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# Walker Guest House on Sanibel voted top residential building in Florida

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The front of the Walker House with the shades up. / news-press.com file photo

Written by special to news-press.com

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Great architecture in Southwest Florida has been recognized by the Florida Chapter of The American Institute of Architects (AIA Florida) in naming the Walker Guest House the top residential building in Florida and ranked number three overall by architects. More than 2.4 million votes were cast.

In March, AIA Florida launched the Top 100 Buildings statewide online competition, inviting the public to vote for their favorite Florida building. This year marks the 100th anniversary of AIA Florida, recognizing the important contributions architects have made in the Sunshine State.

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

Architect Paul Rudolph remained committed to exploring the fluidity of inside and out in an attempt to blend his buildings the natural surroundings throughout his career. The Walker Guest House still inspires many to learn from Rudolph's experiments in subtropical lifestyles and for the few fortunate enough to step inside, the opportunity for a full Southwest Florida nature experience.

It is this unique simplicity which has kept the spotlight on the Walker Guest House for decades. The competition identified 100 structures across the state that represent the best in architectural achievement. The public was encouraged to vote online at www.aiaflatop100.org. Earlier today, AIA Florida announced the Top Building in Florida, The Fontainebleau, at a news conference in Miami Beach. AIA

Southwest Florida nature experience.

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The top five buildings as voted by the public:

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4. The University of North Florida Student Union (Jacksonville)
5. Mar-a-Lago National Historic Landmark (Palm Beach)

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