

A Home of One's Own – The Art Moderne Homes of Two Pioneering Architects

An Art Deco Society of Washington Virtual Event

When

Monday, May 23, 2022 from
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM EDT

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Where

This is an online event.

Where

Virtual Program via Zoom

When

Monday, May 23, 2022 7:00 - 8:30 PM EST

Description

This online program will spotlight the residential architecture of two relatively unknown but pioneering African American architect-designers. Both William Nixon and Amaza Lee Meredith were art teachers who, though they did not receive formal training in architecture, designed extraordinary Art Moderne homes for themselves.



Photo Credit: Bruce White/Capital Houses

- William Nixon designed and built the Nixon-Mounsey House, in Washington, DC for his

daughter, Dr. Ethel L. Nixon-Mounsey, and he lived there as well from 1950 to 1962. This home is a Streamline Moderne masterpiece inside and out. In addition to being a high school art teacher, stage designer, and architect, Nixon was a pioneering civil rights activist and organizer who fought throughout his life to end segregation and the unequal treatment of the African-American community in Washington DC.



Photo Credit: Calder Roth

- Amaza Lee Meredith was born in 1895 in Lynchburg, VA, eventually establishing the Fine Arts Department at Virginia State University, becoming its Chair, and teaching art until her retirement in 1958. Meredith designed and built a home in the international style in 1939 using African-American craftsmen. This house, that she named Azurest, is now owned by Virginia State National Alumni Association. In the 1940s, Meredith worked together with her sister, Maude Terry, to buy, create, and develop the subdivision later called "Azurest North" in Sag Harbor, Long Island, NY, a summer resort for African American families.

About the Presenters

John DeFerrari was born and raised in Washington, D.C. In addition to penning the popular Streets of Washington blog, DeFerrari is also a trustee of the

D.C. Preservation League and serves as Review Editor of Washington History, the magazine of the D.C. History Center. He is the author of four books: Lost Washington, D.C. (2011), Historic Restaurants of Washington, D.C.: Capital Eats (2013), Capital Streetcars: Early Mass Transit in Washington, D.C. (2015), and co-author with Peter Sefton of Sixteenth Street NW: Washington, DC's Avenue of Ambitions (2022).

Lucious Edwards, Jr. is a retired archivist and historian emeritus at Virginia State University in Petersburg, where he served as the University's archivist for nearly 40 years. He co-compiled a Guide to the Amaza Lee Meredith Papers, and according to one article on Meredith, "But for the single-minded efforts of university archivist Lucious Edwards, the [Azurest] house and its lush grounds would have remained unrecognized and unprotected." Edwards lectures frequently on the use of African-American primary research sources in the teaching of U.S. history.

Cost

\$11/ADSW & ICADS Members, \$16/Non-Member

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Sincerely,

Debbie Chalfie

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