

From: USModernist Newsletter - George Smart <george@usmodernist.org>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2019 9:16 AM
To: george@usmodernist.org
Subject: USModernist: The Last Living Frank Lloyd Wright Client / Gordon Bunshaft + Thomas Jefferson / Goodbye Zach House



USModernist and NCModernist are part of Modernist Archive Inc, a North Carolina 501C3 nonprofit educational archive providing donors, volunteers, and advocates the information and organization they require to passionately engage the documentation, preservation, and promotion of residential Modernist architecture. Get connected to exciting [tours](#), [parties](#), [design competitions](#), and the show named as #2 in DWELL's [top nine architecture and design podcasts](#), [USModernist Radio](#). [View newsletter in browser](#). [See past newsletters](#).

Monday, November 4, 2019




Get your company, studio, or practice involved in the wildly growing mid-century Modernist movement documenting, preserving, and promoting residential Modernist design across the US! [Become a sponsor!](#)

USModernist [has an online store](#) - with all the thoroughly ridiculous coffee cups, logowear, and mousepads you could possibly want! All proceeds benefit USModernist's ongoing documentation, preservation, and promotion work.

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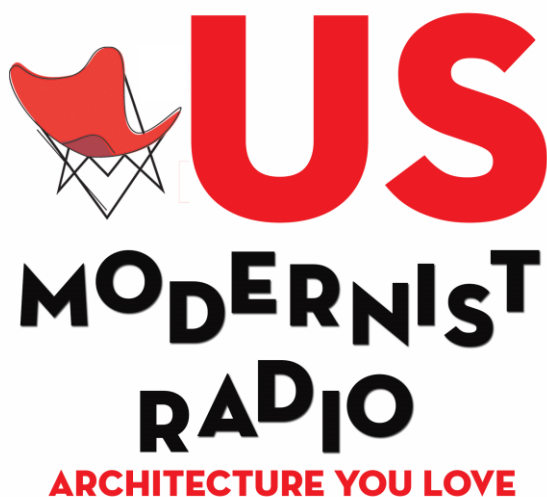
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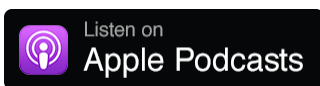


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New on USModernist Radio, named by DWELL as the #2 architecture and design podcast: Frank Lloyd Wright, now 60 years after his death, remains the most well-known

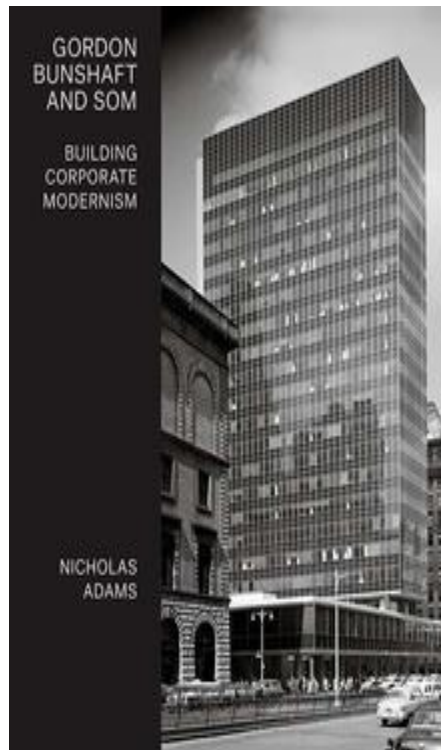
architect in America, perhaps the world. Notorious for his ego, which was matched only by his genius and talent, Wright would be delighted to be so this famous for so long. Wright would say, and he did, that he was the greatest architect ever, and for many, he was and still is. Roland Reisley was only 26 when he became Wright's client for a small house. Now Reisley is Wright's last living client still in the same lovely house in upstate New York, a small colony of Wright houses known as Usonia. The Usonian houses were the prototype for small affordable houses across America in a post-war time when affordable housing was needed. Unfortunately, the Usonians were not particularly economical nor small, but they remain beautiful designs that people rarely want to leave. Our George Smart, left, was on the road in New York and sat down with Reisley, right, this past summer. USModernist Radio is sponsored by [Angela Roehl](#) and [Nichiha.com](#). [View past and future show descriptions.](#)



