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ARTS WINTER  
THE FESTIVAL

Architect Paul Rudolph's buildings became increasingly more complicated in later years, a far cry from the 1952 structure on Sanibel Island that started it all.

The Walker Guest House is only 24 feet square. In his first solo commission, Rudolph designed a beach house at its barest elements, a modern interpretation of a cabin in the woods, with a living/dining area that takes up half the space, plus a small bedroom, bathroom and kitchen.

As one of the centerpieces of the "McMo SWFL: Mid-Century Modern in Southwest Florida" exhibition at the Southwest Florida Museum of History, the Walker Guest House is back in the spotlight. *The Cannonball House*, as some locals call it, remains in loving private hands, welcoming family and friends of owner Elaine Walker.

They aren't really cannonballs; These beach-ball-sized red metal counterweights help control the wooden panels that make a temporary porch when they're up and snugly seal up the house when they're down.

This view of one of those "cannonballs" is just one way of seeing Rudolph's artistry. See more views at the exhibit celebrating mid-century modern design in Southwest Florida, which runs through Jan. 14 during regular museum hours — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The museum is at 2031 Jackson St., Fort Myers. Admission is \$9.50 with a \$1 discount for seniors (age 55+) or student admission is discounted to \$5. Call 321-7430 or visit [mcmofl.com](http://mcmofl.com) or [swflmuseumofhistory.com](http://swflmuseumofhistory.com). **G**

Story by TAMMY AYER

*The Walker Guest house on Sanibel was designed by architect Paul Rudolph*