M News: Ford HQ / The Street / E. Fay Jones
From: George Smart HAIA <george@usmodernist.org>
Date: Monday, October 13, 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.

Modernist House Archives: 25,000+ Houses	Architecture Media Library: 5M+ Pages	USModernist Radio Podcast: 430+ Shows

View as Webpage

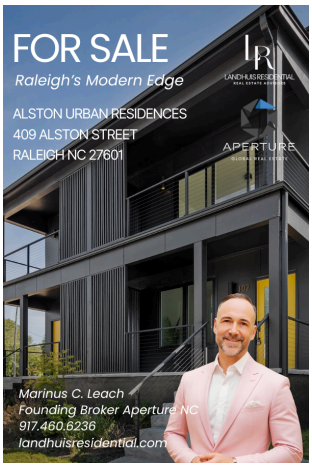
Editor: **Ron Gallagher** Newsletter Staff: **Virginia Faust, George Smart**
Got Modernist News? Contact **Ron Gallagher** at rpg.modernist@gmail.com

Newsletter Sponsorship: Connect your product, service, or organization to USModernist's 66,000 Modernist fans, architects, real estate agents, preservationists, and builders. Reach out to George Smart, 919.740.8407.

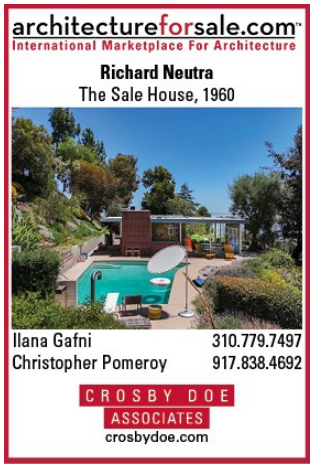
Meet the USModernist Team

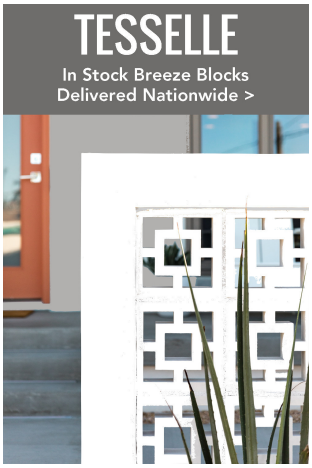
Check out the NCModernist For Sale/Rent Database. Real estate agents and owners can list their North Carolina Modernist houses for sale or rent for free.
Sponsored by:

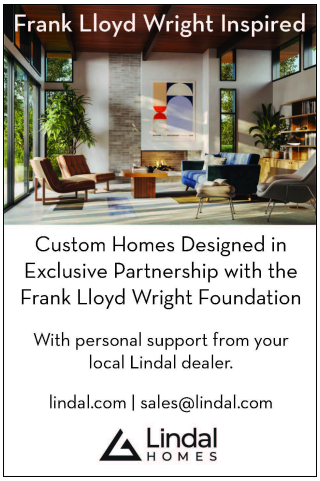








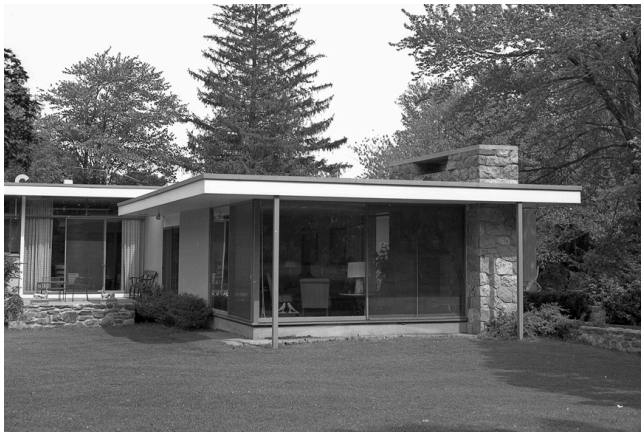




Featured Upcoming Events



Thursday, October 16: NCModernist Thirst4Architecture Happy Hour at Lights Unlimited, 5-7pm, 310 McCormick Street, Garner NC. Free, registration required. Enter LIGHTS on the form.



