USMODERNIST

Monday, April 3, 2023

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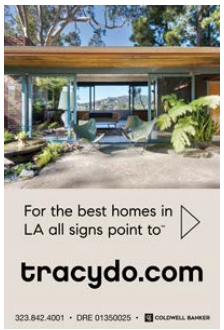
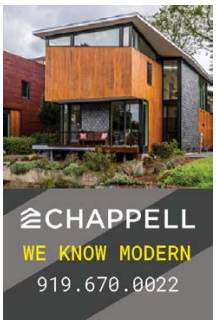
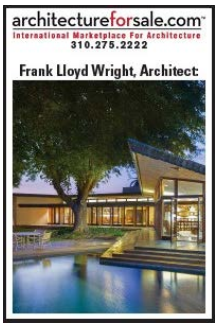
News Editor: **Ron Gallagher**
Newsletter Staff: **Virginia Faust, George Smart**
Meet the USModernist Team

Got Modernist News?
Send a quick note to **Ron Gallagher** at **rpg.modernist@gmail.com**.







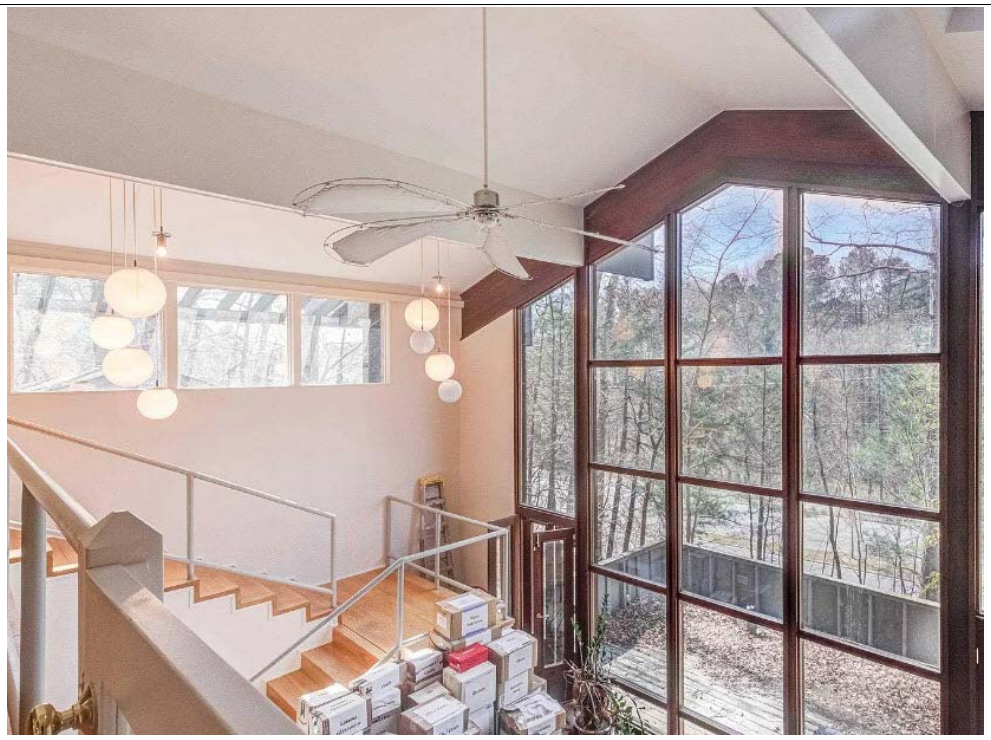
Get Involved!

• Mod Squad membership gets you all kinds of benefits and provides financial support for the documentation, preservation, and promotion of residential Modernist architecture. **Details.**

• Need more room in your home, attic, basement, office, or oh-so-expensive storage unit? We accept donations of **Modernist furniture, comtemporary art, architecture magazines, and architecture books.** What could be easier? We come to you, and you get a super nice tax deduction. Contact **Rebekah Laney** at 865.414.5800.

• **Sponsorship/Underwriting:** **Connect your company** to USModernist's 31,000 weekly subscribers and our unrivaled archives of 20,000 houses, 400 architects, 300 USModernist Radio episodes, 30,000 photos, and over 4.1 million pages of architecture magazines**.** Contact **Rebekah Laney** or call 865.414.5800.

