



For Immediate Release
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**Mandi's Chapel and The Baughman Center Named
Top Building by AIA Florida**

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

Gainesville, Fla. – The beauty and wonder of north Florida has been recognized by the Florida Chapter of The American Institute of Architects (AIA Florida) in naming Mandi's Chapel as the top religious building and ranked second overall building in the AIA Florida *Florida Architecture: 100 Years 100 Places* competition. The Baughman Center at the University of Florida finished number three overall in the competition. 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.

Both structures were designed by John Zona, AIA. Mandi's Chapel was designed to be a public yet sacred place. The Baughman Center's overhead cross-lattice system illustrates the fragility of the building's natural surroundings.

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, another area structure, The Fontainebleau, at a news conference in Miami Beach. AIA Florida also announced the top buildings in the following categories:

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)

5. Mar-a-Lago National Historic Landmark (Palm Beach)

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 (Ft. Lauderdale)

Recreational – Cinderella Castle (Orlando)

Religious – Mandi’s Chapel (Live Oak)

Residential – Walker Guest House (Sanibel)

Write-In – Ponce de Leon Hotel/Flagler College (St. Augustine)

Architects’ Favorite - University of North Florida Student Union (Jacksonville).

The top five buildings as voted by architects:

1. The University of North Florida Student Union (Jacksonville)
2. Saint Paul’s By-The-Sea Episcopal Church (Jacksonville Beach)
3. Walker Guest House (Sanibel)
4. Beach Road 2 (Jupiter Island)
5. The Breakers Resort National Historical Landmark (Palm Beach)

Also named from the Gainesville area and listed in order as voted by the public:

13. Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity House
28. University Auditorium
54. Florida Museum of Natural History /formerly Florida Museum of Natural Sciences

Today's announcement of the winners of the *Florida Architecture: 100 Years 100 Places* competition coincides with Architecture Month, as proclaimed recently by Governor Rick Scott. AIA Florida also has plans to host several events across the region including the 100th Anniversary Convention & Tradeshow at The Breakers in Palm Beach July 19 through 22 and a special Anniversary Celebration Event on December 14, 2012.

About [AIA Florida](#)

The Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects, headquartered in Tallahassee, represents the interests of more than 3,600 members in Florida and the Caribbean. Members adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct that assures the client, the public, and colleagues of an AIA-member architect's dedication to the highest standards in professional practice.

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