LAST CALL: USModernist Jazz Brunch at the 1954 Ford House and Gardens! New Canaan CT / Sunday, October 19, 11am-1pm

On the Sunday after the sold-out New Canaan Museum and Historical Society Modern House tour, enjoy an beautiful autumn brunch at the National Register–listed 1954 **Elinor and Sherman Ford** House—a mid-century gem designed by architects Gates and Ford. Later home to **Ely Callaway** (founder of Callaway Golf), the estate also features lush five-acre gardens designed by landscape architect **Friede Stege**. Delicious food, live jazz, and curated refreshments with other Modernist fans and homeowners!

Sponsored by Modernist real estate specialist **Inger Stringfellow, June Goldfinger** in honor of **Myron Goldfinger,** and Gates and Ford homeowner **Jim Kovacs.** Tickets and details.

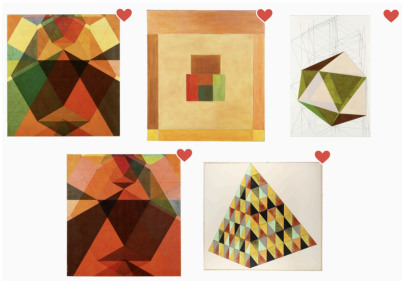




Saturday, November 1, 10am-2pm: Designed by Raleigh architect Louis Cherry, this 2020 Modernist house in Durham NC has never been open to the public. Details and tickets.

Support USModernist





Do you have a basement or attic or storage unit full of Modernist furniture or contemporary 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. Your donation to USModernist supports our award-winning documentation, preservation, and advocacy 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.

Great member benefits for tours and exclusive experiences. Just $12.50 a month! Sign up here.

Endangered Modernist Houses



Endangered: The 1963 Fleschner House, Westport CT, designed by Ulrich Franzen. Featured in Architectural Record, November 1963 and Architectural Record Houses of 1964. Despite several clunky additions, the house is in good condition. Sold in 2024 to Thomas and Nadia Wearsch, who recently applied for a demolition permit.

Endangered: Victor Lundy was one of the giants of Sarasota Modernism. He moved to Texas and built a home at 701 Mulberry Lane in Houston. The house was sold in October 2024 with the new owner wanting to keep it. Now the y plan to engage Habitat for Humanity for "deconstruction" – the nicest form of demolition. It may not be too late to make a higher offer. Please contact Liz Waytkus at DOCOMOMO-US. Otherwise, this house is doomed.

Endangered: It's a midcentury 1952 architectural treasure in the Country Club Hills area of Raleigh NC. Designed by architect Milton Small, who studied with Mies van der Rohe, the house is in pristine condition. Built by **Frank Walser**, the master of Modernist construction. Everywhere you turn, a magical Modernist experience. The owner has a lowball offer from a

developer that she's probably going to take if the house doesn't sell soon. If that happens, this house is toast. $1.35M. Details.

Update: In 1980, after years of battling with the Modernist-hating Town of Southampton Architectural Review Board (ARB), **Orest Bliss** finally got to build his Norman Jaffe-designed house at 88 Meadow Lane. Fast forward 40+ years, including a non-Jaffe renovation, and Bliss wanted a demolition permit before putting the house on the market, as oceanfront properties get a better price with pre-arranged permits. After lawsuits against the ARB, Bliss got his permit and the house went on the market in August at $24M. Now it's off the market. Has it been sold? If so, a buyer has the green light to tear it down if they wish. Details.

Endangered: Ruh-roh. Modernist preservation is no longer just about midcentury '30s through the '70s. A great 1989 Carl Abbott house is posted for sale as a possible teardown: the Gaines House, 1761 Oceanview Drive, in Tierra Verde near St. Petersburg FL. The listing specifically shows renderings for much larger new house (not by Abbott). $4.8M.

Endangered: From a town known as Oyster Bay, Long Island, made famous in song by **Billy Joel**, there's a rare, long-neglected 1955 Walter Gropius house, 144 Center Island Road, for sale on 17 acres for $6.75M. You know it's a teardown when the listing omits interior photos.

Endangered: The 1964 Chalif House by Barbara and Julian Neski is for sale at $12M. According to Long Island architectural historian **Alistair Gordon**, "The house at 28 Terbell Lane, East Hampton NY is historically important in many ways, but ... there's a likelihood that it will be torn down."

Endangered: Frank Lloyd Wright's 1952 Lewis House, aka Spring House, 3117 Okeeheepkee Rd, Tallahassee FL, is for sale through a commercial property broker for a little over $2.1M. The property type is listed as "land." That's never good. And the median price of houses around it, $330K, means the price needs significant reduction to sell.

