



July 2012

Dear Members, Friends and Neighbors,

As we approach our seventh anniversary, Friends of Modern Architecture (FoMA) continues to pursue its core mission of raising awareness of Modern residential architecture in Lincoln. As many of you already know, in addition to the celebrated houses designed by Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer, Lincoln has an extensive collection of Modern houses dating from 1937 to 1969, many of which were designed by faculty from the schools of architecture at MIT and Harvard. With distinguished examples from every decade from the late 1930s (including some of the earliest Modern houses built in New England) to the 1960s, Lincoln's collection of pre- and post-war Modern architecture is a treasured asset that merits our attention.

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It has been FoMA's ongoing objective to engage and inform residents and the public about Modernism through house tours, the screening of films, and sponsorship of lectures and panel discussions. Events this past season included a tour in September, 2011, of the elegantly minimal house designed by Earl Flansburgh for his family in 1963; and a film titled "Modern Views - A Conversation on Northwest Modern Architecture" that was screened in January, 2012, during Winter Carnival. FoMA also collaborated with and supported the Town of Lincoln in its efforts to preserve from demolition the home given to the Town by Florence Hollingsworth.

We continue to work with students from the Boston Architectural College on a survey of Lincoln's Modern houses. The survey documents the exteriors of the buildings and captures important basic information, including original owner, architect, site description, building materials, and other relevant historical facts. FoMA's inventory supplements similar ongoing inventories conducted by the Lincoln Historical Commission to document Lincoln's older historic buildings. We consider ourselves fortunate to have had the assistance this year of two very capable BAC students, Cindy Samson and Robyn Driscoll. Cindy and Robyn receive academic credit for their work on the inventory and Lincoln benefits from their hard work.

In other news, FoMA was invited to participate in Art and Design 20/21 in Boston in March, 2012. Advisory Board member, Katherine Mierzwa, presented a talk on the Alcoa aluminum house in Lincoln. Another priority has been the updating of the appearance and content of FoMA's website. We have added fresh new images and have supplemented the number of links to related sites. The real estate section now has more comprehensive listings of Modern houses currently on the market which we hope will be a useful tool for new buyers interested in the preservation of Modernist architecture.

Our plans for the upcoming year include an architecture-based film series and a symposium and house tour next fall on the development of the Deck house in Lincoln. Built in the 1960s, they feature post-and-beam construction, open floor plans, new technology, openness to the landscape, and minimal impact on the land. Costs were reduced by using pre-fabricated parts and modular systems. There are more than 80 Deck houses in town, more than any other style of Modern architecture. We expect to have a lively series of lectures on the Deck house theme, tours of interesting houses, and a celebratory party for tour participants and homeowners at the end of the tour. If you love your Deck house and would like to participate, please contact FoMA as soon as possible.

Please feel free to contact any of FoMA's board members if you have questions about our organization or its mission. We invite you to check the FoMA website for upcoming programs and more details about our fall event, and we hope you will continue to offer your generous support. Please remember to return the enclosed envelope with membership form along with your check at your earliest convenience. And thank you again for your support.

Kind regards,

Paul Giese and Sandra Grindlay, Membership Committee