M News: Modapalooza Tix / LACMA Finally Built / Exciting NW Arkansas / Delta Flap / Free Chapel Hill Book!
From: George Smart HAIA <george@usmodernist.org>
Date: Monday, July 7, 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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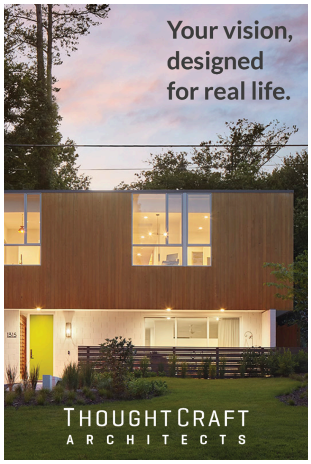
News Editor: **Ron Gallagher** Newsletter Staff: **Virginia Faust, George Smart**
Got Modernist News? Contact **Ron Gallagher** at rpg.modernist@gmail.com

Sponsorship: Connect your product, service, or organization to USModernist's 64,000 weekly subscribers! Reach out to George Smart, 919.740.8407.

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.

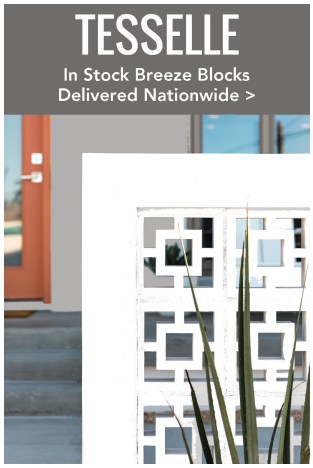
Meet the USModernist Team

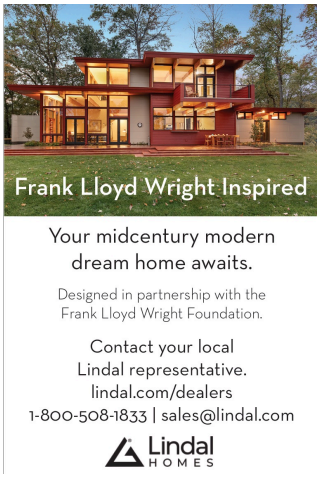












Featured Events

MATSUMOTO PRIZE

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. Featuring appetizers and wine from the Leland Little collection.

There will be many, many door prizes! 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 Modapaloooza's 12th year, featuring amazing new houses by Erin Sterling Lewis, withArchitecture, Phil Szostak, Joe Lopez, Raleigh Architecture, Turkel Design, Arielle Schechter, and more. 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.

We love our Mod Squad members, and after 18 years of no membership price increases, expenses have gone up with our tours, research, and preservation projects. So it's time.

Join now! Until August 1, the price is still $120, or just $10 a month. Sign up here.



USModernist's 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. Donate.

We can explore specific aspects of planned giving in more detail. Reach out to George Smart, george@usmodernist.org, 919 740 8407.

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.