Endangered: The deteriorating-but-recoverable 1946 Booth House, 319 Pound Ridge Road, in Bedford NY is again for sale. One of the first houses designed by Philip Johnson, still languishing at the too-high price of $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, lowball auction, or inappropriate renovation (like turning your Modernist house into an Italianate villa). Tell us.

News



Doomed: Ford Motor Company's 1956 world headquarters.

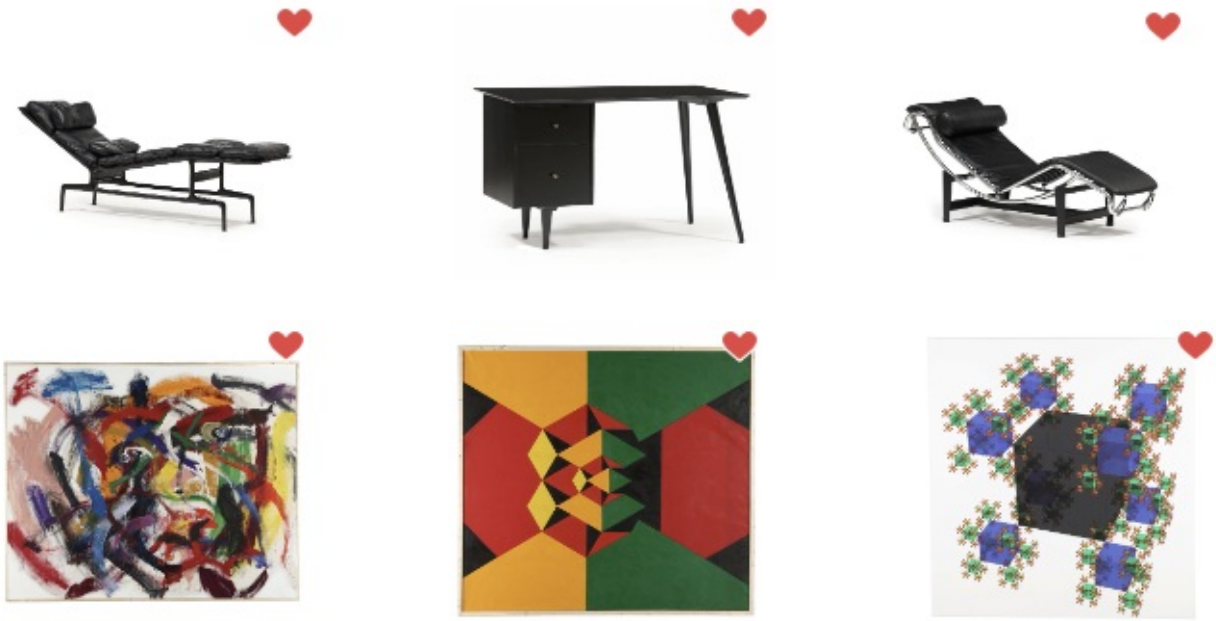
Known in Dearborn MI as the Glass House and designed by **Skidmore Owings Merrill**, is going to be destroyed once Ford finishes moves to new offices a mile down the road.



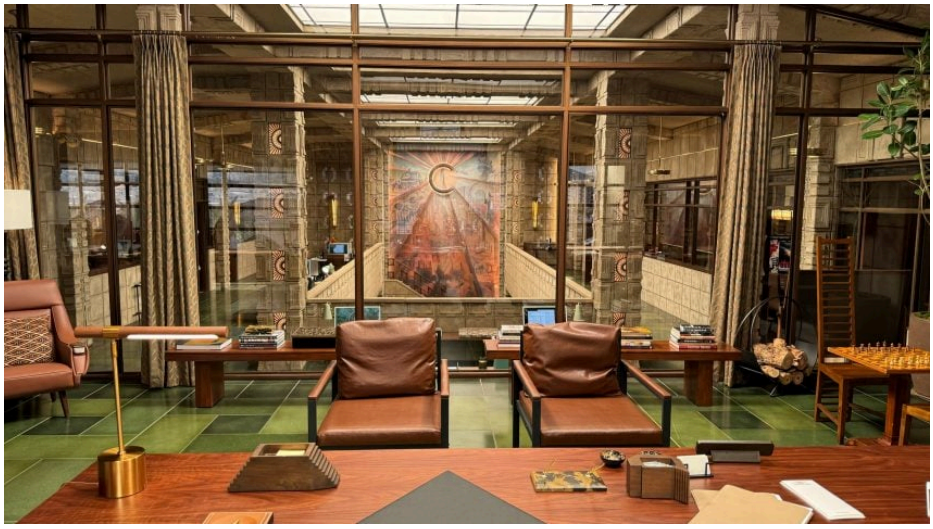
Back in 1969, architect Ulrich Franzen made a film *The Street* with a radical idea: kick cars and trucks off Manhattan's crowded streets and turn them into open space for people. More than 55 years later, cars remain the easiest and most comfortable way to get around the city. Bikes and subways help, but they're not the whole answer. Bold city planning is having a moment again. And Franzen's old film is worth another look. See all of Franzen's houses.



