



THE VERY MODEL OF A MAJOR MODERN HOUSE TOUR

THE FIFTH ANNUAL PORTLAND MODERN HOME TOUR HAS DWELLINGS FROM MANY ERAS TO EXPLORE | **PAGES 4-5**

STEPHANIE YAO LONG/STAFF

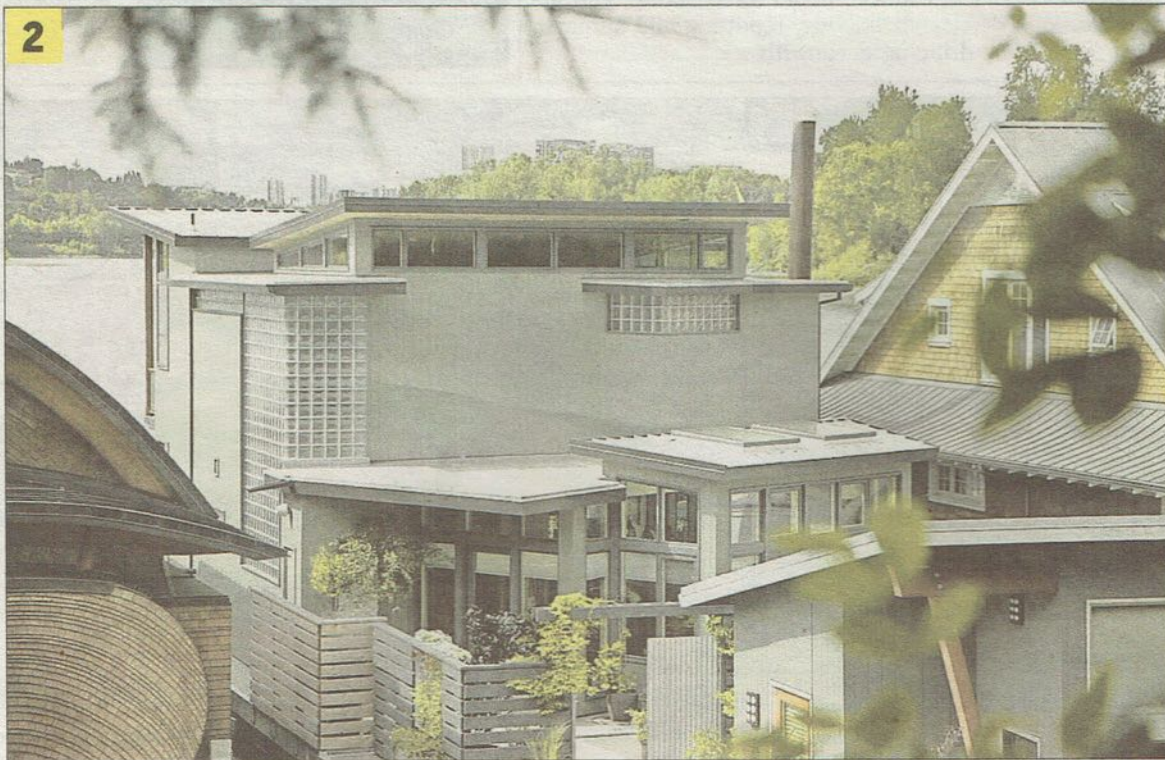
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HOMES



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By Janet Eastman
The Oregonian/OregonLive

“Building a great house is possible for most all of us, even if we’re far outside the 1 percent,” says Brian Libby, founder and editor of the Portland Architecture blog.

So whether you’re wildly passionate about modern design or simply curious, you’ll enjoy exploring eight very different dwellings selected by Libby for the Fifth Annual Portland Modern Home Tour, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, June 4.

Libby knows design doesn’t have to be expensive or palatial. “In fact, I’m most impressed by the houses that do the most with modest resources,” he said.

One of the stops on the self-guided tour, a midcentury modern built by Robert Rummer, was based on the experimental Case Study Housing program of designing affordable suburban homes with flexible floor plans that could change as needed.

Another home from the same era was designed by architect Frank Shell with almost indistinguishable indoor-outdoor boundaries. The house may look familiar to first-time visitors since it’s been featured in magazines and photo shoots.