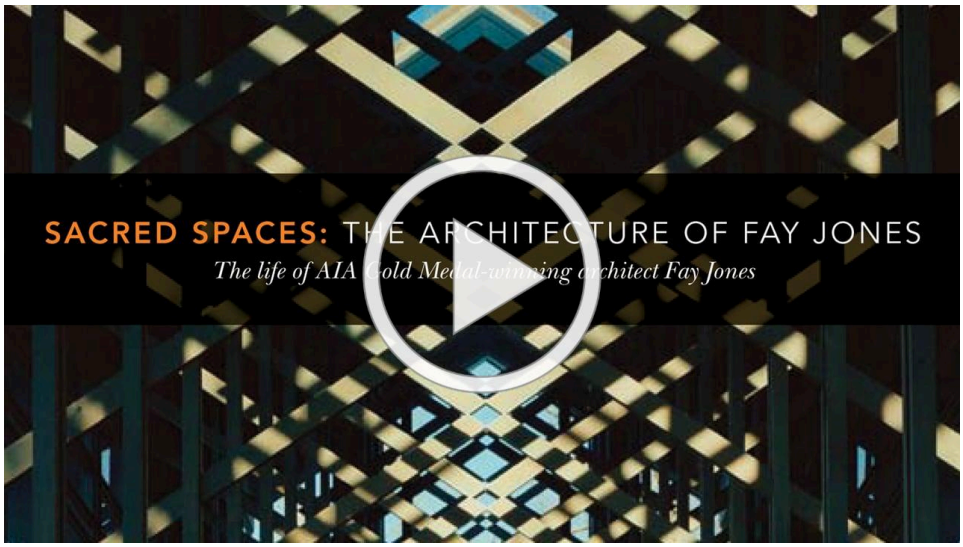


Support USModernist's intrepid mission of Modernist preservation and documentation by hosting a benefit cocktail party or dinner in your Modernist house! Throughout 2025 and 2026, USModernist's founder and Executive Director George Smart goes on the road to speak at hosted events in Modernist houses around America. Get more information.

News



Almost 25 years from inception and lots of controversy, the new **Peter Zumthor**-designed building for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art is finally built. Named for major donor **David Geffen**, it awaits being stocked with art and a splashy public opening in 2026. Photo by **Iwan Baan.**



Northwest Arkansas is a place Modernist fans should have on your vacation list. From the fantastic Crystal Bridges Museum, designed by **Moshe Safdie**, to chapels and houses by E. Fay Jones, to new work by Marlon Blackwell and others, the Bentonville/Fayetteville area is experiencing an explosion of growth driven by the Walton family of Walmart fame. New Modernist buildings are everywhere, from a new medical school to a new wellness center.



The flap from an airborne DELTA flight broke off and landed outside a Leif Valand-designed mid-century Modernist house last week in Raleigh NC. The good news is no one was injured, and the bad news is the owners do not get to keep the flap.



On June 25, the former Sunset Magazine offices in Menlo Park CA were deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Designed by Cliff May with landscape design by **Thomas Church**, the property is in peril for a large-scale development.



KCAL explores Modernist Los Angeles with longtime architecture tour guide Laura Messino Smith.



Columbus, Indiana is a long-established center for Modernism, with dozens of buildings by famous architects starting in the 1950's. In 2017 they made a feature film about Columbus, and now you can see it, for free, on Tubi.



Call to Action: Save the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center in Sarasota FL, designed by Wright protege **William Wesley Peters**. Send an email to the decision-makers: Commissioners@sarasotafl.gov.



Bjarke Ingels' firm BIG, working with the **Doug Aitkin Workshop** and other collaborators, will connect three public areas in Copenhagen's Ørestad area with a project called *The Impact* that "breaks open the perfect, finished surfaces of the city like a meteor strike" and uses fractured surfaces, water, and vegetation to make public spaces.



Ukrainian designer **Anastasiya Dudik** told *Dezeen* that Soviet-era Brutalism and California futurism came together in her creation of a domed house in a rugged landscape east of San Bernadino and Riverside CA.



Four decades before the US decided it needed a law to assure people with disabilities could get into and move around many buildings, Frank Lloyd Wright designed the Laurent House in Rockport IL for a paraplegic client.

Léon Krier died last month. A hero to Classicists around the world, he was a highly influential architect whose work and writings were profound critiques of Modernist architecture and urbanism, advocating for a return to classical and traditional principles.



He vehemently opposed large-scale, car-dependent modern development, advocating instead for towns and cities designed at a human scale, where everything is within walking distance and easily navigable.



July's Modernist Astrology, by Bobbie Morris

Welcome to July, where everyone has lost their minds. Mercury's throwing your floor plans into the shredder, and Saturn's retrograding everyone's life into rubble. It's an astrological punch in the face—by the end of the month you may actually believe that astrology is real. Let's bulldoze your expectations.

