

John Ringling's vision for St. Armands:

A people friendly place with a central park, broad boulevards, elegant shops & restaurants, beautiful homes, classical statues, pink sidewalks, & lush landscaping.

John Ringling's travels to the Renaissance cities of Italy inspired his vision. The Renaissance owed its inspiration to classical Greek & Roman art - art that had beauty as a defining characteristic. Classical sculpture combined the realistic portrayal of individual beauty & the humanistic aspects of idealized beauty. The Greeks & Romans portrayed their gods as flesh & blood humans. In 1927 John Ringling recreated this beauty on St. Armands.

The SOS project's goal is the preservation of the statues John Ringling purchased in the 1920s. Twenty-one new statues were added in 2007 to enhance his legacy. Two ("Flora" & "Sculpture" at #6 below) are copies of Ringling era statues in the collection of the Ringling Museum.

Start tour at St. Armand (Harding) Circle Park



1. East side – Discobolus (the Discus Thrower) by Myron (c. 460 BC) **Bronze** - Myron chose a moment of rest between 2 periods of movement combining implied action with classical formalism. The result is the perfect formula for the depiction of a beautiful athletic body. The backward swing of the discus has reached its furthest point & the body's unwinding hasn't commenced. Chiurazzi Foundry, Naples, Italy.*

2. South side – Diana **Marble**- Diana (Artemis), born in Delos (1 of the Cyclades Islands) just before her brother Apollo; was the Queen of Animals & Goddess of the Hunt & ever since was considered the mistress of the whole of wild nature as she was often accompanied by wild beasts.***

3. West side – Borghese Warrior by Agasias. (c. 170 - 86 BC) **Bronze** - original in the Louvre, Paris. Borghese family members were prominent art collectors who owned this work which was found in the city of Antium in the 17th Century AD It's thought Agasias was influenced by the 4th Century BC sculptor Lysippos. The warrior is depicted as he protects himself from attack with his shield (at one time attached to the arm guard on left arm). Also Chiurazzi Foundry.**

* Available for adoption – contact Ed Pinto – 240-423-2848

** Purchased by John Ringling in the 1920s.

*** Purchased by Save Our Statues (SOS) in 2007.

4. North side – bust of John Ringling – adopted by Denise Matthys **Bronze** - John Ringling's vision led to the creation of St. Armands Key & its famed Circle. Bust dates to 1986. The sculptor was Ethelia Patmagrian of the Ringling School of Art & Design.

5. On Park - 8 Caryatid statue lamps – adopted by City of Sarasota **Cast concrete** - the 1978 pamphlet entitled "St. Armands Circle" notes that Ken Thompson, Sarasota's long-time city manager, while visiting San Simeon, the California estate of William Randolph Hearst, happened upon lighting fixtures around the pool. Working with merchants Grover Voyles & Whitney Bowden, Thompson conferred with an architect (a Mr. Stressau) & came up with the design. It's based on a limestone relief of the Greek head – Winged Victory – at the Ringling Museum. A Tampa company cast the double-headed statue in caryatid style from the design & the lamps were installed on the Circle Park in the mid-1960s.

John Ringling Blvd. (head east from Circle)

6. Allegory of Sarasota, its 7 Virtues



Marble - Sarasota's 7 Virtues are (with adopters): Music (Joan McCallister & Ed Pinto), Water: Amphitrite, wife of Neptune (Sandra Bower), Flora (Officer D. Franklin, Ken & Sherri Kellaway, Wm. & Connie Shey & Ethna & Chris Lynch), Asclepius. god of medicine (Joan McCallister & Ed Pinto), Learning: Aristotle (Iris & Marty Rapaport), Sculpture (St. Armands Circle Association), & Agriculture (Lynches Pub & Grub).***



7. Michelangelo

Marble - Michelangelo was an Italian Renaissance painter, sculptor, architect, poet & engineer. His versatility in the disciplines he took up was of such a high order that he is often considered a contender for the title of the archetypal Renaissance man, along with his rival & fellow Italian Leonardo da Vinci.**

8. Dionysus (Bacchus)

Limestone, concrete, shell - Dionysus, the god of wine, represents both the intoxicating power of wine & its social & beneficial influences.**

9. Marzocco (lion and shield) – adopted by Mayor Lou Ann Palmer & Commissioner Ken Shelin

Marble - symbol of Florence, as sculpted by Donatello.**

10. The Three Graces - adopted by Joan McCallister & Ed Pinto, entrance sign adopted by St. Armands Residents Association. **Marble** - The Three Graces are the daughters of Zeus & Eurynome (his 1st wife), are named, from left to right, Euphrosyne (Beauty), Aglaea (Charm) & Thalia (Joy) & were thought to be in the service of Venus. There're 2 originals by Canova (1810-1817), one in the Hermitage, the other shared by the Victoria and Albert Museum & the National Galleries of Scotland. In a return to classical style, it's considered to represent a standard of beauty: one that is fitting for the entrance to St. Armands.***

Head back west on John Ringling Blvd. to No. Adams & turn right (north) to Madison Dr.



