USModernist and NCModerndist 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 11, 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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US NEWS
One of the co-founders of Okie Mod Squad, Lynne Rostochil, passed away at 53. She was honored by the Oklahoma City City Council with Lynne Rostochil Day on November 5 for her work preserving Modernist architecture.

Ten examples of metal houses.

Paul Rudolph's Government Service Center in Boston is threatened.

All about Albert Frey, one of the most famous architects in Palm Springs.
30 architectural adventurers went with USModernist on an all-modern tour of New York!. Here they are at the Oculus designed by Santiago Calatrava.

New on USModernist Radio, named by DWELL as the #2 architecture and design podcast!
In the lovely town of New Canaan CT, from the 1940s through the 1990s, no one was more influential than architect Philip Johnson. His internationally-famous Glass House celebrated its 70th anniversary recently with a huge outdoor party and aerial performance by Philippe Petit, known for his daring and highly unauthorized wirewalk between the World Trade Center towers pre-2001. New Canaan is full of mid-century Modernist architecture from Johnson, Eliot Noyes, Marcel Breuer, John Hedjuk, and John Johansen, collectively known as the Harvard Five, plus other architects such as Edward Durell Stone, Frank Lloyd Wright, and James Evans. Host George Smart sat down inside the Johnson-designed 1953 Wiley House with Inger Stringfellow and Cristina Ross. 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.
New book available now: Breaking Ground: Architecture by Women, by Jane Hall. A ground-breaking visual survey of architecture designed by women from the early twentieth century to the present day. 'Would they still call me a diva if I were a man?' asked Zaha Hadid, challenging as she did so more than a century of stereotypes about female architects. In the same spirited approach, the book is a pioneering visual manifesto of more than 200 incredible buildings designed by women all over the world. Featuring twentieth-century icons such as Julia Morgan, Eileen Gray and Lina Bo Bardi, and the best contemporary talent, from Kazuyo Sejima to Elizabeth Diller and Grafton Architects, this book is, above all else, a ground-breaking celebration of extraordinary architecture.

New book available December 10: Eileen Gray: Her Life and Work, by Peter Adam. Eileen Gray began as a creator of opulent lacquer furniture and transformed into a pioneer of modernist design. Staying firmly independent, she developed a distinctive take on materials favored by fellow International Style designers, such as Le Corbusier, Charlotte Perriand, and Mies van der Rohe. This new edition of the biography by Adam, the only surviving person to have been close to Gray during her later years, is a uniquely intimate survey of her life and work, including fresh details about her largely overlooked paintings, exchanges with Le Corbusier, and the fate of E-1027, the first building she designed.
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!

Hat tips to Daniel Perrin, Catherine Cramer, and Virginia Faust.
Monday, December 2, 7:30pm, 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
Frey Part 1. Albert Frey, the unpretentious Swiss-born mid-20th century architect, aided in the introduction of Corbusian-influenced modernism to the United States and through an innate curiosity of the American landscape, developed an extraordinary design style, blending industrial techniques and a love of nature. The film explores Albert's early life and work in Europe to his New York architectural accomplishments in the 1930s. Followed by phone Q&A with producer Jake Gorst.
GREAT NEWS: On November 4, the Durham City Council voted 6-0 to allow the Fallon Company to develop the building and site of the Milton Small Home Security Life Building (former Police HQ). The building will be saved and become the center piece of an entire block of retail, commercial, residential, and affordable residential. Kudos to Fallon's competitor, the Akridge Group, and their architect Perkins+Will, for also proposing to save the building (with some attractive modifications).
In Charlotte, they are going to get North Carolina's second Snohetta-designed building (the first is the Jim Hunt Library in Raleigh).

We've just added a book of Raleigh houses to the NCModernist Documents Library. They're not Modernist, but Houses by Coffey chronicles the history of early 20th century houses in the Hayes Barton area of Raleigh NC. Scroll down to 1940. Hat tip to John Coffey.

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

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.

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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