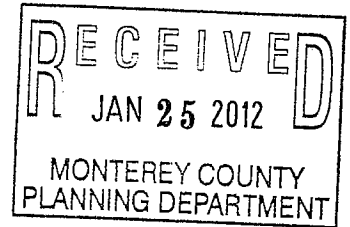


Raymond Richard Neutra MD Dr.PH
956 Evelyn Avenue
Albany CA 94706
January 23, 2012



Delinda Robinson,
Monterey County Planning Department,
168 W. Alisal St., 2nd floor,
Salinas, CA 93901.

Dear Ms. Robinson,

It has come to my attention that a historical properties consultant Sheila McElroy has determined that a 1958 masterpiece of my father Richard Neutra is not of historical significance and can be torn down because it is not among the most famous of his works around the world and because it is not an early example of the Bay Area Modern School. Another historical consultant Anthony Kirk believes that it IS significant and "reflects" the sensitivity to the site that was characteristic of that Bay Area movement.

When Mr. Connell came to my father in SOUTHERN California to design a house for him in the unique community of Pebble Beach he was coming to an architect who had been on the cover of Time Magazine a few years before where he had been characterized as "second only to lordly Frank Lloyd Wright." My father was really unique among the early modernists in the intensity of three commitments: Focussing on the psychological and practical needs of the client, committing to the nature-centered esthetic transmitted from Japan through Frank Lloyd Wright and trying to achieve these goals with inexpensive modern technology. Time recognized him because he had been pioneering this approach since the late 1920's. All through this period his work was published in Europe, South America and Asia. American architectural historians notice his clear influence on Southern California mid century architecture, which followed him in avoiding local cultural forms. The Bay Area architects disapproved of this feature of my father's work and that of those he influenced. European architectural historians have noted his impact after WWII in Europe, Morocco, South American and Asia. His continuing reputation is international as witnessed by a recent museum exhibition on his European works at MARTA Herford Germany.

There was one area where the later Bay Area modernists agreed with my father. They both had a commitment to nature and the site. Thé Bay Area modernists, somewhat later than my father were influenced by the Japanese and Frank Lloyd Wright in this matter. My father came from Vienna in 1923 to learn about American building technology, but also to work with Frank Lloyd Wright who was his idol as a student in Vienna before WWI. He worked with Wright for half a year in 1924 and when he came to Los Angeles in 1925 did landscape designs for Wright's Hollyhock house. He wrote a book in 1951 entitled "Mysteries and Realities of the Site."

The Connell House is a mature work of the Neutra firm. It shows that it is possible to meet the psychological and practical needs of the client, protect the views of neighbors and take full advantage of a subtle and wonderful natural site without the vernacular allusions of the Bay Area Moderns. It displays the interplay of horizontal and vertical planes that characterizes his work.

It is the only example of the work of this internationally influential architect in Pebble Beach and Monterey County and is a pure example of the Southern California School of architecture in this northern California community. It is interesting that Mr. Connell chose to import this famous founder of that school of architecture to the sand dunes of Pebble Beach. Please preserve this beautiful building.


Raymond Richard Neutra MD Dr.PH