USModernist and NCModernist are part of Modernist Archive Inc, a 501C3 nonprofit educational archive with a mission to provide donors, volunteers, and advocates the information and organization they require to passionately engage the documentation, preservation, and promotion of residential Modernist architecture. View newsletter in browser. See past newsletters Online store.

Monday, May 11, 2020

Note: NCModernist.org is back up! It was down last week for server upgrades.

Get your firm, organization, company, studio, or practice connected to fans of the mid-century Modernist movement documenting, preserving, and promoting residential Modernist design across the US! Become a sponsor!
Look for daily giveaways on all the Mr. Modernism, USModernist, and NCModernist Instagram feeds!
Ever wanted to go on the Chicago Architecture Tour? Now you can, via Zoom.

LACMA, the Los Angeles Contemporary Museum of Art, was partially bulldozed to make way for a controversial, wildly expensive, and still woefully underfunded new building.
Remember last week, when we reported that 17 Nautilus was endangered in Melbourne, Australia? It's gone now.

Truly, the Modernist deal of the year, a Paul Rudolph house in Sarasota, FL, for $395K! Santa, are you reading this?
New Book: Broken Glass, by Alex Beam, all about the Farnsworth House by Mies Van der Rohe. Look for an upcoming interview with Beam on USModernist Radio.

Corrected link from last week: Rancho Mirage, a pleasant city near Palm Springs, CA, has not updated its historic resources survey since 2002. Woefully incomplete and dated, the city-sponsored survey is a prerequisite to protecting a property from being destroyed. Citizens have been told that any kind of update is out of the question. Recently, the Hyatt von Dehn Residence was torn down and could have been saved had the survey been updated. The property was vacant and for sale for three years until it was purchased late last year by new owners who told people they planned to restore the house the original design. Then, like what happened with Richard Neutra’s Maslon house years ago, the house was suddenly destroyed. More like these will be bulldozed unless the survey is updated. You can add your support for a new survey by writing to the City Council members.
New: #143/Modernism Week: Architecture Movies Part 1. Nowhere in the world celebrates Modernism better than Palm Springs, CA. Every February, they have a huge architecture and design festival called Modernism Week, which actually lasts 11 days. Today in the first of two shows about architecture-related movies, host George Smart talks with filmmakers Jake and Tracey Gorst of Frey Part 2: The Architectural Interpreter, and later he visits with P. David Ebersole and Todd Hughes, directors of the new Pierre Cardin film, House of Cardin. USModernist Radio is sponsored by Modernist realtor Angela Roehl and Nichiha.com.

Two of Jake and Tracey Gorst’s architecture documentaries, The Nature of Modernism: E. Stewart Williams and Modern Tide: Midcentury Architecture on Long Island, are now available on Amazon Prime.

USModernist Radio is on Pandora! New to podcasts? You can also listen to USModernist Radio through any computer. See past shows.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 13: Glass House Summer Party, New Canaan, CT. Postponed, date TBA.
September 26: The Charlotte NC Mad About Modern Tour is being reviewed and may change under a new format. Details at a later date.
October 15-18: Modernism Week Fall Preview in Palm Springs, CA, features a variety of new and favorite events including architectural walking tours, festive cocktail parties, home tours, stimulating lectures. [Tickets available] beginning at noon PT on Sunday, August 1.

October 23-24: New Canaan Modern Tour, New Canaan, CT.

November 6-8: The SAF presents SarasotaMOD Weekend 2020 honoring [Carl Abbott].

There are so many ways you can contribute to USModernist! Here are three:

Have you got old architecture magazines, new-ish architecture books (especially coffee table books), or any architecture documentaries on DVD? We’ll provide free pickup or shipping, and you’ll get a nice tax deduction! Contact [George Smart] at george@usmodernist.org.

Have you got an iconic mid-century chair, table, or clock (Eames, Barcelona, Noguchi, Nelson, etc.)? We’ll provide free pickup or shipping, and you’ll get a nice tax deduction! Contact [Rebekah Laney] at rebekah@usmodernist.org.
Getting a little bored at home? USModernist's crowd-research project needs volunteers to scout the internet, as we more fully document 8,000 iconic Modernist houses across America. It's incredibly fun to put together clues, in your sweatpants from your laptop, to find America's rich legacy of Modernist design. Email carie@usmodernist.org.

Hat tips to Daniel Perrin, Catherine Cramer, and Virginia Faust.
Marvin Malecha passed away last week in California at 70. He was longtime dean of the NC State University College of Design and a world-renowned leader in architectural education. The mural above was painted by first-year design students in 2010 as a tribute to Malecha, who taught the first-year class, Design Thinking. Malecha was a graduate of the University of Minnesota and Harvard University. In 2015, he was awarded the title of Professor Honoris Causa by Ion Mincu University in Bucharest, Romania. He held many roles within the American Institute of Architects, including that of president in 2009. He was also a fellow of the AIA and a distinguished professor of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and served as the ACSA president between 1989 and 1990. Among the many awards he received, Malecha was granted the AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion for excellence in architectural education and the AIA North Carolina F. Carter Williams Gold Medal for Architecture.

Thanks to the four authors Catherine Bishir, Charlotte Brown, Carl Lounsbury, and Ernest Wood III, their classic 1990 book, Architects and Builders in North Carolina: A History of the Practice of Building, is now available free online.
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 here.

Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to:
North Carolina Modernist Houses

When you schedule a free conversation about solar for your house, USModernist receives a $50 donation!

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