M News: A New Wexler / Taliesin Repairs / Tesla Drive-In / Goodbye Tom Lehrer / Modapalooza Tour
From: George Smart HAIA <george@usmodernist.org>
Date: Monday, July 28, 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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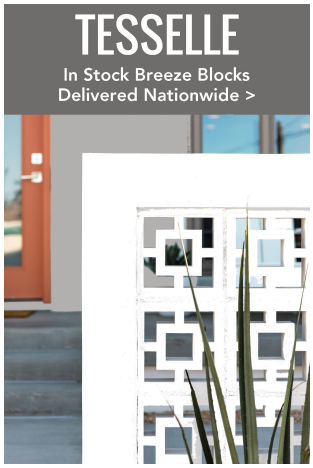
News Editor: **Ron Gallagher** Newsletter Staff: **Virginia Faust, George Smart**
Got Modernist News? Contact **Ron Gallagher** at rpg.modernist@gmail.com

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

Meet the USModernist Team

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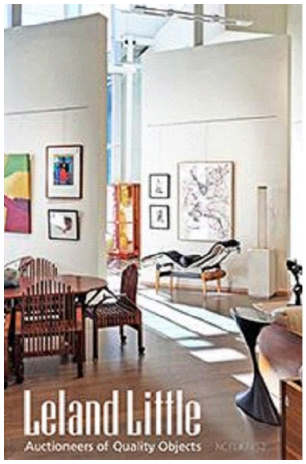
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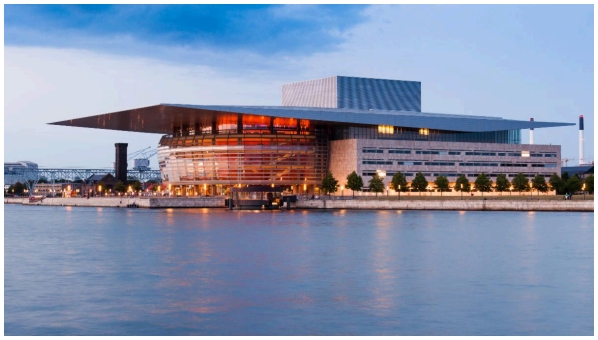
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Featured Events









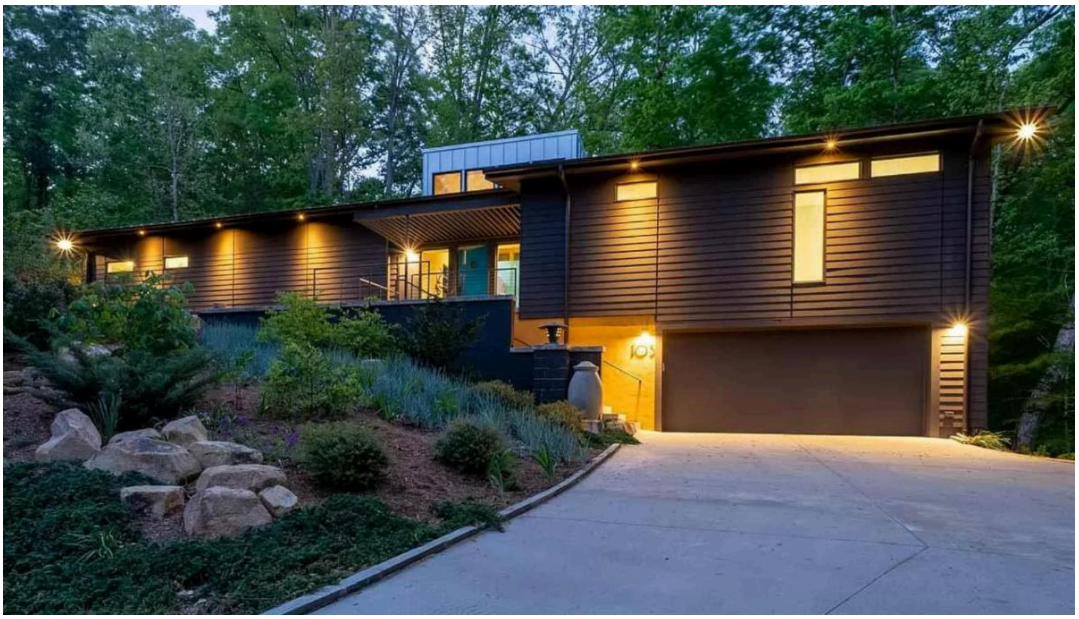
NEW: USModernist Scandinavian Capitals Tour!
Copenhagen / Oslo / Stockholm - May 12-22, 2026

