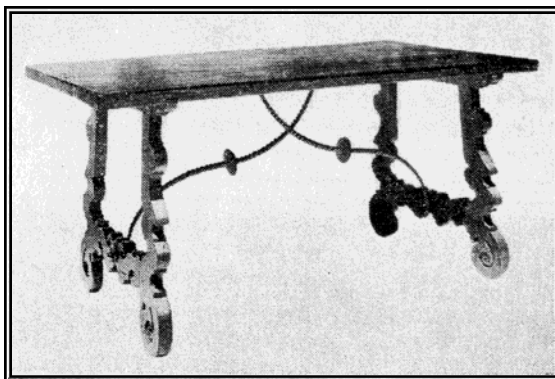
WEST WALL

North side continued

Iron braced trestle table, Mizner Industries. This table was collected from Casa Mañana, the Waller Estate, in Palm Beach. This style table mimics Spanish 17th century originals. Waller Estate Collection.



Three examples of baroque style Spanish tables.



Two examples of iron braced trestle style tables from Mizner Industries ca.1929.

Frailero style chair, Mizner Industries. The frailero or monk's chair is another 17th century Spanish inspired design. A number of these armchairs, which originally had leather backs and seats, were used in the décor of the Cloister Inn. Each of the examples in the room feature different details on the front stretcher. Boca Raton Resort & Club Collection.

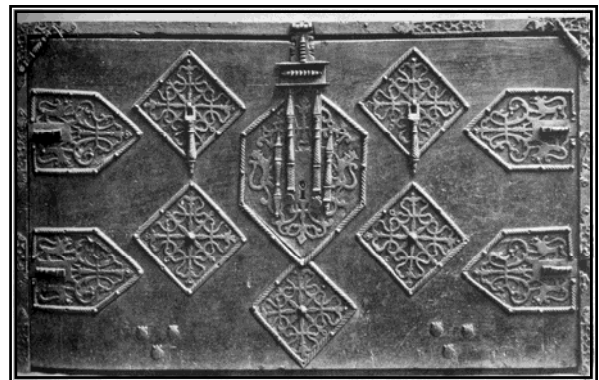
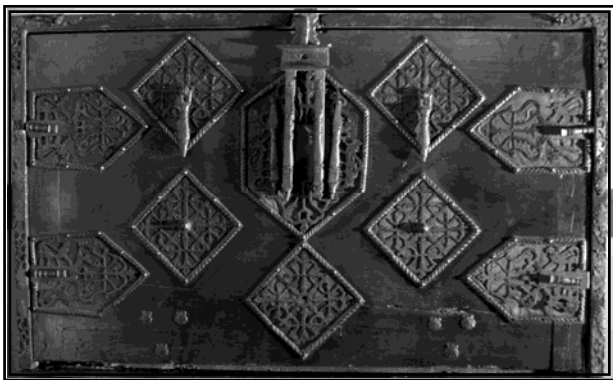
Wrought iron floor lamp, possible Mizner Industries. This candelabrum style electric floor lamp has details similar to documented Mizner Industries lamps. Dambres Collection.



NORTH WALL West Side

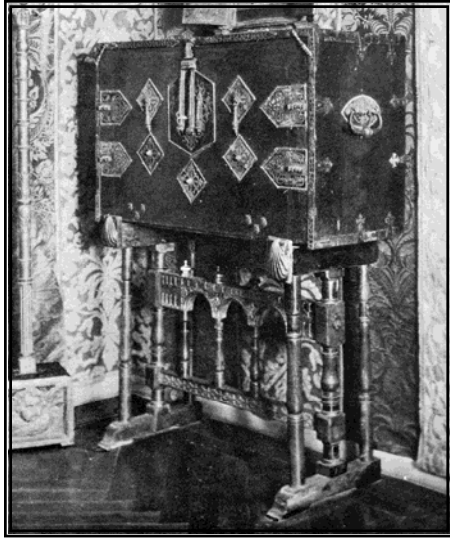
Photo of the original lobby of the Cloister Inn. This image shows the “Mizner lobby” looking south. Note the stark monastic furnishings of the oldest part of what is the Boca Raton Resort & Club. Mizner used both Mizner Industries items as well as antiques from his personal collection to furnish the hotel. Unfortunately no accurate inventory exists of these items, only historic photographs document the furnishings.

