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recent past preservation network

# BULLETIN

Vol. 1 No. 4 Fall 2010

## AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

PRENTICE WOMEN'S HOSPITAL— BERTRAND GOLDBERG'S  
MODERN CHICAGO LANDMARK— IS AT RISK.  
LEARN ABOUT THE EFFORT TO SAVE IT.

PLUS:

THE SIXTIES TURN 50: SAVING LOS ANGELES' 1960S LEGACY

CAPTURING DESIGN: USING PHOTOGRAPHY AS AN ADVOCACY TOOL

DEMOLITION PENDING: PHILLIS WHEATLEY ELEMENTARY

HIAWASEE DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOCUSES ON ATOMIC AGE

GEORGE SMART TAKES MAYBERRY MODERNISM ON THE ROAD



Maintaining the nation's largest archive of Modernist houses isn't enough for George Smart, founder and director of Triangle Modernist Houses (TMH), an award-winning non-profit based in the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill "Triangle" region of North Carolina. To further the TMH three-fold mission of documentation, preservation, and promotion, he has developed a popular road show called "Mayberry Modernism: North Carolina's Modern Legacy."

RPPN featured George and THM in the April 2010 Bulletin ("Love Triangle" by Jane Andrews), explaining the group's history and its ongoing fight against vacancy in mid-century moderns. "Contrary to popular belief, the enemy to preservation is not the developer taking

Through "Mayberry Modernism," Smart offers why North Carolina has so many, why they're endangered, and how the design-loving public can get involved in the TMH mission. Smart customized each presentation to the city where he speaks, connecting local examples of architectural gems to the nation's Modernist history. He teaches audiences how to recognize Modernist houses and what they can and should do to help preserve them.

"Meeting planners can dial up any length from seven to sixty minutes," says Smart, "with most choosing the more detailed talk featuring a lively musical PowerPoint gallery at the end. This showcases all the AIA North Carolina award-winning Modernist houses since 1951—especially the architectural gems lost to the wrecker's

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BY KIM WEISS



advantage of an empty but beautiful houses," says Smart. "The foe of Modernist houses is vacancy. So a big part of our mission is to keep these homes owned, rented, occupied, loved, and on the public radar through our website [www.trianglemodernisthouses.com](http://www.trianglemodernisthouses.com)."

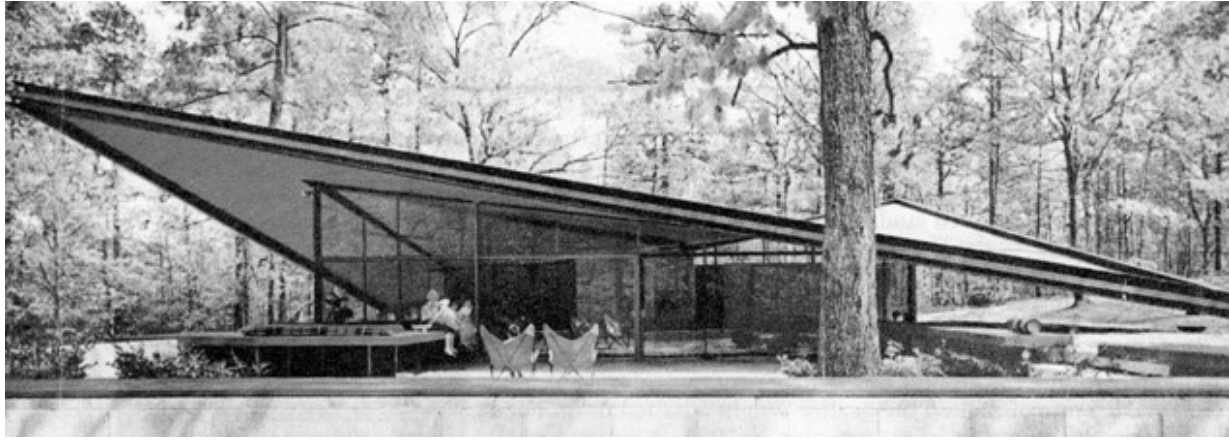
Since March of this year, Smart has been traveling all over his state speaking to Rotary Clubs and other civic groups, historic preservation organizations, urban design centers, American Institute of Architects chapters, and late-night "ignite" and "Pecha Kucha" crowds. His message: North Carolina contains the third largest collection of Modernist houses in the country (bested only by Los Angeles and Chicago) and we'd better pay attention to them before they disappear — as so many Victorian-era houses did in the '70s and '80s.

ball such as the Eduardo Catalano House razed in 2001."

Smart derived the name for his presentation from the *Andy Griffith Show*, which was set in the fictional town of Mayberry. "If you'll recall," he tells audiences, "Barney Fife loved to visit Raleigh. I like to think that he spent his time there driving around looking at all the Modernist houses, so today we'll explore what Barney saw!"

In September, Smart presented during Preservation North Carolina's annual statewide conference, held this year in Durham. Last year, he spoke on a panel of seasoned preservationists during the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Conference in Nashville.

**CATALANO HOUSE.** The former Catalano House in Raleigh, designed by Eduardo Catalano in 1954. It was publicized as the “House of the Decade” by House and Home Magazine in 1956 and praised by Frank Lloyd Wright. Successive owners, vacancy, and ultimately neglect left it irreparable. It was razed in 2001—six years before TMH was founded.



So far “Mayberry Modernism” has been seen most often in North Carolina, but Smart is considering expanding across the U.S. to help other communities preserve their Modernist houses through his popular model. “If you love Modernist houses and you think you’re alone, you’re not. I’ll help you build strong interest and support for the ‘livable works of art’ in your community.”

To schedule George Smart for “Mayberry Modernism,” contact him at [george@triangleModernisthouses.com](mailto:george@triangleModernisthouses.com). For more information on the Mayberry Modernism presentation and where George has spoken, visit [www.triangleModernisthouses.com/presentations](http://www.triangleModernisthouses.com/presentations). ■



**FLEET HOUSE.** The 1970 Doug Fleet House on Figure Eight Island, NC, designed by John Robert Oxenfield, AIA, with landscape architecture by Dick Bell, FASLA. Photograph by Gordon Schenck.



**(top left) CARR HOUSE.** The 1958 Carr House in Durham, designed by Kenneth Scott, AIA. When it was endangered in 2009, TMH helped find new buyers who appreciate the beauty and historic significance of the house. Photograph by Lewis Clark.

**(middle) FADUM HOUSE.** The 1950 Nancy Fields Fadum House in Raleigh, designed by James Fitzgibbon. Photograph by Leilani Carter.

**(bottom left) STRICKLAND HOUSE.** The 2004 Lynda Strickland and Marty Ferris House in Raleigh, designed by Frank Harmon, FAIA. Photograph by Timothy Hursley.