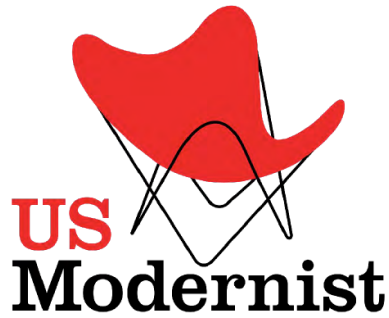


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**Monday, March 17, 2025**

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**

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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](mailto:rpg.modernist@gmail.com)

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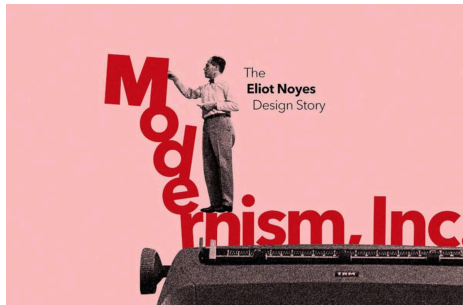
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### Featured Events



**Thursday, March 20: 5-7pm. Thirst4Architecture Happy Hour!**  
Wilkinson Supply, 3300 Bush Street, Raleigh NC. Join the NCModernist gang at Wilkinson's incredible showroom of kitchen, bath, appliances, hardware, and lighting ready for your next project. Free, **registration required**. Enter WILK on the form.



Modernism Inc. - Official Trailer | 13th Resene Arc



**Tuesday, April 1, 7pm:** *The NCModernist Architecture Film Series* is back – at the cherished Rialto Theatre in Raleigh NC. Join us for the new documentary **Modernism Inc.** about architect and industrial designer **Eliot Noyes**. Remote Q&A afterwards with Noyes' son, **Fred Noyes**. The NCModernist Architecture Movie Series is sponsored by **insitustudio.us**, **Matt Griffith** and **Zach Hoffman**. Doors open at 6:15pm. Do not park in the Fifth Third Bank across the street; they tow. Tickets available at the door.



**Saturday, May 3:** The Haw River House! A 2020 George Matsumoto Prize Winner. Pittsboro, North Carolina. On one of the most extraordinary sites in central North Carolina, this exquisite property of 21 acres faces the banks of the majestic Haw River, with about a mile of private riverside trails - and wildlife including deer, otters, beavers, bald eagles, blue herons, ospreys, warblers, and kingfishers. Designed by [Arielle Condoret Schechter](#). [Tickets and details.](#)



**Saturday, May 31:** Winston-Salem Modernist House Tour, featuring the work of STITCH Design Shop, one of North Carolina's hottest firms for Modernist houses. With additional offices in Greensboro, Boone, and soon Raleigh, STITCH has won multiple design awards from AIA North Carolina, AIA Winston-Salem, and NCModernist's George Matsumoto Prize. Enjoy a great day touring Modernist houses without the hassle of driving, and meet STITCH principals [Adam Sebastian](#), [Pete Fala](#), and [Ben Schwab](#). Includes transportation and lunch. [Details and tickets.](#)

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**If you're 70-1/2 or older, you can donate directly to USModernist from an IRA.** These gifts may be excluded from your taxable income and qualify towards your required minimum distribution. If you're 73 or older, you can You can donate up to \$100,000 to USModernist which is excluded from taxable income and help avoid higher tax brackets. **With the recent boom in cryptocurrency, you may wish to support USModernist via Bitcoin, Ethereum, or XRP.** [Details.](#)



Do you have a basement/attic/storage unit full of contemporary furniture or art? Can't bear the thought of throwing these away, but your family doesn't want them? Your donation to USModernist supports our award-winning documentation and preservation programs. Get a great tax deduction and free pickup in North Carolina. Contact: **Sharon Glazener**, Art Director, 919.787.3515.



Join our national community of architecture fans supporting and preserving the Modernist architecture you love.

