US Modernist

Monday, August 4, 2025

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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A MIDCENTURY NIGHT'S DREAM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

ARMONK, NEW YORK | 5:30 – 7PM

Cocktails and tasty bites in a beautiful 1960s Westchester home by Roy S. Johnson

PURCHASE TICKETS

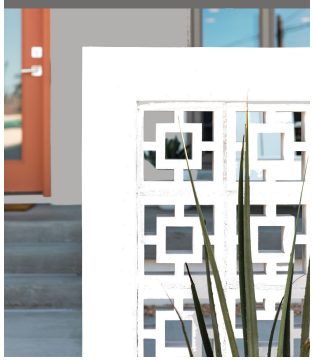
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Featured Events





New Tour, Saturday, August 23, 9am to 2pm. Visit a Milton Small Gem! The 1952 Walser House, Raleigh. It's an midcentury architectural treasure in Country Club Hills, an area known for tragic midcentury teardowns like the Paschal House and the Ashford House. Don't let this pristine Modernist house be the next victim of the bulldozer.

Designed by Raleigh architect Milton Small, who studied with the internationally famous Mies van der Rohe, this is one of the few Small houses

in great shape still standing in North Carolina. Everywhere you turn, a magical Modernist experience. There's a main floor with studio apartment below, plus a separate studio apartment built in 2018 with private entrance.

If you love it, and you **will** love it, you can buy it. There are few houses in Raleigh left like this. Tickets and details.





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. 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.

Sign up here.



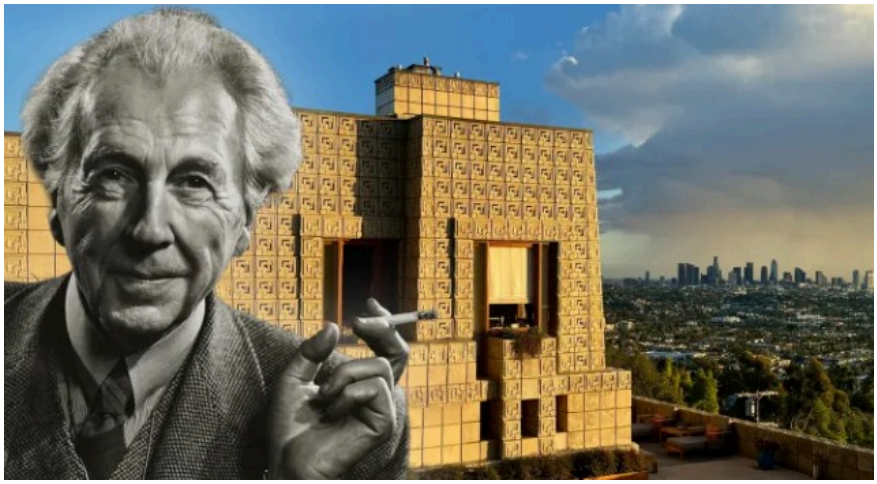
USModernist's documentation and preservation work consistently delivers national impact, but our continued research and advocacy is only possible through generous supporters like you. You can be part of our community with a tax-deductible donation. Providing for USModernist in your will, trust, or beneficiary 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



Coming soon: more media productions on Frank Lloyd Wright's buildings, as the Wright Foundation has signed a licensing deal with Galisteo Media. This is from the success of using Wright work in the recent Apple TV production, The Studio.



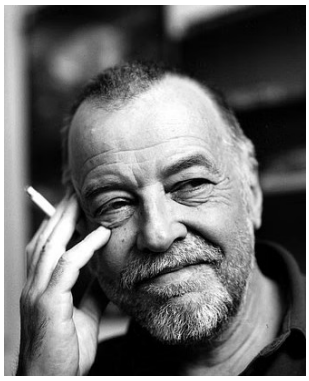
Watch **Russell Brown's** ***Rebel Architects***, Episode 1, a 12-part documentary series exploring the careers of seven influential architects who shaped Los Angeles's West Coast aesthetic. Inspired by an iconic 1980 photograph, the series reunites four of the original subjects—**Frederick Fisher, Eric Owen Moss, Thom Mayne,** and **Frank Gehry**—for candid roundtable discussions. This captivating series delves into their groundbreaking projects and the city's transformation, culminating in a poignant re-staging of the original portrait.



Design fans and conservationists in Scotland won an auction and getting possession of a Brutalist studio that architect Peter Womersley designed in 1972 for the well-known textile designer Bernat Klein. The winners hustled to pull together a £279,000 bid for the building that had been let go for decades. The Guardian newspaper reported that with VAT and other expenses, the final price could be about £336,000 before restoration. Klein's studio was once deemed the fifth most-important building erected in Scotland after World War II. Hat tip to **Keith York**.



The UK Modern House Index has been live since 2014 and features over 21,000 individual houses, small estates, and flats that were architect-designed, published in magazines or books, won awards or because they're unusual from 1920 to today. All this by a small team of amateur enthusiasts, headed up by **Hugh Martin**, which you can join: ukmodernhousefanatics@groups.io.



