

## Mark Samuelian Awards in Urban Resilience



### Awards Ceremony Recognizes Resilient Projects in South Florida

**October 27, 2023**

**Miami Beach, Florida**

The first annual [Mark Samuelian Awards in Urban Resilience](#) were announced last night during a ceremony at FIU-The Wolfsonian museum in Miami Beach.

The Mark Samuelian Awards in Urban Resilience commemorate the life and legacy of the late Miami Beach Commissioner Mark Samuelian, who championed a residents-first approach to resilience for homes and communities that face natural and climate hazards. Resilience Action Fund (RAF) launched this program with a \$50,000 pledge after the sudden loss of Mark in 2022 and was later joined by other sponsors.

The five-member awards committee is composed of resilience champions from Florida International University, University of Miami, University of Florida and MIT. The program scope focused on residential projects completed in the seven southern counties of Florida. Award criteria included resilience to hazards, environmental features, affordability, ease of duplication and community benefits.

Two projects this year received 1<sup>st</sup> prize awards of \$5,000 each:

- 'Seminole Park', a 75-home development in Hollywood, Florida by the Seminole Tribe of Florida
- 'House In A Garden', a single-story home in Coconut Grove, Florida by Atelier Mey architects.

*Seminole Park*, completed in 2021, provides affordable and walkable housing near community amenities. Resilient features include 9.7ft elevation, wind and fire-resistant concrete block

construction, buried power lines and oak trees replanted away from buildings.

*House In A Garden*, completed in 2022 and owned/occupied by its architect developers, is a prototype house in an urban working-class neighborhood. Resilient features include 12.2ft elevation, wind and fire-enhanced cross-laminated timber (CLT) construction, aluminum exterior protection and rapid assembly methods.

Aris Papadopoulos, Founding Chair of RAF said: “Mark Samuelian’s legacy continues through this awards recognition of resilient houses. This year’s winners show what’s possible when we prioritize people and safety as we build new homes in the age of climate change. The projects serve as great examples of resilient building practices for Florida, the US, and worldwide.”

The [Mark Samuelian Awards in Urban Resilience](#) is an annual recognition of individuals and organizations who demonstrate practical success in implementing hazard resilient measures and strategies in residential projects. The awards committee will look to expand its geographic scope in future years.

Photos from the ceremony and awarded projects are displayed below. For more information check out the program [website](#).

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