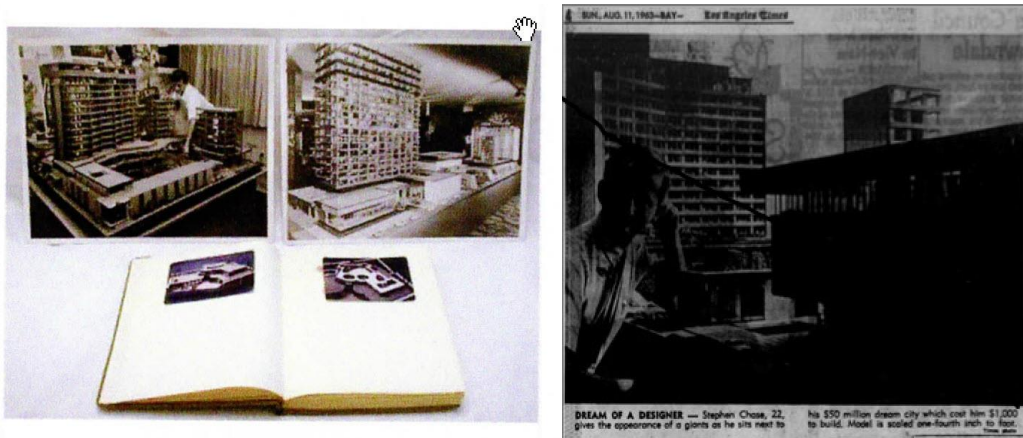
NEW: USModernist-Curated Architecture Tours: In 2016, USModernist created wildly popular specialty European tours - exclusive to Modernist architecture - but they were only offered once a year. Now, through an alliance with Firebird, one of Europe's largest specialty travel agencies, you can experience unique USModernist-curated European Modernist architecture itineraries all year long! You will see - and visit - incredible architecture, art, and designer furnishings - truly thrilling opportunities to see the Modernist architecture you love. [Details.](#)



[Paul Rudolph's](#) oceanfront masterwork in Ponte Vedra Beach FL, the Milam House, is still for sale after over two years on the market. Help spread the word and get this house a new loving owner!



New book available November 19: Gordon Bunshaft and SOM: Building Corporate Modernism, by Nicholas Adams. A 20th-century architect whose work defined the built aesthetic of corporate America, [Gordon Bunshaft's](#) landmark 1952 design for Lever House reshaped the Manhattan skyline and elevated the reputation of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), the firm where he would spend more than 40 years as a partner. Although this enigmatic architect left behind few records, his legacy endures in the corporate headquarters, museums, and libraries that were built in his distinctive modernist style. Bunshaft's career was marked by shifts in material. Glass and steel structures of the 1950s, such as New York's Chase Manhattan Bank, gave way to revolutionary designs in concrete, such as the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University and the doughnut-shaped Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, DC. Bunshaft received the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1988 and remains the only SOM partner to have achieved this distinction. See all his houses [here](#).



A Modernist Mystery: Designer Arthur Elrod first met the young Steve Chase when Chase exhibited a massive model at the 4th annual AID show at the Hollywood Palladium in June 1963, where Elrod likely did a display with John Lautner. Chase joined Elrod's firm in 1967. Chase's design scrapbook and 37 photos were sold on Ebay in 2012. Ebay records don't go back that far nor does the seller recall the buyer. The Palm Springs Art Museum would love to get them and USModernist is on the hunt on their behalf. Chase will be highlighted in a presentation + tour during next February's Modernism Week in Palm Springs CA. First person to provide verifiable information as to the Chase documents location gets a \$25 Starbucks gift card!





31 architectural adventurers traveled with USModernist this past weekend to Auldbrass, Frank Lloyd Wright's sprawling complex of buildings in South Carolina! Plus they visited an AIA award-winning house near Charleston by [Frank Harmon](#). bottom photo.



