

CONSERVING MODERN ARCHITECTURE



An initiative of
The Getty Conservation Institute

The Conserving Modern Architecture Initiative (CMAI) is a comprehensive, long-term, and international program of the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI). The goal of the CMAI is to advance the practice of conserving twentieth-century heritage, with a focus on modern architecture, through research and investigation, the development of practical conservation solutions, and the creation and distribution of information through training programs and publications. The CMAI will work with international and local partners, including professional and organizational networks focused on modern architecture conservation, to expand the existing knowledge base.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, new conservation challenges emerged as the seminal works of the Modern Movement reached fifty years of age and became eligible for heritage protection. Many of these buildings have not aged well. The new and innovative construction methods and materials that typify the era challenge traditional conservation approaches and raise new methodological and philosophical issues. Despite increased recognition of modern architecture's cultural significance, there is a lack of practical conservation knowledge that addresses the many complex challenges. Effectively tackling these issues demands leadership, strategic research, and brokering with industry to develop appropriate repair techniques that translate research into practice and achieve conservation aims. A concerted effort to bring together and distribute existing information as well as identify and fill information gaps is also needed.

Complementing the GCI's international role in advancing the conservation of modern and contemporary art, the CMAI will build on the Institution's scientific research capacity in modern materials and establish it as a major resource for professionals working in modern architecture conservation. The Getty's location in



Los Angeles, home to an extraordinary collection of modern architecture and a dedicated community of conservation professionals, provides opportunities for the CMAI to bring local experience to international efforts and to apply international experience locally. The Getty Research Institute (GRI)'s Architecture and Design Collection, with its vast array of architectural drawings, photographs, models, papers, and ephemera, provides an important resource for the Initiative.

The CMAI will identify and address conservation challenges particular to modern architecture through a comprehensive research and implementation program. Its activities will include:

Scoping: Identify key research questions and issues including technical, methodological, and implementation problems relevant to the conservation of modern architecture across a wide range of building types and geographic areas.

Scientific Research: Develop and implement a research project related to materials-based conservation challenges in order to advance applicable conservation techniques.

Model Field Projects: Identify and develop model field projects that draw upon methodological and technical research outcomes and demonstrate improved approaches and methods.

Education and Training: Develop training programs and materials for practitioners targeted to specific needs in the field.

Key Resources: Create new literature and widely disseminate existing resources including philosophical and technical materials, guidance on the application of conservation methods, and lessons learned from GCI field projects.

Public Programming: Host lectures and workshops on topics related to the conservation of modern architecture with relevance to a wide professional audience.



Left: Stahl House (Case Study House #22), Pierre Koenig, Los Angeles, California, was completed in 1959. The image taken by Julius Shulman in 1960 is one of the over 260,000 images in the GRI's Julius Shulman photography archive. Photo: © J. Paul Getty Trust. Used with permission. Julius Shulman Photography Archive, Research Library at the Getty Research Institute (2004.R.10).

Far left: Sydney Opera House, Jørn Utzon, Sydney, Australia, was completed in 1973 and inscribed on the World Heritage list in 2007. Photo: Susan Macdonald, 2005.

Additional information on the **Conserving Modern Architecture Initiative** can be found at: www.getty.edu/conservation/cmai

To contact us about the **Conserving Modern Architecture Initiative** email us at: CMAI@getty.edu

For information on the **Getty Research Institute, Architecture and Design Collection**, visit: www.getty.edu/research/special_collections/highlights/architecture_design/index.html

Cover: Eames House (Case Study House #8), Charles and Ray Eames, Los Angeles, California, was completed in 1949. The first field project under the banner of the Conserving Modern Architecture Initiative, the Eames House is one of the seminal modern houses of the twentieth century. Photo: Timothy Street-Porter. © 2012 Eames Office, LLC.

The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) is a program of the J. Paul Getty Trust. The GCI works internationally to advance conservation practice in the visual arts—broadly interpreted to include objects, collections, architecture, and sites. The Institute serves the conservation community through scientific research, education and training, model field projects and dissemination of its own work and the work of others in the field. In all its endeavors, the GCI focuses on the creation and delivery of knowledge that will benefit professionals and organizations responsible for the conservation of the world's cultural heritage.