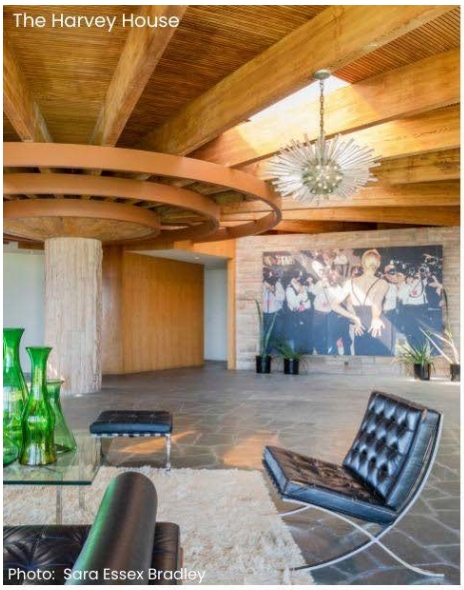
Featured Events



Saturday, April 29, 10-2pm. Visit the **1971 Duncan and Pud Stuart House**, designed by **Harwell Hamilton Harris**, one of the best-known architects of the 20th century.

This **house on nearly 2 acres** in Raleigh NC is being advertised as a suitable for development - which usually means teardown. Help us find a buyer who will fix it up! It's a perfect project for a devoted Modernist fan.

Details and timed entry tickets. Discount and anytime visits for Mod Squad members!



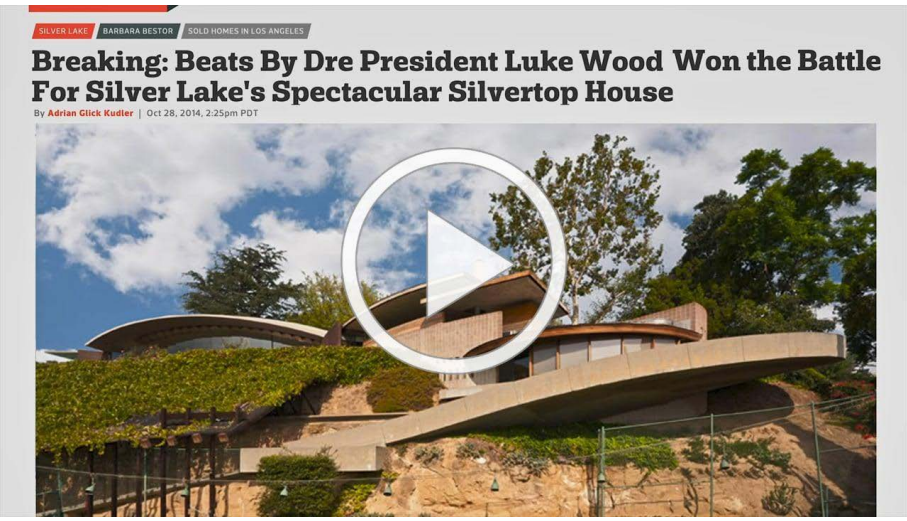
MOON OVER MODERNISM
LOS ANGELES

MOON OVER MODERNISM

TOUR LAUTNER HOMES

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 22-23

usmodernist.org/la



One Weekend - Two John Lautner Icons!
Saturday-Sunday, April 22-23

Architect **John Lautner** was one the most important architects to every grace California with his brilliant, bold designs that are still among the most highly prized

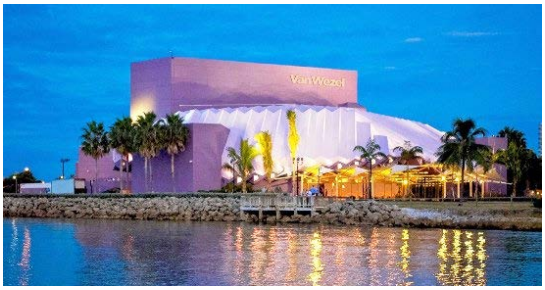
houses in America. USModernist is having two thrilling benefit events featuring Lautner houses in Los Angeles.

The Kelly Lynch and Mitch Glazer Cocktail Party, Saturday, April 22, 5-8pm. Explore one of the most envied houses in America! You'll share a beautiful evening overlooking downtown Los Angeles, the Griffith Observatory, and the Hollywood sign through astonishing views.