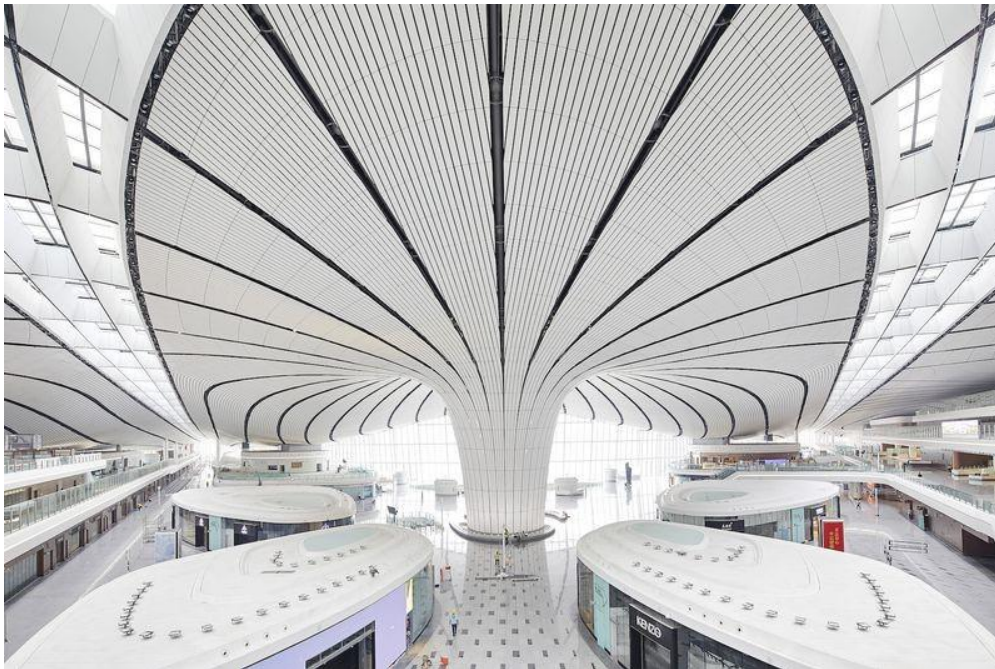
We lost a [Craig Ellwood](#) house, the Zach House, to LA fires. No word yet as to whether it will be

rebuilt. Meanwhile, the nearby Getty Center complex, designed to be fireproof, remains stable with no damage.

The World Monuments Fund issues its [watchlist of 25 endangered places](#).

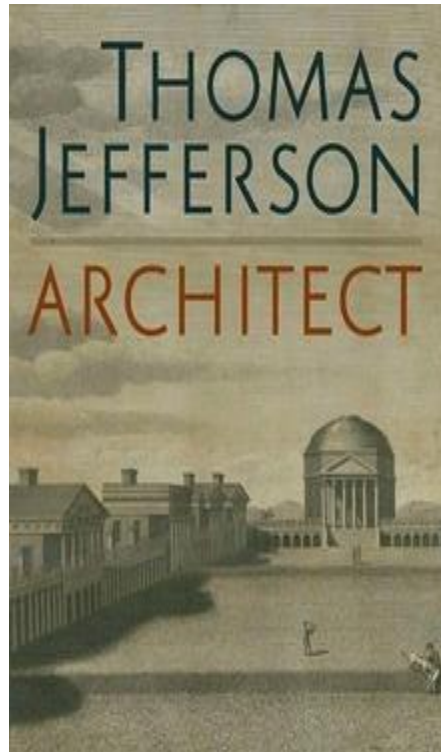
Ever wonder - why is there no union for architects when just about all other professions have them? The Architects Newspaper [explores this question](#).

An [upcoming auction](#) of incredible Scandinavian furniture!

