

CASE  
STUDY



“  
It's amazing to  
see this project  
come to fruition  
and be every  
bit a reality and  
hope of the  
community.”

- Alan Maio,  
Chairman  
Sarasota County  
Commission

## SIESTA KEY BEACH PARK AND HISTORICAL PAVILION

### DESIGN WITH RESPECT FOR NATURE AND HISTORY

#### INTRODUCTION

Siesta Beach, located on a key off Sarasota, Florida, is acknowledged as one of the world's most beautiful beaches. Unlike beaches elsewhere that consist of pulverized coral, Siesta Beach boasts sand that is 99-percent pure quartz, creating a white, soft, reflective surface that remains cool even on the hottest days. As initially designed, visitors were greeted by a pavilion that framed views of the sparkling Gulf of Mexico.

#### THE ISSUE

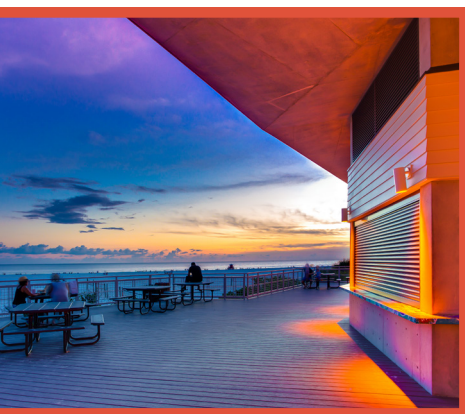
As the beach's fame grew over the decades, so did the number of guests. Unfortunately, the resulting building additions, parking area, and accreted vegetation blocked views of the Gulf and historic shade pavilion. The original public beach plaza (referred to by locals as the “sun trap”) was hidden underneath decades of sand. In addition, masonry walls and fences disconnected the pavilion space with adjacent sites, creating under-utilized public space.

#### IMPROVING AND CONSERVING

In 2010, Sweet Sparkman Architecture was chosen as Architect of Record, with improvements to the 60-acre public beach park that included:

- ▶ Removal of the additions that blocked beach views and obscured the original structure
- ▶ Restoration of the historically designated mid-century modern beach restroom and shade pavilion
- ▶ A new public safety facility
- ▶ Picnic shelters
- ▶ Two concessions buildings
- ▶ A wedding pavilion
- ▶ A restored and expanded public beach plaza
- ▶ A mile-long park esplanade to enhance pedestrian safety

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## THE INSPIRATION

The original structures were designed by Edward "Tim" Seibert, FAIA, who was selected in 1958 to be the Architect of Record for the Siesta Key Beach Pavilion. A renowned pioneer of the Sarasota School of Architecture, sometimes called Sarasota Modern, his designs were characterized by their attention to climate and terrain. As experts in coastal building, Sweet Sparkman was guided by natural elements, reflecting their beauty and assuring that the resulting structures were resilient and environmentally sound. They also paid homage to the original design, incorporating the elements that made it iconic.

## SIESTA BEACH TODAY

Utilizing historical drawings and photographic research, the original design of the historic site and the building was restored, and the "sun trap" beach plaza reclaimed for public use. The result is an expanded public space with re-established views toward the Gulf.

To the east, new amenities organize to create a "park within a park." The setting for the primary east park structures is within a large stand of existing Australian pine trees. Significantly, the design of these structures evokes an organic architecture that contrasts with the mid-century modern historical precedent, establishing a new architectural language for the park.

The old and the new melded together to create a spectacular venue for beachgoers from all over the world for multiple generations.

## SWEET SPARKMAN ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIORS

Sweet Sparkman Architecture and Interiors is a multi-disciplinary architecture and planning firm specializing in community-oriented projects and high-end residential, as well as interior design. For more information, visit [www.sweetsparkman.com](http://www.sweetsparkman.com) or call 941.952.0084.

## PROJECT ACCOLADES

1. 2018 Gulf Coast Chapter - AIA Award of Merit for Architecture for New Work - Commercial and Public: Siesta Key New Public Pavilion: East Concessions
2. 2016 Florida Association of AIA: Honor Award of Excellence for Renovations / Additions for the Siesta Key Beach Pavilion
3. 2016 Gulf Coast Chapter - AIA Award of Excellence for Architecture for New Commercial and Public Work: Siesta Key Picnic Shelters
4. 2016 Gulf Coast Chapter - AIA Award of Merit for Architecture for Historic Preservation and Restoration: Siesta Key Beach Pavilion
5. 2015 Florida Association of AIA: Merit Award for an Object for the Siesta Key Beach Pavilion's Picnic Shelter
6. 2014-2015 International Property / Americas Property Awards: Public Service Architecture: Sarasota County Beach Pavilions



## TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice 2020 Best of the Best

Naming Siesta Beach one of the "Top 25 Beaches in the World" – and No. 1 in the United States.