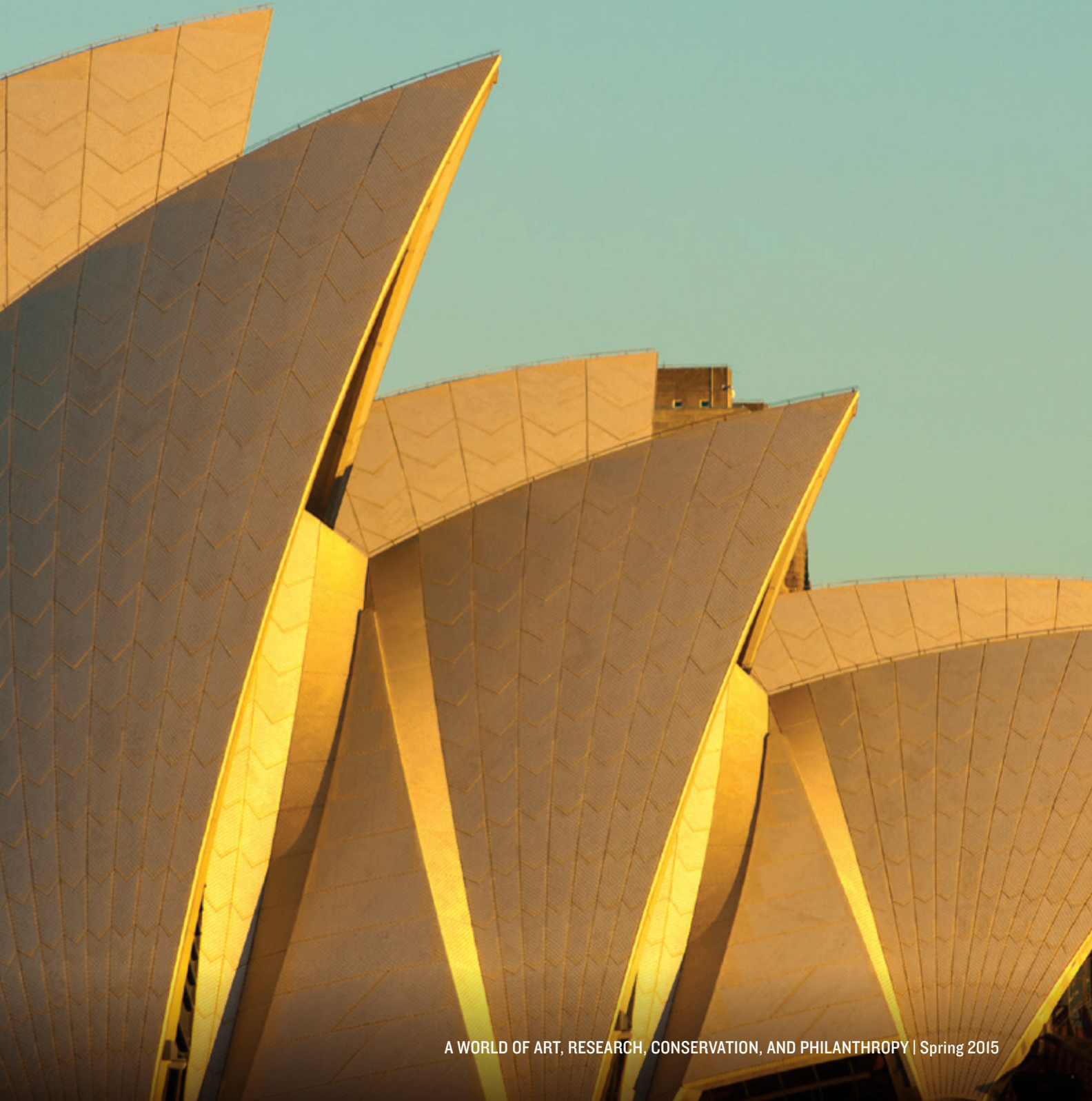


the GETTY





KEEPING IT MODERN

FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS TO CONSERVE
ICONIC MODERN ARCHITECTURE AROUND THE GLOBE

Towering glass-walled skyscrapers, sculptural profiles, innovative building materials—modern architecture is one of the defining artistic expressions of the twentieth century. Set free from traditional structural requirements, architects and engineers used new materials and construction techniques to create inventive forms and advance new philosophical approaches to architecture. The crowning achievements of modern architecture, from Walter Gropius’s Bauhaus buildings to Ludwig Mies van der Rohe’s Seagram Building and Lucio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer’s Brasilia have come to symbolize that “less is more,” as well as broader twentieth-century ideals of progress, technology, and openness.

