

May 24, 2018

Adam Lindenbaum, Chair  
Scarsdale Committee for Historic Preservation  
Village Hall  
1001 Post Road  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Re: 8 Overlook Drive, Scarsdale

Dear Mr. Lindenbaum and members of the Committee for Historic Preservation:

DOCOMOMO US New York/Tri-State is a local chapter of an international organization working in over 60 countries to identify, document and protect buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the Modern Movement. In addition to the New York City metropolitan area, our chapter's territory includes northern New Jersey, western Connecticut, and upstate New York.

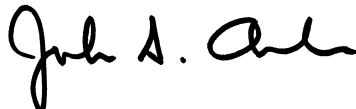
We are writing to you today to express our concern about the potential loss of 8 Overlook Drive. This mid-century Modern home was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright's protégé Edgar A. Tafel for Jacob J. Alpern, an owner of Grand Iron Works, once one of the largest fabricators and erectors of structural steel in New York.

Tafel, who passed away in early 2011 at the age of 98, was the last survivor of Wright's original Taliesin Fellowship team, and he was among the most prominent. Working with Wright and fellow apprentices from 1932 to 1941, he played key roles in the creation of such iconic structures as Fallingwater and the administration building for Johnson Wax in Racine, WI. After serving in the war, Tafel opened an office in New York City.

This house, completed in 1950, was among the earliest of his post-Wright commissions. It embodies distinctive design attributes of his residential work: modesty, practicality, and an intimate relationship with the landscape. Tafel was particularly attuned to the needs and rhythms of modern family life, which are reflected in his compact floor plans and built-in cabinetry. The house's dipping eaves, cypress, and the continuation of exterior masonry as an interior finish are signature details of Tafel's early residences. Additionally, the design clearly reflects the influence of Tafel's mentor, Frank Lloyd Wright. The house was sensitively restored by architect Linda Yowell for a prior owner. It is rare to have a Modern Movement residence retain such design integrity.

For the sake of preserving our region's finite architectural heritage for the next generation, we respectfully urge your committee to use the full extent of your authority to prevent the unnecessary loss of this house.

Sincerely,



John Shreve Arbuckle  
President  
DOCOMOMO US New York/Tri-State

cc: Docomomo US  
Jack Miller