Did you know that Scandinavia is home to some of the world's best Modernist buildings? It's no secret that Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian design has influenced architectural style for the last century. You will see – and visit – incredible architecture, art, design, and furniture in three countries. This is a truly thrilling opportunity to see some of the world's best architecture plus the stunning natural beauty of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

Join USModernist's 10th international trip and follow in the footsteps of our serious Modernism fans! Limited to 24 participants: Details and tickets.

MODAPALOOZA

Raleigh/Durham NC



Saturday, September 13, 8am-5pm: Join NCModernist for the next wildly popular Modapalooza bus tour of new Modernist houses in the Triangle area of North Carolina. It's Modapaloooza's 12th year, featuring amazing new houses by Heather Washburn, Erin Sterling Lewis, withArchitecture, Phil Szostak, Joe Lopez, Raleigh Architecture, Turkel Design, and more. *Six weeks out, we are already half full!*

Modapalooza always sells out. Get your tickets now.

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 custom to your situation. Reach out to George Smart, george@usmodernist.org, 919 740 8407.

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

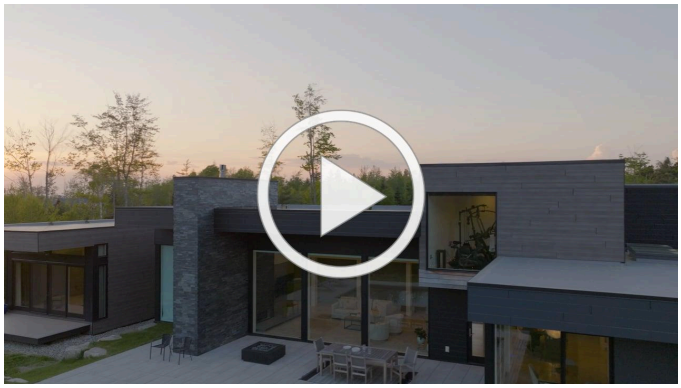




The 2025 Matsumoto Prize Awards happened last week to a packed house of 350 at Leland Little Auctions in Hillsborough NC. Video of submissions and winners above. Past winners 2012-2025. Coverage in Architects and Artisans.

People's Choice Awards:
1st: Mayview, **ReDesign Build/Jeannine McAuliffe**, Raleigh
2nd: Wilde, **Andrew Hawthorne**, Henrico
3rd: Dragonfly, **STITCH**, Lewisville

Jury Awards:
1st: Mountain Mint, **Rusafova Markulis**, Asheville
2nd: Spruce Ridge, **Altura Architects**, Sylva
3rd: Wilde, **Andrew Hawthorne**, Henrico
Jury: **Dominyka Voelkle; Lissa So; Ed Niles; Charles McAfee; Bart Prince; James Biber; Julia Gamolina.**



