M News: Last Day for Matsumoto Voting / Modapalooza Sep 13 / Barbara Neski / Saving Historic Tax Credits and Sarasota's Van Wezel

From: George Smart HAIA <george@usmodernist.org>
Date: Monday, June 30, 2025

US Modernist

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Welcome, Modernist architecture fans, to the USModernist newsletter, sharing Modernist news and events since 2008! USModernist is an award-winning nonprofit 501C3 educational archive for the documentation, preservation, and promotion of Modernist architecture.

USModernist Radio Podcast | Architecture Media Library | Architect and House Archives

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News Editor: **Ron Gallagher** Newsletter Staff: **Virginia Faust, George Smart**
Got Modernist News? Contact **Ron Gallagher** at rpg.modernist@gmail.com

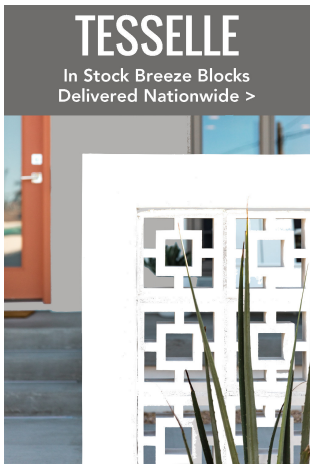
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Membership: Join our national community of architecture fans supporting and preserving the Modernist architecture you love. Become a USModernist Mod Squad member for $10/month and get three months free! Sign up here.

Meet the USModernist Team

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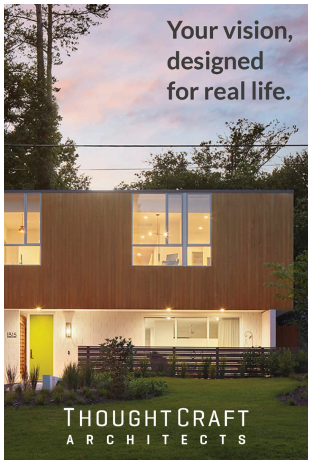
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Featured Events

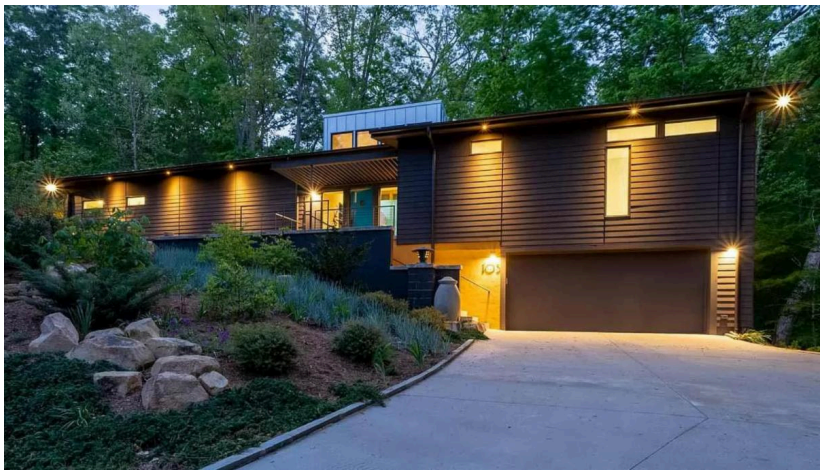
MATSUMOTO PRIZE

Today is the last day to VOTE in the 2025 George Matsumoto Prize, hosted by NCModernist and sponsored by Fitch Lumber / MARVIN.

Anyone, anywhere, can vote! The George Matsumoto Prize is North Carolina's highest honor exclusively for Modernist residential architecture. The 2025 Awards Ceremony is **Wednesday, July 23,** 6-8pm at Leland Little Auctions, 620 Cornerstone Court, Hillsborough NC. Free, registration required. Enter PRIZE on the form.

MODAPALOOZA

Raleigh/Durham NC



NEW: Saturday, September 13, 8-5pm: Join NCModernist for the next wildly popular Modapalooza bus tour of nine new Modernist houses in the Triangle area of North Carolina.

