Architecture You Love
July 16, 2012

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News this Week:
• The next T4A (Thirst4Architecture) Networking Happy Hour is 6-8pm, Thursday, July 19, at the home and office of Brian Shawcroft, 5215 Melbourne Road, Raleigh. This exciting, informal event is free and open to the public – or anyone with a huge crush on great architecture.

Rolling Stones, Brian Shawcraft was Raleigh's British invasion, turning out great Modernist houses in the state over the last 50+ years.
The Frank Lloyd Wright Auldbrass trip is getting close to full, with only 18 of 90 seats remaining. Not sure that far in advance? No problem. Your $100 deposit is fully refundable through April 2013 and transferable anytime. Details.
We've been monitoring the sad decline of the George and Beth Paschal House, a landmark Raleigh home in Country Club Hills designed by James Fitzgibbon. The family refuses to subdivide the land so the house, empty and deteriorating for five years, can be preserved separate from the other acreage. They also appear intractable about reducing the price to a reasonable level (currently $3.3M, down from a soaring $5M) so the land+house can be sold at all. Meanwhile, the landmark house sits, uninhabited and unrepaired. The buyer will need $300-400K easily to get it back in commission, but several local architects have figured out how to do it fairly easily. What you may not know is that a TMH reader from the UK, EJ (John) Kimber, wrote the News and Observer recently. His insightful, unusual inquiry prompted a feature story which appeared Saturday. His original letter is at the bottom of the page. Thanks, John, for your support from across the pond!

TMH will launch a National Endangered Alert for the Paschal House this week.

Have you voted yet for the Matsumoto Prize? Nearly 1400 people have so far! Voting closes at 5pm EST, next Sunday, July 22. Nineteen brilliant, eye-popping, Modernist house submissions for the Prize are on view! See houses from Mike Rantilla, Art Lin, Lindsay Smith, Jay Fulkerson, Eric Gartner, Vinny Petrarca, Chris Larson, Phil Szostak, Scott Odgen, Elihu Siegman and Michael Silverman, Bill Waddell, Ad Sebastian, Hunter Coffey, Kenneth Hobgood, Katherine Hogan, Will Alphin, Ellen Cassilly, and John Reese as their work compete for $6,000 in awards. Vote here.

Which houses will win? Which designers will win? The Matsumoto Prize Awards Ceremony is open to the public at the new AIA North Carolina Center for Architecture and Design, 14 E. Peace Street, Raleigh, 7pm on August 2. Discount advance tickets available now. Come meet the people behind these amazing houses!

Architect Rusty Long, formerly of Raleigh, has been appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission of Portsmouth VA. He is the only architect serving on the Commission as well as its youngest member.

On October 6, AIA Triangle will host its third annual juried Residential Architecture Tour. To learn more about the tour, visit the NEW AIAT Tour website, www.aiatriangletour.com and be inspired.

I'm writing from England to ask if anything can be done to save the Paschal House, 3334 Alamance Drive, Raleigh, from teardown. The house is in urgent need of renovation and the whole property is currently for sale for $3.3 million asking, in five deeded lots.

It is one of the few houses in existence by your eminent local architect James Fitzgibbon, who was a close associate of Buckminster Fuller and founder-member and Professor of Architecture at NCSU School of Design from 1953. Of the others the Nancy Fields Fadum house, 3056 Granville Drive, Raleigh, and the Robert Daniel house, 2701 Woodson Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee, are both historically of outstanding architectural quality. The Paschal house could easily be mistaken for a mid-century ranch style property like many others, but its 'Usonian' character provides an excellent example of mid-century modernist architectural enthusiasm of which North Carolina should be very proud.

It is ironic that just at a time when mid-century modernism is coming back into favour after a period of ostentatious architectural conservatism, many masterpieces of the style have already been demolished or only just preserved after fierce campaigns by enthusiasts. The Catalano house in Raleigh a few years ago is an excellent case in point. The latest endangered example is the David Wright house in Phoenix, Arizona, a late masterpiece by Frank Lloyd Wright and unlike any other Wright building. Too much fine American architecture has been lost to thoughtless redevelopment in the last few years. The Paschal House deserves historic monument status and I hope this letter from the UK reinforces the point that it is a building of international interest to architectural enthusiasts.