Centennial Hall, interior, contemporary photograph, 2013. Photo: Mirosław Lanowiecki (Museum of Architecture in Wrocław)

Opposite: Sydney Opera House. Photo: © andresr



Today twentieth-century architectural heritage is at considerable risk. The cutting-edge building materials and structural systems that defined the Modern Movement were often untested and have not always performed well over time. Even seasoned professionals do not always have enough information about the nature and behavior of these materials and systems to develop models and standards of practice for conservation treatment.

In an effort to address these challenges, the Getty Foundation recently launched Keeping It Modern—a major philanthropic initiative focused on the conservation of twentieth-century architecture around the world. Grants concentrate predominantly on comprehensive research and planning, with implementation support available for exceptional projects.

“Keeping It Modern builds on our long and successful track record of support for the conservation of historic buildings around the world,” said Deborah Marrow, director of the Getty Foundation. “This new initiative continues the Foundation’s commitment, but now brings into sharp focus the complex conservation issues that are specific to modern buildings.”

The first ten projects selected to receive support under Keeping It

Modern form a roster of striking modern architecture spread across several continents (see following pages for full descriptions). Following a rigorous peer review process by experts in the history and conservation of modern architecture, the initial round of grants was chosen for the buildings’ architectural significance and the promise of the projects to advance conservation practices for Modern Movement heritage. Grants focus on the comprehensive planning, testing, and analysis of modern materials, as well as the creation of conservation management plans that guide long-term maintenance and conservation policies.

“Now that Modern Movement buildings are really beginning to show their age, heritage professionals face increasing challenges to protect the experimental materials and techniques that distinguished this era,” says Gustavo Araoz, president of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). “From a global perspective, the international conservation community stands to benefit greatly from the results of the Keeping It Modern projects.”

Keeping It Modern is part of the Getty’s strong overall commitment to modern architecture. The Foundation created the initiative to complement the Getty Conservation Institute’s

Conserving Modern Architecture Initiative (CMAI), which works to advance the practice of conserving twentieth-century heritage; two of the first ten Keeping It Modern grants are related to CMAI projects (the Eames House and the Salk Institute). The Getty Research Institute holds extensive and growing special collections about the work of twentieth-century architects. In 2013 the Foundation supported a smaller initiative, Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture in LA, that included museum exhibitions and programs centered on Los Angeles’s modern heritage. With these and other programs, the Getty is significantly advancing the understanding and preservation of twentieth-century architecture.

The next round of Keeping It Modern grants will be awarded later this year through an open, juried competition. More information about this initiative and the grant guidelines may be found on the Foundation’s website at getty.edu/foundation.

Keeping It Modern



Luce Memorial Chapel. Courtesy of Tunghai University

Luce Memorial Chapel, Taichung, Taiwan

At the center of Tunghai University's campus stands the Luce Memorial Chapel. Designed in 1962 by Pritzker Prize-winner I.M. Pei and completed by architect and artist C.K. Chen in 1963, the chapel is a powerful example of early modernism that retains a nod to traditional Chinese temple design with its sweeping roofline. The chapel was constructed using innovative in situ cast concrete, and the exterior surface is covered with yellow-glazed, diamond-shaped tiles that are inserted into the concrete, providing a striking contrast against the blue sky.

Getty support is creating a comprehensive conservation plan for the chapel, the first ever for a Modern Movement building in the region. The project will include in-depth research into the history of the building's construction, materials, and past conservation efforts, as well as analysis and testing to provide weather proofing and climate control in this typhoon-prone environment.

Centennial Hall, Wrocław, Poland (see image on page 7)

A tour de force of structural engineering, Centennial Hall was designed by German architect Max Berg in 1911 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Leipzig. When the building was completed in 1913, it was the biggest reinforced concrete structure in the world and featured the largest free-standing dome ever built. The hall's vast circular central space can accommodate up to six thousand people. The building was developed as the centerpiece of a larger complex to host tournaments, festivals, public assemblies, and exhibitions, and it was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2006.

