From: George Smart [george@trianglemodernisthouses.com]
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2011 6:23 AM
To: triangle-modernist-houses@googlegroups.com
Subject: Wine Feed / Shawcroft Book Party T4A/ Dreyfus Labs / DCP Leaf / Neutra Kronish / Edward Durell Stone
Attachments: image023.png, image022.jpg, image014.jpg, image011.jpg, image010.jpg, image008.jpg, image020.wmz, image018.jpg, image016.jpg, image013.png, image002.png, image007.gif, image012.png, image006.jpg, image005.png, image003.png, image001.png

Architecture You Love

Monday, August 8, 2011

Hello Everyone!

Tour News:

- The FLW/Auldbrass Tour is completely sold out. Get on the waiting list here.
- Advance discount tickets for the Hillsborough Modernist House Tour this Saturday August 13 ends at 5pm today. After that, $12 at the door.

Please welcome TMH's newest sponsor, The Wine Feed, 18B Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh. Besides offering some of the best wine deals in town, they deliver! In Raleigh, delivery comes free on a bike, and the rest of the Triangle gets free delivery by car.

Brian Shawcroft and his new book, 50 Years of Houses, are our featured guests at the August 25 Thirst4Architecture Happy Hour at Nowell’s Contemporary Furniture in Cary. Brian will be on hand to autograph his book and show his amazing wood and inlaid coffee table designed for Nowell’s. There will be a live band, Third Expression, free refreshments, and our usual array of door prizes, including Nowell’s gift certificates, plus lots of modern furniture in the store on sale. The Wine Feed will be supplying refreshments.
Last week, we lost the Camille Dreyfus Labs at Research Triangle Institute (RTI). Named for the founder and first president of Celanese Corporation of America, the lab building was a big square with a courtyard in the middle. That big square part was a drab one-story 1950's office space. Inside the courtyard, however, was the Dreyfus Auditorium, shown from the air at left. Dreyfus Auditorium was a small circular meeting room with charm, if you’re charmed by small circles. Both hated and loved by RTI employees, to me it was more like a chapel for science, an oasis of design and comfort in an ocean of logic and scientific thought. It was one of my very favorite local buildings.

Dreyfus Auditorium had incredible acoustics in one spot only - dead center. You could hear your own voice bounce back to the top of your head. Designed by AG Odell of Charlotte, Dreyfus Labs was one of the first buildings on the now-massive campus. RTI over the years was very generous to the community and allowed many groups to meet there, from robot enthusiasts to LINUX users to management trainers to the Triangle Guitar Society. And of course, thousands of scientific meetings. To be honest, the circular room was inherently impractical, kinda like Harrelson Hall on the NCSU campus, but hey, love can be blind. I like Harrelson too, and it’s on the NCSU bulldozer list for 2013. I’ll miss you, Dreyfus Auditorium. They don’t come ‘round like you anymore….

Many thanks to volunteer Ramani Mathew for her recent TMH field trip to Hanover NH. She researched the houses of Edgar and Margaret Hunter, rare husband and wife architects who did dozens of Modernist houses in NH and VT before moving to Raleigh in the 1960’s.

Cassilhaus, the home of Ellen Cassilly and Frank Konhaus, now has its own website!
Frank Lloyd Wright’s Ennis House, long in disrepair and without a private owner, has been sold. Featured in Blade Runner and many other films, the Ennis House is now in the hands of Ron Burkle who plans a multi-million dollar fix-up faithful to the original design. As part of the transaction, Burkle will provide public access to the house a minimum of 12 days per year.

The 30 Americans exhibition at the North Carolina Museum of Art features 75 works by African-American artists—including some of the best contemporary artists working today. A must-see for designers, art lovers, and creative types of all kinds until September 4. Special deal for TMH newsletter readers, use the code MOD when you purchase your tickets and receive $2 off the regular adult admission price. Get more information at ncartmuseum.org.

