

EARLY MODERNIST HOUSES
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In the early to mid-20th century, several architects began to examine new approaches to domestic architecture. In the United States, Frank Lloyd Wright broke away from the repetitive building of colonial style houses to incorporate simple lines and local materials. A handful of European architects also broke from tradition with inspiration from the simplicity of the Bauhaus to develop the International Style. We'll start with a look at Wright, then move to Europe to examine key houses designed by Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Gerrit Rietveld and Alvar Aalto. Returning to the U.S, we'll end with homes that Philip Johnson and Charles & Ray Eames built for themselves in 1949. Considering that some of these homes are close to a century old, they all look remarkably fresh and modern.

UNITED STATES

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959)

Robie House, Chicago, 1907-9

Fallingwater (Kaufman House), Bear Run, PA, 1934-7

Pope-Leighy House, Alexandria, VA, 1942

Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983)

Dymaxion House models, 1929, 1941-6

EUROPE

Le Corbusier (Charles-Édouard Jeanneret-Gris) (1887-1965)

Domino House design, 1914-5

Villa Savoye, Poissy-sur-Seine, France, 1928-30

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969)

Villa Tugendhat, Brno, Czech Republic, 1929

Gerrit Thomas Rietveld (1888-1964)

Schröder House, Utrecht, the Netherlands, 1924

Alvar Aalto (1888-1964)

Villa Mairea, Noormarkku, Finland, 1939

BACK to the U.S.

Philip Johnson (1906-2005)

Glass House, New Canaan, CT, 1949

Charles & Ray Eames (1907-78) & (1916-88)

Eames House, Santa Monica, CA, 1949

SOME BOOKS TO READ

Curtis, William J.R.: Modern Architecture since 1900, 1996 – standard History of Modern Architecture text

Horan, Nancy: Loving Frank: A Novel, 2007 – based on the relationship of Mamah Borthwick Cheney and FLW

Mawer, Simon: The Glass Room, 2009 – fictionalized account of the family living in Villa Tugendhat

Treib, Marc: Landscapes of Modern Architecture: Wright, Mies, Aalto, etc., 2017 – the relationship between landscape and modernist buildings