Bjarke Ingels stacked five sound stages to create the Wildflower Studios, featuring gigantic elevators to move sets, in Queens NY.



Leland Little Modernist Auction, Thursday, October 16: NCModernist has midcentury furniture by **Eames** and **Corbusier** and paintings by **John Hiigli** in this online auction. Proceeds benefit our documentation, preservation, and advocacy programs.



It's almost like Frank Lloyd Wright won an Emmy. The designers for *The Studio* on Apple TV+ won one for their FLW-inspired sets.



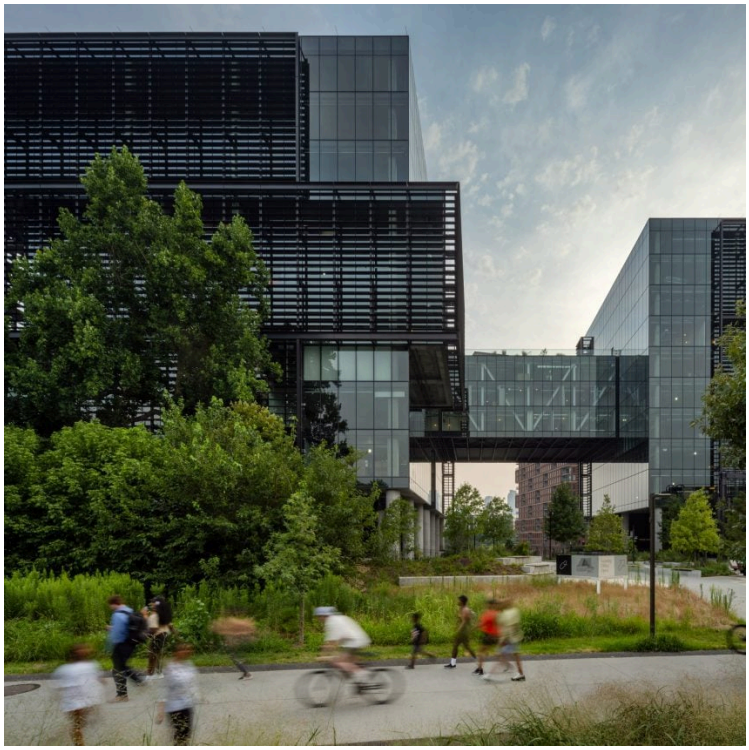
Donald Trump's plans for the US 250th birthday include a classical triumphal arch in the Memorial Circle roundabout, at the entrance to Washington DC from Virginia. A model was on his desk during a press event last week. No firm plans yet, however.



MCM love in Baton Rouge LA: A couple wasn't planning to move until they fell in love with a house that **Alfred Foster Sanders Jr.**, designed for himself and lived in from 1962.



Le Corbusier was born 138 years ago. *Parametric Architecture* celebrated with 10 iconic works that helped shape architecture.



Dezeen announced a short list of 92 projects worldwide that are contenders for its architecture prizes in 17 categories. One is Olson Kundig's Fourth Ward Office Project in Atlanta GA.



The University of Massachusetts flagship campus in Amherst celebrates its collection of Brutalist buildings, including Edward Durell Stone's library tower.



The year 2027 promises to be big for newly developed or redeveloped stadia for football in several countries, and even one for "soccer" in the US – Etihad Park, designed by HOK, for the New York City Football Club.



Waves on the River Seine inspired the roof of Bjarke Ingels Group's winning entry, dubbed the Sail, for the design of a civic center and exhibition center in Rouen, France.

