

For Immediate Release

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**WORLD MONUMENTS FUND EXHIBITION ON
PRESERVING MODERN ARCHITECTURE TO OPEN
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 8**

GAINESVILLE, Fla., August 26, 2009 --- *Modernism at Risk: Modern Solutions for Saving Modern Landmarks*, an exhibition organized by the World Monuments Fund (WMF) and sponsored by Knoll, Inc., will travel to design schools and other venues across the U.S. beginning with the University of Florida's College of Design, Construction and Planning, where it will be on view from September 8 through September 24, at the gallery in the Architecture Building. The college will hold an opening reception on September 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. A program with a brief presentation by WMF's Director of U.S. Programs Amy Freitag will begin at 6:45 p.m. The exhibition will also travel to New York City, where it will be on view at the AIA New York Center for Architecture from January 21 through April 10, 2010.

Modern Solutions for Saving Modern Landmarks, a project of the WMF Modernism at Risk program (visit <http://www.wmf.org/modernism.html>), consists of large-scale photographs by noted photographer Andrew Moore and interpretative panels with five case studies that explore the role designers play in preserving Modern landmarks. The five buildings highlighted are the ADGB Trade Union School in Bernau, Germany, designed by Hannes Meyer and Hans Wittwer; the A. Conger Goodyear House in Old Westbury, New York, designed by Edward Durell Stone and saved from demolition by WMF in 2001; Riverview High School in Sarasota, Florida, designed by Paul Rudolph; the Grosse Pointe Public Library in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, designed by Marcel Breuer; and the Kent Memorial Library in Suffield, Connecticut, designed by Warren Platner. Riverview High School and the Grosse Pointe Library were specifically mentioned in WMF's 2008 Watch listing "Main Street Modern" as examples of modern buildings needing attention.

"Florida has an overwhelming amount of modern cultural resources, particularly post-World War II structures," said Morris Hylton III, UF interior design assistant professor and author of the exhibition catalog and text. "The exhibition demonstrates how design faculty and students,

like those here at UF, can help raise awareness of the significance of modern architectural heritage and develop solutions that preserve important Modernist landmarks.”

Amy Freitag, WMF’s Director of U.S. Programs, said, “WMF recognizes that heritage preservation extends from ancient times into our recent architectural past. Our Modernism at Risk program was created to advocate for this often overlooked period and to address its special needs. We are pleased to be involved with this exhibition as it reaches out to the next generation of architectural stewards.”

At UF, the exhibition will feature Department of Interior Design student proposals to save Riverview High School and Rudolph’s addition to Sarasota High School, built in 1958 and 1959 respectively. A model of Riverview prepared by the Paul Rudolph Foundation will also be on display. Riverview was razed in June 2009, but the Sarasota County School District has agreed to sensitively rehabilitate the Sarasota High School addition and support the nomination of the site to the National Register of Historic Places.

Last November, UF’s Historic Preservation Programs partnered with the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the Florida Division of Historic Resources to sponsor a workshop on preserving the recent past, held at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art. The workshop produced a white paper with recommendations for identifying, assessing, and preserving Florida’s modern heritage.

World Monuments Fund

World Monuments Fund is the leading independent organization devoted to saving the world’s most treasured places. For over 40 years, working in more than 90 countries, our highly skilled experts have applied proven and effective techniques to preserve important architectural and cultural heritage sites around the globe. Through partnerships with local communities, funders, and governments, we inspire an enduring commitment to stewardship for future generations. Headquartered in New York, WMF has offices and affiliates worldwide. www.wmf.org

Modernism at Risk

In 2006, with founding support from Knoll, WMF launched Modernism at Risk, a program focused on bringing international attention and resources to address the key threats and challenges facing many modern buildings, including inappropriate alteration, perceived obsolescence, public apathy, and technical problems associated with conserving innovative designs and materials. A cornerstone of the program is the World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize, established in

2008 and awarded biennially to an individual or firm in recognition of a completed project or a body of work that enhances the public's awareness of the significant role that modernism plays in our architectural heritage.

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