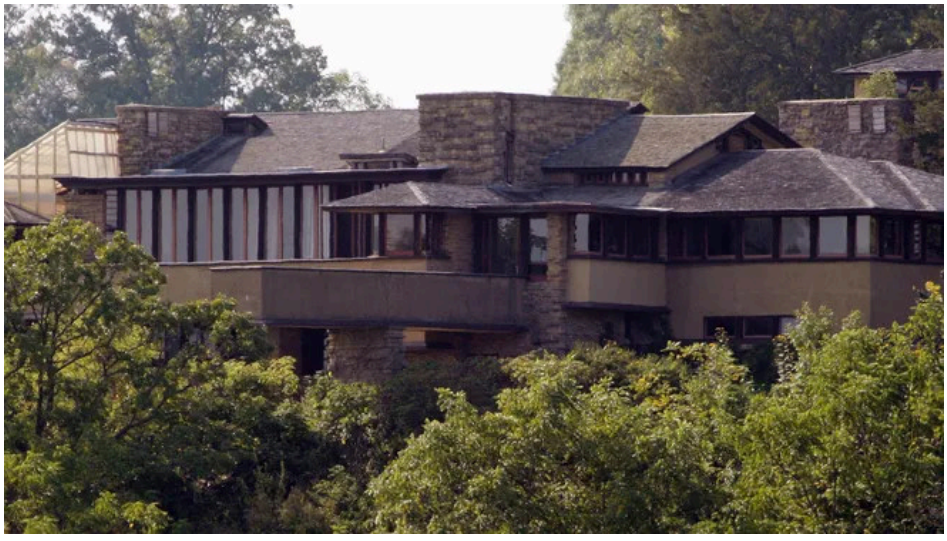
The 2025 Prize was sponsored by Fitch Lumber and Marvin Windows and Doors, bringing updated, responsive openings to new and renovated Modernist houses.



Samuel G. Wiener and **William B. Wiener** were architects, brothers from different mothers, and residents of Shreveport, Louisiana. Following a 1931 voyage to the Bauhaus, they became the most innovative and prolific modern architects in the deep South. Here's the full documentary.



Sunset magazine built a previously unbuilt Donald Wexler house for its 2025 Idea House. Wexler designed it in 2010 for the Hamptons on Long Island NY, which did not work out. That same client came back over a decade later to build it for real in the Desert Palisades area of Palm Springs. For sale at $6.6M.



The State of Wisconsin included $5M in its recently approved 2026 budget for restoration and preservation of Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin. The place does need some love. Years of inadequate maintenance have taken a huge toll.



Dwell reached out to owners of Frank Lloyd Wright houses, including the 1948 Pratt House in Galesburg MI, above, to ask what it costs to fix leaky roofs, weak foundations and other problems.



Tom Lehrer died on Saturday. He was an American musician, singer-songwriter who later taught math. He recorded humorous, often political songs that became popular in the 1960s satirizing popular musical forms, One of them is about a certain ex-wife of famous architect Walter Gropius! Song above.



The Founders Church of Religious Science, which Paul R. Williams designed in Los Angeles in 1960, is one of five recipients of 2025 grants from the Conserving Black Modernism program.

BUILDER

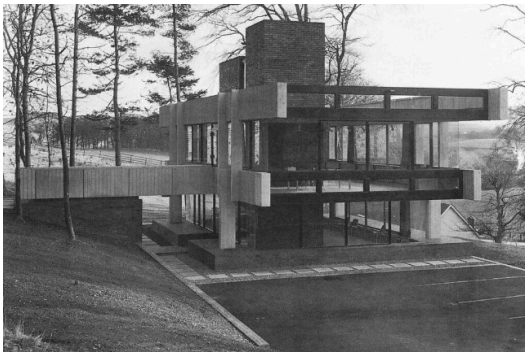
snaP
ARCHITECTURAL NEWS + PRODUCTS

The USModernist Library is looking for Builder and SNAP magazines. Got some in your office, basement, attic, or storage unit? Want to clear up space? We got you. Contact george@usmodernist.org. Triangle pickup provided, or paid shipping if outside the Triangle.



Modernist Musk. Maybe? Tesla opened a drive-in and diner in Los Angeles. Designed by Stantec, it's a throwback to mid-20th-century Googie.





