

Designers will descend *Earthquake-1989-City of Santa Cruz* to help plan a new town

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SANTA CRUZ — Architects, designers and landscapers from up and down the West Coast will come to Santa Cruz this weekend to help residents draw up plans for a new downtown.

Members of the California Emergency Design Assistance Team have aided other earthquake-stricken communities, including Coalinga, Whittier and Spitak in Soviet Armenia, according to Hugh Carter of the Architects Association of Santa Cruz County who is coordinating the weekend workshop.

The public is invited to present their ideas at the three-day Urban Design Workshop, which will be at

Louden Nelson Center. The 60 architects and landscape designers — who will be volunteering thousands of dollars worth of free service — then will render those ideas into large wallboards.

The sessions will be held Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. until the final paper listing available options is presented at 4 p.m.

"Our intent is to gather as wide a list of ideas as possible and then produce graphic illustrations to show the options," Carter said.

Those illustrations will be made available to the public, the 36-member Vision Santa Cruz planning team and to city officials, he said.

The group will make no recommendations to city officials.

"We will not produce a final plan, but a number of potential options that local citizens and governmental agencies can use to make an informed decision," Carter said.

Discussions will not be limited to rebuilding the 20 destroyed buildings on the Pacific Garden Mall, but to the entire downtown area, including the riverfront and beach, according to Ted Lahti of Santa Cruz Tomorrow, a citizens group which formed after the Oct. 17 earthquake.

That organization has compiled a list of suggestions expressed at various community and governmental meetings and in letters to the editors of area newspapers. Those suggestions, which deal with commercial and residential development, historic preservation and traffic concerns, will form the starting point for the weekend workshops, said Lahti. He expects many new ideas to develop as the workshop proceeds.

"We anticipate a very good local response," Lahti said.

Santa Cruz, he said, is full of intelligent and talented people. But most can't draw. "Now they'll be able to see what their ideas look like," he said.