

**From:** USModernist Newsletter <gsmart@strategicdevelopment.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 8:37 AM  
**To:** gsmart@nc.rr.com  
**Subject:** Optimism of Modernism / What We're Doing / International Test Call / Giveaways / Goodbye Dick Bell / Charles Bates



*USModernist and NCModernist are part of Modernist Archive Inc, a 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 architecture and design podcasts, [USModernist Radio](#). [View newsletter in browser](#). [See past newsletters](#). [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.*

**Monday, March 23, 2020**



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!](#)

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When you schedule a free conversation about solar for your house, USModernist receives a \$50 donation!

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NEWS



Over these last 13 years I've learned that Modernism is about shared optimism, joyous and sometimes idealistic hope, and the promise of a better future. Right now our world is going through one hell of a bad time, with no immediate answers. Architecture takes a back seat to just about everything else, as tours become impossible and even going to the grocery store can be stressful. The Modernist architecture you and I love reflects a wildly passionate desire to make all our tomorrows better than all our yesterdays.

After WWII, that attitude promised a metamorphosis: air conditioning, color TV's, jet travel, flying cars, handheld communicators, and helpful robots. Well, we didn't get the flying cars, but for a long time we kept that sense of optimism. It may be unrealistic, but I still have that optimism, and I want you to know that our staff and dedicated volunteers will do everything we

can to keep that boldly going for you through this crisis.

Today, USModernist will donate 500 pairs of shoe covers to UNC Hospitals. We extended memberships for all Mod Squad members by two free months. We extended sponsorships to our supporting companies by two free months. We reduced the price of [becoming a Mod Squad member](#) by half for couples. To encourage more architects and designers, we reduced the cost of entering the [2020 George Matsumoto Prize](#) by half. We are continually reinventing USModernist's newsletter, websites, social media, and plans.

I want to keep your inner light shining, whether you are stuck at home or out on the front lines in our health care centers, or anywhere in between. Stay safe, stay home, stay hopeful.

Warm regards,  
George Smart, Executive Director  
[george@usmodernist.org](mailto:george@usmodernist.org)



Look for giveaways of art and architecture books and DVD's on the [Mr.Modernism](#), [USModernist](#), and [NCModernist](#) Instagram feeds!



**This Wednesday, March 25, at 820pm Eastern Time.** Want to help test a new shared conference platform for USModernist Radio's new international gateway? This new system allows up to 1000 people to be together at the same time - all without a computer! **All you need is your phone.** In fact, ANY phone will work, going all the way back to your mama's old-school touch-tone landline. Dial 1 (862) 799-9349 and you're in. Or from any of the following countries, dial the corresponding number and when prompted, the access code 917261. There is no charge to participate, however normal calling rates apply for your phone plan. The test will last no longer than

20 minutes, and everyone who participates and registers gets a special thank-you digital book! Tip: call in five minutes early and listen to music by **Peter Lamb and the Wolves!**



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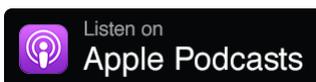
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New on USModernist Radio: **#136/The New York World's Fair**. In a world before the internet, World's Fairs were the killer app of the 19<sup>th</sup> and most of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Countries would assemble at a central place for about six months and build pavilions, each sharing their nation's

technology, culture, national sources of pride, symbols, heroes, and achievements. If you've ever been to Epcot at Disney World, you get the layout. There were two World's Fairs in New York. Much of the architecture for the 1964 fair was forward-thinking and Modernist, but only a few buildings on the New York fairgrounds survive today, some of them barely. We welcome two superfans who've been working over ten years to restore what's left, **Mitch Silverstein** and **Stephanie Boehn**. Both are featured in the documentary *Modern Ruin*, produced by past podcast guest **Matt Silva**, which details the site's post-fair use, deterioration, and growing advocacy efforts. USModernist Radio is sponsored by Modernist realtor [Angela Roehl](#) and [Nichiha.com](#). [Listen to past shows.](#)

New to podcasts? You can listen through any computer at: <http://usmodernist.libsyn.com/>

A new series of Palm Springs interviews recorded at 2020 Modernism Week starts on Monday, March 30!