Modernist Houses For Sale



The 1955 Donald Wexler House, designed for his family in Palm Springs – is up for sale at $3.8M.



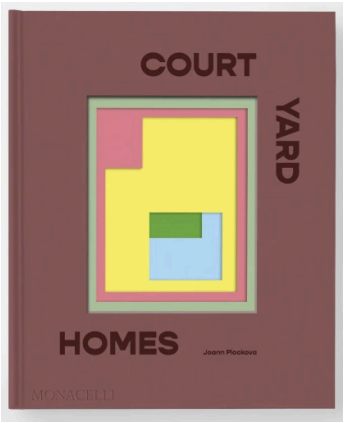
Harry Gessner's 1975 Bernstein House on the beach in the Malibu Cove Colony in Malibu CA is for sale with a $10.45M price tag.

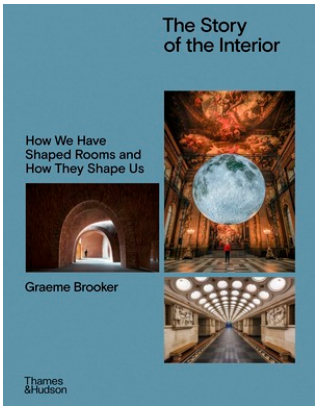


Architect Steven Ehrlich designed the 1995 Ferrell House in Venice CA for musician **Perry Ferrell.** At $2.7M, it had an offer in three weeks.

New Books







Available Now: ***Exiled in LA: The Untold Story of Leopold Fischer's Domestic Architecture,*** by **Volker Welter**. “A student of Adolf Loos and a friend of Arnold Schoenberg, Leopold Fischer was one of the exile architects who came to California in the 1930s but who has long since slipped into undeserved obscurity. In contrast to the standard histories of mid-twentieth-century California architecture, Volker M. Welter here explores the difference between the émigré and the immigrant architect to expose a referential as opposed to deliberately innovative architecture.” - Neil Jackson. Order.

Available November 15: **Courtyard Homes,** by **Joann Plockova.** Courtyards are the heart of the home. Serving as centerpieces around which the rest of the living spaces flow, these private, tranquil spaces offer a connection to the sky and earth. This captivating global survey invites readers into 20 extraordinary contemporary courtyard residences, each uniquely designed to integrate the natural environment into everyday life. Pre-order.

Available November 18: ***The Story of The Interior: How We Have Shaped Rooms and How They Shape Us***, by **Graeme Booker.** An exhilarating and eclectic volume on the social, ultural, and technological history of interior design from prehistory to the present day, exploring how spaces shape our lives. The majority of our lives are spent indoors, yet we rarely, if ever, stop to ask ourselves the origins or reasons behind the ideas and forms of our interior spaces. From traditional nomadic dwellings to state-of-the-art airports. Pre-order.

Upcoming Events



October 14-18: The Architecture and Design Film Festival, Angelika Theatre, Manhattan, New York. Includes the New York premiere of the long-awaited documentary by **Devon Chivvis**, ***The Harvard Five***. Tickets.

October 16-19: Modernism Week Preview Weekend, Palm Springs CA. TIckets.

October 16: ***An American Versailles*** opens at the New Canaan Museum and Historical Society, featuring the GM Design Center in Detroit, a sprawling campus designed by Eero Saarinen. On October 21, there's a lunch talk with **Mark Markiewicz** discussing Saarinen.

October 18 to February 2: *Assembly Lines: Modernism and Machines,* exhibition at the Bechtler Museum, Charlotte NC. Details.

October 19: USModernist Jazz Brunch at the 1954 Elinor and Sherman Ford House, designed by Gates and Ford, New Canaan CT**.** Sponsored by **Inger Stringfellow, Jim Kovacs,** and **June Goldfinger** in honor of **Myron Goldfinger.** Tickets and details**.**

October 19: Visit day at the Pearlman Cabin in Idyllwild CA, designed by John Lautner. 11am, with a vegetarian lunch included.$50 per person. Contact Nancy Pearlman at Nancysuepearlman@aol.com.

October 21: An Evening with Tom Kundig and Sam Cochran
Tuesday, 6:30–8:30 pm, Guggenheim New York. Seattle-based architect **Tom Kundig** creates extraordinary designs that deeply engage with their surroundings. Celebrating the publication of his new book, *Tom Kundig: Complete Houses,* Kundig joins **Sam Cochran** to share stories behind his designs. Tickets.

