DWNTWN?

THE CITY OF MIAMI HAS A ‘MEGAPLAN’ FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOWNTOWN. SHOULD IT BE STOPPED? AUTO-GIANT NORMAN BRAMAN THINKS SO.
25 UNDER 40

Our first annual list of entrepreneurs, executives, leaders and artists under 40 who are shaping South Florida and its perception around the world.

texts by Jeff Zbarsky
selection by PODER

R. Marcelo Claure
Chairman, President and CEO, Brightstar Corp.
Age: 38

By 35, Tivo, Ltd., PODER, America Economica—the organizations that have recognized R. Marcelo Claure validate his place as an up-and-coming leader. A longtime telecommunications professional, Claure founded Brightstar as a customized distribution and supply chain company—admittedly "a risky undertaking, especially since I was only in my mid-20s." Self-described as "naive," in 10 years he steered Brightstar to 50 countries on six continents—and $4.8 billion in 2007 sales. The economics graduate of Bentley College participated in Harvard's Global Leadership & Public Policy for the 21st Century program and the World Economic Forum in Davos. Claure is a consultant philanthropist who in 2005 co-founded One Laptop Per Child, an effort to give low-cost laptops to children in emerging nations. He's president of Club Bobas, the largest soccer team in his native Bolivia—a team he hopes to make Latin America's top club within the decade. Yet his greatest accomplishment remains his wife and children, "I have great hopes for their future."
Ricardo Gutierrez
Vice-President, International Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch Age: 37

A native of Colombia, Ricardo Gutierrez has lived years abroad to develop a sense of his heritage. Three years spent in Tokyo helped him to absorb the Japanese people’s discipline and loyalty, and to gather a different impression of his homeland, watching it from a distance. That experience, he believes, has been key to his success. His best career advice has been—as he surmised from his experiences in Japan—"everything, always, is about the people," whether they are clients, colleagues or essential partners. This, in turn, has helped him to define his own success. Some climb corporate ladders. Others bank millions. To Gutierrez, it’s to "live with intensity everyday of my life, try to be the best father, husband, son, and friend, and to go to bed without regrets."
In a decade, this international advisor for ultra high-net individuals believes he’ll have stayed focused on the short term, working hard and striving to be a provider and an active philanthropist with keen social responsibilities—both locally, as well as focused on his international leanings. Should he accomplish this, "I will be at the right place in 10 years."

Eduardo Imery
Vice President of Finance, Fortune International Realty Age: 30

Eduardo Imery’s history of deals is a showcase of South Florida’s leading luxury icons—from the Jade properties to The Ritz-Carlton Club and Residences and the Sarmaya Key Biscayne Resort. Ask about his defining moment, and Imery will say it came in meeting Edgardo Defortune, founder of Fortune International and “a caring visionary.” Throughout Imery’s career, which has included mergers and acquisitions, he’s followed advice learned early on and embraced only those challenges that led to knowledge and growth, while maintaining a spirit of “hard work, loyalty and creativity.” Ten years from now, the Venezuelan native and finance and management graduate of Stonewall College sees himself continuing to seek “a balanced approach to life” with his wife and children. At the same time, he hopes to be “creating and participating in innovative and exciting business opportunities in real estate and other sectors.”