

**From:** The New USModernist Newsletter - George Smart <george@usmodernist.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2019 10:04 AM  
**To:** gsmart@nc.rr.com  
**Subject:** New USModernist Format / 2nd World's Fair Trip / Modstruck + Modapalooza + Movies



*USModernist and NCMModernist are part of Modernist Archive Inc, a North Carolina 501C3 nonprofit educational archive providing donors, volunteers, and advocates the information and organization they require to passionately engage the documentation, preservation, and promotion of residential Modernist architecture. Get connected to exciting [tours](#), [parties](#), [design competitions](#), and the show named as #2 in DWELL's [top nine architecture and design podcasts](#), [USModernist Radio](#). [View newsletter in browser](#). [See past newsletters](#).*

## Tuesday, September 3, 2019

To reflect our growing national audience of subscribers (over 50% from outside NC), the NCMModernist Newsletter is now the USModernist Newsletter!

Not to worry, North Carolinians - we are still on top of state and Triangle architecture news and events - just scroll down below to the NCMModernist section.



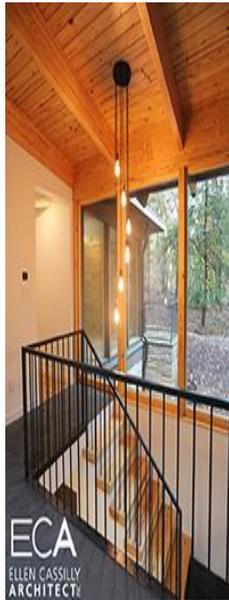
Get your company, studio, or practice involved in the wildly growing mid-century Modernist movement documenting, preserving, and promoting residential Modernist design across the US! [Become a sponsor!](#)

USModernist [has an online store](#) - with all the thoroughly ridiculous coffee cups, logowear, and mousepads you could possibly want! All proceeds benefit USModernist's ongoing documentation, preservation, and promotion work.

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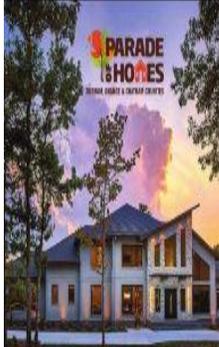


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In just one week, USModernist's November 2020 World's Fair Trip to Dubai and Abu Dhabi sold out! Not only will these lucky architecture adventurers experience the incredible jaw-dropping modern architecture of these countries, but hey - it's a freakin' World's Fair! How often does that come along? [Details](#). Did you miss out? We are taking a [waiting list](#) for a second trip!

# DID YOU KNOW



A [lost Modernist utopia](#) in Italy.



New to the USModernist archives: architect [Rafael Vinoly](#).



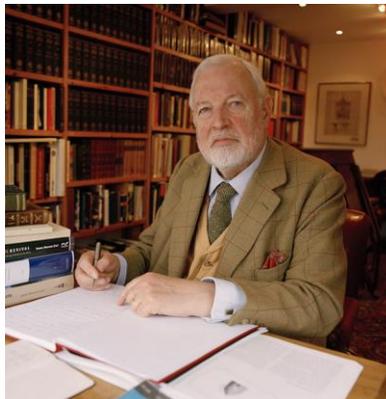
From the San Francisco Chronicle: San Francisco officials reversed an order that would have forced Ross Johnson, who destroyed Largent House in San Francisco without a permit. Commissioners ordered the house, designed by modernist architect [Richard Neutra](#), to be rebuilt the house exactly as it was. After a \$10M

lawsuit by Johnson, commissioners abandoned the directive after the city attorney's office said they were unlikely to win. San Francisco Heritage Executive Director Mike Buhler said it would send the wrong message to "bad actors" who seek to replace historic homes with "larger, more lucrative projects." And he's right.

Did you know USModernist maintains a section called [Resources](#)? There you can find Powerpoint presentations on Modernist buildings around the world by the prolific Jean-Paul Bonfils, the [Charlie Kahn interviews](#) with internationally-known architects; the [Diamonstein-Spielvogel Video Archive](#) featuring interviews Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel conducted with prominent artists, musicians, architects, designers, photographers, directors, actors, writers, and art collectors during the 1970's.

