



Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
School of Engineering/Applied Science  
Princeton University  
Princeton, New Jersey 08544

Miami Mayor and City Commission  
Miami City Hall  
3500 Pan American Drive  
Miami, FL, 33133

Princeton, NJ, May 14<sup>th</sup> 2026

Dear Miami Mayor and City Commission,

I write to you in my capacity as Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Princeton University to express my strong support for the restoration of the Miami Marine Stadium, an extraordinary and irreplaceable work of structural and architectural innovation. As documented in our peer-reviewed study, *“Structural Analysis of Reinforced Concrete Folded Hyperbolic Paraboloid: A Case Study of the Modern Miami Marine Stadium”* (Adriaenssens et al., 2014), this stadium stands as one of the most remarkable examples of mid-century modern thin shell construction. Its roof, composed of monolithically connected folded hyperbolic paraboloid shells, represents a unique structural configuration unmatched in built concrete architecture, combining profound elegance with exceptional efficiency.

The Stadium’s engineering achievements are particularly striking. Its cantilevered roof extends over 20 meters, significantly longer than comparable structures by pioneering architectural engineers such as Eduardo Torroja, demonstrating both daring design and refined understanding of structural behavior. The design embodies a rare synthesis of form and force: the geometry itself enables the structure to carry loads through membrane action, reducing material while enhancing performance. This efficiency is not only theoretical; it is proven by the building’s resilience.

Despite decades of exposure and the extreme forces of Hurricane Andrew, the structure exhibited minimal structural damage, a testament to the robustness and foresight of its original engineering. Such performance underscores that the Stadium is not merely an aesthetic artifact, but a highly capable and enduring piece of infrastructure.

Beyond its technical excellence, the Miami Marine Stadium holds broader cultural and educational significance. It represents a pivotal moment in engineering history, when designers achieved expressive and economical forms without the computational tools available today, relying instead on deep intuition and mastery of structural principles. As our research highlights, much of this knowledge is at risk of being lost, making the preservation of such built examples all the more critical. Restoring the Stadium would not only safeguard a landmark of American modernism but also preserve a living laboratory for future generations of engineers, architects, and the public to engage with the ingenuity of the past. For these reasons, I strongly advocate for its preservation and rehabilitation.

Sincerely,

dr. Sigrid Adriaenssens, A.M. ASCE Fellow  
Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Princeton University E332 EQuad  
Princeton, NJ 08544  
Email: [sadriaen@princeton.edu](mailto:sadriaen@princeton.edu)