

March 3, 2008

Dear xxx,

Our Modern Survey is now at the halfway point and we wanted to provide you with an update and express our gratitude for your participation. This survey will not only help develop a “thematic nomination” for the unique modern resources we have in New Canaan, but will also help create the “language” and tools necessary for the new preservation field of Modernism and the Recent Past.

Our survey has identified over 100 modern homes still existing in New Canaan. Through the years we believe over 15 modern homes may have been lost. Of those 100 identified, we have personally visited and surveyed 60 homes and are still finishing these initial surveys. This first phase of work will result in the following items:

- Surveys on nearly all New Canaan modern homes to show the breadth of Moderns in our community
- A historic “Context Statement”: an essay defining modernism locally and within the context of other communities of moderns across the U.S.
- A glossary: a list of descriptive terms (with corresponding photos) specific to modern homes to help create a common preservation vernacular across the U.S.

As you know all three of these outcomes will positively affect national recognition of moderns – the context statement and the glossary will be helpful to communities from Palm Springs to Sarasota in their own Modern Preservation efforts. This makes our New Canaan modern survey very rewarding – locally and nationally.

For our next phase we will be visiting a number of these homes again to help further define the architectural details and materials used by the architects. We know, from studying these materials, that Modern Preservation has unique challenges such as the need for replacement versus restoration given material failure or simple wear and tear. Those challenges are ones that the National Trust for Historic Preservation hopes to address at the Secretary of Interior level to ensure the integration of this new field of preservation. This second phase will also involve an oral history component for all original homeowners and architects. We are lucky to have such a community!

We will be connecting with you over the coming months for additional information or to provide updates. Our estimated date of completion is May 2008 when we will pull all of our participants together for a celebration and overview.

Two notes of thanks-first to our funder-Connecticut’s Department of Culture & Tourism for their support- and to you, the modern homeowner for your participation. As a special thank you we would like you to have a copy of the Glass House book which was published in celebration of the Glass House Opening. We hope you enjoy this book – it is a limited edition and captures the details of the Glass House site with the same lens with which we have enjoyed looking at your homes.

Sincerely,

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