This Independence Day, Venus sashays in on kitten heels, and, suddenly, love is polyphonic, polyamorous, and possibly polycarbonate. Relationships feel breezy and fast. One minute you're flirting over materials, the next you're ghosted because you used the word "prefabricated" in a vulnerable moment. By July 10, the breakups will be absolutely brutalist.

Then, BAM, on July 7, Uranus enters Gemini and tears the roof off the entire zodiac. You thought you had a floor plan? Wrong. Expect unhinged thoughts like "What if we remove all the windows?" You may end up building a house out of found objects and unfinished arguments. Sure, it's insane, but it looks amazing on Instagram.

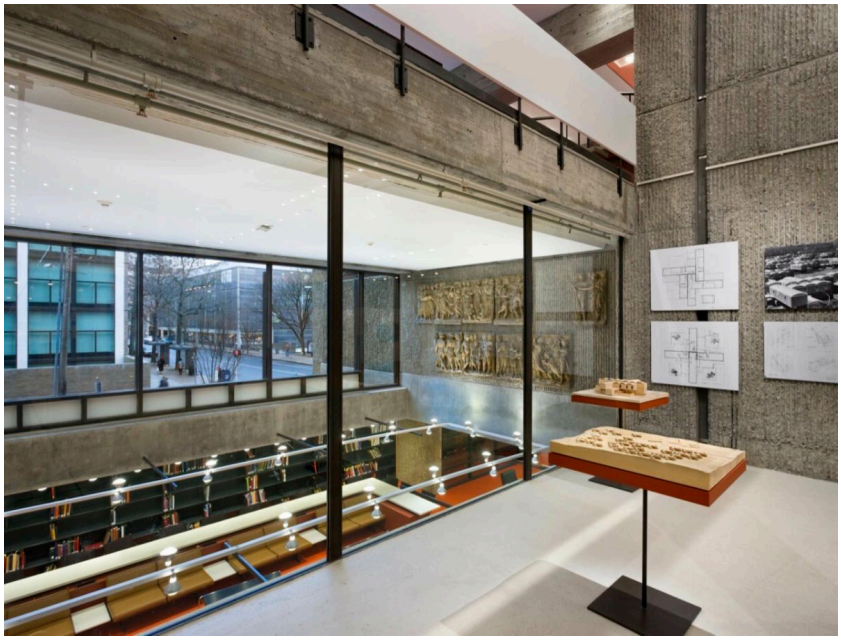
Then, Saturn, the disciplinarian of the zodiac, goes retrograde. Suddenly, nothing gets approved. Permits are gleefully DENIED. Everything is delayed except, except your panic attack, which is somehow right on time. Then, Mercury retrograde hits on July 17, disrupting communication and transportation. You sent an email to the wrong client. Your boss thinks you quit. (You didn't? Did you?) When Saturn and Mercury retrograde square off, the best you can do is hold on to your bootstraps. (Fun fact: Every time these two wacky planets skip into retrograde together, a major war starts. Just saying.)

On July 20, Mars conjuncts the South Node in Virgo, and productivity grinds to a halt. You'll spend five hours reorganizing your spice rack and zero minutes on actual work. July 22 and 24 bring the Sun and Moon into Leo, forming a group chat with Mercury that immediately begins shouting about "bold vision" and "personal brands." You may buy a cape. Your ego now has a foyer. We're not even at the end yet, folks.

Venus enters Cancer on July 30. Suddenly it's all emotional ergonomics and crying in clawfoot tubs. Everyone's redecorating their inner child's bedroom.

Did we mention there's a lot of crying? This translates into a sudden passion for cozy bay windows, and fairy lights on everything. Finally, July 31 delivers a Mercury cazimi in Leo, the astrological equivalent of an espresso served in a skull. Your mind is on fire. You understand everything and nothing. You pitch 42 ideas before lunch, then forget your own name.

But, hey, at least you survived July, am I right?



In *ArchDaily*, Olivia Poston, a researcher at the Norman Foster Foundation, explains how she believes Brutalism shaped American architectural education.