Antique varqueño on stand, 16th-17th century. A varqueño is a traveling chest on stand, a style popular in Spain for hundreds of years. Mizner both imported antique varqueños and produced them at his factory. Many antique varqueños were used in the décor at the Cloister Inn, now the Boca Raton Resort & Club. This 16th-18th century walnut example features gilt wood, painted ivory, and bone details. It sits atop a specially made stand which features pull-out supports for the front of the chest. Both stood for many years in the original Mizner lobby at the hotel. Boca Raton Resort & Club Collection.



The front of the varqueno in the BRHS collections, left, is remarkably similar (note the lions) to a 17th century example in the collections of the Victoria & Albert Museum, right. Photo at right from Spanish Interiors and Furniture, originally published 1921-1925..

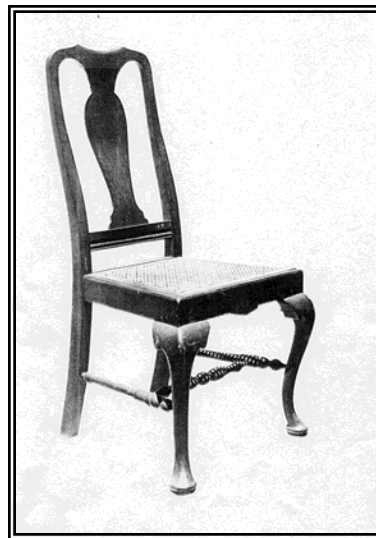
NORTH WALL
West Side continued



Antique vargueño, left, and Mizner Industries example, right. Photo at right courtesy HSPBC; left from Spanish Interiors and Furniture, originally published 1921-1925.

Queen Anne style chair, Mizner Industries. The Mizner Industries catalogue photos features this Queen Anne style side chair (originally with cane seat) with the notation “red chairs, cane bottom...original \$75 or repro.” The two chairs are from Mizner’s Worth Avenue apartment and possibly represent the original inspiration, at left, and the 20th century counterpart, at right. Mizner Apartment Collection.

Queen Anne style chair from the Mizner Industries catalogue photos. Photo courtesy HSPBC.



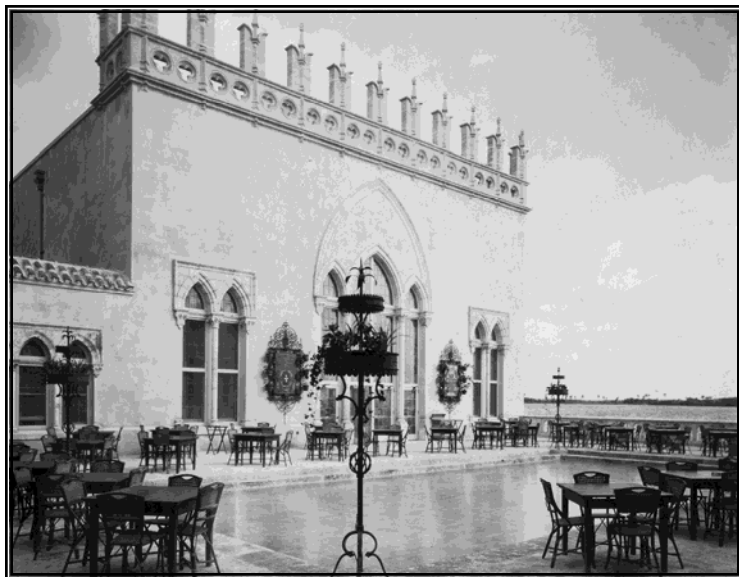


NORTH WALL

East side

Planter/ Wall Plaque, Mizner style. This plant holder/ decorative plaque is one of several which once graced the walls of the Boca Raton Club, the successor to the Cloister Inn, which opened in 1930. The plaques hung on the wall of the Patio Royale, or Palm Court, outside the Cathedral Dining Room, as well as on the walls of what is known as Mizner's loggia, just outside of today's Serendipity at the Boca Raton Resort & Club. Each plaque featured a different heraldic style emblem in the "castle" theme of the hotel. Although likely not a product of Mizner Industries, they may have been imported by same. Similar examples, salvaged from various Palm Beach sources, are on display at the Driftwood Inn and Patio Restaurant in Vero Beach. Boca Raton Resort & Club Collection.

Tile plaques can be seen surrounding the entrance to the Cathedral Dining Room at the Boca Raton





EAST WALL

North side

Mizner blue glazed jardinière, Las Manos Pottery. This “cast stone” jardinière is made of cementitious material that has been glazed “Mizner Blue.” Provenance Unknown.

Photo showing the Mizner Industries iron and metal workshop in the 1920s.

