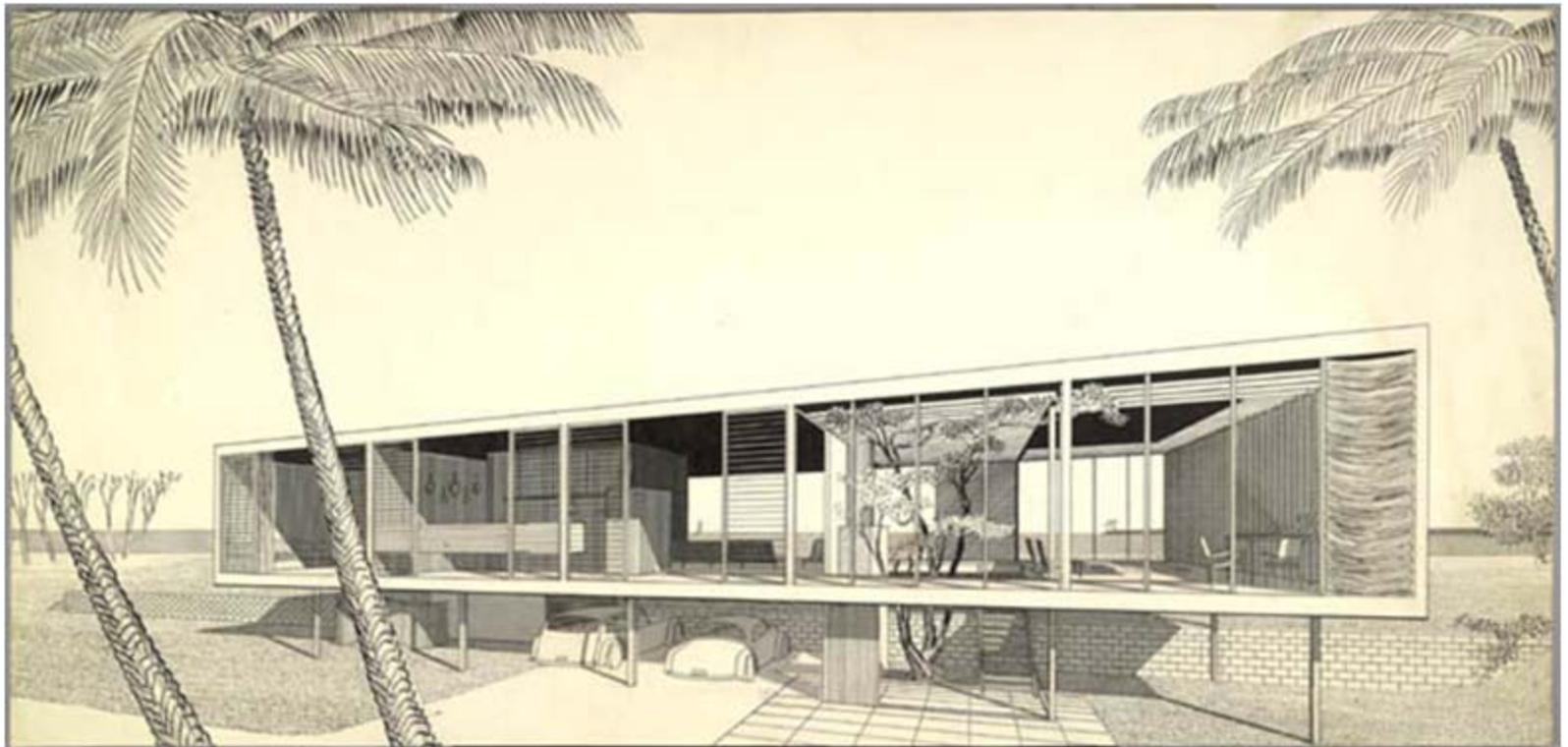


The Sarasota School of Architecture

An Exhibition of the University of Florida Architecture Archives,
November 2009



Walker Residence, Paul Rudolph architect, 1953

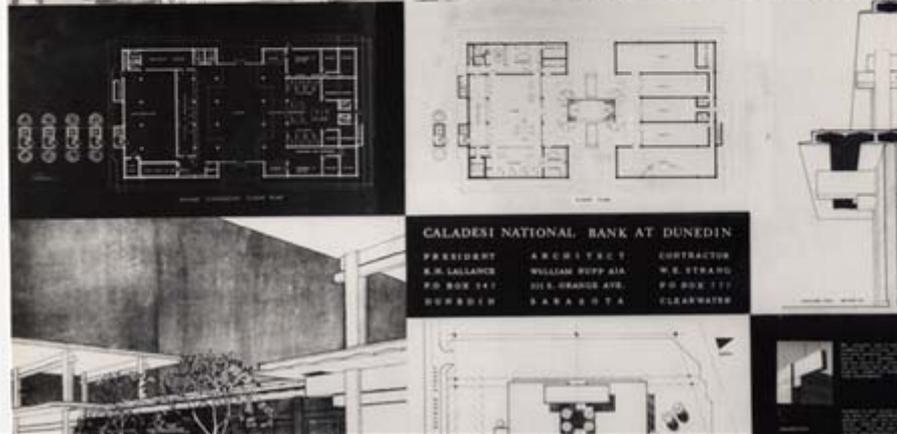
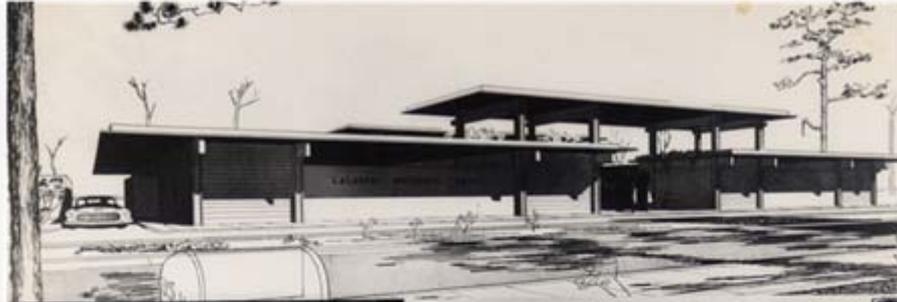
THE SARASOTA MODERN STYLE

Today Sarasota, Florida and the surrounding Suncoast region is well known for its natural beauty and as a place to “live the good life.” This optimistic spirit is perhaps best expressed through the world renowned postwar architecture that began there. The modern open interiors, floating staircases, and jalousie windows created to take advantage of the Gulf Coast environment, grew into an architectural movement known as the Sarasota School of Architecture. From the 1940s through the 1960s, this “Sarasota Modern” style was popularized by architects like Ralph Twitchell, Paul Rudolph, Victor Lundy, Gene Leedy, and Tim Seibert. Their works are unique in their dedication to clarity of construction, maximum economy of means, clear geometry, honesty in details, and simple overall volumes penetrating vertically and horizontally. Over two decades, these principles were practiced in a way that created beautiful churches, schools, commercial spaces, and homes around the world. This exhibition provides a snapshot of these indigenous architectural wonders.



**Sarasota City Hall,
1965**

Jack West, Architect



Caladesi National Bank, Dunedin, Florida, 1961-62

William Rupp and Joseph Farrell, architects



Open Interiors

Sarasota Modern houses have minimal partitions and elevate furniture to work of art. Ralph Twitchell, the father of this style, attended the first landscape architecture class offered in the United States, and pioneered the extensive use of glass in his houses. The following slides offer some examples of these characteristics. Photo - Denman residence, Siesta Key, 1946, architect, Paul Rudolph, associate