Become a USModernist **Mod Squad** member (or give a membership as a gift!) for as little as \$10/month, or \$120/yr. Photo by Ezra Stoller/ESTO. [Information.](#)

### Modernist News



**Endangered:** Today, the Sarasota City Commission will decide whether to tear down the much-loved Van Wezel Performing Arts Center. [Details.](#) [News report.](#)



**Wallpaper** explores **Modernist churches** in the book *Sacred Modernity: The Holy Embrace of Modernist Architecture*. Hat tip to **Keith York**.

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The **Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy** in partnership with **Frank Lloyd Wright's Graycliff** announces Wright Virtual Visits, providing unique online tours of Wright sites across the country.

The series kicks off on Thursday, April 24th at 1pm ET featuring Florida Southern College Planetarium & Polk County Science Building in Lakeland, Florida. Other sites: May 29: SC Johnson Research Tower; July 10: Wright on the UNESCO World Heritage List; October 2: Marin County Civic Center; December 4: Graycliff Visitor Center. Details at [savewright.org/WVV](https://savewright.org/WVV).

Details at [savewright.org/WVV](https://savewright.org/WVV).

Speaking of Frank, the National Building Museum in Washington DC. is extending its **Frank Lloyd Wright** exhibition through Sunday, October 5.

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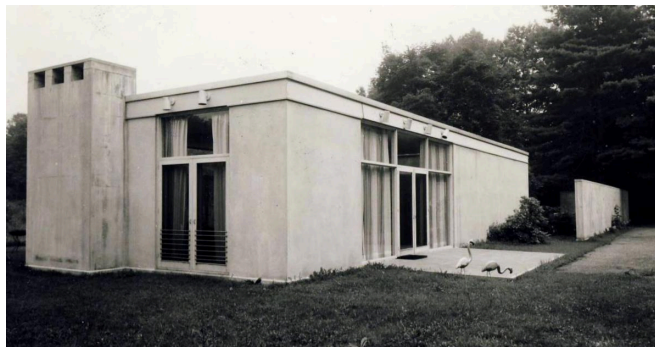
**Endangered:** No good news for **Frank Lloyd Wright's** Walser House in Chicago. The deteriorating 1930s house made **Preservation Chicago's list of the seven most-endangered historic buildings** and is in foreclosure.

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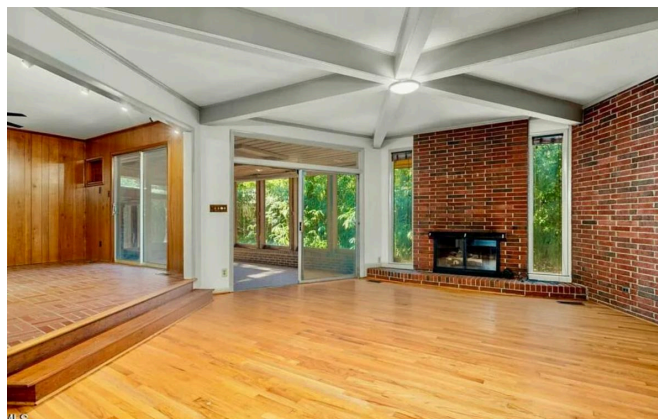
**Endangered:** The 1969 Comsat Laboratories Building in Clarksburg MD is at risk of being lost. An early work of [César Pelli](#) when he was with Gruen Associates, the 204 acre campus has been owned by a private development company since 2015. Although the Historic Preservation Commission voted in January that Comsat met requirements for historic designation, the Montgomery County Planning Office did not, and the Planning Board and County Council are expected to agree. Plans call for the buildings to be destroyed and the site developed for mixed-use housing.

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**Endangered:** The Alice Ball House in New Canaan CT, designed by [Philip Johnson](#), is **up for auction April 22 due to around \$163000 in unpaid property taxes**. Not in the greatest shape, it could be a teardown unless a new, caring owner steps up. There is no minimum bid. [CTtaxsales.com](#) explains the process. Bidding begins at 11am at the New Canaan Town Hall, 77 Main Street, New Canaan CT.

