

East elevation of  
restored house, right,  
and new entry plaza.



# A LANDMARK RESTORED

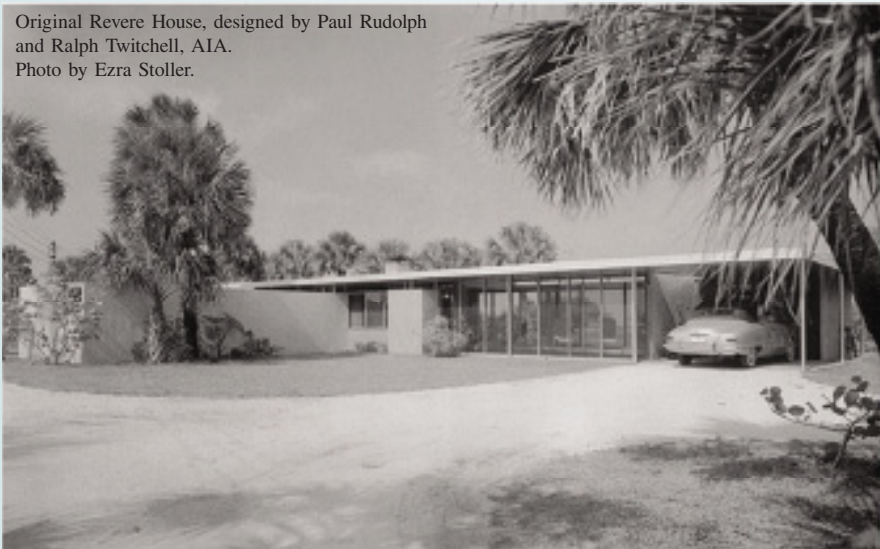
Revere House remains an exemplar of Florida's new tropical modernism

REVERE QUALITY HOUSE  
RESTORATION AND NEW  
COMPANION HOUSE, sarasota  
GUY PETERSON | OFFICE FOR  
ARCHITECTURE, sarasota

*"The dictionary states that regionalism is 'a devotion to the interests of one's own region.' Paul Rudolph described it as 'a way toward a richness in architecture which other movements have enjoyed and which is so lacking today.' The characteristics of a regional architecture are perhaps most clearly*

*defined by the site and the environment, climate and orientation, regional traditions and culture, materials, scale and form. But, Rudolph also maintained that true regional architecture is based on a larger idea that is more universal to a nation or perhaps the world and it is only the manipulation of that idea that is influenced by its regional characteristics."* — Guy Peterson, FAIA

Original Revere House, designed by Paul Rudolph  
and Ralph Twitchell, AIA.  
Photo by Ezra Stoller.



In 1948, the Revere Copper and Brass Company sponsored the national Revere Quality House Program in which homes were to be built nationwide for an affordable price using quality materials. Ralph Twitchell and Paul Rudolph were selected to design one of these houses in Florida. By 1948, when the Revere House was built, Rudolph was partnered with his old friend Ralph Twitchell and based in Sarasota. As originally planned, there were to be six residences on the property, although only one was built. This is particularly interesting in light of the introduction of a second building on the





Outdoor living room of restoration.



Addition interior study,

now much smaller property: the award-winning Companion House designed by Guy Peterson, FAIA.

In *The Sarasota School of Architecture* by John Howey, FAIA, Howey writes that “with the Revere House, Twitchell and Rudolph established a model for the classic 1950s Florida residence: a narrow one-story rectangle, often one room wide for cross ventilation often from jalousie windows; slab on grade; terrazzo floors; non-load-bearing walls with high glass window bands; wide overhangs; top-lit interior courts and attached service buildings or carports, often connected by screen walls to the residence.” With the design of the Revere House, national attention began to be focused on Rudolph and Twitchell’s work and on Sarasota, the city that was to become the namesake for an important movement in regional architecture.

According to Howey, “most of the construction drawings were prepared in New York by Rudolph in early 1948.” He also writes that it was “Ralph Twitchell’s prewar experience with John Lambie’s prewar experience with John Lambie’s concrete system” that caused it to be used in the project. Constructed with a flat concrete roof set on steel columns so that the exterior concrete walls could be non-load-bearing, the construction permitted the interior partitions to be easily moved around. “The use of a copper-sheathed fireplace and hood and kitchen vent tied it to the Revere Company’s advertising promotions in 1948.”

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Living room of restored house.

West elevation.

