

Modernism-By-The-Sea: Mid-century Architecture in the Monterey Bay
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Syllabus

Monterey stands to the San Francisco Bay Area as Palm Springs stands to Greater Los Angeles. Similar patterns of weekend or seasonal migrations have been taking place ever since they became a built reality. Numerous architects (Mark Mills), artists (Edward Weston), and writers (Henry Miller) elected to settled in the Monterey Bay and contribute to their field from there. This course surveys the extraordinary, yet still unaccounted, Mid-century architectural legacy of the Monterey Peninsula in its full array of design expressions.

Lesson 1. FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AND HIS FOLLOWERS IN MONTEREY

The Walker House in Carmel is one of the great masterpieces of 20th century architecture. Frank Lloyd Wright's involvement through client and patron Della Brooks triggered a tradition of organic architecture whose excellence is quietly spread throughout the region. Mark Mills' "Wingspread" design for Nathaniel Owings, founder of Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill, and Rowan Maiden's Nepenthe, a restaurant with a spectacular view of the coast are two of the most visible landmarks in that lineage. This talk covers the players and their works in the area.

Lesson 2. SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS IN MONTEREY.

A number of consequential figures in California Modernism either moved permanently to Monterey or left a significant number of works. Gordon Drake, initially based in Los Angeles was based in Carmel for a couple of years and designed important projects for the development of modernity in the region. Charles Sumner Greene, of the Greene & Greene Brothers, architects of the Gamble House in Pasadena, settled and worked in the area. Noted architectural photographer Morley Baer moved to Monterey as well and recorded much of the architecture happenings. This will be the subject of the second delivery.

Lesson 3. WILLIAM WURSTER AND MONTEREY

Noted architect William Wurster realized a number of residences throughout his career in the area chronicling both changes in his design signature as well as in the architectural trends in the area. His works determined another lineage of residential living where the relationship with the land found a distinct flavor altogether different than what Frank Lloyd Wright and his acolytes were advocating for through their organic architecture in the area. This less delves into 40 years of architectural output of one of the most powerful cultural influencers of American architecture in the 20th century.

Lesson 4. A GALLERY OF CELEBRATE AND UNSUNG GREATS IN MONTEREY.

This conclusive talk surveys the diverse offering of architectural ideas determining the modernist heritage on the Monterey Peninsula. Henry Hill, Anshen + Allen, Edward Durell Stone, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, and countless others graced that territory with remarkable achievements intermittently accounted in architectural history books. In assessing the thick tradition of modernity through buildings, characters, ideas, and cultural activators, among them Pauline Schindler, wife of Rudolf Schindler and editor in chief of the local magazine *The Carmelite*, a more precise understanding of the depth of the contribution of the local community to modern architecture will emerge.