Endangered: A campaign is on in Scotland to save the 1972 studio **Peter Womersley** designed for textile designer **Bernat Klein**. The Brutalist building got a United Kingdom preservation A Listing in 2002, but it's been falling apart and is listed for sale for only £18,000. Hat tip to **Jeanette Coleridge-Taylor.**





An article on *Wallpaper.com* introduces you to who bought Rudolph Schindler's 1925 How House in 2016 and the careful renovation he's been engaged in since. Above right, an original view. Above left, the new.



The *Eichlernetwork.com* website looks at "8 Great Modern Masters" who gave northern California a homegrown Modernist look different from what developed in the southern part of the state.



A dive into the life of Mies van der Rohe, compliments of *Wallpaper.com.*





Endangered: The deteriorating-but-recoverable 1946 Booth House in Bedford NY is again for sale. One of the first houses designed by Philip Johnson, it's now only $1.2M.

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



One of the first Sun Villa homes that A. Quincy Jones designed for Joseph Eichler in Southern California has popped up on the market for $1.5M. The Webber House in Glendale was built in 1950.



On the market at $2.5M is John Lautner's Bergren House in Los Angeles. It was built in 1953 and then again bigger in 1962 after a fire.



A 1956 home, described as an homage to Frank Lloyd Wright, is for sale for $299,000 in Forth Worth TX. Anyone know the architect?



Architect **Tivador Balogh** designed the 1965 Malvin House in Ann Arbor MI, for sale for the first time at $780,000.



Alden Dow's 1952 Yates Residence, in Midland MI has just come onto the market at $479,000.

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 in 2026 in the Raleigh/Durham area. Contact **Devra Dubroff,** devra@usmodernist.org.



August 10, 11am: The Legacy of Hamptons Modernism Today, a panel discussion at the Jewish Center of the Hamptons, architect Norman Jaffe's masterpiece. Plus the new pavilion by architect **Richard Dattner.** Tickets.

September 2-October 10: Question of Imagination and Taste exhibition at the Jewett Arts Center at Wellesley College in Wellesley MA. Original drawings, blueprints, and photos of Paul Rudolph's 1958 design. Details.

September 6: AIA Triangle Tour, Raleigh NC. Includes houses by **Phil Szostak, David Maurer, REarchitecture, in situ studio, Miller Architecture,** and **Nick Hammer**. Details.

September 13: Docomomo US/MN Mid-Century Fall Home Tour, Minneapolis and St. Paul. Information.

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

September 13, 10am -2pm: Eichler Tour 2025, Rancho San Miguel, Walnut Creek CA. Information.

September 14-16: AIA South Atlantic ASPIRE Conference, Asheville NC. Includes a tour of three new area Modernist houses. Details.

September 20 - T4A Happy Hour and Tour a Lustron! 11am-2pm, Clayton NC. Free, registration required. Enter LUSTRON on the form.

September 21, 10am-4pm: Preservation Sacramento CA Historic Home Tour, including South Land Park Hills Eichler Historic District. Information.

September 27-October 5: Atlanta Design Festival. Tickets.

Through 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.

October 3-12: La Jolla Modernism Week. Tickets..

October 5-7: Preservation North Carolina Conference, 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 16: T4A Happy Hour at Lights Unlimited, 5-7pm, Garner. Free, registration required. Enter LIGHTS on the form.

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.

Thursday, November 20 - T4A Golden Belt, 5-7pm, Durham. Free, registration required. Enter GOLDEN on the form.
Friday, Dedember 5 - Holiday Bash TBA, 7-10pm, Raleigh. Tickets available in October.

Thursday, December 18 - T4A Happy Hour Arrowhead, 5-7pm, aleigh. Free, registration required. Enter ARROWHEAD on the form.

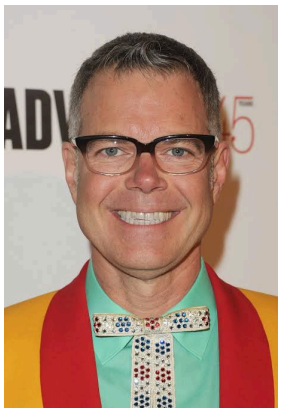
February 12-22: Modernism Week 2026, Palm Springs CA. Tickets available November 1 here.