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**Endangered:** The William Henry Sonner House, 3237 Birnamwood Drive, Raleigh NC. Designed from a plan book, this beautiful 1965 midcentury modern house on 1.27 acres is **advertised for sale** as a teardown. However,

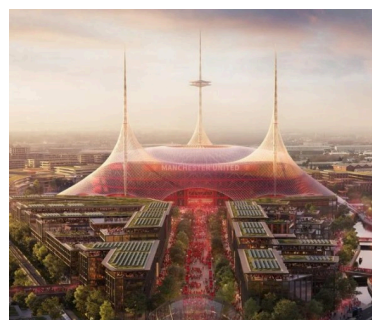
we spoke to the current owner, and he really wants someone to preserve the house, which is in remarkably good condition. [Details](#).



The Village of Southampton Architectural Review Board (ARB), continues to relentlessly pursue forced landmarking of five Modernist houses, three by [Norman Jaffe](#) (like the Bliss house at left), and one each by [Myron Goldfinger](#) and [Ward Bennett](#).

At the last [epic six-hour meeting](#), preservation experts representing the town and owners gave reports about whether the houses qualified for landmarking, then the owner attorneys tore into the ARB's aggressive lack of transparency, violation of town and national policies, disregard for homeowner rights, and absence of a public ARB vote to pursue this landmarking effort to begin with.

We're all in favor of Modernist preservation, but this is absolutely not the right way to go about it. Yet again, a meeting to make a final decision has been kicked many months down the road, this time to **Monday, September 22, 6pm ET**. [Watch it over Zoom](#).



There seemingly is a football (as in fütbol) extravaganza underway — for architects. [Dezeen reports on 10 designs](#), including a stadium near Cairo by [Gensler](#) for the Al-Ahly club (left) and a new home by [Foster+Partners](#) for Manchester United in the UK.



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, or inappropriate renovation (like turning your Modernist house into an Italianate villa). [Tell us](#).



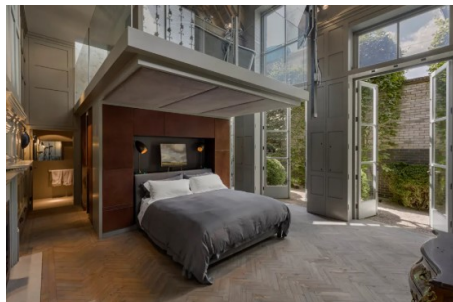
One of the last US houses that **Ellen DeGeneres** and **Portia de Rossi** own is back **for sale and on sale — for \$30M**. **Richard Neutra's** 1955 Brown Sidney House in Los Angeles was previously owned by **Tom Ford**.

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One of **Frank Lloyd Wright's** early commissions, the 1900 Hickox House in Kankakee IL, sold for \$449,000, the **Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy reported**, and *Architectural Digest* has put up a **photo tour**. It had not been on the market since 1976.

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The **Wells Mackareth** architecture studio put a Modernist spin on renovations in a London carriage house that's for sale **for sale at \$12M**.

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Clients wanted minimal visual impact on their wooded site in Deep River CT, so **Tom Lontine Architects** designed an **M2M house set into a hillside**.



Know a Modernist website from the 2000s that's long gone? An architecture podcast no longer producing shows? In addition to our extensive **house archives** and massive **magazine library**, we are looking for **abandoned midcentury modern websites and architecture podcasts**. **Please be in touch!**

- Everything you might want to know about **Google** architecture, from *Parametric-Architecture.com*.
- **Frank Lloyd Wright** had just arrived in Los Angeles when he saw Mayan architecture at the 1915 Panama California Exposition in San Diego and **was inspired to design houses uses precast textile blocks**.
- From the ashes of the Altadena wildfire in January, an appreciation of what **Gregory Ain's** Park Planned Homes **meant to Modernist design in LA** and to the people who lost their homes.
- Consultants working in Fairfax County VA surveyed the DC suburb's Modernist architecture **with an eye to what be protected** before development takes over.
- AIA Pasadena & Foothill in California is spinning up a program **to connect volunteer licensed professionals with people who have questions about rebuilding** in areas wracked by wildfires this year.
- *Mid-Century Home* published **an essay on why we need to preserve MCM buildings**, including, "Socially, mid-century modern buildings encapsulate the aspirations, lifestyles, and optimism of post-war America."

