

Prof. José D. Mitrani P.E., C.G.C., C.P.C, A.I.C.

Professor Emeritus

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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Engineer Degree (Professional Terminal Degree), 1976

Master of Engineering in Construction Management, 1975

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, with High Honors, 1973

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION AND LICENSES

Registered Professional Engineer: Florida, No. 19943
Structural Plans Examiner: Board of Rules & Appeals, Miami-Dade County
Standard Building Plans Examiner: Florida, No. 1437
Standard Building Inspector: Florida, No. 3480
Certified (Statewide) General Contractor: Florida, No. 11620
Registered Real Estate Broker: Florida, No. 138646
Certified Professional Constructor: Constructor Certification Commission
OSHA 10 & 30 Hour Construction Outreach Program Trainer Licensed
Private Pilot, Federal Aviation Administration

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

1974-present, Miscellaneous and varied structural engineering consulting work. Consultant to five building departments performing structural plans examination and reviews for building code compliance prior to construction permitting. Design of substructure and superstructures of residential and commercial building structures, as well as tanks, pedestrian bridges and antenna towers. Design experience in reinforced concrete, structural steel, pre-stressed concrete, and timber. Investigation and analysis of structural failures. General structural inspections.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

1977-1986, Vice-President, Mitrani Inc., General Contractors and Construction Managers. Work performed includes: General on-site supervision of construction. Coordination of sub-contractors. Coordination of design, construction details, and construction methods with architects, engineers and subcontractors. Preparation of preliminary and final cost estimates. Development of cost monitoring and cost control systems. General construction inspections. Construction loan monitoring, inspections, preparation/review/approval of draw schedules and draw requests. Preparation of project schedules using Critical Path and other scheduling techniques. Investigation of suitability and feasibility of land for single-family and multi-family housing projects and small commercial developments. Preparation of feasibility studies, cash flow projections and sensitivity

analyses. Negotiation of financing packages including land acquisition and land development loans, construction loans, and permanent loan commitments.

FORENSIC STRUCTURAL/CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

1975-present, Investigation and analysis of structural failures. Consultant to Florida Construction Industry Licensing Board, Florida Engineering Management Corporation, Florida Board of Professional Engineers, Florida State Attorney's Office, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, South Florida Water Management District and private law firms on construction, engineering, building code, construction management, licensing, ethics and real estate related cases.

TEACHING AND ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2000-2015, (Tenured) Associate Professor, Teaching Construction and Structural Engineering Courses, OHL School of Construction and Department of Construction Management, College of Engineering and Computing, Florida Int'l. Univ., Miami.

1989-2000, (Tenured) Associate Professor and Department Chairman, Department of Construction Management, College of Engineering and Design, Florida International Univ., Miami.

1995-2001, Associate Director For Physical Mitigation, International Hurricane Center, Florida State University System.

1985-1989, (Tenured) Senior Associate Professor of Engineering, Miami-Dade Community College South Campus, Miami.

1980-1984, Assistant Professor of Civil and Architectural Engr., University of Miami, Miami.

1976-1980, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Florida, Gainesville.

PUBLICATIONS

1976-present, Authored or co-authored over thirty-five articles in refereed journals and refereed national and international conference proceedings. Authored or co-authored sixteen research and two *Building Code Committee* reports. Also authored one book.

RESEARCH

1976-present, Successfully obtained sponsored research from the Florida Department of Transportation, the Florida Department of Education through the Building Construction Industry Advisory Committee, the Metropolitan Dade County Building Code Compliance Office, Dade County Public Schools, the Department of Energy through the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Florida Department of Community Affairs and the State of Florida International Hurricane Center.

SERVICE

2013-2015, Member of the UFF Bargaining Team in charge of negotiating Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Board of Trustees of Florida International University and the United Faculty of Florida. Participated in negotiations for two contract cycles.

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Curriculum Vitae

2011-2012, Member NIRD – Neutral Internal Dispute Resolution Panel, Panel member in arbitration proceedings related to faculty of Florida International University.

2010-2015, Senator, Executive Committee, United Faculty of Florida.

1976-2015, Member of numerous university committees at the department, college and university levels. Member of several technical and professional committees and councils at the national level. Appointed to various local, regional, state, and nationwide committees working on issues related to the effects of Hurricane Andrew.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL AND HONORARY SOCIETIES

American Council For Construction Education

Past Member, Board of Trustees

Past Member, Standards Committee

Fellow and Life Member, American Society of Civil Engineers

Member, National Committee on Computers in Construction

Member, Construction Research Council

Florida Engineering Society

President, Miami Chapter, 1998-1999

Board of Directors, 1993-1994 and 1995-1996.

National Society of Professional Engineers

Tau Beta Pi, National Engineering Honorary Society Phi

Kappa Phi, National Honorary Society

SPECIAL AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Engineer of the Year Award, Florida Engineering Society, Miami Chapter, February 2003.

Certified Professional Constructor, Constructor Certification Commission, American Institute of Constructors, 1998 to present.