Helmut Swiczinsky, a cofounder of the Vienna-based architecture firm Coop Himmeb(l)au died last week. The firm designed the 2007 addition that tripled the Akron Art Museum in Ohio.





National Public Radio did a delightful interview last month with Roland Reisley, who at 101 is the last original Frank Lloyd Wright client.

Reisley and his wife bought a lot in the Usonia development in Pleasantville NY in 1951 and were assigned FLW himself as their architect. "It's like talking to God", the centenarian said. Hear **George Smart's** conversation with Reisley on the US Modernist podcast.





The Eames Institute is working with Herzog & de Meuron and EHDD to create a design museum in Novato CA for buildings designed in 1962 for publisher McGraw-Hill and later Birkenstock. Architect **John Savage Bolles** originally designed the complex. He also designed San Francisco's Candlestick Park stadium.



The design for a just-completed US Consulate General in Nogales, Mexico, luckily completed ahead of the anti-Modernist administration's moves to stop Federal Modernism. Ennead of NYC was the architect.



From Brutalist school to museum — part of the the 1968 Acland Burghley School in north London will become a museum for Brutalist design. Howell, Killick, Partridge & Amis designed it.



Advocates for Modernist architect **Kenzo Tange's** now-closed Kagawa Prefectural Gymnasium in Takamatsu, Japan, are proposing to save it from demolition by adaptive reuse.



Author and photographer **Dan Chavkin** has started a Kickstarter campaign for a book on Post-War Outdoor Furniture. You can donate here and get a copy when it is ready.





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.

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



August Modernist Astrology, by Bobbie Morris

Welcome to August, architects and design nerds—when the planets start redecorating your life without your permission. Whether you love raw concrete or funky vintage vibes, expect some serious celestial remodeling this month.

August opens with Venus arguing with both Saturn and Neptune. When Saturn and Neptune meet, it's like slapping a gilded Rococo chaise lounge right in the middle of an IKEA showroom. Everything feels out of place and super awkward. Don't sign any contracts—especially romantic ones—or you'll be stuck with a partner who puts the karaoke machine in your yoga study. (Try maintaining a Happy Baby pose while they belt out "Livin' On a Prayer.")

Mars enters Libra on August 6, and suddenly everyone wants harmony but nobody can decide where the chairs go. Symmetry becomes a mindfield. Passive-aggressive post-it notes multiply like wild weeds. You'll need a diagram to sort out the office politics. Eventually, you'll dissociate completely, spending hours making minimalist mood boards on Pinterest. Just try to stay sane.

Then Mars attempts to vibe with Uranus while squaring off with Saturn, so expect A LOT of flip-flopping. If you see a stressed architect crashing out completely, don't intervene. They'll be fine. Let them calm down by hiding under the drafting table and crying. Who are you to judge? How much time have you spent wondering if it's too late to become a barista?

Luckily, the cosmos throws you a bone on August 11 and 12. Saturn and Uranus are collaborating like a good engineer-architect duo, and Venus meets Jupiter for one of the most joy-filled transits of the year. Pitch bold ideas. Go on that hot date. Design that rooftop disco lounge. Have so much fun that it becomes scandalous news

Mercury sextiles Mars not once but twice—on August 14 and again on the 18th—bringing mental sharpness, zippy comebacks, and the ability to finally explain to your client that their idea is like trying to build a LEGO skyscraper during an earthquake. Get ready to school everyone with your razor-sharp logic, but don't be surprised when they completely ignore your advice.

Then the Sun enters Virgo on August 22 and suddenly everyone has joined the Marie Kondo cult. Does that “urgent” client email spark joy? (It most certainly does not.) You may end up clearing your calendar completely after you realize meetings don’t spark joy. Resist saying this meeting should have been a fist-fight. It isn’t worth the incident report.

Finally, on August 25, Venus moves into Leo and immediately throws a Met-style design gala. Love and creativity go full maximalist—but thanks to a supportive trine to Saturn, it will be all glitter and no chaos. Later, when Venus flirts with Uranus and Neptune you’ll feel all lovey-dovey. That preservationist you secretly love? Ask them out.

August ends on a high note as Uranus sextiles Neptune on the 28th. This is long-range, big-picture energy that rewards architectural dreamers who have a little bit of madness. (Yes, they’re all a bit mad, but this is the good kind of madness.) So go ahead—dream wildly, sketch boldly, and turn out blueprints that become the stuff of legends.