A forum organized by *Architect Magazine* and held appropriately at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West looked at at how architects are using new materials and technologies to embrace the genre of desert design.

MODERNISM IN DANGER
USMODERNIST

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 For Sale



The 1976 Hixon Guest House in Pasadena CA, by A. Quincy Jones, has come onto the market for $6M.



21st-century Modernism – a five-story house with huge expanses of glass and a glass staircase and a glass elevator – is up for sale in Crystal Bay NV, on Lake Tahoe, for $45M. **Mark Dziewulski** designed it.

Upcoming Events



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

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 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 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. Includes a tour of three new area Modernist houses.

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. On October 21, there's a lunch talk with **Mark Markiewicz** discussing Saarinen (with a tour of the exhibition to follow).

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.

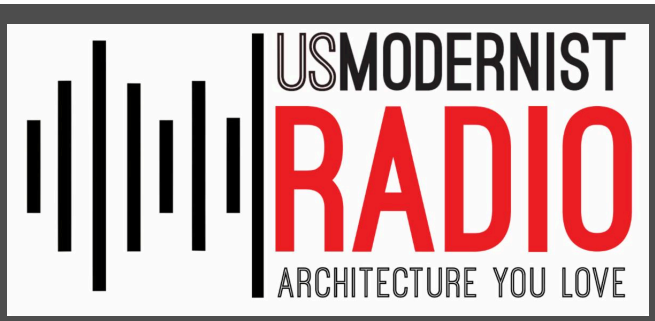
ADFF: The Architecture and Design Film Festival: NY Oct 14-18, LA Oct 21-25, Vancouver Nov 5-9, Toronto Nov 12-15, Chicago Feb 2026.

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.



Latest Podcast





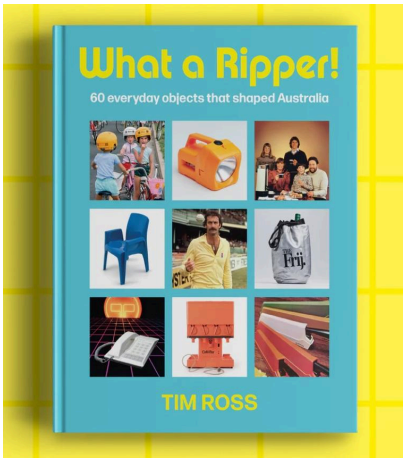

#412/Sian Winship + Bobak Ha'eri + Spencer Luckey + Music from Lenore Raphael

Joining us today is architectural historian **Sian Winship**; Minnesota's MVP for mid-century modern, **Bobak Ha'Eri**; **Spencer Luckey** on his playgrounds; and music by jazz pianist **Lenore Raphael**.

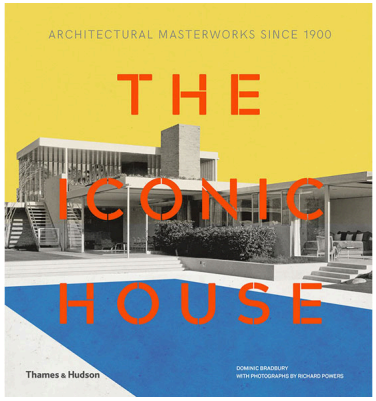
USModernist Radio is underwritten by **Diane Bald** and The Budman Family, restoring significant architecture in Toronto, Los Angeles, Malibu, and Palm Springs.

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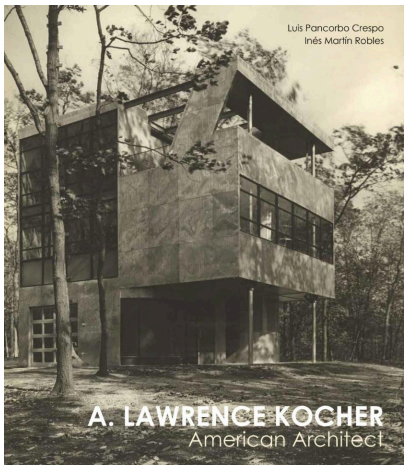
New Books