Outstanding Service to the Profession Award, Florida Engineering Society, Miami Chapter, February 1997.

Board of Trustees of the American Council For Construction Education, Elected for 1998-1999, 1997-1998, 1996-1997, 1995-1996, 1994-1995, 1993-1994, 1992-1993.

Board of Directors of the Indoor Air Quality Association, 1995-1998.

State Ethical Practices Committee of the Florida Engineering Society, 1995-1997.

Board of Trustees of the Miami Chapter of the Florida Engineering Society, Elected for 1999 - 2000, 1995-1996 and 1993-1994.

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Curriculum Vitae

Insurance Institute For Property Loss Reduction, Invited by IIPLR to participate in a workshop on *Missiles in a Wind Field* with national and international experts of the wind engineering and construction communities. Washington, D.C., February 1995.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL), Appointed to the Steering Committee of CERL's *Construction Technology Transfer Center*, 1995.

International Center For Hurricane Damage Research and Mitigation (IHC), Appointed to the Academic Steering Committee, 1995-1996. Board of Directors 1997-present.

Engineer of the Year Award, Florida Engineering Society, Miami Chapter, February 1994.
Metropolitan Dade County Building Code and Product Review Committee, *Chairperson* 2001-2002, *Vice-Chairperson* 1994-1995, 1998-2000, 2000-2002. Appointed by the Metropolitan Dade County Board of County Commissioners to the permanent board of construction and engineering experts charged with updating and maintaining the *South Florida Building Code*, and approving materials and construction processes for use in Dade County, Florida, April 1994 to present.

Construction Educator of the Year Award, Hispanic-American Builders Association, Miami, Fl., November 1993.

Metropolitan Dade County Building Code Committee, Appointed by the Metropolitan Dade County Board of County Commissioners to the eight member body of prominent technical experts charged with developing recommendations to address *South Florida Building Code* and construction delivery process weaknesses identified by the *Dade County Grand Jury* and the *Building Code Evaluation Task Force*. This committee was also charged with the task of updating and maintaining the *South Florida Building Code* and the critical process of approving alternate methods of construction and construction materials for use in Dade County, May 1993 - April 1994.

Research Award From The Building Construction Industry Advisory Committee, Award granted in recognition of the research program in the Department of Construction Management at Florida International University. 1993.

Metropolitan Dade County Building Code Evaluation Task Force, Appointed by the Dade County Manager to the nine member panel of prominent technical experts charged with investigating the causes of failure of South Florida buildings due to Hurricane Andrew, September 1992 - May 1993.

Moderator of the Florida Construction Industry Licensing Board Strategic Planning Process, Selected by the C.I.L.B. to aid the Board's development of short term and long term strategic plans. Personally led the strategic planning sessions the Board held at three licensing meetings in 1992.

Abbreviated Biographical Sketch

Prof. José D. Mitrani, P.E. is Professor Emeritus and past Chairman of the Department of Construction Management in the College of Engineering at Florida International University in Miami, Florida, a position he held from August 1989 to December 2000. For part of that period he also held the position of Associate Director for Physical Mitigation of the Florida State University System's *International Hurricane Center*, located on the campus of Florida International University in Miami.

Prof. Mitrani was born in Cuba and emigrated to the United States in 1961. He was educated at Hialeah High School and at the University of Florida. His professional life spans more than 40 years, during which time he has been an engineering consultant, a contractor, and a professor on the faculties of Miami-Dade College, the University of Miami, the University of Florida, and Florida International University. As chair of the Department of Construction Management at FIU he led its construction management program to a position of national prominence in construction education and research. Prof. Mitrani has authored or co-authored numerous articles and research reports on a variety of construction related subjects.

Prof. Mitrani has extensive academic and industry experience in structural/civil engineering and construction, and hurricane issues that encompass and bridge both disciplines. He is licensed as a registered professional engineer, certified general contractor, building plans examiner, and building inspector in the State of Florida, and is certified as a structural plans examiner by the Miami-Dade County Board of Rules and Appeals. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He is a past member of the Board of Trustees of the American Council For Construction Education. He has been a consultant to the *Construction Engineering Research Laboratory* of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Construction Industry Licensing Board, the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Prof. Mitrani has broad construction management experience, including the application of, and research into, computer methods in construction management. This work has included development and implementation of accounting systems; development and implementation of cost monitoring and cost control systems; implementation of project planning and scheduling using Critical Path (CPM) methods; development and utilization of economic feasibility studies and cash flow models for analyses and projections; development and implementation of database systems for project sales control; systems integration of multiple construction company data processing functions; training of office staff in utilization of established data processing procedures. In addition to his work in construction management, Prof. Mitrani has also engaged in a variety of structural engineering consulting projects involving the design of substructures and superstructures of residential and commercial buildings, tanks, pedestrian bridges, and antenna towers. He has design experience in reinforced concrete, structural steel, prestressed concrete, and timber.

