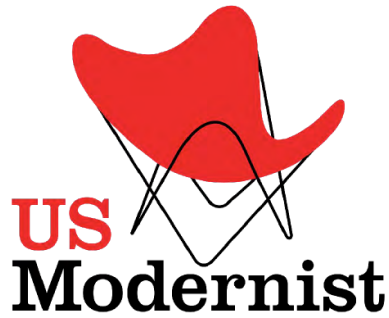


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Monday, March 31, 2025

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**



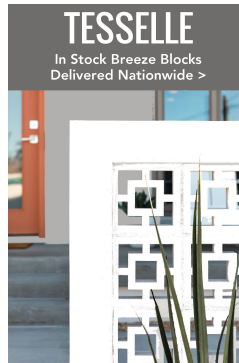
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News Editor: **Ron Gallagher** Newsletter Staff: **Virginia Faust, George Smart**
 Got Modernist News? Contact **Ron Gallagher** at rpg.modernist@gmail.com

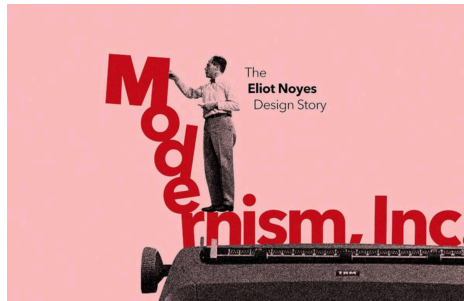
Sponsorship: Connect your product, service, or organization to USModernist's 64,000 weekly subscribers! Reach out to **George Smart**, 919.740.8407.

[Meet the USModernist Team](#)





Featured Events



Modernism Inc. - Official Trailer | 13th Resene Arc



Tomorrow, 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, architect **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, or advance purchase!**



Thursday, April 24: 5-7pm. Thirst4Architecture Happy Hour! Reese Atelier and **THE STORE**, 719 Devereaux Street, Raleigh NC. Join architect John Reese at his unique B&B. Free, **registration required**. Enter APRIL on the form.



Saturday, May 3: The Haw River House! A 2020 George Matsumoto Prize Winner. Pittsboro NC. 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](#). Article in Mike Welton's [Architects+Artisans](#). Only 20 [tickets left](#).



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. Only 5 [tickets left!](#)

Belong + Support



USModernist's unrivaled documentation and preservation work consistently delivers national impact, but our continued research is only possible through generous supporters like you. You can be part of our community with a [tax-deductible donation](#). There are new and creative [options](#) in addition to

direct donation, including insurance and estate gifts. If you're 70-1/2 or older, you can donate directly to USModernist from an IRA. 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. Many donation options are available. [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. Photo by Ezra Stoller/ESTO.

Become a USModernist Mod Squad member for \$10/month and get three months free! [Sign up here.](#)

Modernist News



SAVED! Thanks to community resistance, a developer poised to destroy the immaculate **Jack Boyte**-designed Solomon Levine House, 2300 Cloister Drive, in Charlotte NC backed out and a new preservation-minded couple is under contract. This 1956 house is one of Charlotte's finest examples of mid-century modern. Many thanks to the sellers and the Historic Landmarks Commission.



Architect **Barbara Neski** died last week. She received her undergraduate degree from Bennington College in 1949. In 1951 Neski worked for **Victor Gruen** and in 1952 **José Lluís Sert** where she met, and later married, **Julian Neski**. They moved to **Marcel Breuer's** office in 1953 where she designed plans for a factory in Canada, the Gagarin House in Connecticut, and a library for Hunter College. Barbara and Julian started their own firm around 1957 and designed over 35 houses, 25 of which were in the Hamptons. Listen

to [USModernist Radio's interview](#) with Neski from 2023.



