

ARCHITECTURE

Winners announced in AIA Florida Top 100 Buildings Competition: 100 Years. 100 Places.

Walker Guest House on Sanibel was voted top residential building in the state in a contest in which more than 2.4 million votes were cast.

The News-Press staff

The Walker Guest House on Sanibel took honors as Florida's top residential building in voting in the Top 100 Buildings Competition: 100 Years. 100 Places. competition, officials announced earlier this week.

In addition to being voted the top residential building, the Walker Guest House was ranked number three overall by architects. More than 2.4 million votes were cast in the competition held by the the Florida Chapter of The Amer-



The Walker Guest House on Sanibel, built in 1952-53 and designed by architect Paul Rudolph. THE NEWS-PRESS FILE PHOTO

ican Institute of Architects.

The competition identified 100 structures across the state that represent the best in architectural achievement. The

public was encouraged to vote for their favorites among those 100 at aiaflatop100.org.

Other Southwest Florida structures that were on the list

of 100 and how they fared in the overall voting are: 12. Edison & Ford Winter Estates; 29. St. Agnes Catholic Church; 30. Walker Guest House; 33. Corban House/The Haldeman Creek House; and 77. Neugebauer House

AIA Florida launched the Top 100 Buildings statewide online competition in March. This year marks the 100th anniversary of AIA Florida, recognizing the important contributions architects have made in the Sunshine State.

The Walker Guest House, designed by architect Paul Rudolph, is only 580 square feet and was designed for a subtropical climate using minimum materials — a simple, elegant reinterpretation of a primitive hut meeting modern

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lifestyle. Designed prior to air conditioning (1952), this simple home is at one with the landscape and its natural surroundings.

The AIA Florida announced the top five buildings as voted by the public: 1. Fontainebleau Hotel (Miami Beach); 2. Mandi's Chapel (Live Oak); 3. Baughman Center at the University of Florida (Gainesville); 4. The University of North Florida Student Union (Jacksonville); and 5. Mar-a-Lago National

Historic Landmark (Palm Beach).

Besides the residential category, winners in other specific categories are: Performing Arts – Florida Theatre Building (Jacksonville); Civic – Boca Raton Town Hall (Boca Raton); Commercial – Espirito Santo Plaza (Miami); Educational – University of North Florida Student Union (Jacksonville); Historic – Mar-a-Lago National Historic Landmark (Palm Beach); Hotel – Fontainebleau Hotel (Miami Beach); Museum – Dali Museum (St. Petersburg); Public Use – City Park Municipal Garage (Fort Lauder-

dale); Recreational – Cinderella Castle (Orlando); Religious – Mandi's Chapel (Live Oak); Write-In – Ponce de Leon Hotel/Flagler College (St. Augustine); and Architects' Favorite – University of North Florida Student Union (Jacksonville).

The top five buildings as voted by architects are: 1. The University of North Florida Student Union (Jacksonville); 2. St. Paul's By-The-Sea Episcopal Church (Jacksonville Beach); 3. Walker Guest House (Sanibel); 4. Beach Road 2 (Jupiter Island) and 5. The Breakers Resort National Historical Landmark (Palm Beach).