Grant funds are being used to create a comprehensive conservation management plan to guide future interventions and long-term care, including the use of 3-D laser scanning and computer modeling to provide valuable insight into the building's structural condition.

Frederick C. Robie House, Chicago, Illinois

Designed and built between 1908 and 1910, the Robie House is a National Historic Landmark and a definitive example of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style architecture. Developed as an alternative to confined Victorian-era homes, this fresh approach emphasized low, horizontal lines and open interior spaces. With its projecting cantilevered roof eaves and continuous bands of art-glass windows, the Robie House won international acclaim as a turning point in modern domestic architecture.

Grant funds are supporting the development of a long-term conservation management plan by the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust, which is simultaneously overseeing a full conservation of the building. This comprehensive plan, the first for a Wright property, will develop guidelines for routine maintenance and conservation treatment, and has the potential to serve as a model for numerous other buildings designed by the architect.

The first round of grants awarded as part of Keeping It Modern focus on research and planning related to emblematic Modern Movement buildings around the world. While the projects are as unique as the architects whose work they address, they do share common concerns. One example is the need for rigorous scientific analysis and testing of experimental materials, especially concrete. Concrete is one of the most widely used building materials of the twentieth century, but it is prone to surface flaking and structural degradation and current repair practices often lead to results that can differ significantly from the original aesthetics of the building. Another shared concern is the absence of comprehensive conservation management plans for modern heritage. Conservation management plans are guiding documents that bring together historical records on a building, existing analysis of the historic fabric, and knowledge of the building's performance over time. They are vital and necessary tools for creating a long-term strategy for decision makers and contractors to schedule and track routine maintenance, as well as more complex conservation interventions. The projects detailed here address these concerns through an impressive stylistic array of highly significant twentieth-century buildings.



Frederick C. Robie House, south elevation. Tim Long, courtesy of the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust



Le Corbusier's Apartment and Studio, Paris, France

Famed modernist Le Corbusier designed the Molitor building at the edge of Paris's sixteenth arrondissement in collaboration with his cousin Pierre Jeanneret, and he occupied the top two floors as his apartment and studio until his death in 1965. Constructed between 1931 and 1934, the building reflects the architect's signature style of carefully planned spaces and proportions, simple but elegant materials and forms, ample natural light, and a white interior scheme balanced with wall-sections painted in primary colors.

A Getty grant is allowing the Fondation Le Corbusier to examine the physical fabric and condition of the residence in detail and correlate the results with a recently completed archival study. The result will be a comprehensive plan for the home's restoration that can be applicable to other Le Corbusier properties.

Above: Le Corbusier et Pierre Jeanneret, Immeuble Molitor, 24 rue Nungesser et Coli, appartement de Le Corbusier, Paris, 1931-34. Photo: Olivier Martin-Gambier 2005. ©FLC/ARS, 2014

Below: Livinghouse Idelson Street 29, Tel Aviv, Max Liebling, Architect Dov Karmi, 1935-36. Photo: G. Lindlar



Living Room of the Eames House. Photo: Timothy Street-Porter, © 2014 Eames Office, LLC (eamesoffice.com)

Max Liebling House, Tel Aviv, Israel

The White City of Tel Aviv is a UNESCO World Heritage Site comprised of nearly four thousand Bauhaus-style structures, the largest concentration of Modern Movement buildings in the world. The Max Liebling House (1936), designed by Israeli architect Dov Karmi, sits in the heart of this historic zone. With this building he updated Bauhaus principles with technical innovations, such as elongated recessed balconies to prevent interior overheating, that influenced an entire generation of postwar architects in the country.

Grant funds are supporting a conservation plan for the building, which is in the process of becoming a conservation heritage center operated by the city of Tel Aviv. The municipality is committed to finding the most appropriate ways to adapt the building for this new purpose while maintaining its historic integrity. The planning process includes the identification of character-defining features, as well as research on past interventions and physical testing of the building's materials and energy efficiency.

