

New Canaan Modern Home Survey
Goals of Project
October 10, 2007

The objective of this project is to complete a comprehensive survey of approximately 100 architect-designed mid 20th century homes, outbuildings and landscapes built between 1935-1979 in New Canaan, Ct.

The survey objectives are:

1. To identify and document the range of mid-20th century architect designed Modern houses in New Canaan;
2. To develop and promote consistent methodology and nomenclature for the study of mid-century Modern residences; and
3. To adapt and apply standard criteria for evaluating the integrity and significance of Modern residences and related resources in a replicable manner.

The comprehensive survey project is the fundamental first step towards scholarly evaluation of Modernist resources in New Canaan. Research, fieldwork and photography generated in the course of the survey will serve as the basis for resource evaluation, preservation planning and the eventual nomination of selected resources to the National Register of Historic places.

The New Canaan survey will establish a methodological framework (including procedures, criteria, standards and nomenclature) for surveying other mid-20th century Modern buildings in Connecticut. Successful aspects of the methodology will be promoted as models for replication in other states and communities with dense concentrations of modern resources.

In addition to providing a comprehensive inventory of Modernist structures in New Canaan, the survey project will help develop a network of Modern Homeowners, broaden the awareness of “recent past” landmarks and build momentum for the preservation and care of Modernist buildings.