



REAL ESTATE

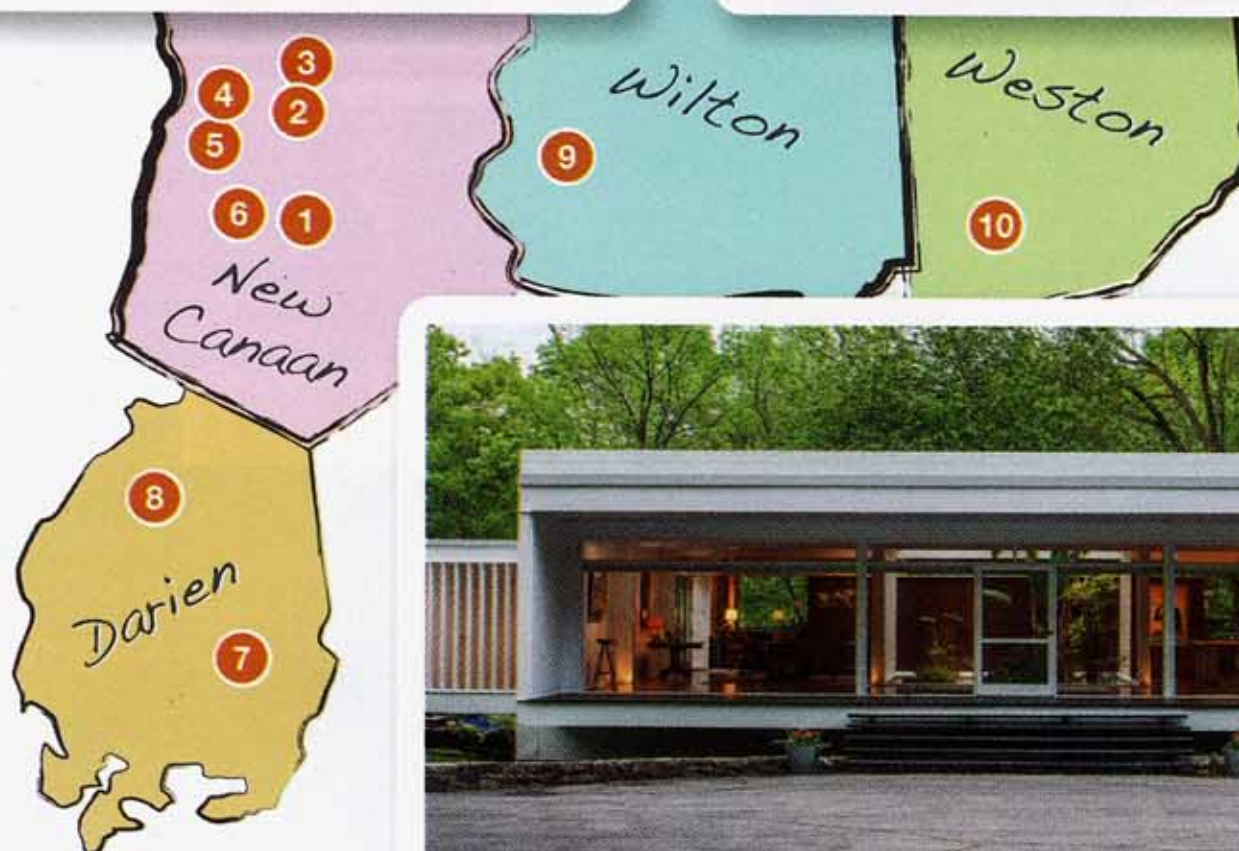
# Deeds & Don'ts

## INSIDE STORIES BEHIND AREA REAL ESTATE DEALS

**W**hile the housing styles most associated with our area are traditional—the saltbox, the center-hall Colonial, the farmhouse—Connecticut is also a hotbed of modernism. Thanks to a group of architects called the Harvard Five, there's a real passion for the style popularized by its most famous member, the late Philip Johnson. That said, our state has a mixed record when it comes to saving mid-century moderns from the wrecking ball. In this column, we covered the demolition of a Paul Rudolph-designed home in Westport and the plight of Johnson's Alice Ball House in New Canaan, which nearly got turned into a pool house (it's back on the market for \$2,795,000). Currently at risk is another New Canaan home, designed by Harvard Five disciple Victor Christ-Janer for his own use in 1952. The current owner, a local builder, applied for a demolition permit in August that was met by a 90-day delay, giving objectors time to come up with a plan to save it.

Smaller in number, but no less passionate, are preservationists advocating for the mid-century homes in Litchfield County. Harvard Five architect Marcel Breuer, best known for designing the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, built widely in both New Canaan and Northwest Connecticut: The tiny town of Litchfield, for instance, has five Breuer-designed homes, including the circa-1965 Stillman II, listed for \$2,995,000 with Roger Saucy of Klemm Real Estate in Washington Depot. "The landscape is so well-suited for this style of architecture that invites the outside in," says Saucy. "The way these homes are sited to take in their natural surroundings is stunning."

Stunning, too, is our handpicked selection of modern and contemporary listings. We hope you agree!



## MAPPING THE MODERNS

Your guide to some notable mid-century homes in New Canaan and neighboring towns

### New Canaan

#### 1. The Glass House

Built by Philip Johnson in 1945 (completed in 1949), it is open for tours and events. [philipjohnsonglasshouse.org](http://philipjohnsonglasshouse.org).

#### 2. The Alice Ball House

Built by Philip Johnson in 1953; listed for \$2,795,000 with Inger Stringfellow and Prudy Parris, William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty in New Canaan, 203-321-9361 and 203-326-1695.

#### 3. The Celanese House

Edward Durell Stone, who designed the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, built this home in 1958. Beautifully renovated, it changed hands for \$4.1 million in 2008.

#### 4. 128 Chichester Road

Designed by architect John Black Lee in 1961; sold last year for \$1,390,000.

### Wilton

5. 160 Chichester Road  
Designed by architect Hugh Smallen in 1957; sold last year for \$1,658,000.

#### 6. Victor Christ-Janer

Designed by Victor Christ-Janer in 1952, its current owner applied for a permit to demolish this home.

### Darien

#### 7. The Goodyear House

Built in 1955 by John Johansen, the only surviving member of the Harvard Five; listed for \$2,795,000 with Inger Stringfellow, William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty in New Canaan, 203-321-9361.

#### 8. 614 Hollow Tree Ridge

Edward Durell Stone built this home in 1938; listed for \$1,995,000 with Eileen Hanford of Halstead Property in Darien, 203-253-0995.

### Wilton

9. 63 Moriarity Drive  
Built by Rob Graff of Eliot Noyes Architects (Noyes was a Harvard Five member) in 1966; listed for \$2,499,000 with Inger Stringfellow and Susan Blabey, William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty in New Canaan, 203-321-9361 and 203-979-7774.

### Weston

10. The Morris Greenwald House  
Built in 1955 by Mies van der Rohe, this home was on the market for a few years but is not currently for sale. Zillow estimates its value at about \$1.4 million.