This paper draws on the situation faced recently by a modern city devastated by a succession of major earthquakes in late 2010 and throughout 2011. Though it is a small City by world standards (current population 400,000), it was a thriving metropolitan area, served a large rural catchment area and was a vital home and place of work for its many inhabitants and businesses. For the Architects and allied professions, the task has been how to assist in the massive challenge of recovery that has emerged. They possess many skills that can be brought into play, including assisting in the initial search and rescue effort, planning early recovery initiatives, and formulating the all important vision for the new urban development that will follow. The City and how it recovers is being watched closely and with great interest by the International Community, as to the lessons that can be learned. The author is heavily involved in the recovery effort.

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THE MAJOR AND SIGNIFICANT ROLE FOR ARCHITECTS IN THE RECOVERY OF URBAN AREAS FOLLOWING A NATURAL DISASTER