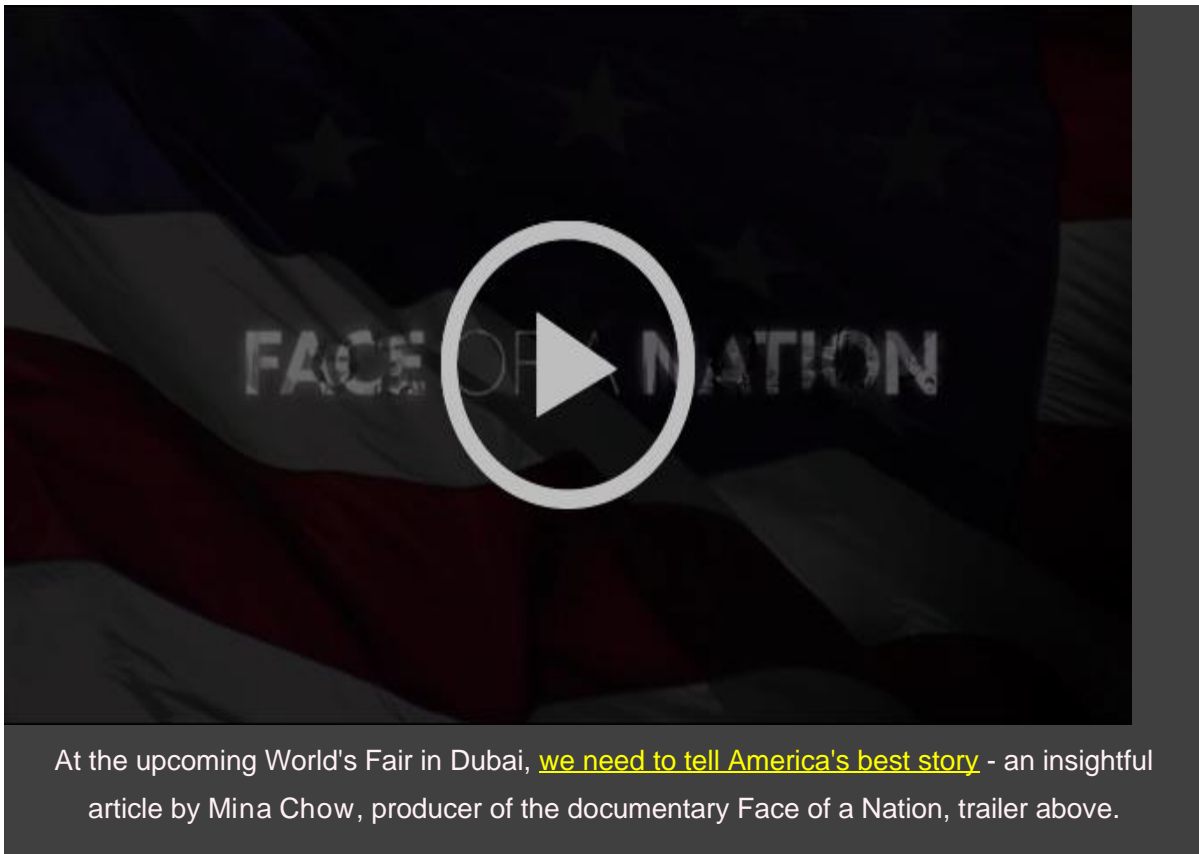


[Zaha Hadid's](#) new, massive, multi-billion-dollar Beijing Airport is open, and it's like no other. [More photos](#).

Hat tips to **Daniel Perrin**, **Lester Levine**, and **Virginia Faust**.



New book available tomorrow: *Thomas Jefferson, Architect*, by Lloyd DeWitt and Corey Piper, a compelling reassessment of Thomas Jefferson's architecture that scrutinizes the complex, and sometimes contradictory, meanings of his iconic work. Renowned as a politician and statesman, Jefferson was also one of the premier architects of the early United States. Adept at reworking Renaissance—particularly Palladian—and Enlightenment ideals to the needs of the new republic, Jefferson completed visionary building projects such as his two homes, Monticello and Poplar Forest; the Capitol building in Richmond; and the University of Virginia campus. In addition to a thorough introduction to Jefferson's career as an architect, the book provides insight into his sources of inspiration and a nuanced take on the contradictions between his ideas about liberty and his embrace of slavery, most poignantly reflected in his plan for the University of Virginia, which was carefully designed to keep enslaved workers both invisible and accessible.





Tonight, Monday, November 4, 730pm, the NCModernist/ModHomes Architecture Movie Series at the Chelsea Theatre, 1129 Weaver Dairy Road, Chapel Hill. The Chelsea is a beloved Chapel Hill art house theatre featuring fresh organic popcorn, craft beers, wine, and soft drinks! There are some great restaurants and coffee shops adjacent for pre- and post-movie gatherings. Sponsored again this year by Modernist Realtor [Sarah Sonke](#), these visually and intellectually compelling movies about Modernist architecture and architects rarely get shown in commercial theaters. Also sponsored by [Hill Country Woodworks](#). [Details, schedule, movies, trailers, and ticket information!](#) After the movie, Q&A by phone with the producer, Katherine Knight!