It's our 12th year, and this fall we are featuring amazing houses by Erin Sterling Lewis, withArchitecture, Phil Szostak, Joe Lopez, Raleigh Architecture, Turkel Design, Arielle Schechter, and more.

This tour always sells out so get your seats now! Details and tickets.

Connect with the USModernist Community



Do you have a basement or attic or storage unit full of contemporary furniture or art? Can't bear the thought of throwing these away, but your family doesn't want them? Get a great tax deduction and free pickup in North Carolina. Your donation to USModernist supports our award-winning documentation and preservation programs. Contact: **Sharon Glazener**, Art Director, 919.787.3515.

Become a USModernist **Mod Squad** member and join a national community of architecture fans supporting and preserving the Modernist architecture you love. Information.

USModernist's unrivaled documentation and preservation work consistently delivers national impact, but our continued research and advocacy is only



possible through generous supporters like you. You can be part of our community with a tax-deductible donation. Providing for USModernist in your will, trust, or beneficiary designation is a powerful way to make your legacy in Modernist preservation. There are new and creative options in addition to direct donation, including insurance and estate gifts, such as donating directly to USModernist from an IRA. Your contribution of $250 or more will directly support the continuation of these essential preservation initiatives. Contact us.

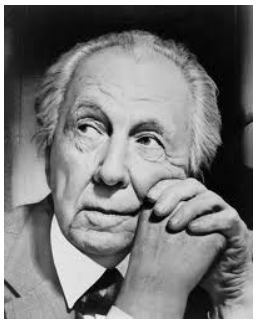
Want a closer connection to USModernist? Get breaking news (like preservation alerts or special events) on your cell phone. Just text JOIN and your email address to the phone number 707-615-3822. Example: JOIN gsmart@nc.rr.com. Leave anytime by sending STOP.



Support USModernist's intrepid mission of Modernist preservation and documentation by hosting a benefit cocktail party or dinner in your Modernist house!

Throughout 2025 and 2026, USModernist's founder and Executive Director George Smart goes on the road to speak at hosted events in Modernist houses around America. Get more information.

News



From the New York Times: There are support groups for Frank Lloyd Wright homeowners. The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy is one of dozens of groups around the country devoted to preserving the architect's legacy.

Owners soon learn that a Wright house owns you, not the other way around. Hat tip to **Lester Levine.**



From The Guardian: all about Save Britain's Heritage, the small nonprofit team saving Britain's cherished buildings, like Battersea Power Station, from the wrecking ball. Hat tip to **Lester Levine.**



A new visitor center opened in Maine for the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, introducing visitors to the culture and long history of the Wabanaki people. **Saunders Architecture** was the architect.





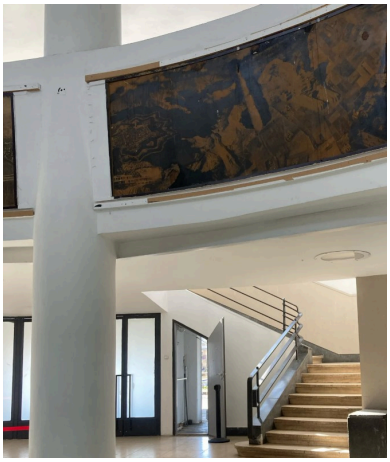
The work of Barbara Goldberg Neski, who passed away earlier this year, is remembered in *Advocacy and the Architecture of Barbara Goldberg Neski, 1928-2025*.



Call to Action: Save the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center in Sarasota FL, designed by Wright protege Williams Wesley Peters. Send an email to the County ?Commissioners.

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Call to action: The National Trust for Historic Preservation wants everyone to ask their US senators to include Historic Tax Credit improvements in the 2025 budget reconciliation bill. The Historic Tax Credit (HTC) is a critical tool for revitalization which has lost significant value over the last 12 years. Improvements provisions were not included in the Finance Committee bill text. The HTC needs to be improved to bring more value to the credits as we look at future projects. For this one, please don't send an email, they are typically ignored. Phone calls to Senator's office are much more powerful.





CNN Travel visited Budapest's Budaörs Airport and its Bauhaus-style terminal, in continuous operation since 1937.



