

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

KLEMM LISTS MARCEL BREUER'S McCOMB HOUSE

(Poughkeepsie, New York) Klemm Real Estate has just listed an architecturally significant Modernist Bauhaus in Poughkeepsie, NY. Designed by Marcel Breuer and built between 1950 -1953 for Peter and Karen McComb, he being the stepson of William W. Smith II of the Smith Brothers Cough Drop family, an important Poughkeepsie family. The home is listed by Graham Klemm with an asking price of \$895,000. Mr. Klemm has sold 3 other rare Breuer residential properties.

One of the world's most prominent architects at the peak of 20th-century design, Marcel Breuer was a Hungarian-born modernist, architect, and furniture designer. The Geller House I of 1945 is one of the first to employ Breuer's concept of the 'binuclear' house, with separate wings for the bedrooms and for the living / dining / kitchen area, separated by an entry hall, and with the distinctive 'butterfly' roof (two opposing roof surfaces sloping towards the middle, centrally drained) that became part of the popular modernist style vocabulary. Breuer built two houses for himself in New Canaan, Connecticut: one from 1947 to 1948, and the other from 1951 to 1952. A demonstration house set up in the MoMA garden in 1949 caused a flurry of interest in the architect's work. When the show was over, the "House in the Garden" was dismantled and barged up the Hudson River for reassembly on the Rockefeller property in Pocantico Hills near Sleepy Hollow. His first two important institutional buildings were the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris finished in 1955 and the monastic Master Plan and Church at St John's Abbey in Minnesota in 1954. These commissions were a turning point in Breuer's career: a move to larger projects after years of residential commissions and the beginning of Breuer's adoption of concrete as his primary medium.

The house is the remaining one of two examples of Breuer's 'multi-level binuclear' house design, with its low profile and butterfly roof extending to include a second storey, 'Breuer blue' panels, tongue-in-groove vertical cypress siding, and large expanses of windows. It perfectly demonstrates Breuer's "additive" principle in its conversion from what was a classic 'binuclear' house (albeit a rare 'multi-level' one) into a bipolar 'long house' with the later (and planned for) addition of the lower level music room and third bedroom. This 'additive principle' was foreseen in his early work with furniture and in his conceptions for modular houses.

The Mid-Hudson Valley is not known for its Modern architecture. There are two other Breuer buildings in Dutchess County, the Ferry House at Vassar College and the Wolfson House in Salt Point. Somewhat further south is Russel Wright's home, Manitoga and closer to New York City is Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonia. The McComb House fits more in the tradition of southeastern Connecticut, in Litchfield and New Canaan, where the Harvard Five (Breuer, Philip Johnson, Eliot Noyes, Landis Gores and John Johansen) built many Modern residences for themselves and for clients. Thus, the McComb House can be considered a rare example of Modern architecture in an area primarily known for Colonial sites or the nineteenth century estates of the wealthy along the Hudson.

"I'm excited to be handling another original Marcel Breuer bauhaus. Breuer is such an esteemed member of the Harvard Five. This is brilliant piece of outstanding mid-century architecture," said Graham Klemm, of Klemm Real Estate who is representing the seller.

Klemm Real Estate has offices located in Washington Depot, Woodbury, Litchfield, Roxbury, & Salisbury CT. Staffed by 40 associates serving Litchfield County CT & Dutchess County NY for over 30 years.

For more information about the property: <http://www.klemmrealestate.com/pages/rPropertyDetails.php?2023>

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