Modern Times

Three Mid-Century Modern architectural gems in honor of Frank Lloyd Wright’s 150th birthday

The Edris House
10350 West Cielo Drive, Palm Springs, California

* Designed by “Desert Modern” pioneer E. Stewart Williams, the Edris House is one of Palm Springs’ most iconic Mid-Century homes—and with National Register of Historic Places and Palm Springs Class I Historic Site designations to prove it. This three-bedroom, three-bathroom house emphasizes the property’s sweeping views of the Coachella Valley thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows that slide seamlessly into the Douglas fir paneled ceiling. An open floor plan maximizes the house’s 2,000 square feet, including plenty of room for hosting, and boasts a stone hearth in the living room and an entertainment terrace overlooking a freeform swimming pool.

$2,900,000 | christiesrealestate.com

The Wiley House
514 Sleepy Hollow Road, New Canaan, Connecticut

The Basics: Even among New Canaan’s impressive collection of Mid-Century Modern structures—which most famously includes Philip Johnson’s Glass House—the Wiley House is stand-out. Johnson, who is perhaps best known for Manhattan’s Seagram Building (and its Four Seasons New York restaurant), built the house in the early 1960s for real estate developer Robert C. Wiley, just a few years after completing its forebear, the Glass House. The 4,016-square-foot residence is centered on a double-height glass pavilion that contains a living room and spacious kitchen, cantilevered over a flagstone base that comprise four bedrooms and five full bathrooms.

The Lifestyle: Less than a 90-minute drive from New York City, tranquil New Canaan is a perfect weekend escape. This 6,35-acre property is located off a quiet, wooded drive just 10 minutes from the commuter train station and downtown, where you can find upscale boutiques, restaurants, and cafes. Should you desire additional design inspiration, check out the town’s 90-plus Mid-Century Modern homes from the 1950s, built by the “Harvard Five” group of modernist architects, including Johnson and Marcel Breuer.

The Extras: Johnson selected the site for the Wiley House because of the property’s gentle hills and grove of historic trees. The vintage (but restored) circular swimming pool features an original diving pad, while the pool house, which has a full bathroom and kitchen and adjoins the 4,620-square-foot barn-powered art gallery, was added to the property in 2006.

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Case Study #21
9038 Wonderland Drive, Los Angeles

* Modernist architect Pierre Koenig built the award-winning one-story, acid-stained concrete Case Study program, which commissioned major architects of the day to design and build homes during the postwar housing boom. Located in a Hollywood Hills canyon, the 5,800-square-foot house is organized around a central core that has two full bathrooms and a bedroom, while the two bedrooms face the hills. A street-facing space, steel wall on one side provides privacy, and floor-to-ceiling windows in the front and back help merge the interior with the surrounding landscape.

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