

# *Royal Poinciana Plaza*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Architect and Landscape Architect Named for Royal Poinciana Plaza

**Palm Beach, FL – (July 11, 2008)** – The owners of Royal Poinciana Plaza announced today that they have hired Boston, Mass.-based Ann Beha Architects as the property’s architect, and named as its landscape architect Morgan Wheelock Inc., a landscape architectural firm with offices in Palm Beach and Boston, Mass., for the potential redevelopment and revitalization of the property. The 12-acre Royal Poinciana Plaza was acquired in April by a group of Palm Beach residents and investors led by Brian Kosoy, CEO of Sterling Organization, and Lee Munder, founder and chairman of Lee Munder Capital Group.

“These two firms are unmatched in their collective ability to create a plan and an inspired design that will recast Royal Poinciana Plaza in a role that is viable for the coming decades, responsive to the current commercial needs of the residents of the Town of Palm Beach and is respectful of and sensitive to the history and character of this signature property,” said Kosoy.

“We interviewed a number of exceptionally talented architects and landscape architects over the past three months, and the team of Beha and Wheelock were not only unanimously selected as the right match for this project by our group, but were the same names recommended repeatedly to us by residents who join us in wanting the best for this property and our Town,” Munder added. “We are so pleased to welcome them to our project team.”

Ann Beha Architects, which is renowned for its ability to balance the highest preservation standards with compelling contemporary design expression, has a particular interest in design within sensitive contexts, integrating landscape, sustainability, technology and design innovation into its award-winning buildings. The firm’s founder and principal, Ann M. Beha, FAIA, who earned her bachelor’s at Wellesley College and her Master of Architecture degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has previously worked with Wheelock at St. Paul’s School in Concord, New Hampshire. The firm has designed and restored some of the country’s leading cultural, academic and private institutions, and their portfolio includes commissions for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Tanglewood Music Center, the Portland Art Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the New England Conservatory of Music’s Jordan Hall, as well as universities, performing and fine arts institutions, and commercial buildings.

Established in 1980, the firm, under Beha's leadership, is known for work with strong historical and cultural content, and by its mastery of the balance between preservation and outstanding new design. It distinguishes itself not only placing value on design, but also on the arts, the community and the opportunity to partner landscape with architecture. The firm's work has been honored by the American Institute of Architects, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, The Boston Society of Architects and the Victorian Society of America.

“We appreciate that Palm Beach has been shaped through an ongoing commitment by its residents to both celebrate and preserve the Town's heritage, traditions and gracious lifestyle. That has been the very bedrock of its appeal across four or five generations,” said Beha. “We're looking forward to working with owners who value this, live in the community, and plan to revitalize and reshape The Plaza within the

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current Palm Beach context. We are excited about being a part of that process and look forward to working with them, and the Town, to achieve those goals.”

The property’s landscape architect is Morgan Wheelock Inc., a 30-year-old firm that specializes in the organization, programming, planning, design and implementation of landscape architectural projects in the United States, Caribbean and Europe. Since opening its Palm Beach office in 1987, the firm has completed dozens of magnificent and carefully strategized projects in and around Palm Beach in order to incorporate Florida’s native, tropical plant life. Projects span from corporate and institutional campuses, and residential estates, to historic landscape restoration, arboretums and botanical gardens, and resorts.

Morgan Wheelock, who chairs the Town of Palm Beach Architectural Commission (ARCOM) and recently designed the magnificent new sculpture garden at the Society of the Four Arts, founded the firm in 1978 in Boston and serves as its president. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Harvard College and his Master of Landscape Architecture from Harvard University, Graduate School of Design.

“With its high-profile location at one of the two acknowledged ‘gateways’ to Palm Beach, we are honored to be charged with this project. My firm has a long-standing relationship with Palm Beach and believes we are very knowledgeable about current thinking in Palm Beach landscape design. The Royal Poinciana Plaza project gives us the opportunity to plan a comprehensive, compelling landscape plan that works from all perspectives, and that’s a rare opportunity indeed on this scale and in such a public project,” said Wheelock.

For more information about Royal Poinciana Plaza or to register to receive e-mail updates, please visit [www.royalpoincianaplaza.com](http://www.royalpoincianaplaza.com).

## About Royal Poinciana Plaza

Royal Poinciana Plaza is a mixed use retail and office complex situated at one of the three main entrances to the island of Palm Beach, Florida. The plaza is comprised of two main parallel retail and office buildings, the Slat House, the Poinciana Playhouse, the Gucci building, and the Hibel building. The property sits at the southwest corner of Royal Poinciana Way and Cocoanut Row in the Town of Palm Beach. The property houses primarily service, retail, and office tenants, and is the largest single commercial complex on the island of Palm Beach. The site has excellent visibility and access and is situated in the heart of one of the most affluent communities in the country.

## About Ann Beha Architects

Ann Beha Architects, based in Boston, is engaged in contemporary design and in the preservation and adaptive use of landmark buildings throughout the United States. The firm’s projects explore the discourse between heritage and the future, and emphasize the power of architecture as a transforming force for communities and campuses. Design honors include awards from the American Institute of Architects, The Boston Society of Architects, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Boston Preservation Alliance, and the Victorian Society of America. Representative projects include the New Britain Museum of American Art in New Britain, CT; the Daniel Arts Center at Bard College at Simon’s Rock in Great Barrington, MA; Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston; Hensel Hall at Franklin and Marshall College; and projects for the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Symphony Hall and the Tanglewood Music Center. For more information, please visit [www.annbeha.com](http://www.annbeha.com).

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## About Morgan Wheelock

Morgan Wheelock Incorporated specializes in the organization, programming, planning, design and implementation of projects which will physically change the land and environment, including the size, placement and character of buildings assembled on the land. The designs of Morgan Wheelock Incorporated are based a belief that human experience is made much more rich by a diverse and intimate contact with the natural world. The firm's philosophy embraces a strong spatial design, allowing the forms to be understood quickly on a large scale, while detailing the composition of garden elements and plantings to sustain interest at a more intimate scale. Select projects include the Philip Hular Sculpture Garden at the Society of the Four Arts, a Woman's Garden at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, the United States Armed Services Memorial in Caen, France. Becton Dickinson Corporate Headquarters, Franklin Lakes New Jersey, and Harvard Graduate school of Business Administration campus design. Design honors include, American Society of Landscape Architects, Boston Society of Landscape Architects, Ballenger Award for Historic Preservation, Fredrick B. Stresau Award of Excellence. For more information, please visit [www.morganwheelock.com](http://www.morganwheelock.com).