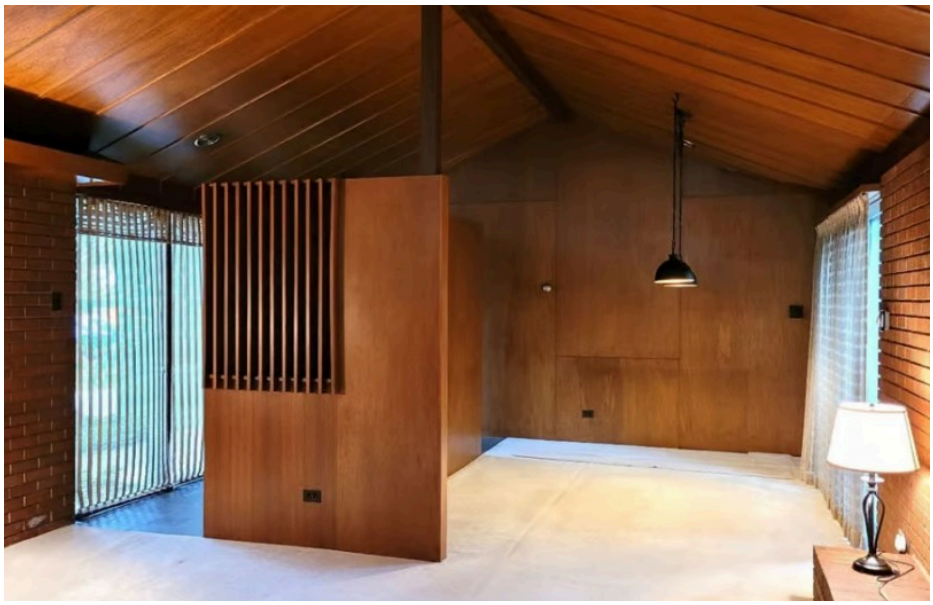
From *Midcenturyhome.com*: the renovation of a 1953 New Orleans LA house by **Curtis and Davis Architects**. A poor 1990s renovation, inadequate maintenance, and Hurricane Katrina hurt the house over time.



Wallpaper highlights Renzo Piano, who stands out among 20th-century architects for his ability to understand traditional materials while creating large expanses of steel and glass.



From Dezeen: The curators of a Cranbrook Art Museum exhibit about mid-century Modernist design named eight overlooked designers.



The Kulish family in Denver CO is asking the city to designate the 1956 McCallin-Kulish House as a landmark. Architect **Joseph "Gerry" Dion**, a Frank Lloyd Wright devotee, based the house on Usonian principles.

Endangered / Destroyed

Know an endangered Modernist house in your neighborhood, city, or state? Through our preservation alert program, **Modernism In Danger,** USModernist calls attention to the Modernist buildings around the country at risk for deterioration, demolition, auction, or inappropriate renovation (like turning your Modernist house into an Italianate villa). Tell us.

MODERNISM IN DANGER
USMODERNIST

Modernism For Sale



In Jackson MS, the 1951 J. Willis Hughes House by Frank Lloyd Wright is for sale for $2.5M.



The 2016 Greenstein House, aka Triptych, in Bellevue WA that Tom Kundig designed is on the market with a $79M price tag.



Roger Matthews designed the 1956 Joseph Klatt Spec House in La Jolla CA. It's on the market now for $3.5M.



A 1961 house in Portland OR designed by architect **Richard Marlitt** is for sale for $1.8M.



On the market in East Hampton NY for $9.5M is a 1965 house renovated as Modernist in 2017.



$1.9M gets you a Monolithic Dome Home – aka the Bundt House and the Boba Tea House – designed in 1977 by **Luther Bruce** in Kalamazoo MI.

Upcoming Events

Want to bring 50-100 design-oriented people to your client site or studio? Host a Thirst4Architecture design networking event! We have openings for 2025 and 2026 in the Raleigh/Durham area. Contact **Devra Dubroff,** devra@usmodernist.org.

July 19, 2-4pm: Horace Gifford House Tour, Eastport NY. Explore the 1979 Graham house designed by Horace Gifford with Gifford expert and author **Christopher Rawlins**, sponsored by Hamptons 20th Century Modern. Tickets.