Just 15 tickets left: **The Silvertop Tour, Sunday, April 23, 12-4p.** Silvertop is the crown jewel of Silver Lake! In 2014, the iconic house was renovated by architect and "Mayor" of Silver Lake, **Barbara Bestor** of Bestor Architecture, who supplied the above video.

Details and tickets.

Modernist News



KEEP THE VAN WEZEL
KEEPTHEVANWEZEL.COM

Speak out to save Sarasota's purple heart, creative spirit, and civic soul ... the iconic Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. With 1,741 seats, the architect was **William Wesley Peters**, son in law of **Frank Lloyd Wright**, who used seashells as inspiration for the design. The purple and lavender color scheme was suggested by Frank Lloyd Wright's widow, **Olgivanna Lloyd Wright**. The City has been gunning to destroy it for years despite a sound structure and the availability of adjacent land for any new venues.

You can sign the petition **here** to the Sarasota City Commissioners. On April 3, they will consider a vote to stop the replacement effort. Doing so will assure continued use of the Van Wezel as a performing arts hall.

VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL

rumor	reality
Need more seats	At capacity 12% of time [1]
Water infiltration	Building is sound [2]
Not world class	7-time winner #1 in class [3]
Can't compete for hot shows	Straz enforces blackouts [4]
Tax funds available for new SPAC	County against $$$ replacement
Will attract new audiences	Same shows 500 feet north

[1] Ticket sales 2012-2022 [2] Karins 2021 engineering study [3] VenuesNow ratings [4] 2016 AMS market study

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North Carolina Realtors and owners of NC Modernist houses can now list - for sale or for rent - on our new completely free **NCModernist database**.

Listings limited to detached single family Modernist houses, old or new, but the house must be in North Carolina. **Details.**

Discover USModernist's Research Resources

Good starting points for finding references to buildings or architects in the 1950's or 1960's. **More here**.

Architectural Record

Architectural Record has been around over 130 years chronicling

Florida's MID-CENTURY MODERN ARCHITECTURE (1945-1975)

the history and development of mostly American architecture. Their yearly spring Houses issue is always a big hit.

Preservationists **Marty Hylton** and **Christine French** led a comprehensive statewide survey of Florida mid-century Modern buildings. **See it here.**

Documentary in Progress: Remembering the Future with Herb Greene: Now in development, this full length documentary will reflect on the misunderstood and overlooked history of the Organic Modernist movement by exploring the work of visionary organic architect, thinker and painter **Herb Greene**. His design practice stems from the influence of **Bruce Goff's** non-conformist and often overlooked counterculture architecture movement, an approach centered on serving people, place, time, materials and spirit.

The documentary will uncover renewed interest in the ideas and work of Organic Architecture including the restorations of Greene's most recognizable buildings - the Prairie House and the Joyce Residence.

Funding is needed to complete the project (approximately $150,000). Tax deductible contributions can be made **here**. Support is also welcome by following the project on the **website**, on **Instagram** and **Facebook**.

• **Richard Neutra's** VDL house in Los Angeles has a **new virtual tour.**

• The **70th Progressive Architecture Awards**. Even though the **magazine is long gone**, the celebrated awards continue.

Upcoming Events

Saturday April 22, 7pm: NC State College of Design Gala and Maciej Nowicki Day

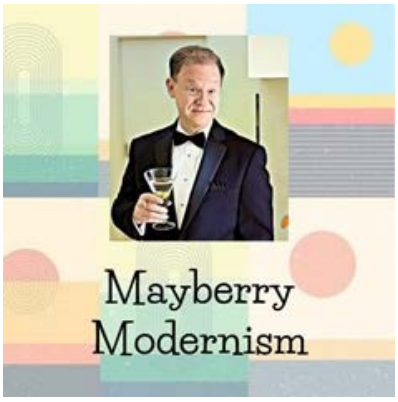
The Polish-American Club of the Triangle is partnering with North Carolina State University's College of Design to create an endowment to honor the late Polish architect **Maciej Nowicki**, who joined the design team for the new United Nations Headquarters in New York City, working alongside **Le Corbusier**, **Frank Lloyd Wright** and **Oscar Niemeyer**. Nowicki was recruited in 1948 to become the first chairman of the Architecture Department at the then School of Design at NC State, a position he held until his tragic death in 1950. Among his many achievements was the design of the J. S. Dorton Arena in Raleigh, an international landmark.