October 24-26: DOCOMOMO-US Texas Weekend, featuring the Bass House by **Paul Rudolph**; Amon Carter Museum of American Art by **Philip Johnson**; Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth by **Tadao Ando**; Louis Kahn's iconic Kimbell Art Museum; and other buildings by **Norman Foster, Rem Koolhaus, Renzo Piano, I.M. Pei, and Edward Larrabee Barnes**. Tickets.

October 25: DOCOMOMO US/New York Tri-State Tour, Six Houses of Worship in Westchester and Fairfield County. Tickets.

Through October 30: Step into NC MOD: Mid-Century Design and North Carolina's Modern Legacy at The Art Gallery at Congdon Yards, High Point NC. Features the region's modernist spirit by showcasing furniture, architecture, art, and design by both mid-century craftsmen and contemporary artists. Special talk by **Peter Freeman** (October 16). Details.

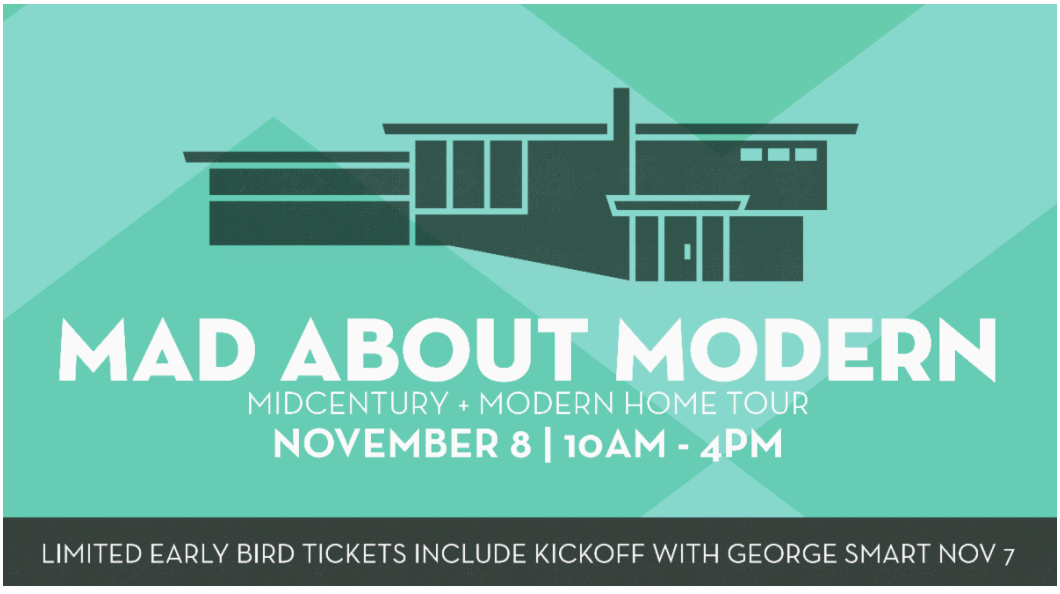
Through November 1: The Paul Rudolph Institute for Modern Architecture in New York presents PAUL CLEMENCE: SHAPES, RHYTHM, ABSTRACTION. Features 30 photographs of museums from around Switzerland printed on brushed aluminum. Details.

Through November 2: Artist **Peter Blake** has transformed the historic Salkin House—a 1948 architectural gem designed by John Lautner—into an immersive art exhibition. This project, known as BLAKEHAUS, blends minimalist art with modern design, creating a unique dialogue between past and present. The house remained off the radar decades until it was listed for sale in 2014 and subsequently restored by **Trina Turk** and **Jonathan Skow** which earned a Los Angeles Conservancy Preservation Award. Private viewings available by appointment.



Monday, November 3: 530pm, Kamphoefner Hall, NCSU College of Design, Raleigh NC. Featuring **Dominyka Voelkle** of the Bjarke Ingels Group, sponsored by USModernist. Voelkle was Project Manager for The Spiral, a glass curtain-walled high-rise and BIG's largest project in New York City to date; and River Ring, a residential high-rise and public resiliency plan in Brooklyn, New York. Free, registration required. Enter BIG on the form.

