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ENGINEERING STUDY ON MIAMI MARINE STADIUM RELEASED

STUDY SHOWS THAT RESTORATION COSTS ARE LOWER THAN PREDICTED FOR THIS WIDELY CELEBRATED MODERNIST ICON

For Immediate Release—New York, February 2, 2010 . . . [World Monuments Fund](#) and [Friends of Marine Stadium](#) have announced the results of an important engineering study documenting the structural condition of [Miami Marine Stadium](#). The [report](#), conducted by the firm of Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Inc. (SGH), stated that the costs of the concrete restoration for the Stadium are substantially lower than previous estimates, between \$5.5-\$8.5 million, depending upon the types and amounts of protective measures done to slow further deterioration. (Previous estimates were as high as \$15 million and did not include protective measures.) Additional work is needed to determine the condition of the piles under the Stadium, and to document other renovation costs, such as new seats, bathrooms, and handicapped accessibility requirements.

“The results of this engineering study are an important step forward for this modern icon,” said **Bonnie Burnham, President of the World Monuments Fund**. “Its listing on our 2010 World Monuments Watch has helped draw attention to the Stadium’s deterioration and now this study demonstrates that the structural elements of the Stadium can be repaired at reasonable cost. Miami Marine Stadium is an important structure and deserves to be fully renovated and returned to use.”

“The Marine Stadium is one of the priorities of my administration,” said **Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado**. “Its renovation is to the benefit of not just the residents of the city of Miami but of all South Floridians. I am very pleased with this study because it begins the long-awaited restoration process, a process which will restore one of the magic city's crown jewels, the Marine Stadium, which will be enjoyed and cherished for generations to come.”

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Long admired by architects and preservationists worldwide, Miami Marine Stadium was placed on the 2010 Watch list of endangered sites of the World Monuments Fund and on the 2009 11 Most Endangered List of the National Trust For Historic Preservation. The 6,566-seat stadium, located on Virginia Key, is built entirely of poured concrete and features a dramatically cantilevered fold-plate roof. It was designed by Cuban born architect Hilario Candela in 1964. Originally built for spectators of power boat races, it was also the site of highly popular concerts by Jimmy Buffett, Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops, Jose Luis Rodríguez (El Puma), and many others, performing on a floating stage. The Stadium is a sentimental favorite of many Miami residents who experienced their first concerts under the stars over Biscayne Bay.

The Stadium was closed after Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and it has often been alleged to be structurally unsafe and beyond repair. In 2008, a volunteer group—Friends of Marine Stadium—was formed with the assistance of Dade Heritage Trust to promote restoration of the Marine Stadium. The initiative has recently picked up considerable momentum, spurred by the endorsements of the World Monuments Fund, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and a widely viewed video on the Stadium made by Jimmy Buffett <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxvOR8K18>. The Friends are now working closely with the City of Miami Administration to fully integrate the Stadium into the City’s Master Plan for Virginia Key.

Simpson Gumpertz & Heger (SGH) has brought significant work experience to this project. SGH has assessed and designed rehabilitations of numerous other historically significant modernist concrete buildings and structures, and actually analyzed the Stadium in 1993 after the damage by Hurricane Andrew. “While the damage has gotten worse, the increase in damage is not alarming,” said **Michael Brainerd, SGH Senior Principal** who is heading the investigation. SGH was assisted on the study by Structural Preservation Systems, a contractor specializing in concrete repairs that had prepared previous cost estimates for the Stadium restoration.

World Monuments Fund was the catalyst and principal funder for the engineering study. The balance of the funds came from a mix of local and national organizations, including The Villagers, Inc.; the office of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Carlos Gimenez; the John and Selene Devaney Foundation; Friends of Marine Stadium; and the National Trust For Historic Preservation.

The results of the study did not surprise one individual—**Jack Meyer of Dignum Associates**, the original structural engineer of the project. Both Meyer and Stadium architect Hilario Candela have been very active in the effort to restore Miami Marine Stadium. “When we built the Stadium in 1964, it was built to the highest standards,” said Meyer. “The workmen took great pride in this project and it was very well-engineered. When we poured the first concrete

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shell on the roof, I estimated that the roof would dip 18 inches. It didn't. It dipped 6 inches.

Miami Marine Stadium is not going to fall down!"

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World Monuments Fund is the leading independent organization devoted to saving the world's most treasured places. For over 45 years, working in more than 90 countries, our highly skilled experts have applied proven and effective techniques to preserve important architectural and cultural heritage sites around the globe. Through partnerships with local communities, funders, and governments, we inspire an enduring commitment to stewardship for future generations. Headquartered in New York, WMF has offices and affiliates worldwide. www.wmf.org

Friends of Marine Stadium is a coalition of individuals and organizations organized under the administrative umbrella of Dade Heritage Trust that was formed in the spring of 2008. The objective of the group is to restore and return to service the Miami Marine Stadium. www.marinestadium.org

Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc. (SGH) is a national engineering firm that designs, investigates, and rehabilitates structures and building enclosures. Our award-winning work encompasses building, transportation, water/wastewater, and nuclear/science/defense projects throughout the United States and in more than 30 countries. SGH has offices in Boston, Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco, and Washington D.C. www.sgh.com.

Dade Heritage Trust (DHT) is the leading voice for historic preservation in Miami-Dade County. Founded as a nonprofit membership organization in 1972, Dade Heritage Trust works to enrich the quality of life for the entire community by sustainably preserving the best of the past for the future. www.dadeheritagetrust.org

The Villagers, Inc. is the oldest preservation organization in Miami-Dade County, having been founded in 1966 to help save and restore the Douglas Entrance in Coral Gables. Since those early years, the organization has raised close to \$1 million for restoration projects in the county and for scholarships for students in the field of historic preservation or related subjects. Their two annual signature fundraising events are a house tour in December and a garden tour in March. www.thevillagersinc.org

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a nonprofit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them. By saving the places where great moments from history—and the important moments of everyday life—took place, the National Trust for Historic Preservation helps revitalize neighborhoods and communities, spark economic development, and promote environmental sustainability. With headquarters in Washington, DC, nine regional and field offices, 29 historic sites, and partner organizations in all 50 states, the National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to a national network of people, organizations, and local communities committed to saving places, connecting us to our history and collectively shaping the future of America's stories. www.PreservationNation.org