Nationally known landscape architect **Dick Bell** died last week of natural causes. One of the highest-regarded and honored design professionals in landscape design, Bell graduated from NC State in 1950 and, at age 21, was the youngest person ever to receive the prestigious Rome Prize Fellowship. As part of a career spanning six decades, Bell won the Award for Distinguished Professional Achievement from the NC Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the National ASLA Medal for Lifetime Achievements and Contributions to the Profession. He wrote the book, *Bridge Builders*. His many projects included:

- \* Figure Eight Island in Wilmington NC
- \* Stone Mountain GA Master Plan
- \* Pilot Mountain NC Master Plan
- \* NC Legislative Building Grounds
- \* Peace College Master Plan, Raleigh NC
- \* NC Mutual Plaza, Durham NC
- \* Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant

\* Falls Lake NC Master Plan

\* St. Mary's College Serpentine Fence

Bell also did the landscape design on many Modernist houses, including the Kistler-Hollstein House, Fayetteville, designed by **Dan MacMillan**; the Gerald Bell house, Chapel Hill, designed by **Sumner Winn**; the Joe Rowand Residence, Hillsborough, designed by **Phil Szostak**; the Frank Anderson House, Raleigh, designed by **Milton Small**; the Doug Fleet House, Figure Eight Island, designed by **Oxenfeld and Newkirk**; the Joan and Bob Allen House, Fayetteville, designed by **Mason Hicks**. A memorial service is planned and will be announced here. [Learn more.](#)

Two buildings, two cities: [Modern Architecture in the South](#). Hat tip to **Lester Levine**.

From Curbed: Design in the age of [pandemics](#).

**Aaron Betsky**, former dean at Taliesin (now he's at Virginia Tech) [shares the inside story of the battle](#) between the Frank Lloyd Wright School and the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

## Cancellations and Postponements

USModernist's and NCModernist's highest priorities are the health and safety of everyone on our architecture tours. Having monitored the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, containing the spread is crucial. Tours are our single largest source of funding, raising nearly 40% of our entire year's budget. Despite all the uncertainty, we will get through this crisis and when we do, we will reschedule with more fun tours, talks, and programs on Modernist, with current ticketholders having the option to reschedule, refund, or donate. On behalf of all our board, staff, volunteers, and participants, we thank you!

March 28: NCModernist/Our State Tour - postponed, date TBA.

April 4: Knoxville Modernism Home Tour, Knoxville, TN, postponed to April 2021.

April 7: George Smart's Accidental Archivist talk at the NY School of Interior Design - postponed to April 2021.

April 18: NCModernist's Modapalooza Tour - postponed, date TBA.

April 18-19: Palm Springs Historic Site Preservation Board Preservation Matters event cancelled.

April 23: NCModernist's Thirst4Architecture Party at Beyond Blue, Raleigh, postponed until fall TBA.

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April 25: NCModernist's Winston-Salem Tour - postponed, date TBA.

April 25: Rhode Island State Preservation Conference - postponed to April 2021.

May 1: USModernist's Washington DC Tour - postponed until fall, date TBA.

May 7: Open House New York Gala at the United Nations - postponed, date TBA.

May 12: The Iconic Houses Conference in the Netherlands, moved to June 1-4, 2021.

May 14: AIA National Conference in Los Angeles - postponed, date TBA.



**USMODERNIST NCMODERNIST**

USModernist and NCModernist have new logos percolating their way through our websites and social media. If you still see the old ones anywhere please let us know!

**THE  
MOD  
SQUAD**

Support our mission by becoming a member of the [Mod Squad!](#) Through May 1, your spouse/partner gets a free year's membership with your paid membership. All you have to do is [email](#) their name and email address after you [join!](#)

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There are so many ways you can be part of USModernist!

1. Connect us to collectors/libraries of architecture magazines in their attic, basement, or storage unit. USModernist is collecting and scanning almost 3 million pages of the great magazines from the 20th century. We [need certain ones](#), and we'll pay for shipping.
2. Have you got an iconic mid-century chair, table, or clock (Eames, Nelson, Barcelona, Bertioia, etc.)? Donate it to NCModernist and get a great tax deduction - and we can pick it up in the Raleigh, NC area!
3. Donate a collection of **Sunset Magazine**, a great chronicle of Western architecture.
4. Explore our [Masters Gallery](#), featuring nearly every iconic house in America by the great masters of 20th century Modernism. Warning: highly addictive!