April 22, 2023 has been named Maciej Nowicki Day on campus, which will be recognized in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of NC State's College of Design. The Deputy Chief of Mission of the Republic of Poland, **Adam Krzywosadzki**, will represent the Embassy at this gala. **Tickets and details**. To learn more, please contact **Wanda Urbanska** or call 919.710.5645.

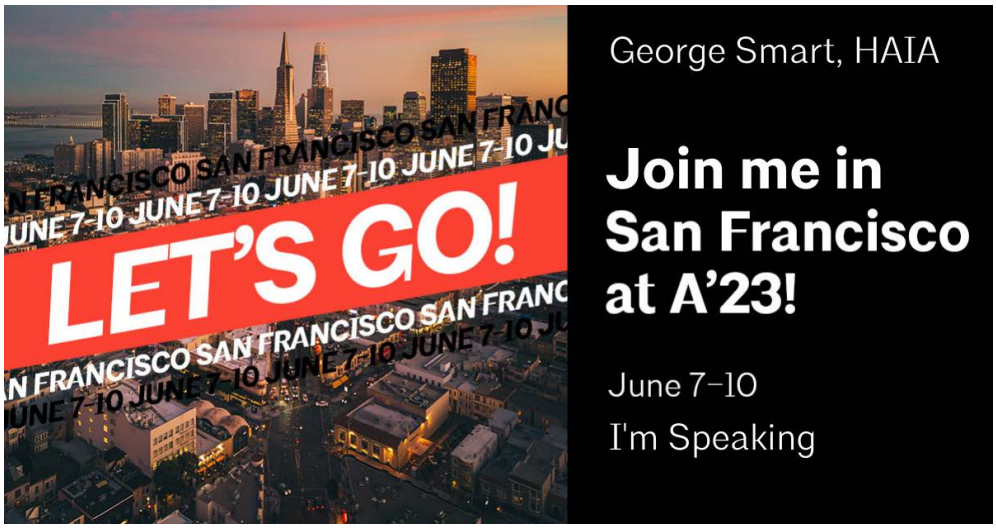
Saturday-Sunday, April 29-30: Palm Springs Preservation Matters Symposium, Palm Springs Convention Center. The **free two-day public event** engages a wide range of scholars and experts in presenting topics that reflect the roles of water and tourism in shaping the history, development, and built environment of greater Palm Springs.

Friday-Sunday, May 5-7: Portland OR Modernist Tour, sponsored by the Frank Lloyd Wright Conservancy. **Tickets and details**.

Friday, May 13: Restore Oregon Modernism is hosting a tour of four houses that **Robert Rummer** built from **A. Quincy Jones** designs in the **Bohmann Park neighborhood** of Portland. **Tickets**.



Thursday, May 18th: AIA Charlotte Modern Home Tour, preceded by lunch and a keynote on Mayberry Modernism by **George Smart**, founder of NCModernist. **Details and tickets**.



AIA National Conference, San Francisco, June 7-10. USModernist's **George Smart** will speak as the Accidental Archivist on June 7.

The **Glass House Summer Party**, New Canaan CT, June 10. Tickets available soon.

The USModernist Sunday Brunch, New Canaan CT, June 11. Tickets available soon.

Docomomo US National Symposium, New Haven CT, June 21–24

Sarasota MOD Weekend, Sarasota FL, Nov 2-5

Albert Frey: Innovative Modernist. Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, January 11-June 16, 2024

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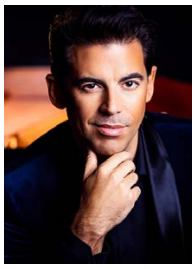

#294/Modernist Office: Ryan Anderson of MillerKnoll + Musical Guest Tony Desare

You just can't underestimate the satisfaction of a great office chair. We spend most of our waking lives at work, often sitting, so comfort is important. And for many, the location of work has changed. Accelerated by the pandemic, your workplace is as likely to be a kitchen or den as it is a floor of offices.

The KNOLL company had some of the most celebrated chairs in the world including **Eero Saarinen's** womb and tulip chairs, the Barcelona chair by **Mies Van der Rohe**, and the Wassilly chair by **Marcel Breuer**. **Herman Miller** was famous for the Aeron chair, the Noguchi table, the Marshmallow sofa, and the Eames Lounge Chair, among many others. These companies have been the leaders in well-designed, comfortable office furniture for generations, and in 2021 they merged.