Prof. Mitrani also has extensive experience in post hurricane disaster inspections, evaluations, and building/structural assessment. In the wake of Hurricane Andrew (September 1992) he was one of eight prominent national experts appointed by the Dade County manager to the Metropolitan Dade County *Building Code Evaluation Task Force*. This group was charged with investigating the devastation wrought by the storm on South Florida, identifying causes, and formulating

recommendations for improvements to the *South Florida Building Code* specifically, and to the construction delivery system in general. In October 1992 he was asked to participate in a second task force. This task force was convened to develop statewide recommendations for building codes and building code enforcement, which were presented to the Florida Legislature at the special session held in November of that year to deal with issues related to Hurricane Andrew. Prof. Mitrani chaired the Education, Training, and Certification Committee. The task force was convened by the Florida *Department of Community Affairs* and involved experts in all facets of construction, the design professions, government and building officials, meteorology, and construction materials from all over the United States.

In 1993 Prof. Mitrani was appointed to the Metropolitan Dade County *Building Code Committee* by the County Manager. This eight member body of prominent technical experts was the successor to the *Building Code Evaluation Task Force* and was charged with developing recommendations to address *South Florida Building Code* and construction delivery process weaknesses identified by the 1992 *Dade County Grand Jury* and the *Building Code Evaluation Task Force*. This committee was also charged with the task of updating and maintaining the *South Florida Building Code* and the critical process of approving alternate methods of construction and construction materials for use in Dade County. The committee was permanently chartered in 1994 as the *Building Code Committee and Product Review Committee*, and Prof. Mitrani was subsequently appointed to the permanent committee by the Metropolitan Dade County *Board of County Commissioners*. He served as its Vice-Chairperson during 1994-1996 and was re-elected to this position for the 1999-2000 term. He served as the Chairperson of the committee during 2000 – 2002.

In February 1995 Prof. Mitrani traveled to Washington, D.C. at the invitation of the *Insurance Institute For Property Loss Reduction*. The purpose of the trip was to participate in a workshop on *Missiles in a Wind Field* with a select number of national and international experts of the wind engineering and construction communities. The workshop was intended to identify and define research topics related to airborne missiles during high wind events.

Miami-Dade County is one of a very few number of places in the United States where it is required that plans submitted for building permit applications be reviewed for structural sufficiency and code compliance by a licensed professional engineer. This requirement was one of the many measures instituted after Hurricane Andrew, and was done so at the urging of the *Building Code Evaluation Task Force*, of which Prof. Mitrani was a member. Starting in 1999 Prof. Mitrani, at one time or another, has served as a structural plans examiner for five building departments in Miami-Dade County. His involvement in the structural plans review process has allowed him to directly experience how many of the building code, product approval, and other construction delivery system improvement measures he helped develop have impacted construction and the resulting benefit to the housing and building stock in South Florida.

Professor Mitrani has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors. Among them, he was awarded the “Engineer of the Year” Award by the Miami Chapter of the Florida Engineering Society twice: in 1994 and in 2003. He was also awarded the “Outstanding Service to the Profession” Award by the Miami Chapter of the FES in 1997. He was President of the Miami Chapter of the FES during 1998-1999.

Prof. Mitrani retired from full-time academic life in December of 2015. Prof. Mitrani was hired as Chairperson of the Department of Construction Management at FIU in August of 1989 after serving on the engineering faculties of the University of Florida, the University of Miami and Miami-Dade College. At the time of his hiring the Department was in disarray after a succession of 5 different chairpersons in the previous 2 years; the scholarly productivity of the faculty was non-existent; and the American Council For Construction Education was poised to remove the Bachelors Degree program's accreditation for non-compliance with its standards. At the time, College and University leadership had adopted a policy of "benign neglect" towards the Department and its degree programs, leading to ongoing debate to determine what to do with them. Two options were under consideration: eliminate the Department and its programs or merge them with another engineering program. Had either of these scenarios occurred it would have been a serious blow to students, faculty, university, the South Florida community in general and the South Florida construction industry in particular. For most of the eleven and one half years during which Prof. Mitrani served as chairperson he had the dual challenges of keeping the only construction education program south of Gainesville alive, as well as strengthening it, growing it, and leading the effort to add the missing dimensions of research and scholarly activities to its endeavors.

As part of his application for the chairperson's position, Prof. Mitrani prepared a plan, which he presented to the search and screen committee and to the Dean of the College, as well as to the Department faculty. The plan was entitled *Construction Management at FIU: A Plan To Achieve Greatness and National Prominence*. As of December 2015, 26-1/2 years later, the goals and promises that were envisioned in that plan had been achieved. The Department of Construction Management had become the OHL School of Construction; its academic programs had attained national and international prominence; its faculty had become productive in research and publications and had been nationally and internationally recognized in both endeavors and had been actively recruited by major institutions; its students had repeatedly won national competitions in construction; and the School had become the preeminent source of construction graduates and knowledge in South Florida, a true and valuable resource to its students, the University, the industry, and the community.

Many people were involved and are to be recognized for their work to accomplish this transformation. Prof. Mitrani is proud to have initiated it, to have been a part of it and to have contributed to it.