From Architecture Digest: The new nonprofit Case Study: Adapt is **Leo Seigal** and **Dustin Bramell's** alternative to developer-driven models for recovery from the LA fires. Inspired by the legendary Case Study program that galvanized architecture in the quest for efficient, experimental modern housing iafter World War II, CSA aims to explore and implement bold new ideas in housing by matching leading architects with clients looking to rebuild in the Pacific Palisades and Altadena, the two communities hardest hit by the conflagration. CSA enlisted ten of LA's leading residential architecture firms and challenged each to design a distinctive house predicated on the principles of modesty in scale, energy and construction efficiency, and climate resiliency: Assembledge+, Bestor Architecture, EYRC Architects, Geoffrey von Oeyen Design, Johnston Marklee, Marmol Radziner, Montalba Architects, Standard Architecture|Design, Walker Workshop, and Woods + Danganan. Joining the group were **Jaime Rummerfield**, executive director of the preservation and advocacy organization Save Iconic Architecture, and photographer **Roger Davies**, who will document CSA's efforts



Almost Destroyed: The Apex Department Store, 100 Main Street, Pawtucket RI, designed by **Andrew Geller** in 1960, the pyramid shaped building has been called the "**soul of Pawtucket**." Owned by the City of Pawtucket, the roof panels were taken off

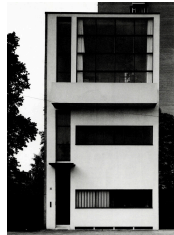
last weekend, the interior was previously scuttled, and the City is pitching the prime land to toy maker Hasbro for new offices. Photo by Dave Lawlor. **News report.**



From the LA Times: The **Tadao Ando** Malibu house infamously once owned (and almost destroyed) by **Kanye West** is for sale again at \$39 million. New owner Bo Belmont says it needs \$6.5M more to restore it to its former glory, after already spending \$2M. Architects **Marmol Radziner**, a design-build company, worked on the initial construction of the house and now is working to restore the home to its original look.



From Dezeen: Egypt is showing off it's **new 58 billion-dollar capital**, located about an hour north of Cairo. The new city is expected to house six million people, although that's a long way off. **Skidmore Owings and Merrill** did the master planning.



From *ArchDaily*, **the history of the 1926 house and studio** that **Le Corbusier** designed in Antwerp, Belgium, for painter **René Guiette**.

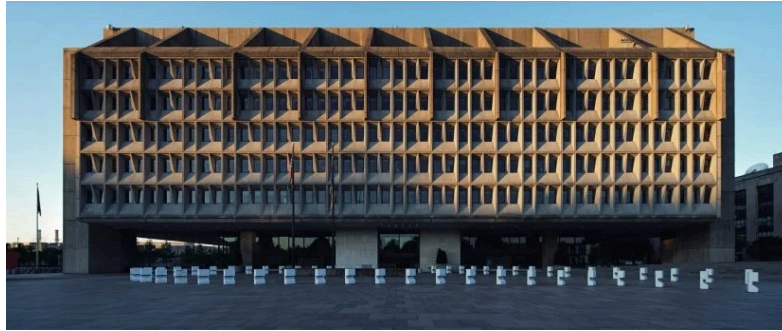


A profile of **Anne Essner**, tireless Modernist preservation advocate in Sarasota FL who's also the Chair of **Architecture Sarasota**.



From AIA New York: **Bonetti/Kozerski Architecture** archived their unbuilt projects when the Los Angeles wildfires began and realized that one of those would work well in a fire-prone area. The two-story, approximately 3,600-sf "Full Metal Jacket House" features non-combustible metal on the sides and on the roof, and one end is stone. The conceptual plans can be downloaded from the firm's **website**.

The Connecticut AIA, the Connecticut Architecture Foundation, the nonprofit Common Edge, and public radio station WPKN in Bridgeport combine for **a monthly podcast exploring how architecture and the public interact**.



For *Dezeen*, photographer **Ty Cole** chose eight favorites among the buildings at the **National Building Museum's exhibit** on Brutalism, which he co-curated.



There's a new TV show on Hulu called **Mid-Century Modern**. From the producers of the hit show *Will and Grace*, the show is like *Golden Girls* except with three gay men in a Palm Springs house. The **Dinah Shore** house, now owned by **Leonardo DiCaprio**, serves as exteriors for the show.



For a mere \$20,000 for five nights, you can experience the 1999 Taghkanic House, designed by architect **Tom Phifer**, the setting for the home of CEO James Eagan in **Severance**.