With us is **Ryan Anderson**, vice president for global research and insights at MillerKnoll – and podcast host of Looking Forward: Conversations about the Future of Work. Later on, jazz with the remarkable **Tony Desare.**

US Modernist 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

If you've been on an NCModernist tour, you've likely met **Gay Bradley**, who passed away last week after an extended illness. Gay worked for 15 years with the North Carolina Museum of Art and 10 years at State Archives.

With an infectious laugh and an adventurous spirit, she traveled the world including trips to Africa, Japan, and numerous travels to Europe and South America. Her travel stories were legendary. She was never one to miss a new art exhibit, party, restaurant opening, or dance performance.

With companion **Gerry Riveros**, she travelled with us to London, Brussels, Copenhagen, Berlin, Zurich, Amsterdam, and countless tours around North Carolina. She was a whipsmart, uniquely kind and generous woman who made friends within minutes and was genuinely interested in others' lives and experiences.

The family will host a Garden Party in the near future to celebrate her amazingly beautiful life.

It's the 12th year of the George Matsumoto Prize for new Modernist houses in North Carolina!

The Prize is open to anyone with primary design responsibility for a completely built, from-the-ground-up, single-family Modernist house of at least 800 heated sf with a CO on or after January 1, 2018. The house must be in North Carolina; the designer/architect can be from

MATSUMOTO PRIZE

anywhere. Renovations, additions, multi-family, or any house that won a past Matsumoto Prize Jury or People's Choice award are ineligible. Past submissions that did not win awards may be resubmitted.

The George Matsumoto Prize is North Carolina's highest honor exclusively for Modernist residential architecture. NCModernist created the Matsumoto Prize in 2012 honor of **George Matsumoto**, one of the founding faculty members of North Carolina State University's College of Design. The Matsumoto Prize encourages architects, designers, and prospective clients to continue the Modernist movement in houses so important to North Carolina's design heritage. The Prize meaningfully and powerfully engages the public with the architecture they love and showcases exceptional Modernist architects and designers in North Carolina. **Information and submission details.** Submission deadline Monday, April 24. The 2023 Matsumoto Prize is sponsored by:

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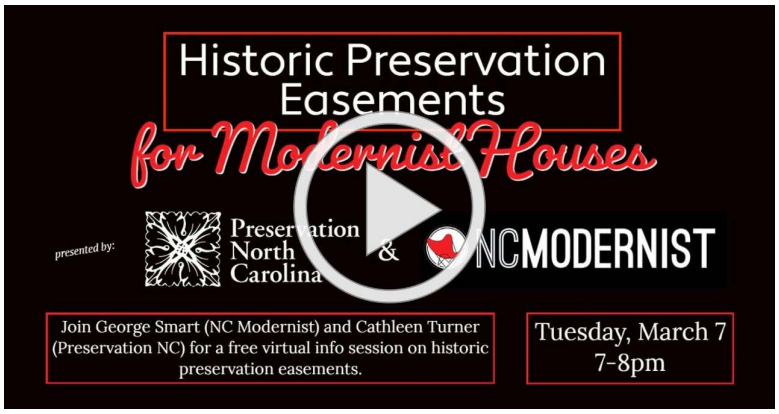

Video: Did you know that having your Modernist house on the National Register does nothing legally to protect it from demolition? Neither does having a talented and/or famous architect. Neither does any local or state historic designation. At best, you can get a delay, but the bulldozers can't be fended off for long. In fact, the only way to assure a house is not destroyed is through a very cool document called a

preservation easement – essentially a homeowner's association for one house. Join **Cathleen Turner** of Preservation North Carolina and **George Smart** of NCModernist, with special guest, Modernist homeowner **Jane Levy,** as they share the 1-2-3's to assure your mid-20th-century Modernist house makes it to the mid-21st-century.

Not in North Carolina? No worries, preservation easements work in every state.

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. The architect for each house, if known, is in brackets.

Where are all the North Carolina listings? They're on our new **NCModernist For Sale/Rent database**.

Realtors and owners can list their NC Modernist houses for sale or rent there for free, and you can browse there anytime you like! 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.

Donate to USModernist's mission of documentation, preservation, and promotion of Modernist residential architecture.

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