Strange and Familiar: Architecture on Fogo Island followed by phone Q&A with producer Katherine Knight. Fogo is a small, rocky outcropping off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada, with a population of just over 2000 people. Interspersed in its sub-

arctic natural landscape of lakes, rivers and mountains are eleven small settlements, and the island is now the scene for a collection of Modernist residences designed by Norwegian practice Saunders Architecture. Fogo's rocky wilderness and contemporary architectural interest was captured in a compelling and visually beautiful documentary film.



On October 7, the Durham City Council was going to vote on the fate of the [Milton Small Home Security Life Building](#) (former Police HQ) in Durham. Two development firms were finalists, Akridge and Fallon. The City staff recommended Fallon. That proposal was the only one which saved the building intact. In a move that surprised everyone, the Mayor delayed the vote a month and allowed new proposals by the two firms. Since then, Akridge also has kept the building basically intact, adding a pretty cool tower adjacent. The City staff are still recommending Fallon, and the next vote is tonight, Monday, November 4, 7pm, at City Hall.



This past weekend, architect [Ellen Cassilly](#) and her talented crew celebrated 20 years at their offices on Foster Street in Durham with a greatest hits project tour followed by a party for 60 of the firm's fans!



New to the NC Architect archives: [Bill Crawford](#).

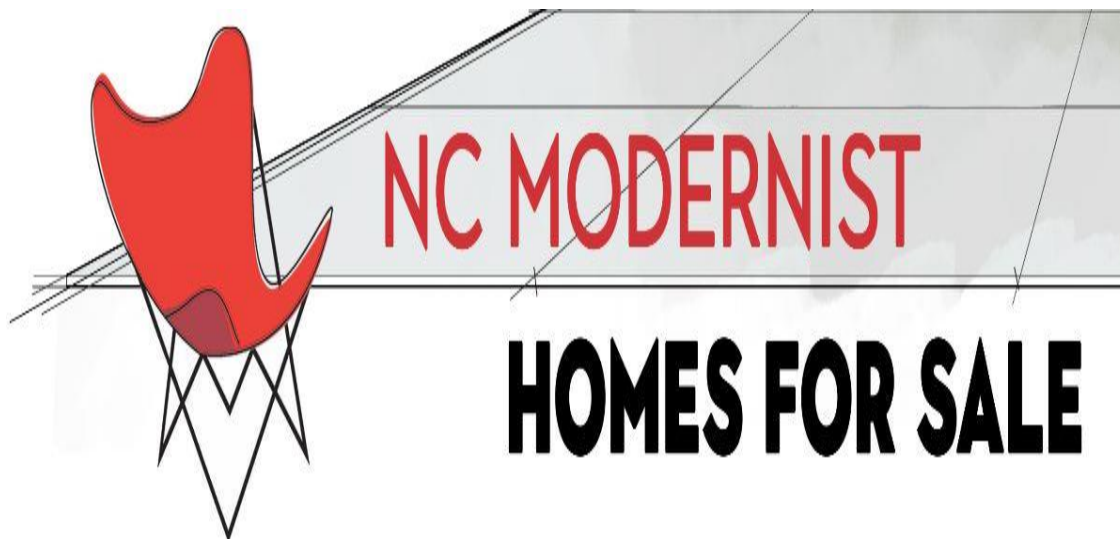


Thursday, November 21, 6-8pm. Thirst4Architecture (T4A) at the Ballroom and Work Hall at the East Street Building, and a party at the Transfer Company Food Hall next door at 500 East Davie Street, Raleigh! Thirst4Architecture (T4A) parties are free, exciting, informal events welcoming anyone with a huge crush on great architecture. T4A events focus on building relationships, sharing passion about Modernist design, creating strategic alliances, and connecting people. There are no presentations -- just come join the fun and make new design friends! The 2019 [Thirst4Architecture Series](#) is sponsored by Modernist Realtor [Angela Roehl](#).



Thursday, December 5, 6-8pm. Thirst4Architecture (T4A) at the under-construction Fairweather Condos, Raleigh's newest downtown housing, designed by Raleigh Architecture.

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Vacancy, not development, is the enemy of mid-century Modernist houses. Preserve and protect the architecture you love by buying or renting before the bulldozers come a few years from now. Visit our [exclusive statewide list](#).

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