Paul Rudolph, architect

**Deering
Residence,
Casey Key,
Florida,
1959-1960**



Tim Seibert, architect

**Seibert
Residence,
Siesta Key,
Florida,
1951-1952**

RALPH TWITCHELL

1890 - 1978

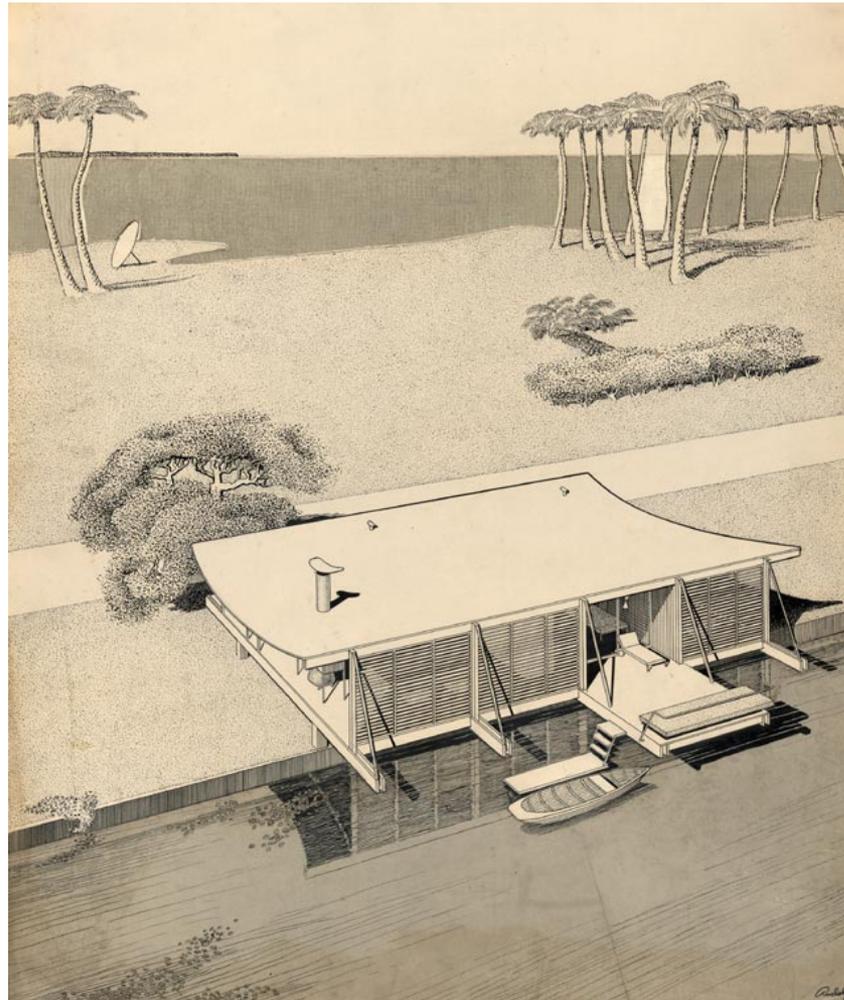
Pioneer of the modern style, Twitchell created some of the earliest structures that came to represent the Sarasota Modern style. Twitchell employed large glass windows and sliding doors in conjunction with a heavy cypress interior to create a natural feeling that focused the inhabitant on the outdoors. Additionally, he often used a locally manufactured limestone brick on the exterior. Because of this, the sand colored bricks blended into the sandy Florida ground and appeared to rise out of it.

Ralph Twitchell



Healy Guest House

Ralph
Twitchell



Paul Rudolph

HEALY GUEST HOUSE

Or Cocoon House

Twitchell and Rudolph first attracted the attention of architectural critics with this structure built in 1949. It is also known as the Cocoon House, due to the use of flexible insulating mats between fiberboard for the roof, similar to the way the U.S. Navy “cocooned” unneeded ships for peacetime storage. This house is designated as an American Treasure by the Library of Congress.

PAUL RUDOLPH

1918-1997

If Twitchell was the father of the Sarasota School of Architecture, then Rudolph was its “spiritual leader.” Following education at Auburn and Harvard and service in World War II, he was Twitchell’s partner for four years before starting his own practice in 1951. He became the most renowned of the group, even serving as the Dean of the Yale School of Architecture from 1957 – 1965 while designing a new building for it in the process.

