

MODERN DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE IN AND AROUND ITHACA, NY; THE “FALLINGWATERS” OF RAYMOND VINER HALL

Mahyar Hadighi,
MA candidate, Historic Preservation Program, Cornell University

Abstract

The dearth of analyses in the field of modern and contemporary historic preservation unfortunately is obvious. In Ithaca, New York, attention to the recent past history of the area is also not at the level it should be. Thus, in an attempt to begin to remedy the oversight, and in the capacity of an historic preservation-planning student at Cornell (with a background in architecture), a survey documenting the Modern architecture of the area was conducted. In the process of studying the significant recent history of Ithaca, a very interesting local adaptation of Wrightian architecture was discovered: Raymond Viner Hall (1908-1981), a semi-local Pennsylvanian architect, who was a Frank Lloyd Wright follower and son of the chief constructor of Fallingwater, designed several projects in Ithaca.

As a result, this paper concentrates on the architecture of Raymond Viner Hall, its adaptation of Wright's Fallingwater and other Usonian houses, as well as its significant participation in the recent past history of architecture in the Ithaca area. Ultimately it explores significant Modern architecture of Tompkins County, designed by locally, nationally and internationally known architects, chiefly associated with the Department of Architecture at Cornell University.

Keywords: Historic preservation; preservation of modern architecture; history of architecture in Ithaca, NY; modern architecture in and around Ithaca, NY; Raymond Viner Hall.