The Eames House, Pacific Palisades, California

Built in 1949 by renowned husband and wife designers Charles and Ray Eames, the Eames House epitomizes the couple's embrace of livable modernism with its brightly painted outdoor surfaces and intricate indoor spaces. This National Historic Landmark was conceived as part of *Arts and Architecture* magazine's Case Study House Program, a project that introduced Modern Movement ideas for affordable and efficient housing after World War II. The Eameses carefully considered every detail of the site while living there (1949-88) and modified it over the years, making the house a fascinating illustration of their evolving aesthetic values and taste.

The Getty grant is bringing together a team of specialists to investigate the house's exterior and interior materials, colors, and finishes using advanced analytical techniques. The results of this study will inform future conservation of the building, as well as a conservation management plan being prepared by the Getty Conservation Institute.



Miami Marine Stadium, Miami, Florida

Designed in 1962 by Cuban American architect Hilario Candela, Miami Marine Stadium is a showcase for the innovative use of poured concrete with its dramatically cantilevered sculptural roofline. It was the nation’s premier venue for boat racing, as well as for concerts, religious services, and political rallies until its closure in 1992 after the devastation of Hurricane Andrew. After years of disuse, the building faces two interrelated conservation challenges: surface and structural damage of the concrete, as well as extensive graffiti. Interestingly, some of the paintings have been created by well-known graffiti artists and are now much appreciated, particularly by younger audiences.

Experts are using Getty support to complete scientific research and testing in order to develop a comprehensive conservation strategy that is sensitive to both the concrete and the graffiti. This includes testing the most effective and least invasive graffiti-removal techniques and protective coatings for graffiti that might be preserved for its artistic value.



Salk Institute for Biological Studies courtyard. Image courtesy of Joe Belcovson for the Salk Institute of Biological Studies

Opposite (top image): Miami Marine Stadium. Photo: Ken Hayden

Opposite (bottom image): Paimio Sanatorium, Finland, Alvar Aalto 1928-32, Patient's wing and solarium terraces. Photo: Majja Holma, Alvar Aalto Museum

Paimio Sanatorium, Paimio, Finland

Located in an idyllic pine forest, the Paimio Sanatorium (1930–33) is a classic example of Alvar Aalto’s early modern functionalist style. Aalto designed the sleek, concrete building with its large windows and open balconies to function as a ‘medical instrument’ for the treatment of tuberculosis. The building was repurposed as a general hospital in 1971 but has since closed as a health care facility. Finding a suitable new use for the sanatorium is a necessity, but difficult given its scale, remote location, and protected heritage status.

A Getty grant will support the development of a conservation management plan to address these challenges and prepare long-term conservation policies for the sanatorium to ensure that its historic features remain preserved in any adaptive reuse.



Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, California

The Salk Institute for Biological Studies was established in the 1960s by Dr. Jonas Salk, the famed developer of the Polio vaccine. Renowned architect Louis Kahn worked with Salk to build an institute that would bring a community of scientists together, while also offering a place for individual contemplation, on a serene and isolated coastal bluff. One of the architecture’s most unique characteristics is its texturally rich palette of modern materials: pozzolanic concrete, unfinished teak, lead, glass, Cor-Ten steel left to weather and rust, and stainless steel/nickel alloy framing the laboratory window walls.

The Salk Institute is using Getty funds to create a comprehensive conservation management plan to preserve the buildings’ defining features. The grant complements a current project of the Getty Conservation Institute in partnership with the Salk that addresses the aging and long-term care of the buildings’ teak wall assemblies.

Sydney Opera House, Sydney, Australia (see image on page 6)

Designed by Danish architect Jørn Utzon and built from 1959–73, the Sydney Opera House is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a transcendent cultural symbol of Australia’s most populous city. Over eight million tourists and patrons visit this jewel in the city’s harbor each year. With its iconic, nested sculptural forms, the building is remarkable for its innovative use of exposed steel reinforced concrete. Despite successful conservation efforts over the years, there is still insufficient knowledge about the condition of the concrete in several critical locations, including the building’s characteristic roof shells.

The Getty’s support is allowing the building’s custodians to complete a comprehensive study of the concrete elements and develop effective, long-term conservation protocols. The results will be integrated into Sydney Opera House’s conservation management plan and will be easily accessible to building managers and maintenance staff, setting a new standard that will be shared with the field.