Thursday, November 6: DOCOMOMO-US 2025 Modernism in America Awards, Chicago IL. Design Within Reach at Fulton Market, 6pm. Tickets.





Friday, November 7: NCModernist's **George Smart** will be the keynote speaker at the Charlotte Mad About Modern Tour. Charlotte NC. Admission with ticket, below.

Saturday, November 8: Charlotte Mad About Modern Tour, Charlotte NC. 10-4pm. Tickets.

November 12: Special NCModernist Talk, Durham NC. Details TBA.

November 14-16: Architecture Sarasota Mod Weekend, Sarasota FL. Details.

November 15: Docked in Baltimore, Maryland, the NS Savannah – the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship and floating showcase of mid-century American art and design – has a last public tour ahead of its complete decommission. Tickets.

November 15 to May 10: Craft Contemporary in Los Angeles opens *Material Curiosity by Design: Evelyn and Jerome Ackerman*. Details.

November 17: London UK. The 2025 Biophilic Design Conference explores how modern architecture can mirror nature's patterns, shaping healthier, more connected communities and redefining the relationship between people, place, and the built environment. Details.

Thursday, November 20: NCModernist Thirst4Architecture Happy Hour at Golden Belt Campus, 5-7pm, Durham. Free, registration required. Enter GOLDEN on the form.

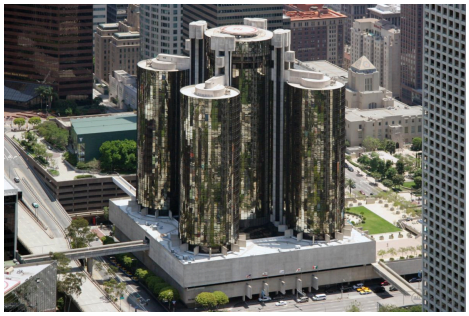
Friday, December 5 - NCModernist Holiday Bash TBA, 7-10pm, Raleigh. Tickets available in late October.

November 22: **Adele Cygelman** and Preservation Mirage sponsor a special fundraiser at the two Rancho Mirage homes of architect **Steven Harris** and designer **Lucien Rees Roberts** to support the upcoming documentary *Arthur Elrod: Desert Cool.* This film traces the influential Palm Springs designer and one of the first to focus on midcentury modern interiors, which matched the sophisticated architecture rising in the desert. Tickets.

Thursday, December 18 - NCModernist Thirst4Architecture Happy Hour at Arrowhead, 5-7pm, 330 Dupont Circle #102, Raleigh. Free, registration required. Enter ARROWHEAD on the form.

December 20 - March 29: The Art Institute of Chicago presents *Bruce Goff: Material Worlds*, at Regenstein Hall. Features architect Bruce Goff (1904–1982), best known for his groundbreaking single-family homes. Details.

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

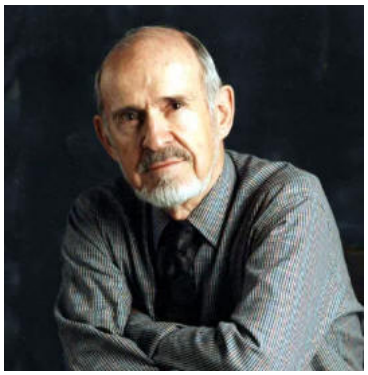


March 17-22: DOCOMOMO International Conference in Los Angeles. Join USModernist's **George Smart** and **Michela O'Connor Abrams** for a fantastic cocktail hour on **Wednesday, March 18**, at the revolving bar atop of the Bonaventure Hotel, designed by **John Portman**, with a thrilling view of LA.

Register here. You must register for the conference to attend the party.

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Latest Podcast





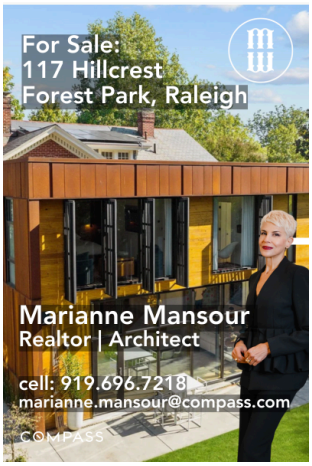
#426/All About E. Fay Jones with Dave McKee + Jonathan Formanek + Andy Whitmore + Bad Design with Maggie Weber