Texas starts [crowdsourcing their Modernist house research](#).

Hat tips to **Daniel Perrin**, **Catherine Cramer**, and **Virginia Faust**.



Now on USModernist Radio - Modernism is Bad, Very Bad: with Professor James Stevens Curl. A graduate in Architecture from Oxford, Professor Curl is known for scholarship, penetrating criticisms, lucidity of style, and holding his nose at the stench of Modernism, of which he is definitely not a fan. He's probably rather be down at the Groaning Board hoisting a pint than talking to us, but we're thrilled to hear about his new award-winning book, *Making Dystopia: The Strange Rise and Survival of Architectural Barbarism*, in which he tears apart the Modernist movement piece by piece! However, he makes a good argument for how the wider modern movement in the 1950's (highways, cars, planes, not just architecture) has harmed the planet and the community way of life.

USModernist Radio is sponsored by [Angela Roehl](#), your special real estate agent for Modernist houses. [Listen via iTunes](#). [Listen on Android devices and PC's](#). [View past and future show descriptions](#).

DWELL recently [named USModernist Radio](#) #2 in their top nine architecture and design podcasts!



**Do you love architecture documentaries? We sure do!** Yet no one's getting rich making architecture films; in fact, bringing them to life is a huge labor of love - for which the producers would be better off working at McDonalds. Help USModernist support these three brave architecture producers -- so their documentaries can be finished, fully edited, formatted for various media, and released to movie series around the world (including ours!).



Mina Chow is an architect, professor, and filmmaker in Los Angeles. A film honoring American design excellence, *Face of a Nation* documents the rise and fall of American participation at World's Fairs. The story investigates controversy surrounding US participation for the last 25 years - asking important questions about the country's role in the world and perceptions of the American image. Mina and her

film are the inspiration for our [2020 Dubai World's Fair tour](#). Watch her trailer above and [pledge your support!](#)



Devon Chivvis is a third-generation Modernist. She grew up in a magically beautiful Modernist home in New Canaan CT designed by [Eliot Noyes](#), just as her mother and grandmother did in an earlier Noyes house. Noyes was part of The Harvard Five, a group of New England architects which included Philip Johnson, Landes Gores, Marcel Breuer, and John Johansen. Devon combines her genuine love of architecture and her thoughtful award-winning expertise in filmmaking to create a Harvard Five documentary. Watch her brilliant, endearing trailer above and [pledge your support!](#)



Jake and Tracey Gorst have produced many architecture documentaries including Frey: Part I and II; The Nature of Modernism: E. Stewart Williams, Architect; Modern Tide: Midcentury Architecture on Long Island; Desert Utopia: Mid-Century Architecture in Palm Springs; William Krisel, Architect; Journeyman Architect: The Life and Work of Donald Wexler; and Leisurama. Now they are launching a six-part series on New England Modernism. Watch the trailer above and [pledge your support](#). Just this week, Amazon released Gorst's [Leisurama book online for pre-order!](#)



## DID YOU KNOW

Did you know NCModernist maintains a [multimedia section](#)? There you can find interviews with NC architects, audio and video clips from around the state, and Steve Clipp shows from the internet and WPTF.



New to the NCModernist archives: [Ginny Woodruff](#) of  
Wilmington.

NC State's [entry into the AIA Film Challenge](#), led by Tom Barrie and David Hill.



Update on the **Milton Small** Home Security Life Building (former Police HQ) in Durham: the City received three proposals for redevelopment, only [one of which saves the building](#). The second [wraps a ridiculous building around it](#), and the [third destroys the building entirely](#). The City Council will make the final decision this fall. [Email the Council](#) and let them know you want the building saved!



