



AIA
Florida



NEWS RELEASE

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Diagon Alley™ Is 2019 People's Choice for Architecture

More than 1.6 million votes cast in AIA Florida contest

ORLANDO Fla. – Florida's best-loved new buildings garnered 1.6 million votes in the [People's Choice 2019](#) architectural design competition, and **The Wizarding World of Harry Potter™ - Diagon Alley™ at Universal Studios Florida®** took first prize.

The contest was hosted by the [Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects](#) (AIA Florida) and the Florida Foundation for Architecture to spotlight great design and great designers in Florida.

The 2019 winner and top vote-getters among the 41 contenders were announced Saturday, July 27, at the AIA Florida Convention and Trade Show at the Ritz-Carlton Orlando, in Grande Lakes. The 1.6 million votes were cast in 42 states and 31 countries.

"We love the voters' enthusiasm for this contest, which spotlights fine architecture and talented architects in our state," said Nati Soto, FAIA, LEED AP, president of AIA Florida. "It confirms what we as architects believe: that great design speaks to people and impacts their lives."

This year's nominees are from **Cantonment, Coconut Grove, Coral Gables, Coral Springs, Defuniak Springs, Delray Beach, Deltona, Doral, Fernandina Beach, Gainesville, Homestead, Jacksonville, Lakeland, Land O' Lakes, Miami, Miami Beach, Miramar Beach, Orlando, Palmetto Bay, Pembroke Pines, Pompano Beach, Sanford, Sarasota, Seminole, Tallahassee, Tampa and West Palm Beach.** [Click here to see them all or sort by city.](#)

The buildings manifest vitality, technological advances, beauty, wonder, and concern for humanity.

Past winners include the futuristic **Institute for Human & Machine Cognition** in Pensacola (2018, designed by Quina Grundhoefer Architects) and the restoration of the historic **Call-Collins House at The Grove Museum** in Tallahassee (2017, MLD Architects).

Leaders in the 2019 competition, in addition to Diagon Alley, and the project architects:

- ✓ **Ferré Convocation Center, Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart**, Coconut Grove, by Ferguson Glasgow Schuster Soto
- ✓ **FSU PrimaryHealth**, Tallahassee, by DAG Architects
- ✓ **Baptist Health Miami Beach**, by Perkins + Will
- ✓ **Kotler-Coville Glass Pavilion**, Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, by Architects Lewis + Whitlock
- ✓ **Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship**, Tallahassee, by Architects Lewis + Whitlock
- ✓ **Corsair Terminal, Fernandina Beach Municipal Airport**, by Passero Associates
- ✓ **UF Health North, Patient Pavilion**, Jacksonville, by Gresham Smith
- ✓ **Miami Dade College, Eduardo J. Padrón Campus, Building 6**, by M.C. Harry & Associates
- ✓ **Kingsfield Elementary School**, in Cantonment, near Pensacola, by Bullock Tice.

MEDIA: Voting details and photos of all nominees are available upon request.

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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.

The Florida Foundation for Architecture is a non-profit organization that exists to advocate the value of architecture to audiences beyond the profession. This is accomplished through Foundation events, publications and grants for programs that feature architecture and are open and available to the general public and related professions, as well as architects.