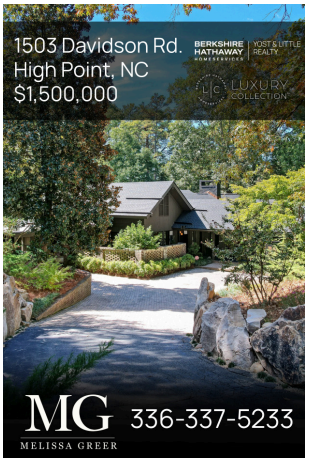
E. Fay Jones is a name most architects know but the public does not. A student of Frank Lloyd Wright, Jones moved back to Northwest Arkansas and created more than 130 buildings over a 35-year career, including the magnificent Thorncrown Chapel. We've got three people dedicated to preserving Jones's legacy. **David McKee** worked for Jones and now is the Jones whisperer; **Jonathan Formanek** created the E. Fay Jones Conservancy, and with his partner, **Andy Whitmore**, lives in the Faubus house in Arkansas, one of Jones' largest residences. Back in the studio, **Maggie Weber**, whose takes on bad design keep us laughing.

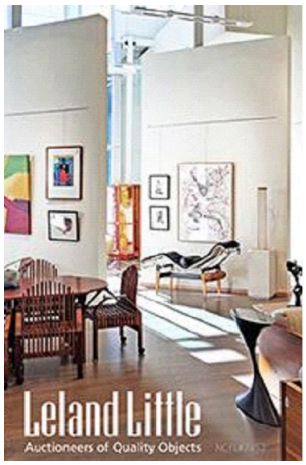
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NCMODERNIST









Oct 16, Modern & Contemporary Auction
Oct 17, Prints & Photographs Auction
Oct 23, October Estate Auction
Oct 30, Susan Frankenberg Estate Auction
Nov 6, Luxury Timepieces Auction
Nov 13, Asian Art Auction
Nov 20, Sporting Art Auction
Nov 21, Fine Sporting Arms Auction
Dec 4, Fine Wine Auction
Dec 5, Rare Spirits Auction
Dec 10, Fine Art Auction



150 people attended the NCModernist Moon Over Modernism benefit on Saturday, and we'd like to thank the great sponsors and entertainers.

- * Marianne Mansour of COMPASS
- * PELLA Windows
- * Delinea Cabinetry
- * Peter Lamb and the Wolves
- * Magician Wayne Anderson
- * Artist Dan Campbell

Special shout-out to the NCModernist events team: **Devra Dubroff, Ormando Harris, Heather Virdy, Lori Wheatley, Steve Dubroff, Tara Lacara**, and **Tara Barthelmess**. And most of all, owners **Brad and Kat Holton**, who let us inside to celebrate their amazing new home!



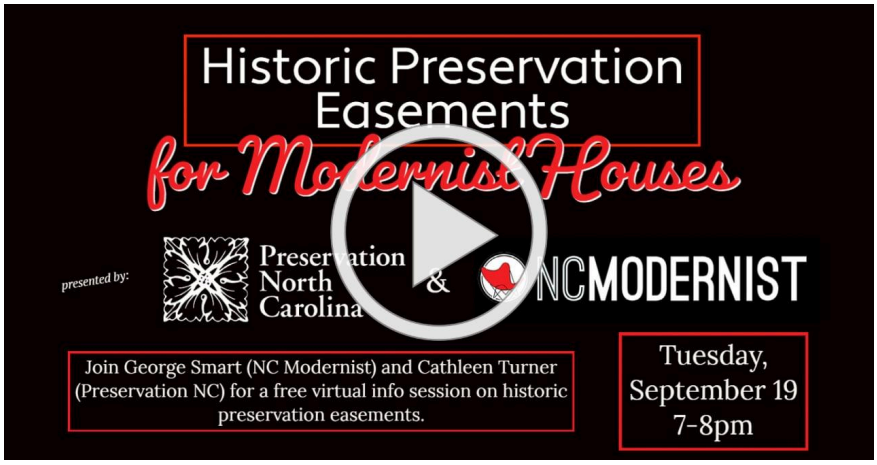
Reconstruction is set to begin on Alvis George's 1963 Randolph Savings and Loan Association Building in downtown Asheboro NC. When it's done, visitors will be able to deposit themselves in the 36-room Bank Hotel, which be part of Ascend Hotels. Fittingly, a hotel was on the site in the 19th century.

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

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

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