Tour organizers recognize that modern structures built a half-century ago are historic and worthy of preservation. “At a time when so many homes in Portland are being torn down, I enjoy the idea of celebrating the houses that we have,” Libby said.

Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the properties the day of the event. Children 12 and under are free. Purchase tickets and find out more at modernhometours.com/event.

Here are the new and remodeled modern homes on the tour:

1 Elevated modern design in University Park: Lee Winn of Winn Architecture designed a modern house elevated above a partially sunken garage. The three-level dwelling, built by Homes by Brent Keys, has several floating features. Filtered natural light streams into the open layout, thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows and a Nano floating door system. Wander past one of the custom fireplaces to the covered outdoor living space or up the floating steel staircase to see the free-floating tub and heated tiles in the master bathroom.

2 Floating house at the Oregon Yacht Club in Sellwood: Making the most of a location on the Willamette River, Integrate Architecture & Planning designed the main level of this floating home to have an open-floor plan with unobstructed sight lines from east to west. Natural light enters through well-placed windows, the solarium off of the kitchen and stair walls that are constructed of fluted glass blocks. The second floor is dedicated to the master suite, office and riverside balcony. River water is used for all the landscaping. Other sustainability features include radiant floor heating and standing seam metal roofing. “Last year we featured a floating home for the first time, and it was popular enough that when the opportunity came to include another, I was happy to dive in again,” Libby said.

3 Midcentury modern gem in Cedar Hills: Architect Frank Shell designed this home with an

open floor plan in the mid-1950s. Floor-to-ceiling glass rises to meet vaulted ceilings with exposed beams. Outside, broad eaves and overhangs shade the interior, bonding the indoor-outdoor relationship. “I love midcentury modern homes, so I was happy to find atomic-age houses by Frank Shell and Robert Rummer,” Libby said.

4 Classic, restored Rummer home in the Whitford neighborhood: Oregon’s Robert Rummer was inspired by the famous Case Study houses and California builder Joseph Eichler’s affordable, modern developments. This house has Rummer’s and Eichler’s signature atrium entry, vaulted post-and-beam ceilings and bedrooms clustered together, far away from the working areas such as the kitchen and laundry. Floor-to-ceiling windows make it hard to know if the dog is inside or out. The garden is filled with exotic flora installed by Geranium Lake Flowers.

5 New home in Irvington neighborhood: A three-level house built by Matthew Daby of m.o.daby Design wraps around an existing, 1908 rental house on an L-shaped infill parcel. A perforated steel staircase allows filtered light into the new home, as do well-placed cutouts, skylights and a 20-foot-long wall of glass. At the top of the stairway is a private rooftop deck. A glass accordion door folds away between the living room and covered rear deck. “I am a believer that historic and contemporary homes can coexist well together, so the homes we found by Matthew Daby

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MODERN HOME TOUR
TO EXPLORE

and Emily Refi (of Waterleaf Architecture) provided great examples," Libby said.

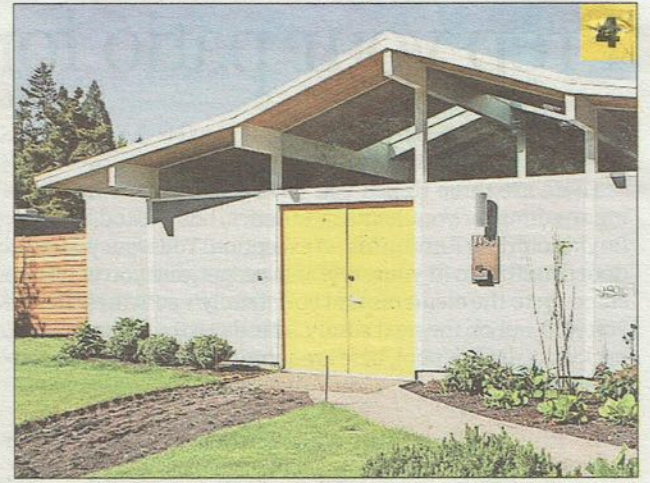
6 Efficient house in the Kerns neighborhood: Emily Refi of Waterleaf Architecture designed a compact two-story home where a dilapidated garage stood behind a tiny Victorian home on a corner lot. The new home has durable and economical cedar, painted cement fiber and corrugated metal. Also contributing to the building and earning Earth Advantage's Platinum status: triple-glazed windows, and a highly efficient mini-split heating, venting and cooling system with fresh air provided by heat recovery ventilation. The flat roof surrounded by parapet walls allows for a roof deck accessed by a skylight hatch. The roof deck extends the outdoor space on the tight, 1,800-square-foot lot and allows the homeowners, avid tango dancers, to host warm-night milongas.