## 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 for 2025 in the Raleigh/Durham area and beyond. Contact **Devra Dubroff**, [devra@usmodernist.org](mailto:devra@usmodernist.org).

**Through March 29:** *Porcelain Utopia: Mid-Century Lustron Homes in Illinois and Beyond*, photographs of **Dirk Fletcher**, Boundary gallery, Chicago.

## Information.

**March 20:** 6:30pm. Docomomo-US tour of First Church of Boston, redesigned by Paul Rudolph after a 1968 fire, and First Lutheran Church of Boston, designed by Pietro Belluschi. **Details.**

**March 20, 5pm.** Tryon Historical Museum Tales of Tryon. Located at the 1978 Presbyterian Church in Tryon NC designed by **Holland Brady**. Brother-in-law **Shields Flynn** will talk about Brady and architect **Ligon Flynn**.

**March 22, 10-4pm.** Preservation Forsyth Midcentury Modern House Tour, Winston-Salem NC. Four houses, two churches. **Details and tickets.**

**Through March 22,** *Circle Square Triangle: Houses I Never Lived In*, a **Myron Goldfinger** exhibition curated by his partner and wife **June Goldfinger**, left, at the Paul Rudolph Institute in New York City. **Article in Architectural Record.** Free. **Details.**

**April 8:** Lecture on **Charles and Ray Eames'** Case Study House, California; Architecture Sarasota, Sarasota FL. **Tickets.**

**April 19, 11am:** The Pearlman Cabin designed by **John Lautner** will have a visitor day in Idyllwild CA. Contact: **nancysuepearlman@aol.com** or 213 705-4992.



**Thursday, April 24: 5-7pm. Thirst4Architecture Happy Hour!** Reese Atelier and **THE STORE**, 719 Devereaux Street, Raleigh NC.

Free, **registration required.** Enter APRIL on the form.

**SOLD OUT! Saturday, April 26:** NCModernist Modapalooza tour of new and classic Modernist houses, featuring homes by architects **Erin Sterling Lewis, Katherine Hogan, Ellen Cassilly, Jeannine McAuliffe, Sophie Piesse, Megan Toma, Brian Shawcroft,** and **Tina Govan.**

**April 30-May 4:** The Society of Architectural Historians **annual international conference** in Atlanta.

**May 1-4:** Home + History Las Vegas, presented by the Nevada Preservation Foundation (NPF), featuring homes from the 1920s through the 1970s. The *Underground Celebrity Icons of Las Vegas Bus Tour* includes a star-studded mid-century modern neighborhood designed by Palmer and Krisel and concludes with a guided tour of an underground mansion featured in movies, TV shows, and music videos. Special guest **Alan Hess** will speak. Tickets start at \$35, with additional events to be announced soon. Details and tickets at **nevadapreservation.org.**

**Saturday, May 3:** The Haw River House! A 2020 George Matsumoto Prize Winner. Pittsboro, North Carolina. Designed by **Arielle Condoret Schechter.** **Tickets and details.**

## SCHINDLER SPACE ARCHITECT Trailer | Miami Jewish Film...



**Tuesday, May 6, 7pm:** *The NCModernist Architecture Film Series* is back – at the cherished Rialto Theatre in Raleigh NC. Join us for **Schindler Space Architect**, the story of California architect **Rudolf Schindler**. Special Q&A remote guest, producer **Valentina Ganeva**. The NCModernist Architecture Movie Series is sponsored by [insitustudio.us](#), **Matt Griffith** and **Zach Hoffman**. Doors open at 6:15pm.