Modernism For Sale



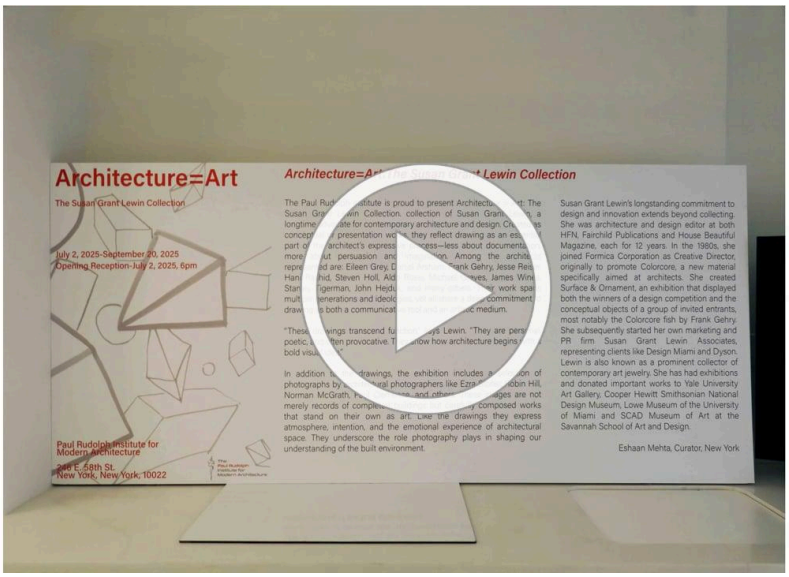
In a desert landscape southeast of Phoenix, a 1950 house designed by **Arthur T. Brown** on five acres is on the market for $450,000.



Beverly Hills bargain-hunting? **James Jannard**, founder of the Oakley brand, has dropped the price of his 2014, 18,000-square-foot, Brutalist mansion atop a hill to a little under $65M.

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.



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.



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.

August TBA: Tour day at the Pearlman Cabin in Idyllwild CA designed by John Lautner. Vegetarian lunch at 11:30 is included. Contact **Nancy Pearlman** at nancysuepearlman@aol.com or call 213 705-4992.

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, Jeannine McAuliffe, 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 and details.

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

Tours by Histoury:
September 14: A Midcentury Night's Dream, Armonk NY
October 5: Westchester's Twenty-One Acres Enclave Tour, Ardsley NY
October 26: Midcentury Modern in New Rochelle Tour, New Rochelle NY
Tickets and details.

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

Saturday, September 20 - Tour a restored 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.

Saturday, September 23, 10am-2pm: A Milton Small Gem, Raleigh. Details and tickets.

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

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, December 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







#416/Authors Sam Lubell + Sarah Broughton + John Rowland + Musical Guest Taurey Butler

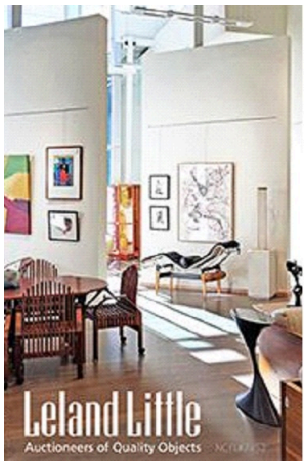
Welcome to USModernist Radio, where we talk and laugh with people who enjoy, own, create, dream about, preserve, love, and hate Modernist architecture, the most exciting and controversial buildings in the world. It's Monday, August 4, and we've got prolific architecture author **Sam Lubell**, Colorado architects **Rowland and Broughton**, and musical guest **Taurey Butler**. Plus, a new addition for the USModernist Archives – we're taking on architecture podcasts that stopped producing new episodes and preserving websites that have vanished.

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.

NCMODERNIST





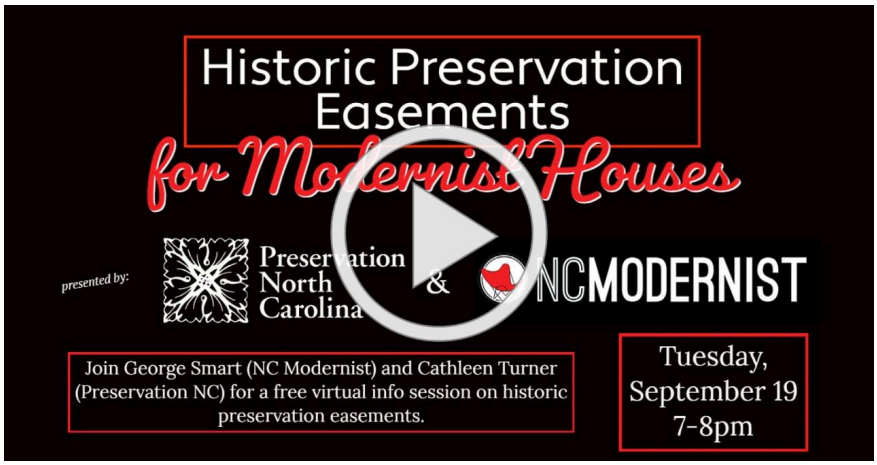
Collector Cars & Memorabilia Aug 13, 12:00pm
August Estate Aug 14, 9:00am
Asian Art Auction Aug 21, 9:00am
Sporting Art Auction Aug 28, 10:00am
Fine Sporting Arms Auction Aug 29, 10:00am
Fine Wine Auction Sep 4, 10:00am
Rare Spirits Auction Sep 5, 10:00am
Fine Art Auction Sep 10, 10:00am
Fine Jewelry Auction Sep 11, 10:00am
Decorative Art Auction Sep 12, 10:00am
Collectible Books, Maps, & Documents Sep 17, 10:00am
Fine Silver Auction Oct 3, 10:00am

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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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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