AIA Triangle 2011 Summer Lecture Series, Part 1
Beyond Representation: Place, Materiality, and Digital Processes, with Professor David Hill and Professor Sara Queen. Tomorrow, August 9, BBH Design, P.A. and IDeA, 7:00pm. All are welcome. Registration here required, space is limited.

By now, you know that the Triangle has the third most Modernist houses of anywhere in America, but have you seen many of them yet? On Wednesday, August 17, join me for Mayberry Modernism, TMH’s review of 60 years of North Carolina’s coolest houses. 7pm, South Durham Regional Library, Alston Avenue, Durham. Free!

Bowing to community pressure, the owners of Richard Neutra’s Kronish House in Beverly Hills have agreed to postpone its demolition until at least October 10 to give preservationists a chance to devise a plan to save the residence. In a related and groundbreaking action, the Beverly Hills City Council early Wednesday asked the community’s Planning Commission to devise a historic-preservation ordinance. It would be the first such ordinance for a city that has seen many culturally or architecturally significant structures fall to the wrecking ball. Mayor Barry Brucker and other council members acknowledged that a preservation ordinance was long overdue.

However, two months is not much of a reprieve. Neutra’s son Dion, himself an architect, hopes to raise $15M to buy the property and turn it into Neutra museum. NPR affiliate KPCC will interview Dion Neutra tomorrow. You can hear this interview through their website. Thanks to everyone from TMH who wrote to the Mayor and Council. You made a difference! More on this story as it develops.
Students from the School of Architecture at the NCSU College of Design under the guidance of Randy Lanou of BuildSense and Ellen Cassilly of Ellen Cassilly Architect have finished a Modernist shade structure and stage, called The Leaf, for Durham Central Park. The leaf-shaped structure has a dual-purpose: a stage for a wide variety of performances and an aesthetically pleasing shaded seating area with a minimal footprint. The open design allows for high visibility of the park and serves as a catalyst for attracting more people and activities. Many thanks to TMH readers who donated!

A new book on architect Edward Durell Stone will be published in October. Stone was one of the most controversial figures of twentieth-century architecture. In EDWARD DURELL STONE: A Son’s Untold Story of a Legendary Architect, Hicks Stone, himself an architect, writes candidly about his father’s career, relationships, and professional and personal struggles. Among the iconic projects for which Stone is responsible are The Museum of Modern Art in New York, the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Both celebrated and scorned, Stone led a life that was simultaneously triumphant and embittered. For two decades, he was decidedly Modernist but that changed in 1954 upon meeting a woman named Maria who would later be his wife. From then on, Stone’s style shifted dramatically towards a style of ornamentation that while successful with the public was often criticized by the architectural community. His clashes with NCSU Dean Henry Kamphoefner were legendary. But Stone had the last laugh -- a stellar career and many important commissions around the world. Locally, Stone designed the East Wing of the NC Museum of Art in Raleigh as well as the NC Legislative Building in Raleigh (both in association with Holloway and Reeves) and the Mary Biddle Duke Music Building at Duke. Visit our newest archive featuring Stone’s many Modernist houses, part of the TMH Masters of Modern Gallery.

NEW on THE MARKET
1957 - The Ann Thibaut House, 1004 Highland Woods Road, Chapel Hill NC. Designed by Chicago architect Edward D. (Ned) Dart. Built by Van Thomas of Siler City NC. For sale, $279,000, here.

WANNA HELP? WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
Jump in and show off your special skills and talents and build a stronger TMH. We need volunteers to help fulfill our ongoing mission of documentation, preservation, and promotion of Modernist houses. Whatever your interest, we can mostly likely match you to a short-term volunteer project. Short on time? No problem. Online projects are plentiful. Or if you’re really into it, try some exciting field research work!
Kind regards,

George

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A North Carolina 501C3 Nonprofit for the Documentation, Preservation, and Promotion of Modernist Residential Architecture

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