Thursday, September 19, 6-8pm, TRIG, 1053 East Whitaker Mill Road #109, Raleigh. Join Bob for some of the most amazing Modern furniture, lighting, and accessories. Thirst4Architecture (T4A) parties are free, exciting, informal events welcoming anyone with a huge crush on great architecture. T4A events focus on building relationships, sharing passion about Modernist design, creating strategic alliances, and connecting people. There are no presentations -- just come join the fun and make new design friends! The 2019 [Thirst4Architecture Series](#) is sponsored by Modernist Realtor [Angela Roehl](#).



Saturday, October 5, 7pm. Every October NCModernist has a sweet celebration called Modstruck, a party for our wonderful members, supporters, and sponsors held in a super Modernist house -- and this year is no exception. The Zodi House in Cameron Village has never been open to the public, even though the house has been there, quietly spectacular, for 20 years. The Zodi's have generously opened up the Frank Harmon-designed house and he'll be there that night. Although the house and pool area are large, capacity is limited and we expect the event to sell out quickly! Music by Peter Lamb and the Wolves. Valet parking provided. Dress: to the 9's! Proceeds benefit NCModernist's ongoing work in the documentation, preservation, and promotion of residential Modernist architecture. [Details and tickets.](#)





## MODA PALOOZA MODA PALOOZA MODA PALOOZA

Saturday, October 12, 8-5pm: We opened up another bus, but there are only 10 seats left!

The Modapalooza bus tour takes you in comfort (and free wifi) to eight new Modernist houses around Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill, complete with breakfast and lunch and snacks! Join NCModernist we visit amazing new homes by Raleigh Architecture, Tonic Design, Larry Scarpa, Arielle Schechter, Alan Mascord, Heather Washburn, Nick Hammer, and more! [Details and tickets.](#)



THE RALEIGH  
ARCHITECT  
URE COMPANY

Thursday, October 17, 6-8pm. Join Robby Johnston, Craig Kerins, and the crew of Raleigh Architecture at their new offices, 716 South Saunders Street, Raleigh. This design/build firm has been tearing it up the last few years, turning out multiple award-winning houses and soon new commercial and multi-family projects. Thirst4Architecture (T4A) parties are free, exciting, informal events welcoming anyone with a huge crush on great architecture. T4A events focus on building relationships, sharing passion about Modernist design, creating strategic alliances, and connecting people. There are no presentations -- just come join the fun and make new design friends! The 2019 [Thirst4Architecture Series](#) is sponsored by Modernist Realtor [Angela Roehl](#).



**Starting Monday, October 7**, the NCModernist/ModHomes Architecture Movie Series opens at the Chelsea Theatre, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, Chapel Hill. The Chelsea is a beloved Chapel Hill art house theatre featuring fresh organic popcorn, craft beers, wine, and soft drinks! There are some great restaurants and coffee shops adjacent for pre- and post-movie gatherings. Sponsored again this year by Modernist Realtor [Sarah Sonke](#), these visually and intellectually compelling movies about Modernist architecture and architects rarely get shown in commercial theaters. Mod Squad members get in free with preregistration! [Details, schedule, movies, trailers, and ticket information!](#)

Our first feature is Sinatra in Palm Springs, followed by phone Q&A with producer Leo Zahn.



Sinatra in Palm Springs explores singer Frank Sinatra's deep attachment to the Coachella Valley, his primary home for almost 50 years in Palm Springs and Rancho Mirage. Steeped in affection and appreciation for the deep bond between Sinatra and these beguiling desert towns, the film tells the story of a man whose generosity and compassion for his fellow citizens had no bounds. He loved the desert and its people. Revealing interviews bring to life tumultuous times with Ava Gardner, his 1954 move to Cathedral City/Rancho Mirage, his marriage to Barbara, and life at the "compound". Featuring interviews with Barbara Sinatra, Mel Haber, Tom Dreesen, Nelda Linsk, Bruce Fessier, Trini Lopez, Michael Fletcher and many others who knew and lived and played with Frank Sinatra.



Vacancy, not development, is the enemy of mid-century Modernist houses. Preserve and protect the architecture you love by buying or renting before the bulldozers come a few years from now. Visit our [exclusive statewide list](#).

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