The *Béton Brut* Cocktail

Created to celebrate the 2025 landmarking of Boston City Hall, one of the great *béton brut* (Brutalist) buildings in the world, designed in 1962 by architects Kallmann McKinnell and Knowles.

Invented for the "Preserving the Recent Past 4" conference in Boston, March 2025, co-sponsored by the Historic Preservation Education Fund, the Boston Architectural College and Docomomo_US.

Concept: Gary Wolf, FAIA, Docomomo_US/New England
 Recipe: Sam Treadway, bar director of backbar, Somerville, Massachusetts. backbarunion.com

Béton Brut Recipe

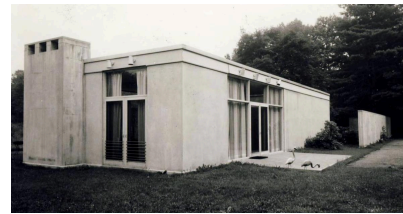
- 1 oz Becherovka
- 1.5 oz Nigori sake
- 2 oz tonic water
- 3 oz brut champagne
- Build in a glass over ice
- Garnish with a lemon wedge

Béton Brut Batch Recipe

- 8 oz Becherovka
- 12 oz Nigori sake
- 16 oz tonic water (a 500 ml bottle is close enough)
- 24 oz brut champagne (a 750 ml bottle is close enough)
- Build in a glass over ice
- Garnish with a lemon wedge



Hopeful news: The bank that holds the mortgage on the deteriorating 1903 Walser House by **Frank Lloyd Wright** in in Chicago **told a judge it would begin work** to correct code violations.



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**. 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.



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.**



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.](#)



William Kesling designed this house in Pasadena CA in 1937, [though he was in jail when it was built.](#) For sale at \$1.9M.



Architect **Wallace Neff** built this house, [for sale for a little under \\$1.9M](#) – and it comes with a smaller, underground version that once was a Cold War-era bomb shelter.



A 1994 design by **Ed Niles** in Topanga CA [has come onto the market for \\$2.5M.](#)



In Stamford CT, a 1951 house by architect **Lester Tichy**, featured in *Interiors Magazine* in December 1953, [is for sale at \\$2.9M.](#)



The original owner of a 1963 Berkeley CA house designed by Bay Area architect **John Hans Oswald** sold it for \$1.6M, [201 percent of the asking price.](#)

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!](#)



April's Modernist Astrology!

In what we are quite sure is the first Modernist astrology column, here are predictions for April birthdays – derived from the architectural heavens by our own "archivist to the stars," [Bobbie Morris](#). Enjoy!

April starts with Mercury retrograde (until the 7th), which means delays, misunderstandings, and tech chaos. Double-check your emails, and please, don't start any major renovations—unless you enjoy the thrill of turning your home into a never-ending project. Then, the Libra Full Moon on the 12th puts relationships under the spotlight. If your love life feels like a [Frank Gehry](#) house—you know, no direction, lots of curves—it's time to step back and evaluate whether the foundation is built on solid ground or just a pretty façade.

On the 16th, Mercury enters Aries, energizing your mind with bold ideas. It's a great time to make moves, but don't rush into decisions you'll regret, like a concrete house with no insulation. (Sure, it looks tough, but you'll be freezing your assets off by January.) Mars in Leo on the 18th gives you unstoppable energy and confidence, like a starchitect unveiling a sleek, gravity-defying skyscraper. Just lead with passion, not ego.

Taurus season starts on the 19th, bringing stability and comfort: think cozy spaces and timeless design, perfect for slowing down and enjoying the simple pleasures. The New Moon in Taurus on the 27th kicks off new beginnings, and Venus in Aries on the 30th fuels passion. However, be cautious. Some fiery connections might feel like a Frank Lloyd Wright house: beautiful but a maintenance nightmare.

Final advice for April: Be bold, but not reckless. Embrace change, but don't tear down something timeless for the latest trend. And most importantly—don't date anyone who thinks McMansions are good design.

DID YOU KNOW?

