



For Immediate Release

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Schenkel Shultz Completes Sanibel Fire Station #172

Estero, FL – January X, 2026 Schenkel Shultz, an Orlando-based architecture and design studio, announces the completion and opening of Sanibel Fire and Rescue District Station 172. Three years after Hurricane Ian, the project marks a significant step in the island’s recovery, restoring a critical civic facility that strengthens public service and ensures safety for all who live, work, and visit Sanibel.

Rising 13 feet above sea level, the two-story station at 5171 Sanibel Captiva Road is purpose-built for coastal conditions, replacing the facility lost to the hurricane with a durable and modern design. The ground level is organized to maximize operational efficiency, featuring three drive-through apparatus bays, a bunker gear room, dedicated storage, and a decontamination area. Controlled access connects these spaces to public reception and treatment rooms, ensuring essential medical services remain available.

The upper level is designed to support extended shifts, providing thoughtfully planned amenities for first responders. A corner watch room offers sweeping views of the island and is complemented by living quarters, a fitness area, kitchen and dining facilities, and a dayroom, creating an environment that balances comfort with function.

Inspired by Sanibel’s iconic lighthouse and rich shelling history, the architectural expression reflects the island’s character and strength. A distinctive tower clad in Tabby, a durable shell-based coastal material, serves as a visual landmark and symbol of resilience. The tower’s two-story egress stair is integrated as a functional training element, supporting hands-on education and practice.

“As a significant rebuild for Sanibel, we set out to create a facility the Island and SFRD could take pride in,” said Nathalie White, AIA, Principal at Schenkel Shultz. “Every decision, from elevated floors to resilient systems, native landscaping, and durable materials, was guided by the principles of strength, efficiency, and longevity.”

With its resilient design and civic focus, Fire Station 172 stands as a vital asset for Sanibel Island, safeguarding residents and visitors and supporting those who serve the community for generations to come.

About Schenkel Shultz Architecture

As a member of the Central Florida community for 40 years and headquartered in Winter Park, Schenkel Shultz is committed to inspiring the community through impactful design. The architecture and interior design firm has built a legacy of success through a continued focus on design excellence that responds to the distinct needs of each client. Recently named the AIA Orlando 2025 Firm of the Year, Schenkel Shultz continues to be recognized for its community engagement, education and advocacy within the profession. Rooted in critical thinking, research, collaboration, and personal experiences, the firm is passionate about design and creating meaningful community partnerships.