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REAL ESTATE | PRIVATE PROPERTIES

Modernist House by Philip Johnson Lists for \$14 Million

The midcentury modern home, built in the early 1950s, is located on about 6 acres in New Canaan, Conn.



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The Wiley House, a home in New Canaan, Conn. designed by the architect Philip Johnson, is listing

By **CANDACE TAYLOR**

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Living in the Philip Johnson-designed “Wiley House”—a transparent glass rectangle cantilevered over a stone podium—is a bit like being “up in a treehouse,” says owner Frank Gallipoli. The home’s public spaces, including the kitchen, living room and dining room, are located in the glass box, while the bedrooms and bathrooms are in the podium.

The Midcentury Modern home, built in the 1950s, is located on a roughly 6-acre plot in New Canaan, Conn. Mr. Gallipoli, a commodities trader, purchased the home in 1994, restored it, and “loved living in it,” he said. He now lives in New York City and is listing the house for \$14 million with John Hersam and Inger Stringfellow of William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty.

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Designed by Mr. Johnson for real-estate developer Robert Wiley, the home has four bedrooms, the agents said. The glass space has 15-foot ceilings and measures about 1,000 square feet, while the living spaces below bring the total to about 3,000, they said. Mr. Johnson also designed a round swimming pool with a “lily pad” diving platform next to an existing barn on the property. Mr. Gallipoli added a pool house and a garage, and renovated the barn and turned it into an art gallery.

Mr. Gallipoli purchased the property for a relative bargain at under \$1 million; the real-estate market at the time was weak and modernist homes were not in vogue the way they are today. “Here was this Modernist gem that was sort of falling through the cracks,” he recalled.

The house had fallen into disrepair over the years, he said—the wood was starting to rot and the 1950s glass panels made the home very cold in the winter and very hot in the summer. So he essentially rebuilt the glass box, replacing the panels with double-paned windows, using the original drawings to ensure the result would remain true to the original design.

“It looks exactly like it would have looked in 1954,” he said. He added that he got to know Mr. Johnson over the years and visited the architect at his famed Glass House in New Canaan before Mr. Johnson died in 2005.

New Canaan has several homes designed by Mr. Johnson, Ms. Stringfellow said, adding that “people will pay a premium for these.” Last spring, a Johnson-designed home that measured 1,700 square feet sold for about \$2.5 million, she said.

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