July 27, 11-2pm: Tour and book signing at the Antler House, designed by Andrew Geller, sponsored by Hamptons 20th Century Modern. Author **Jake Gorst** will give a brief talk on his grandfather Geller's groundbreaking work and sign his book *Andrew Geller: Deconstructed*, available for purchase onsite. Tickets.

July 2-September 30: The Paul Rudolph Institute for Modern Architecture exhibition **Architecture=Art: The Susan Grant Lewin Collection**, showing 50 architectural presentation drawings by **Eileen Gray, Daniel Arsham,** Frank Gehry, **Jesse Reiser, Hani Rashid,** Steven Holl, **Aldo Rossi,** Michael Graves, **James Wines, Stanley Tigerman,** and John Hejduk.

July 27 to August 9: REAL MATTER annual design workshop in Raleigh NC, hosted by in situ studio. Past talks. Details.

August 10, 11am: The Legacy of Hamptons Modernism Today, a panel discussion at the Jewish Center of the Hamptons, architect Norman Jaffe's masterpiece. Includes **Paul Goldberger, Maureen Erbe, Jane Mehring, Max Worrell,** and **Liz Waytkus.** Tickets TBA.

September 5-November 9: An exhibit of the architecture of Little Switzerland (Knoxville TN) at the Knoxville Museum of Art. Details.

September 6: AIA Triangle Tour. Details TBA.

Saturday, September 13: Modapalooza Bus Tour of Nine New Modernist Houses, Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill NC. Tickets.

September 14-16: AIA South Atlantic ASPIRE Conference, Asheville NC. Details.

October 4: La Jolla Modernism Home Tour. Details.

October 5-7: Preservation North Carolina Conference in Asheville NC. Details.

October 11: Grace Farms 10th Anniversary Party, New Canaan CT. Tickets.

October 16-19: Modernism Week Weekend, Palm Springs CA. Tickets available August 1 here.

October 16: ***An American Versailles*** opens at the New Canaan Museum and Historical Society, featuring the Design Center at General Motors in Detroit, a sprawling campus designed by Eero Saarinen.

October 18: New Canaan Museum and Historical Society Modernist House Day Tour, New Canaan CT, with a VIP party sponsored on October 17 by USModernist. Tickets.

October 19: Special New Canaan Brunch, New Canaan CT, with USModernist. Join **George Smart** and **Devra Dubroff.** Information TBA.

ADFF: The Architecture and Design Film Festival: NY Oct 14-18, LA Oct 21-25, Vancouver Nov 5-9, Toronto Nov 12-15, Chicago Feb 2026.

November 14-16: Architecture Sarasota Mod Weekend. Member tickets open July 1, public August 1. Details.

February 12-22: Modernism Week 2026, Palm Springs CA. Tickets available November 1 here.

March 17-26: DOCOMOMO International Conference in Los Angeles. Details TBA.

Through November 2026: National Building Museum, Washington DC. A South Forty examines the vibrant, distinctive contemporary architecture and design practices of the American South from 1990 to present day along US Highway 40, running west from North Carolina through the southeastern states to an inflection point in Oklahoma.

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Latest Podcast





#411/Mies with Iveta Cerna + Dirk Lohan + Max Strang on Gene Leedy

From poolside at the swanky USModernist compound during Modernism Week 2025, we're all about two architects: Chicago's Mies van der Rohe and Florida's Gene Leedy, with guests **Iveta Cerna**, director of the Villa Tugendhat in Brno, Czech Republic; and Mies's grandson, architect **Dirk Lohan**. Later on, we'll hear from **Max Strang**, archivist of Gene Leedy and his impressive Florida architecture.

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NCMODERNIST

FOR SALE

Vacancy, not development, is the enemy of mid-century Modernist houses. Preserve and protect the architecture you love by notifying us when North Carolina houses go vacant or on the market.

Check out the NCModernist For Sale/Rent Database. Real estate agents and owners can list their NC Modernist houses for sale or rent for free. Submissions are subject to approval: single-family Modernist houses only, they can be old or new, the architect or designer can be from anywhere, but the house must be in North Carolina. Exclusively sponsored by:

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