New Book: **Tim Ross** is the most well-known Modernist in Australia, touring the country with his informative and entertaining talks, tours, and plays. He's got a new book, *What A Ripper,* with midcentury memories familiar to anyone who grew up in Australia between the 1960s and the 1990s - like traipsing to the caravan-park toilet with a Dolphin torch at night, indulging in crème de menthe from a Regis glass, lobbing a banana peel at a Nylex flip-top bin and sporting a new Stackhat while riding your BMX bike. Celebrating 60 objects that were designed and made in Australia, Tim Ross of @modernister transports us back in time and pays tribute to objects that you might be lucky enough to still find in your home or backyard shed. Order here.



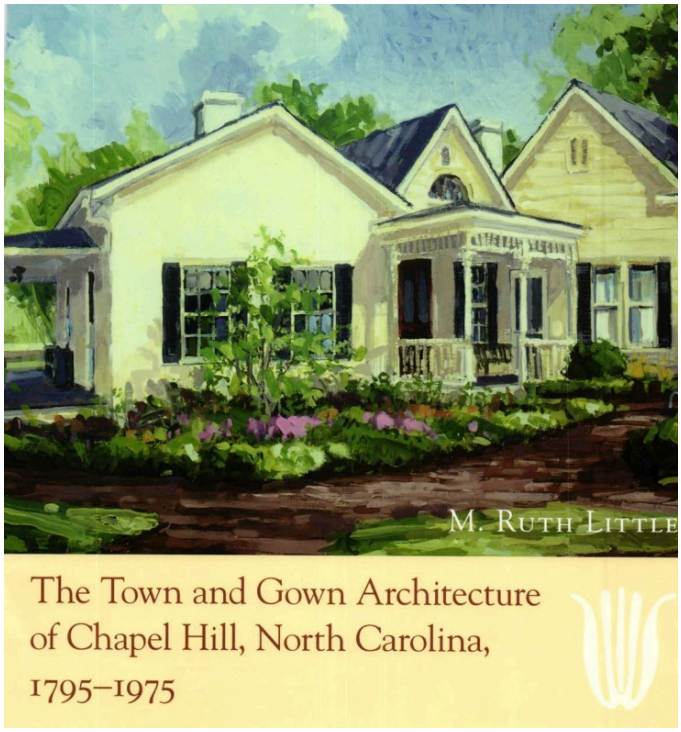
Available September 9, new in Paperback: *The Iconic House: Architectural Masterworks since 1900*, by **Dominic Bradbury**. Features over one hundred of the most important and influential houses designed and built since 1900. With seminal works by **Corbusier, Frank Lloyd Wright,** and **Mies van der Rohe**, as well as modern-day greats like **Tadao Ando, Rem Koolhaas,** and **Herzog & de Meuron**, this book brings to life a stunning array of architectural masterpieces. And, it's much cheaper than buying the classic hardback. Order here.



New Book: *A. Lawrence Kocher: American Architect*. **A. Lawrence Kocher** was editor of Architectural Record 1927-1938 and featured the projects of many midcentury modern architects.

Kocher is best known today as the co-architect of the Aluminaire House in Palm Springs with Albert Frey. His own work as an independent designer got little critical attention, and this book devotes several chapters to Kocher's practice. Order here.

NCMODERNIST



Now you can have a free digital copy of **Ruth Little's** ultimate book on Chapel Hill architecture, courtesy of Little and Chapel Hill Preservation. They've added this beautiful reference guide to the USModernist Library.

While you're there, you can also find *Searching for a Voice*, by **Henry Sanoff;** *Benjamin Forrest Williams*, by **Jillian Goldberg**; *NCSU School of Design: The Kamphoefner Years,* by **Roger Clark**; the *1998 History of the NC American Institute of Architects,* by **Charlotte Brown**; and the book *Architects and Builders in North Carolina*, by **Catherine Bishir, Charlotte Brown, Carl Lounsbury, and Ernest Wood.**

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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