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 to Oklahoma.

USMODERNIST RADIO
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Latest Podcast









#415/Charles Phoenix + Barton Jahncke + Peter Moruzzi + Sven Kirsten

From the swanky USModernist compound in Palm Springs during Modernism Week 2025, it's a full schedule of poolside guests. We've got pop culture historian **Charles Phoenix**, the Craig Ellwood Whisperer, **Barton Jahncke**, and authors **Peter Moruzzi** and **Sven Kirsten** on the most fun you can have in a brightly colored Polynesian shirt – tiki bars.

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

New to podcasts? You can listen to USModernist Radio on any major podcast platform or through any computer.

New Books



In 1937, legendary architect **William Kesling** built what was rumored to be the MGM party house in North Hollywood, California. In 1980, Allee Willis, Hall of Fame Songwriter the New York Times dubbed "the Queen of Kitsch," bought the rare Streamline Moderne home with her first royalty checks from the Earth, Wind & Fire hits "September" and "Boogie Wonderland," and Willis Wonderland was born. This pop-up book is an homage to the iconic home and a celebration of Willis's singular artistry, bold vision, and infectious joie de vivre. 100% of the sales go to the Willis Wonderland Foundation, empowering the next generation of artists. Foreword by **Charles Phoenix**. Order.

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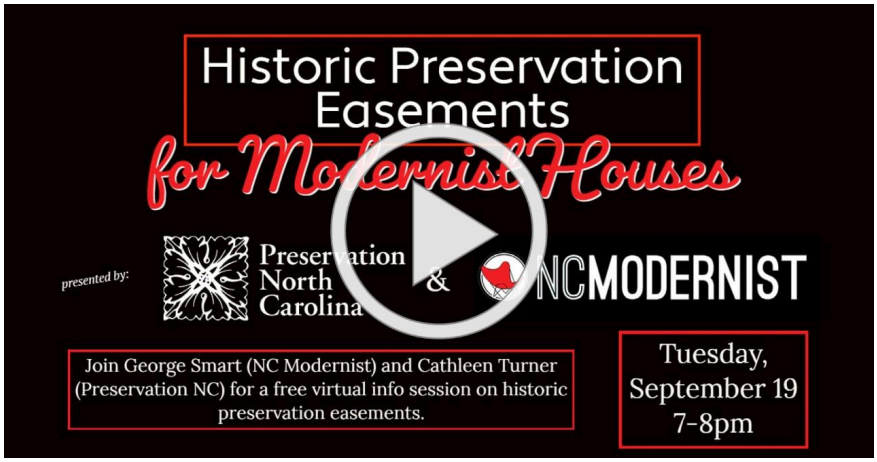




Vacancy, not development, is the enemy of mid-century Modernist houses. Preserve and protect the architecture you love by notifying us when North Carolina houses go vacant or on the market.

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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The preservation easement is the only legally enforceable way to assure a Modernist house does not get destroyed by future owners. National Register status? Meaningless. Famous architect? Nope. Local historic designation? At best, a delay in demolition. And as history shows, there are plenty of smiling buyers who say, "I would never tear this down." Then after closing, it's gone.

Think of the preservation easement as a homeowner's association for one house. The easement requires future owners to maintain the house in current structural condition and state of repair, or better, including necessary work to preserve its integrity. Land-use prohibited activities generally include utility towers, plus whatever else you prefer to list. Future owners cannot demolish the house unless acts of God (fire, flood, earthquake) cause more than a predetermined percentage of damage; they cannot do alterations or new construction that are not in the same Modernist style.

Here's a video featuring Preservation North Carolina and NCModernist, along with **Jane Levy**, who has an easement on her Greensboro Modernist home.

Got a Modernist house you'd like to see stick around? Consult your state preservation group, almost all of which have easement programs.

Donate to USModernist's nonprofit mission of documenting, preserving, and promoting Modernist residential architecture.

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