To quickly find anything in the [USModernist archives](#), just type in the name of the architect, then USModernist, into [Google](#). For example: Gropius USModernist.

The USModernist Architecture Media Library is so large, that stacking the pages would reach a height of 1640 feet. That's higher than the Central Park Tower in New York, aka the Nordstrom Tower, at 1550 feet. If you put the pages end to end, it would reach 3300 miles, or the distance from New York to the UK. [Explore the library!](#)

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.



April 3 and 19, 11am: The Pearlman Cabin designed by [John Lautner](#) will have visitor days in Idyllwild CA. Contact: nancysuepearlman@aol.com or 213 705-4992.

April 6: Havens House Sunset Tour, Berkeley CA. Visit one of the greatest Modernist houses by [Harwell Hamilton Harris](#). [Details and tickets.](#)

April 8: Lecture on [Charles and Ray Eames'](#) Case Study House, California; Architecture Sarasota, Sarasota FL. [Tickets.](#)

April 23: Inaugural [Alan Golin Gass](#) Lecture, Denver Architecture Foundation. [Tickets.](#)

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 NC. 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: Historic New England's Bauhaus Birthday Party at the [Walter Gropius](#) House, Lincoln MA. [Details and tickets.](#)

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. Noon. 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.

Through June 30: *Living Modernity: Experiments in the Exceptional and Everyday, 1920s-1970s.* Fourteen residential masterpieces by Modernist architects. The National Art Center, Tokyo. [Information.](#)

Extended Through June 30: 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.

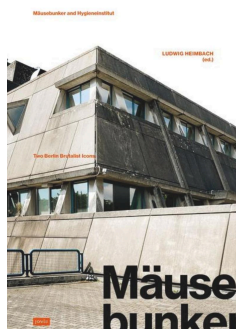
October 5-7: Preservation North Carolina Conference in Asheville NC. [Details.](#)

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

New Books



Available June 10: **Casa Mexicana**, a stunningly illustrated showcase of the best new houses in Mexico. Leading architecture photographer **Edmund Sumner** has selected the best examples from the last decade, showcasing a variety of beautiful and cutting-edge designs, each crafted to suit Mexico's extraordinary landscapes, from the seaside to the jungle to the cit, including **Pedro Reyes, Javier Marin**, and many others, as well as the work of renowned international figures such as **Tadao Ando.**



Available now: **Ludwig Heimbach's Mäusebunker**, a new book on one of the most unusual buildings in the world. The Mouse Bunker's original designers are **Gerd and Magdalena Hänska.** They started the design between 1965 and 1967. Construction began in 1971. The building was controversial from its very beginning because of its use for animal testing, hence the name Mouse Bunker. After the current owner Charité announced plans for demolition, a petition to save the building was initiated. Filmmaker **Nathan Eddy** shot the documentary *Battleship Berlin* about the building, and it was finally listed as a cultural heritage site in May 2023.



Latest Podcast



#398/Light + Color: Architect Wid Chapman + Color Expert Sara McLean + Musical Guest Laura Pursell

Modernist architecture makes special use of light and color, and with us today, architect **Wid Chapman**, color expert **Sara McLean**, and musical guest and expert skater **Laura Pursell**.

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**.



Modern & Contemporary Auction, May 1, 2025, 10:00am
Prints & Multiples Auction, May 2, 2025, 10:00am

www.lelandlittle.com

3/20/2025 Tales of Tryon: 'Flynn and Brady, Architectural Vi...



Watch the "Tales of Tryon" talk **Shields Flynn** did on his brother, architect **Ligon Flynn**, and architect **Holland Brady, Jr.** at the Tryon History Museum. It's most unusual s for a small town of Tryon NC with under 2,000 people to have supported an architectural firm for almost 80 years, while in addition, 40+ other architects have also designed houses to be built in the area.



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.**



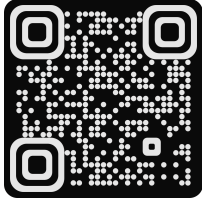
Vacancy, not development, is the enemy of mid-century Modernist houses. Preserve and protect the architecture you love by **notifying us** when North Carolina houses go vacant or on the market.

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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