Monday, June 19, 2017

As we celebrate this the 150th birthday of Frank Lloyd
Wright, we must remember (and respect) that a whole lotta people just aren't into him. One was President Harry Truman, who said in 1957, two years before Wright died: "You can tell a lot about a country by the kind of building it has. ... I don't understand fellows like Lloyd Wright. I don't understand what gets into people like that. He started this whole business of chicken-coop and hen-house architecture, and I don't know why in the world he did it. I think that the building people do show what they are thinking for that period, and that's why I hope that one of these days we'll get back to some real architecture." Hat tip to Catherine Cramer.

Architect Bill Krisel passed away earlier this month. He was an icon of the Palm Springs school of mid-century Modernist houses and buildings, leaving thousands of treasured projects. See his houses here.

DC concrete lovers rejoice! The Brutalist Washington Map features 40 leading examples of Brutalist architecture in and around Washington DC from the Hirshhorn Museum and the J. Edgar Hoover Building (FBI HQ), Dulles Airport and Georgetown’s Lauinger Library to lesser known buildings like the the Woman’s National Democratic Club Annex, National
Presbyterian Church and Reston’s Lake Anne Plaza.

From Curbed: The David and Gladys Wright House in Phoenix, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, has been donated to Taliesin.


The George Matsumoto Prize

Wondering when voting for the 2017 George Matsumoto Prize will start? It will start on Monday, June 26. With a record number of submissions, this year’s houses will inspire you! We apologize for the delay.
New Tour: Modernism Week in Palm Springs CA, Monday-Sunday, February 19-25, 2018. Enjoy six nights and five days at Modernism Week for all-you-can-eat mid-century Modernist architecture, from art to furnishings to lifestyles to food to houses. There’s no other place in America with as many mid-century Modernist houses per square mile! You’ll fly to Los Angeles direct from RDU, then we have a private coach to Palm Springs. Are breakfasts included? Yes. Hotel? The swanky Hotel Skylark, of course! Dinners? Yes. Plus private tours, exclusive eye-popping Hollywood-style parties, and a walkable prime hotel location in Palm Springs. Our own private open bar. Did we forget to mention free Uber service? Wow, that’s incredible! Indeed. And there’s more…. a special private guided Palm Springs Modernist tour with MCM expert Trevor O’Donnell; a rare interior group tour of Sunnylands Estate, the "Western White House"; Admission to two exclusive parties thrown by Modernism Week, including events by the Architectural Design Center and the Palm Springs Museum of Art at places we just can’t reveal
right now! In the past we were in Leonardo DiCaprio's house and Kirk Douglas' house (Leo and Kirk, sad to say, were not). Details here.

Now on US Modernist Radio: Host George Smart reports from last February's Modernism Week in Palm Springs, speaking poolside from the Hotel Skylark with keynote speakers from the week including Todd Zeiger, Northern Regional Director for Indiana Landmarks; Jennifer Sandy, a Senior Field Officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and Marsh Davis the President of Indiana Landmarks. US Modernist Radio is sponsored by Sarah Sonke of ModHomes Realty. Listen on iTunes.
Connect with Mr. Modernism's Instagram feed and get daily doses of incredible Modernist houses from NCMH's Executive Director George Smart.
Just 4 seats left: The Frank Lloyd Wright/Fallingwater Tour, Thursday-Friday, September 14-15. Have you always wanted to see Fallingwater, Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece? Is it on your bucket list? It's the most famous Modernist house in America! Do the Wright thing and join NCMH on our annual trip this fall. Just a few miles away, there's another remarkable Wright house, Kentuck Knob, and a world-class outdoor sculpture garden? Join NCMH and our merry band of architectural adventurers as we make the pilgrimage to Fallingwater. This trip is a once-in-a-lifetime experience! Details.

Volunteers Needed in LA: From the comfort of your laptop, car, or both, be a volunteer USModernist field research
agent in Los Angeles. Research classic MCModernist houses online and/or in your car to solve the missing pieces of USModernist, the largest open digital archive for Modernist houses in the world. We're looking to complete our archives on Los Angeles-based architects Gregory Ain, Craig Ellwood, Raphael Soriano, Richard Neutra, John Lautner, Quincy Jones and more all found here. Field research agents volunteer about two hours a week, or about four hours every other week. This can be as simple as taking an afternoon to drive around, or a few hours at night to surf the web. Warning: hunting for and researching Modernist houses is seriously addictive, if you're really into architecture. You'll work with NCMH's Chief of Research, Catherine Cramer. Do you have the passion, curiosity, and available time? Send an email with your name, phone number, address, and which architects you're most interested in. Thanks!

NCMH's Executive Director George Smart speaks on Mayberry Modernism, North Carolina's legacy of amazing Modernist houses, at three North Carolina locations this summer. Free, just show up!

West Regional Library (Cary) Monday July 10th 7-815 PM
Northeast Regional Library (Raleigh) Thursday July 20th 7-815 PM
The 2017 Matsumoto Prize Awards @
Thirst4Architecture, Thursday, July 27, 6-8pm, McConnell Studios, Dupont Circle, Raleigh. This exciting, informal happy hour is free and open to the public. We welcome Modernist homeowners, architects, artists, designers, realtors, engineers, contractors, property investors, building managers, materials and furniture dealers - or anyone with a
huge crush on great architecture. Awards begin at 7pm. 2017 T4A's are sponsored by commercial and residential realtor Lesley McAdams. Free! Details.

PORT of RALEIGH

Thirst4Architecture, Thursday, August 17, 6-8pm, Port of Raleigh, a great Modern furniture and furnishings store at 416 McDowell Street in Raleigh. This exciting, informal happy hour is free and open to the public. We welcome Modernist homeowners, architects, artists, designers, realtors, engineers, contractors, property investors, building managers, materials and furniture dealers - or anyone with a huge crush on great architecture. 2017 T4A's are sponsored by commercial and residential realtor Lesley McAdams. Free! Details.