

Workspaces *A Look at Where People Work*

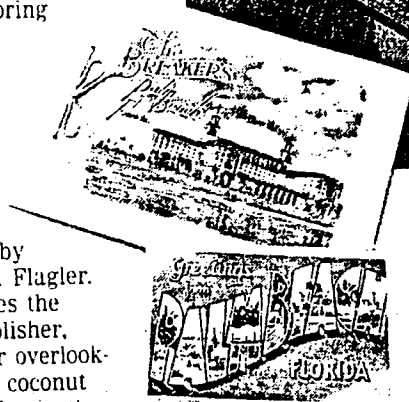
Leslie R. Evans,
Leslie Robert Evans
& Associates

■ **Where:** 211 Brazilian Ave., Palm Beach, Fla.

■ **What you see:** A place in the sun. This real-estate attorney hangs his shingle on a white-stucco, Mediterranean Revival-style building that he's restoring to its former radiance. The 1920s landmark, with striped awnings and cast-stone pilasters, once housed the headquarters of the Palm Beach Daily News—one of the legacies left here by oil magnate Henry M. Flagler. Mr. Evans, 56, occupies the suite built for the publisher, atop a two-story tower overlooking streets lined with coconut palms. His corner office isn't large by today's standards, but finishes are substantial. Original hardwood floors were laid with dense Dade County pine, now a scarce commodity. Walls were paneled in cherry wood, with ceilings coated in rough plaster. On an autumn day, an overhead fan rotates palm fronds instead of wood paddles. Behind his old leather desk, French doors open onto a balcony with a cast-iron railing and view that extends clear to the ocean. A Cleveland native, Mr. Evans moved to Palm Beach nine years ago to practice law. The boutique firm now counts seven attor-



Photo: J. Schechter/FilmMag



neys, and its founding partner has immersed himself in the chronicles of the tony island resort. Lining the hallways of the 18,000-square-foot

multitenant building are sepia photographs of the town's grand houses and hotels, many reproduced from his collection of more than 1,000 vintage Palm Beach postcards. But in an abrupt departure, Mr. Evans dedicates his private workspace to the Marx Brothers, with black-and-white movie stills displayed in gold frames. An original let-

ter and personal check signed by everybody's favorite, Groucho, appear valuable, though a mug, toy and plastic replica of the comedian's eyewear are most certainly not. "I look at this stuff and laugh," he reasons. "How much is that worth?"

■ **What he sees:** "A gentler era. The floors may creak under the rug, but my office reflects a warmth and intimacy that's been lost in many businesses. This space brings things down to human proportions. It has character and history, hearkening back to a time when relationships were the key. In the old days, you called your attorney and he answered the phone. We have a live receptionist. We focus on client contact. Some things from the past are worth preserving."

—Nancy D. Holt
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