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Cuban Architects Max Borges and Ricardo Porro granted 2006 Cintas Foundation Lifetime Achievement Awards in Architecture.

Noted Cuban architects Max Borges and Ricardo Porro will receive Cintas Foundation Lifetime Achievement Awards during a ceremony May 20th in Miami.

The Foundation is honoring Borges, the creator of the famed Tropicana Cabaret, and Porro, responsible for the groundbreaking Schools of Plastic Arts and Modern Dance in Havana, for their leading roles in Cuba's Modernist Movement.

Born in 1918, Borges became part of a group of young architects that – during Cuba's mid-century economic and tourism boom – fashioned the architectural style of their time. After earning degrees from Georgia Tech and Harvard University, Borges returned to Havana, where he quickly built a distinguished practice, winning the National College of Architects Award for his work on the Medical and Surgical Center. A few years later, his soaring design of the Tropicana Cabaret, built in 1951, became an iconic image for Cuba's capital. Borges left Cuba in 1959 and built a successful architecture practice in various cities in the United States. He lives in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Porro, who was born in Camagüey in 1925, has lived in Paris since 1966. He has earned international acclaim for his design for the Art Center in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, and several other major buildings in Europe. He began his architectural career in the late 1940s in Havana, where he designed several villas of distinction as well as the two famous schools of art and dance. He has been professor of architecture in universities in Cuba, Venezuela, France, Austria and Israel. His paintings, sculptures, furniture and architectural projects have been the subject of numerous exhibitions and publications around the world. In France, he was honored with the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur and Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

“The Board of Directors of the Cintas Foundation is very pleased to be able to honor these two giants of the Cuban Modernist Movement,” said Board President Hortensia Sampedro. “It is a wonderful opportunity to recognize yet two more outstanding contributors to another important and enduring aspect of Cuban culture”.

The Cintas Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award has only been granted four previous times, to the writers Lydia Cabrera and Guillermo Cabrera Infante, the artist Enrique Riverón and the architect Nicolás Quintana.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony scheduled on Cuban Independence Day, May 20th, at a cocktail reception open to the public at 7 p.m. at The Buena Vista Building, Miami Design District, 180 NE 39th Street, Suite 120, Miami, Fla.