11. Standing male - cast concrete*

Continue on N. Adams Drive to N. Blvd. of the Presidents. As you head south back to St. Armands Circle you will see:



12. Children with Lamb & melon– concrete w. shells - adopted by Bob & Judy Gustafson**

13. Marzocco (lion and shield) - adopted by Jill & Bill Rex **Marble** - symbol of Florence, as sculpted by Donatello.**

14. Athena holding her shield with Medusa's head **Sandstone** - Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom, the arts, & industry, was the favorite child of Zeus. To help Perseus kill Medusa, Athena took off the shield of polished bronze which covered her breast & gave it to him. She warned him to use it as a mirror so as to avoid the direct sight of Medusa which could turn a man into stone. After Perseus killed Medusa & used the severed head to kill a sea serpent & save the beautiful Andromeda, he gave the head to Athena who mounted it on her shield.**

15. Venus de' Medici – adopted by Jeff & Doris Plunkett **Marble** - a traditional representation of Venus (Aphrodite), it's a life-sized marble sculpture depicting the goddess of love & beauty. Original is a 1st century B.C. marble copy, perhaps from Athens, of a bronze Greek sculpture, following the type of the Aphrodite of Cnidos.***

16. Venus at her bath **Sandstone** -traditional representation of Venus bathing.**

17. Neptune – adopted by Judith Zuckerberg & George Kole
 Marble - Neptune with fish at his feet. Neptune was the Roman god of the sea & second in power to Jupiter. Neptune ruled with violent fits of temper & fury; sparking tempests. His trident launched thunderbolts.***

Continue west at Circle to John Ringling Blvd.



18. Columbus
 Marble - depicts Columbus with his hand resting on a globe, which is resting on a chart or scroll (perhaps signifying a map or the commission he received from Queen Isabella). These both rest on a support, which has an anchor & sailing ship in base relief.**

Design guidance provided by Jean Lang & artistic guidance provided Howard Garnitz, Papo Cobian, Jon Dowd, & John Maseman,, in-kind services from Lovin Construction.

19. Dionysus (Bacchus) – adopted by Duane & Barbie Henderson
 Marble - Dionysus, the god of wine, represents both the intoxicating power of wine & its social & beneficial influences.***

20. Apollo Belvedere – marble
 Marble - Apollo Belvedere is a marble sculpture that was rediscovered in the late 15th century. It epitomized the ideals of classical antiquity for Europeans from the Renaissance through the 19th century. Apollo is associated with the arts of music & medicine, & for his role as the leader of the Muses establishing him as a patron of intellectual pursuits.***

21. Birth of Venus - adopted by Dona & Tom Blake
 Marble - depicts the birth of Venus, who was thought to have emerged from the sea as a full-grown woman, arriving at the shore on a shell. The naked goddess is a symbol not of earthly, but spiritual love. Thus, this statue follows ancient traditions, with Venus depicted as slim & long-limbed, with harmonious features. The modest pose is borrowed from the Venus Pudica type of ancient sculpture.***

22. Apollo & Daphne
 Marble - Daphne was Apollo's first love. As he pursued her, she called upon her father Peneus, the river god, to come to her rescue. This statue represents the moment when her father starts changing her into a laurel tree so as to escape Apollo. Original statue is by Bernini(1622-1625) & is located at the Galleria Borghese in Rome.***

Head south on S. Washington Dr. to S. Blvd. of the Presidents (3 blocks). Turn left. As you head north back to the Circle you will see:



23. Prometheus Bound – limestone
 As punishment for giving fire to humans, Jupiter (Zeus) had Prometheus bound to a rock with inextricable chains & set on him an eagle, which ate his liver by day; but by night the liver would regrow; only to have the cycle repeat the next morning.**

24. Roman general - adopted by Remax/Excellence Realty
 Sandstone & shell. Pomegranates along w. helmet off symbolize peace.**

25. Apollo as hunter
 Marble - Apollo, along with his sister Diana, represented the hunt.***

26. Small children around a column – limestone**

27. Man in cloak nodding – limestone
 Winter, shown as an old man clutching a cloak to fend off the cold.**

28. Woman in dress – limestone
 Fruit crown & fruit in hand likely symbolize Pomona or Persephone.**



29. a. -d. The Four Seasons Allegory – marble***
 Summer as a maiden holding the fruits of summer.
 Spring as a maiden holding spring flowers - adopted by Paul & Eugenia Finstad
 Winter as a maiden well protected from the cold.
 Fall as a maiden with a scythe & harvested wheat.

30. Venus & Cupid – Brenda & Geoffrey Michel - The Met
 Marble - Venus (Aphrodite) with her son, Cupid. Cupid is seen blindfolding his mother, an allusion to the thought that love is blind.***

31. John Ringling statue by Tony Lopez (2001)
 Donated by City of Sarasota, St. Armands Circle Association, St. Armands Residents Association, & Commercial Landowners Association
Continue right on Circle to Fillmore, turn right & through parking lot to corner of Fillmore, Adams, & Monroe Drives.

32. Small children around a tree– limestone - adopted by Jesse & Betsy Hannan & Jean & David Day**

*The Harding (St. Armands) Circle Historic District
 Sarasota, FL*

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places



A Walking Guide

Sponsored by the St. Armands Residents Association &

<Become the prime sponsor of this brochure for \$3000/year plus \$2500 per 25,000 brochures.

or

Become one of 2 co-sponsors of this brochure for \$1750/year plus \$1500 per 25,000 brochures.>

The St. Armands Residents Association, City of Sarasota, Ringling Museum, St. Armands Circle Association, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, & many of the residents & businesses of St. Armands & the surrounding area joined together in 2007 to undertake the Save Our Statues initiative.

To adopt a statue or to contribute to the continuing efforts of the Beautify St. Armands Fund, please send your check made payable to the “Beautify St. Armands Fund, 19 North Boulevard of the Presidents, Suite 419, Sarasota, FL 34236. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Written by Edward Pinto ©2007