Contact **George Smart** at [george@usmodernist.org](mailto:george@usmodernist.org) or **Rebekah Laney** at [rebekah@usmodernist.org](mailto:rebekah@usmodernist.org).

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Hat tips to **Daniel Perrin** and **Virginia Faust**.

TOURS, TALKS, and EVENTS



**Docomomo US National Symposium  
Registration is now open**



**CHICAGO: CROSSROADS OF  
MODERN AMERICA**

**June 3-6, 2020  
Chicago, Illinois**

As of March 22, this event was still scheduled.

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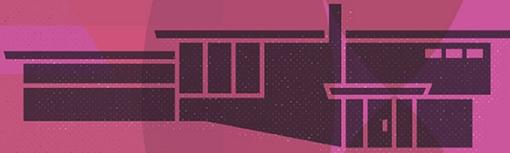
# SAVE THE DATE

2020 Summer Party  
Saturday June 13  
12 to 4 pm  
New Canaan, CT

As

of March 22, this event was still scheduled.

The  
CHARLOTTE MUSEUM  
of HISTORY



2020

# MAD ABOUT MODERN

MIDCENTURY + MODERN HOME TOUR

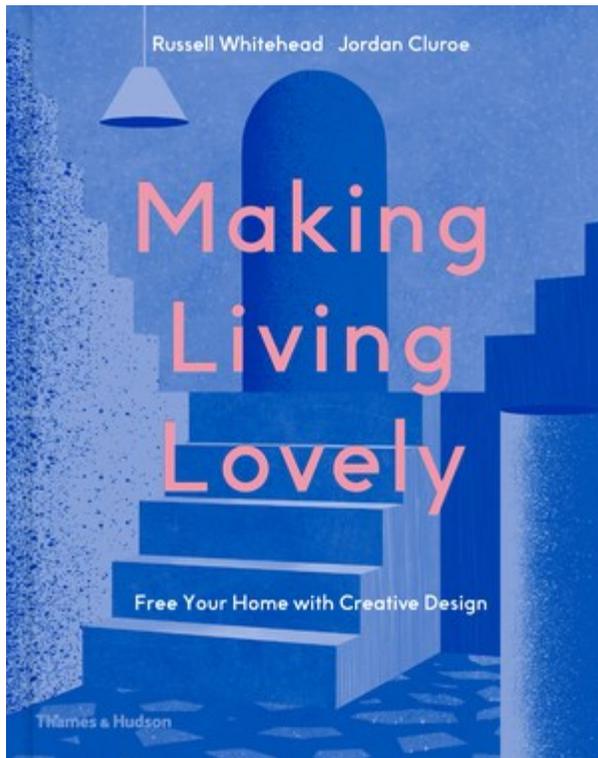
SEPTEMBER 26 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

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November 6-8, honoring **Carl Abbott FAIA**

BOOKS



New book available May 5: **Making Living Lovely: Free Your Home with Contemporary Design** by **Russell Whitehead and Jordan Cluroe**. Making interior design choices can be daunting in a world flooded with trendsetting Instagram posts and Pinterest boards. Luckily, the authors specialize in designing homes for clients who know what they love, but struggle to know where to start. Their fresh approach is nothing short of a design revolution: freeing your home with interiors that express your personality and address your needs. *Making Living Lovely* also covers finding your style, cohabiting and design compromises, exploring your creativity, and rediscovering the fun in your interiors.



AN AIA NORTH CAROLINA PRODUCTION

AIA North Carolina launches a monthly podcast, Podcast Parti. Here's [episode 1](#) with **Erin Sterling Lewis, Frank Harmon, Phil Szostak, Robby Johnston, and Dennis Stallings.**



New to the [NCModernist archives](#): [Charles Bates](#), who while working for A. G. Odell in Charlotte created one of North Carolina's most beautiful Modernist churches, in Belmont NC.



A rare Modernist house by architect [Byron Franklin](#) is [for sale in Raleigh!](#) [Video](#).



# The George Matsumoto Prize

**Open for Submissions:** The **George Matsumoto Prize** is North Carolina's highest honor exclusively for Modernist residential architecture. The Matsumoto Prize is open to any architect or designer of a Modernist house in North Carolina built within the past five years. [Submission details](#). Deadline May 1. **To increase participation, the entry fee has been reduced 50%.**

The 2020 Matsumoto Prize is powered by



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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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