Decorative wrought iron balcony railing, possible Mizner Industries. This railing was salvaged from some now unknown site in Palm Beach County by the Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation’s Southeast Regional Office. Dearborn Preservation Collection.

Wrought iron and glass hanging lantern, possible Mizner Industries. This lantern is similar to those shown in the Mizner Industries metal workshop photo at left. Dambres Collection.



Lanterns hang from the rafters at the Mizner Industries metal workshop.

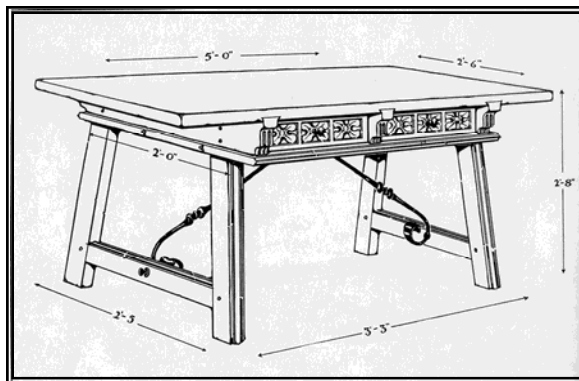
EAST WALL

North side continued

Wrought iron candelabrum, Mizner style. Loan of Historical Society of Palm Beach County.

Antique trestle table. This antique table with 20th century repair is typical of the Spanish style of the 17th century. It once graced the public rooms of the Boca Raton Club and is probably from Mizner's personal antiques collection. This trestle table has iron braces and three drawers (the drawers face the wall). Such tables served as inspiration for Mizner Industries examples like the small table on the west wall of this room.

Drawing of 17th century Spanish iron braced trestle table. From Spanish Interiors and Furniture, originally published 1921-1925.



Frailero style chair, Mizner Industries. The frailero or monk's chair is another 17th century Spanish inspired design. A number of these armchairs, which originally had leather backs and seats, were used in the décor of the Cloister Inn. Each of the examples in the room feature different details on the front stretcher. Boca Raton Resort & Club Collection

PROVENANCE

Collected from Administration Building: The Administration Buildings for Mizner Development Corporation, located at Camino Real and Dixie Highway, remained in the possession of the Boca Raton Hotel until the early 1980s. (It has since been restored and is on the NR). At the time, members of the BRHS were allowed to salvage a number of items which had been stored there by the hotel. Amongst these were furnishings from the original Cloister Inn, the hotel's predecessor.

Dambres Collection: Old Floresta resident Ernest Dambres collected salvage items from various Palm Beach and Boca Raton estates before donating them to the BRHS in the 1980s. Some were documented as to source; others are not.

PROVENANCE CONTINUED

Ray and Jessie Dame Collection: Ray Dame served as principle photographer for the Mizner Development Corporation, including items for the Mizner Industries catalogues. This collection was purchased from their daughter by the BRHS.

Boca Raton Resort & Club Collection: These items were given to the BRHS by BRR&C in 2009. They include furnishings which were originally part of the Cloister Inn décor.

Mizner Apartment Collection: These items are on long term loan from the Norton Museum of Art. They were originally the gift of Rose Sachs, the second owner of Addison Mizner's Worth Avenue apartment.

Huber Collection: Dot Huber's father was Roy Manwaring, an engineer for the Mizner Development Corporation and friend of Mizner.

Lyster Collection: Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Lyster Jr. were residents of a Mizner house in Old Floresta.

Dearborn Preservation Collection: These items were collected by the southeast regional office of the state's Bureau of Historic Preservation, which was eliminated in 2008.

Frederick Herpel, Herpel Inc. loan: Mr. Herpel's cast stone business in West Palm Beach is actually the direct descendant of the Mizner Industries operation. He owns a number of cast stone and tile artifacts from those workshops.

Tinson Antiques purchase: Items purchase from West Palm Beach antiques dealer Rod Tinson.

Historical Society of Palm Beach County loan: The HSPBC is the steward of a number of Mizner Industries and Mizner style items from various Palm Beach estates.

FOR FURTHER READING

"Mizner Industries" in *The Spanish River Papers* vol X no.2 February 1982
This issue is available on the BRHS website, www.bocahistory.org. Click on Boca Raton's History, then *Spanish River Papers* to download this PDF.

**BRHS&M THANKS OUR GOOD FRIENDS
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Custom Photo
Bonnie Dearborn
Dr. Donald Curl
BRHS&M Collections Department volunteers & interns

