

DISASTER RECOVERY: RESTORING A SENSE OF PLACE

In the wake of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, Architecture Sarasota is announcing its latest initiative: *Restoring a Sense of Place*.

Restoring a Sense of Place is Architecture Sarasota's disaster response program designed to offer those who own, value or care about Sarasota School and other significant structures the tools to take control of situations where time is of the essence.

The goal of this new program is to support residents, organizations, and agencies in the recovery of Sarasota School of Architecture and other significant buildings and sites damaged by natural disasters.

The organization is coordinating a number of activities:

Action 1: DOCUMENTATION

Following a natural disaster or the impacts of a climate event, documentation is a critical aid in the recovery, rebuilding, and adaptation of landmark and significant structures and sites and to mitigate partial or complete loss of character-defining features and materials.

Architecture Sarasota is collaborating with experts and professional firms to undertake the digital documentation of damaged properties using terrestrial LiDAR (laser scanning), and other techniques.

Products include scalable orthographic images, drawings, digital photographs, and video. This documentation can be used in filing insurance claims and seeking support from FEMA and other agencies and organizations.

Action 2: ASSESSMENTS

Architecture Sarasota is coordinating condition assessments of destabilized and damaged properties to inform strategies for recovery and rebuilding of historic buildings and sites as well as possible adaptations to make them more resilient to future events.

Action 3: INFORMATION

Architecture Sarasota is a robust source of information for recovery and adaptation guidance developed by federal and state authorities and other reputable agencies and organizations. Sources for financial and other assistance to aid recovery efforts will also be shared.

Action 4: NOMINATIONS

Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places or those "determined eligible" for listing are given special consideration – and potential exemption from code restrictions – when rebuilding.

It may not be too late. For interested property owners, Architecture Sarasota will help prepare "Emergency Determinations of Eligibility" applications that might afford more rebuilding options that could help prevent the loss of significant, currently non-landmarked properties.

NOTE: Unless federal funding is utilized, being listed on the National Register of Historic Places does not require a review – or prevent the alteration or demolition of private properties.

For more information, visit [architecturesarasota.org](https://www.architecturesarasota.org) and contact President Marty Hylton at mh@architecturesarasota.org