



## CASE STUDY

### Project:

Triangle Ranch

### Location:

Sarasota, Florida

### Owner:

Elizabeth Moore;  
SWFWMD holds  
a permanent  
conservation  
agreement

### Architect:

Jerry Sparkman, AIA,  
NCARB

Sweet Sparkman  
Architecture and  
Interiors

Sarasota, Florida

### Contractor:

Josh Wynne  
Construction

## DESIGNING WITH RESPECT FOR NATURE

### BACKGROUND

For more than a century, the Carlton family owned and worked Triangle Ranch. The last of the family owners, Tony and Lela Carlton, wanted the land to remain undeveloped and placed it in the hands of the Conservation Foundation to secure funding to purchase and restore the property. The Conservation Foundation subsequently elevated the property to a Florida Forever listing and pieced together a partnership of non-profits, a state agency, philanthropic foundations and a private donor, Elizabeth Moore. Ms. Moore now owns the ranch and is working with the Conservation Foundation to make it a showcase of natural Florida. The Ranch, however, is more than nostalgic. In fact, its importance to its surrounding area is profound, the Community Foundation reports, noting that the property “is essential to the protection of the Myakka River, its water quality and biodiversity, and our region’s flood protection.”

### THE PROJECT:

Sweet Sparkman Architecture and Interiors was charged with creating two modest 12 x 12 structures to complement a 1936 pecky cypress cottage in Siesta Key that Ms. Moore rescued from demolition and moved to the 1,143-acre site. The goal is to convert the cottage to a river camp where people can gather and enjoy Old Florida, kayaking in the river, hiking in the pristine area and take respite from the modern world. That will require deconstructing and reassembling, putting the house on new foundation piers and making needed renovations.

In creating cabins for visitors who wish to stay on the property, said architect Jerry Sparkman, it was important to stay true to the mission of the project, with an authentic look coupled with energy independence through passive solar design. “Ms. Moore has called Triangle Ranch a victory for nature,” he explained, “and we are excited to be part of something so unique and yet so fundamental.”