



ATLAS OF

MID-CENTURY
MODERN

HOUSES

DOMINIC BRADBURY

PHAIDON

MORRIS GREENWALD HOUSE ↓
Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
Weston, Connecticut
(US), 1955

CONDITION

USE

E

A

One of Mies van der Rohe's foremost American patrons was Herbert Greenwald. The Chicago-based developer awarded a number of key commissions to the émigré architect, who settled in the United States in 1938. They began collaborating in the late Forties, completing the Promontory Apartment Building in Chicago (1949) and moving on to several other projects during the Fifties, including the Lake Shore Drive Apartments (1951).

Their partnership was cut short when Greenwald's flight crashed fatally into New York's East River in 1959. Apart from the iconic Farnsworth House (see page 126), Greenwald also played a part in the evolution of Mies's other two surviving American single-family houses. One of them is this house in Weston, Connecticut, for his brother Morris. The single-level flat-roofed pavilion, with its curtain walls and banks of glass, has been compared to

a floor of the Lake Shore Drive Apartments taken out and slotted into a New England garden. Typically for Mies, the design was uncompromising with a fluid, open floor plan in which the master bedroom was an alcove within the main space. The house was restored and updated in 2003 by architect Peter Gluck – who added a new 'outrigger' holding a master suite, and a separate pool pavilion and guest house.



WITTHOEFFT HOUSE ←
Arthur Witthoefft
Armonk, Westchester County,
New York State
(US), 1957

CONDITION

USE

STATUS

G

U

H

After studying architecture at the University of Illinois and taking a master's at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, architect Arthur Witthoefft joined the New York office of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. During his tenure at SOM – architects of large-scale projects such as Sears Tower in Chicago (1973) – Witthoefft designed this house for himself and his wife Eleanor, an interior designer, at Armonk – a town to the north of New York within commuting distance of the city. Witthoefft created a crisp, linear pavilion of brick, steel and glass with a backdrop of mature trees to the rear. He took advantage of the sloping topography to slot a garage under one end of the otherwise single-storey home. This latter part of the house was devoted to a spacious living area, arranged around a central, custom fireplace in travertine and steel designed by Eleanor Witthoefft. Floor-to-ceiling glass to the rear and end of the space frames views of the woodland. The kitchen and other service spaces were positioned to the centre, with bedrooms beyond. The building fell into dereliction after Witthoefft sold up and moved to Florida, but was saved by fresh owners who consulted Witthoefft himself on a full restoration process.