Paul Rudolph



Sarasota High School



Rudolph's addition was constructed 1958 - 59





Photo by Ezra Stoller

Milam Residence

Jacksonville, Florida, 1960; Paul Rudolph, architect

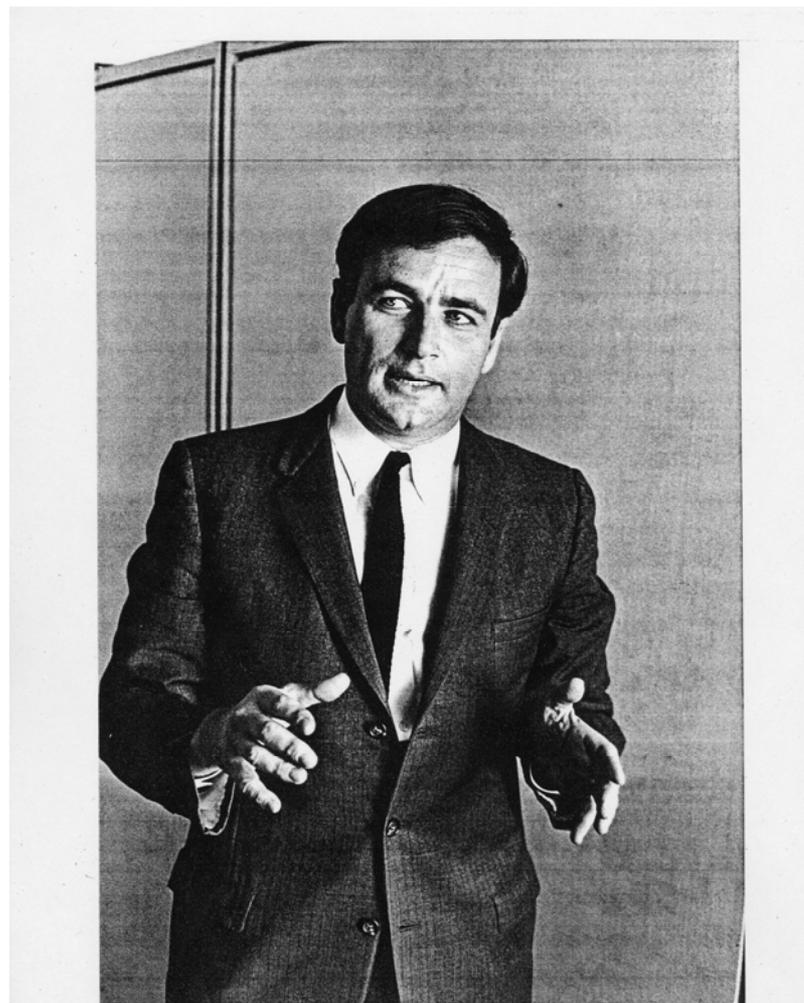


Paul Rudolph, architect (Photo by Ezra Stoller)

VICTOR LUNDY

Fellow Harvard graduate and Gropius student Victor Lundy got his start in Sarasota through an art show in which he was asked to paint his idea of what a particular site evoked. His innovative roof designs became a memorable feature of the “Sarasota Modern” style. This feature is most dramatic in Lundy’s church designs. Lundy’s stunning visual effects are visible in his projects throughout the world, ranging from churches to embassies.

Victor Lundy



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sarasota, 1958 - 1970



Victor Lundy, architect

Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, 1956



Victor Lundy, architect

Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice, Florida, 1956



Victor Lundy, architect

FURTHER READING AND RESEARCH

Sarasota School of Architecture

- <http://www.sarasotaarchitecturalfoundation.org/>
- <http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/services/magazine/01summer/ssoa.cfm>
- Centralfloridamodern.com

Architects

- <http://www.geneleedy.com/>
- <http://geneleedyarchitect.com/>
- <http://www.paulrudolph.org/>
- <http://prudolph.lib.umassd.edu/>
- <http://www.sarasotahistoryalive.com/markers-and-designations/historic-designation/nokomis-beach-pavilion/>.