7 OSHU campus live-work spaces: The Treehouse apartment on Oregon & Science University's Marquam Hill campus was designed by Nong Vinitchaikul Rath of LEVER Architecture for people who want a live-work, no-commute home. The seven-story, 71-unit building on a steep, forested site is a series of interlocking structures arranged around a central core. This octagonal plan satisfied setback requirements and allowed for more interior space, as well as glazing on every face of the building. Windows have been carefully placed in the studio and one-bedroom flats to maximize natural light.

8 Remodeled 1970s split-level home in Raleigh Hills: Risa Boyer Leritz of Risa Boyer Architecture dramatically expanded the dwelling's usable space by adding on a master bedroom and removing walls to extend indoor spaces outdoors. The house now opens to a walled-in front patio and to the backyard through large bifold doors. The new 600-square-foot master bedroom in the rear of the house opens onto a covered patio. A carpeted, split staircase serving three levels was replaced with an open, steel-and-oak staircase, but the original sunken living room and stone fireplace stayed. "I'm a child of the 1970s, but it wasn't the best era for architecture, so it was interesting to see how a house from that time could be reimagined for our time," Libby said.



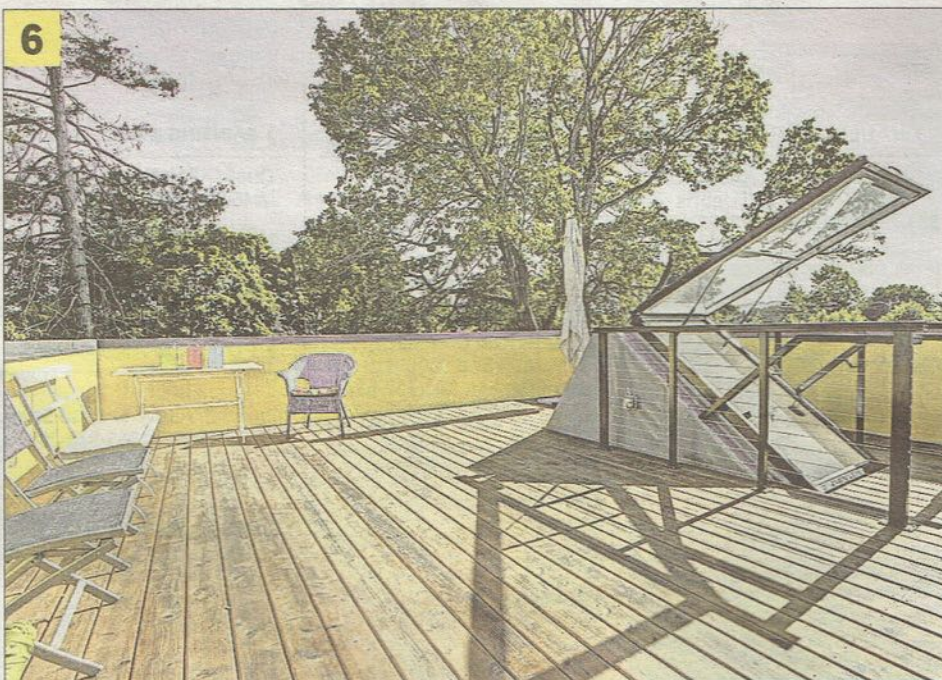
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SCOTT GERKE



RENDERING SPACE/SPENCER REDFORD



RISA BOYER LERITZ