Monday, June 15, 2020

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Vote for your favorite house in this year's 2020 George Matsumoto Prize, North Carolina's highest honor exclusively for Modernist residential architecture. Voting is open to anyone! We've got a record number of houses from the mountains to the coast. Limited to one vote per email address. Addresses that are or appear to be machine-generated or fraudulent will not be counted. However, if you want to vote more than once, say from a home email and a work email, that's fine. The 2020 George Matsumoto Prize is powered by Nichiha. Voting closes at 5pm ET, July 1. Everyone who votes receives a free subscription to this newsletter! Vote here.

From Dezeen: Frank Lloyd Wright's School of Architecture moves to Paolo Soleri's Cosanti and Arcosanti campuses in Phoenix, AZ. The difficult split with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation means the famed school, which Wright established in the late 1930's, will leave all buildings owned by the foundation and must forego the name Taliesin.

A letter to Mies from Dash Marshall, an architect renovating one of his buildings.

The wonderful world of Michigan Modernism.
Philip Johnson's Glass House in New Canaan CT opens back up on a limited basis June 22.

Michael Kimmelman on the ethics of architects designing death chambers.

From ArchDaily: a stunning new horizontal park - in the air - designed by Moshe Safdie.
Architect Cesar Pelli's Bank of California in San Jose CA is in danger of destruction.

Kate Wagner on the vaporware of design, PR-chitecture: proposed projects, ideas, and innovations that generate a lot of hype and publicity and yet never materialize.

New: #148/Last Flight Outta New York: Julia Gamolina and Gene Kaufman. Host George Smart talks with two architects in New York the day before COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. Born in Russia, raised in Canada, and now living in the US, architect Julia Gamolina has been a runaway success as the founder of Madame Architect, publishing over 100 interviews with women who advance the practice
of architecture and affiliated fields, celebrating women from different generations, countries, and corners of the industry. Then it’s a subway ride to meet Gene Kaufman, the most successful hotel architect in New York and the head of legendary design firm Gwathmey Siegel Kaufman. USModernist Radio is sponsored by Modernist realtor Angela Roehl and Nichiha.com.

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

Useful search tips that work in Google Search for both USModernist and NCModerlist:
1. Find an architect's archive by typing their last name and the name of the relevant website: as examples, Lautner USModernist or Szostak NCModerlist.
2. To find a specific house in our archives, put the address in quotes, leave off the street type (Av, Rd, St, etc.) and the name of the relevant website: as examples, "2460 Sunset" USmodernist or "114 Glendale" NCModerlist.
3. Find a specific house on all sites: put the address in quotes, leave off the street type (Av, Rd, St, etc.) and the name of the architect: as examples, "2460 Sunset" Neutra or "114 Glendale" Szostak.

Access to legacy publications has never been more critical for Modernist preservation. Many thanks to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, especially Art Archivist Librarian Malia Van Heukelem, for donating approximately 200,000 pages of architecture magazines to the USModernist Library. That's about the height of a five-story building, if you stack them all up. The USModernist Library is the world’s largest open digital collection of major US 20th-century architecture publications, with approximately 2.8 million searchable pages - all free to access. Other sponsors and donors include the Smithsonian Institution, Atomic Ranch, Philip Kennedy-Grant, AIA New York, AIA Virginia, AIA Chicago, AIA North Carolina, AIA National, the Savannah College of Art and Design, Robert Keil, Julie Taylor, Michael Raso, Palm Springs Museum of Art, Cranbrook, Baltimore Museum of Art, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Ben Taylor, Christine Madrid French, Anonymous Vodka, and Bill Ruggieri.
September 26: The Charlotte NC Mad About Modern Tour will change to a virtual format. Details TBA.
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 will change to a virtual format. Details TBA.
November 6-8: The SAF presents SarasotaMOD Weekend 2020 honoring Carl Abbott.

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

Look for daily giveaways on all the Mr.Modernism, USModernist, and NCModernist Instagram feeds!

Have you got old architecture magazines, new architecture books (especially coffee table books), or any architecture documentaries on DVD or Bluray (even VHS)? 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.

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

Hat tips to Daniel Perrin, Catherine Cramer, and Virginia Faust.
Endangered House Alert! Vacant for seven years, the Bill Hopkins design at 4124 Picardy in Raleigh is up for sale as a teardown. Evoking Charles Gwathmey, one of Hopkin's inspirations as a young architect, the house may be too far gone to recover. But hey, some people like a challenge. Could it be you? Here's the listing.
**New Mod Squad Membership Deal!**  Mod Squad members provide financial support for USModernist and NCModernist and our award-winning work with the documentation, preservation, and promotion of residential Modernist architecture. This thriving community of people dedicated to Modernist residential design is into art, food, travel, furniture, fashion, and fun. Mod Squad membership connects you with these like-minded people, building new and meaningful relationships!

We have re-engineered Mod Squad memberships with a **new, less expensive, more convenient membership plan**! Now you can be a deeper part of the community for only $9.99 a month - **plus your first month is free**. Applies to new members - or renewals! [Details.](#)

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. Visit our exclusive statewide list [here.](#)

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