



# Michigan Modern Weekend

June 21–23, 2024

“By 1910, Michigan was well on its way to be the vanguard of Modernism in America.”

*From Michigan Modern: Design That Shaped America by Alan Hess*

The confluence and synergy of industry, prosperity, and educational leadership in Michigan produced and attracted some of the most important Modern architects and designers of the twentieth century. Detroit automakers styled the cars that became part of the American Dream; West Michigan furniture companies designed and produced the Modern furniture that transformed American homes and offices; creative and influential Michigan architects drew talented designers to work in their offices; while the state’s architectural and design schools were among the first in the nation to teach Modern design theory. European architects watched and studied the development of the Albert Kahn’s factory system to house the auto industry. Prosperity brought commissions to internationally known architects. Cranbrook and the University of Michigan’s architecture program educated many architects and designers associated with the modern movement.

This tour will study masterworks of internationally renowned architects including Eliel Saarinen, Eero Saarinen, Alexander Girard, Minoru Yamasaki, Mies van der Rohe, Marcel Breuer, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Paul Rudolph. It will provide a rare opportunity to visit the remarkable General Motors Technical Center that launched Eero Saarinen’s importance as an architect, and includes design work of others such as Florence Knoll, Alexander Girard, Kevin Roche, and Harley Earl. An afternoon on the Cranbrook campus will demonstrate the impact of this institution on Modern design.

## SCHEDULE

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### Friday, June 21

#### Add-On Tour: GM Technical Center

Guests arriving early to Detroit have the opportunity to add this rare opportunity to visit the General Motors Technical Center. This three hour tour includes an opportunity to see the ground breaking work that brought Eero Saarinen international attention. Note that photography and phones are not allowed during the visit. Transportation to and from downtown hotels is included.

### Saturday, June 22

Guests will gather in the morning for a full day of residential sites. We will load up the buses bright and early and head over to the Mies van der Rohe-designed Lafayette Park. Later in the morning we will head north for a visit to the Grosse Pointe Library designed by Marcel Breuer. After a boxed lunch we will tour the rarely seen Parcels House designed by Paul Rudolph, the W. Hawkins Ferry House designed by Detroit architect William Kessler, and we will conclude at Alexander Girard's McLucas House. We will cap our exciting day with a reception before heading back to the hotels.

### Sunday, June 23

We will meet as a group bright and early and set off for our morning visits. Guests will be treated with a tour of the Yamasaki-designed buildings at Wayne State University, including the McGregor Memorial Conference Center & Sculpture Garden and the Helen L. DeRoy Auditorium. Our second stop of the day will be to the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Turkel House. In the afternoon, the group will have a private tour of Cranbrook Educational Community designed by Eliel Saarinen and including works by Loja Saarinen, Eero Saarinen, and Pipsan Saarinen Swanson; and buildings by Steven Holl, Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, Rafael Moneo, and Peter Rose. Later guests will close out the day with a special tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Affleck House before heading back to the hotels. A boxed lunch will be provided along with transportation from the hotels.

## REGISTRATION

### Program Rate

The Program Rate\* includes: a comprehensive educational land program; entrance to all locations and sites, as detailed; transport between the preferred hotel and daily sites; two lunches and one reception. **The deadline to register is June, 2, 2024.**

### Weekend Tour (Sat-Sun)

Members: \$1095 per person (\$1495 non-members)

### Add-On Tour: General Motors Tech Center\*\* (Fri)

Members: \$300 per person (\$400 non-members)

*\*Not included: airfare, accommodations; drinks and meals unless specified; transportation to/from airport.*

*\*\*Not included in the Weekend Tour rate; limited to the first 20 people, followed by waitlist.*



## TOUR LEADER

Brian D. Conway served as Michigan's State Historic Preservation Officer for more than 20 years, retiring in 2020. Conway initiated the Michigan Modern Project to document and promote Michigan's significant role in the development of modern design. This work received a Docomomo US Advocacy Award and has been the topic of lectures nationwide. Conway is the author of the book *Michigan Modern: An Architectural Legacy* and co-editor of *Michigan Modern: Design That Shaped America*. He served on the board of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and is currently a board member of the Docomomo US/Michigan. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and a Master of Architecture Degree from the University of Florida. A Michigan native, Conway now splits his time between Northwest Michigan and Southern California.



## HOTELS

Docomomo US has reserved two room blocks for the weekend of June 21–24. Guests are welcome to book any hotel, but please note that the buses only pick up and drop off at these two hotels.

### **Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center**

\$259 for King rooms

[BOOK HERE](#)

### **Fort Pontchartrain Detroit, a Wyndham Hotel**

\$179 for King rooms

[BOOK HERE](#)



## ADDITIONAL INFO

Michigan Modern Weekend with Docomomo US offers a unique travel opportunity in a small group setting and features access to modern homes and buildings considered off the beaten path or not ordinarily open to the public.

Note that all schedules and program details are given in good faith based on information available at the time. Circumstances might arise which prevent us from operating a tour exactly as advertised. The itinerary, accommodations, and arrangements are subject to change, with or without notice, at the discretion of Docomomo US.

For more information on this and other Docomomo US travel tours please contact us at [info@docomomo-us.org](mailto:info@docomomo-us.org).

**Photos** (in order from page 1): General Motors Technical Center lobby by James Haefner Photography; General Motors Technical Center Design Dome, W. Hawkins Ferry House by James Haefner Photography; Gross Pointe Public Library, courtesy Grosse Pointe Public Library; Parcels House by Michelle Girard Photography; Brian Conway, McGregor Memorial Conference Center & Sculpture Garden at Wayne State, Turkell House, Cranbrook Educational Community by James Haefner Photography.