**May 12-16:** 2025 Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) 53rd Annual Conference. Online. [Details.](#)

**May 17-18:** Preservation Durham 50th Anniversary Tour. [Tickets.](#)

**Saturday, May 31:** Winston-Salem Modernist House Tour, featuring the work of STITCH Design Shop, one of North Carolina's hottest firms for Modernist houses. [Details and tickets.](#)

**Tuesday, June 10, and Saturday, June 21:** Restore Oregon tours in Portland of Pietro Belluschi's home (June 10) and two John Yeon houses (June 21). [Information.](#)

**Saturday, June 14:** Glass House Summer Party, New Canaan CT. Details TBA.

**Sunday, June 15: 11am.** USModernist's Annual Summer Brunch, at a fantastic Paul Rudolph House, New Canaan CT. Details TBA.



**Thursday, June 19: 5-7pm. Thirst4Architecture Happy Hour!** Clark Hall Doors and Windows, 1403 Capital Boulevard, Raleigh NC. Free, [registration required](#). Enter JUNE on the form.

Extended Through June: National Building Museum in Washington DC: [Capital Brutalism.](#)

**September 27-January 11:** Craft Contemporary in Los Angeles. Material Curiosity by Design: Evelyn and Jerome Ackerman, Mid-Century to Today.

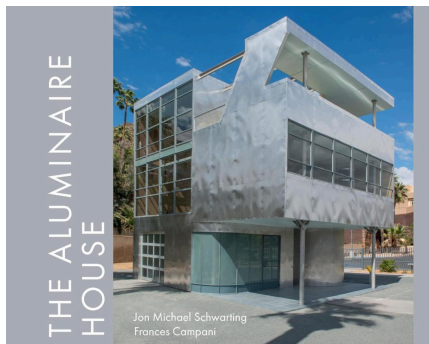
**October 5-7:** Preservation North Carolina Conference in Asheville NC. [Details.](#)

Through Winter 2026 at the National Building Museum in Washington DC: *A South Forty: Contemporary Architecture and Design in the American South.*



Many thanks to our spirits sponsor, **Vermont Spirits**, for providing delightful beverages for our Palm Springs events at the Kirk Douglas Estate and the Domus Atticus Estate.

### New Books



Available now: *The Aluminaire House* by **Jon Michael Schwarting** and **Frances Campani**, an exciting review of the history, architecture, and rescue of the Aluminaire House, a midcentury modern experimental house designed by architects **A. Lawrence Kocher** and **Albert Frey** and now moving to its new, permanent home at the Palm Springs Art Museum.

The Aluminaire House was conceived and constructed as an exhibition house for the Allied Arts and Industry and Architectural League Exhibition of 1931 at the Grand Central Palace in New York City. The Aluminaire House is considered a masterpiece of modernist design, listed by *Architectural Record* as one of the most important buildings completed worldwide in the past 125 years.



### Latest Podcast



#### #396/ARO + Kevin Alter + Musical Guest Carrie Marshall

You'll hear from with the principal architects of Architecture Research Office (ARO), **Adam Yarinsky**, **Stephen Cassell**, and **Kim Yao**. We'll explore a 12,000 sf Modernist house in Dallas with architect **Kevin Alter**, and wrapping up, musical guest **Carrie Marshall**.

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.**



Estate of Johnston & West, Mar 21, 2025, 9:00am  
March Estate Auction, Mar 27, 2025, 10:00am  
Modern & Contemporary Auction, May 1, 2025, 10:00am  
Prints & Multiples Auction, May 2, 2025, 10:00am

[www.lelandlittle.com](http://www.lelandlittle.com)



Submissions are open for the 2025 George Matsumoto Prize, North Carolina's highest honor exclusively for Modernist residential architecture. The Matsumoto Prize encourages architects, designers, and prospective clients to continue the Modernist movement in houses so important to North Carolina's design heritage. Entries are open to any ground-up Modernist house completed since 1/1/2020. **Deadline April 29.**

**Details.** The 2025 prize is sponsored exclusively by Fitch Lumber and MARVIN. The unique design competition features a blue-ribbon jury of internationally-known architects: **Dominyka Voelkle; Lissa So; Ed Niles; Charles McAfee; Bart Prince; James Biber; Julia Gamolina.**

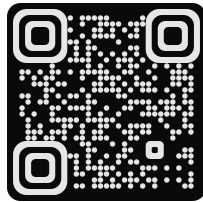


# FOR SALE

**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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