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DOWNTOWN MIAMI

‘Iconic’ center, hotel planned for arena site

■ A Miami developer plans a massive, privately financed new convention center and hotel on the site of the old Miami Arena downtown, but details remain scant.

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A big player in downtown Miami development has solidified plans to build a major, privately financed convention center topped by a massive, 1,800-room hotel — on the site of the demolished Miami Arena.

MDM Group confirmed Thursday it has a contract to purchase the old arena site from the developers of the larger Miami World Center, a long-planned mixed-use project that would take up several blocks in the Park West district west of Biscayne Boulevard downtown. Terms were not disclosed.

MDM and its architects also released a rendering and a video,

posted on YouTube, of a swooping, cascading, three-legged Marriott hotel tower rising over a huge podium containing the 500,000-square-foot convention center, a 1,500-square-foot theater, and a 2,300-car garage partly buried underground.

As news of the project, which had been rumored for months, trickled out this week, MDM and Miami World Center principals have declined to elaborate in detail on the massive plan's cost, financing plans or timetable. No plans have been submitted to the city of Miami, where officials — who have long urged development of a new downtown convention center

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