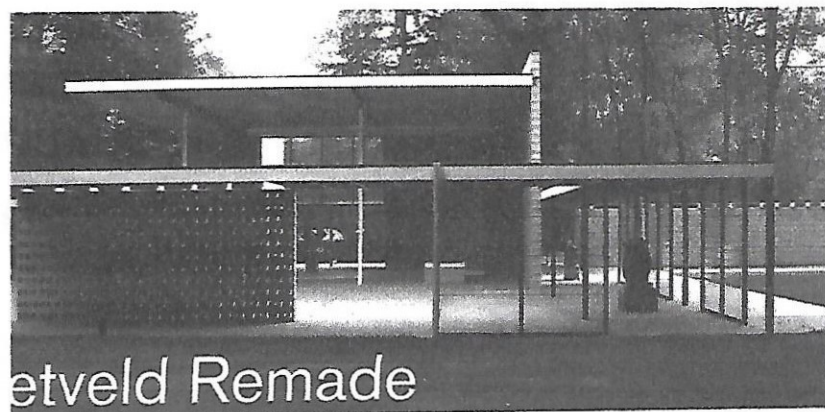
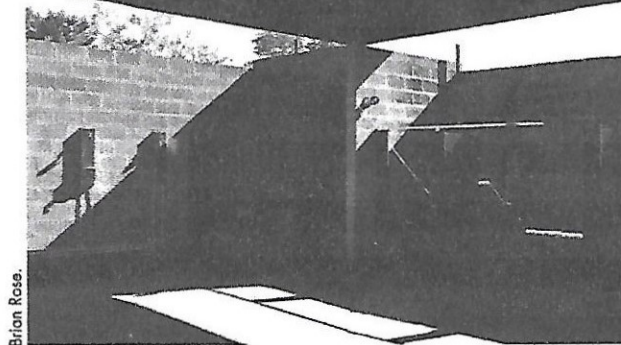
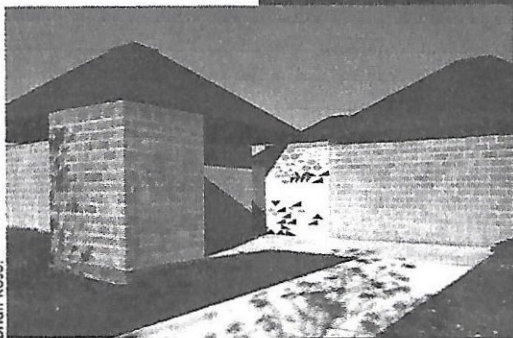


anging Rooms, Timeless Building

Kahn's Trenton Bath House is, at first glance, a modest building; but the 1955 building has long held iconic status in the eyes of Kahn aficionados. Built as the entrance to the swimming pool of the Trenton Jewish Community Center, in Jersey, its sober, cruciform plan comprises four concrete-corner structures containing men's and women's changing rooms, a room for bathers' clothes and a porch leading to the outdoor swimming pool, all surrounding an open-air atrium. The four pyramidal roofs hover several feet above the four structures, touching down lightly at the corners, allowing the open spaces to be at once private yet outdoors, and imparting an exhilarating sense of buoyancy to the interior of the heavy volumes. As the Jewish population of the area declined, the Bath House was used less and fell into disrepair; nevertheless, through the efforts of architectural historian Solomon, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. In 2007, the Bath House and an adjacent Kahn-designed day camp were purchased by Mercer County, which repurposed the property as the Ewing Senior and Community Center. This year, a major restoration was undertaken by Farewell, Mills, Gatsch and Partners, who removed unsightly additions and added features planned by Kahn that had never been installed, such as landscaping and roof drainage. An original mural that decorated the entrance was recreated. For information on visiting, call 609/883-1776.



Hoge Veluwe Remade

In 1955, Dutch functionalist architect Gerrit Rietveld designed a simple open-air pavilion made of concrete, brick, steel, glass and painted wood for a sculpture exhibition in Sonsbeek, Arnhem, the Netherlands. Although meant to be temporary, the pavilion managed to survive for the next ten years until a group of Dutch architects arranged to give it a permanent home at the Kröller-Müller Museum, an oasis of modern painting and sculpture in the woods of the Hoge Veluwe National Park. The museum welcomed this pavilion not only as a compelling example of architecture by a master, but also, in the context of its sculpture garden that meanders through a bucolic woodland setting, as a work of sculpture itself and a model for thinking about space. Over the years, however, the pavilion slowly disintegrated, and it eventually became clear that it could not be saved with traditional conservation methods. After much discussion about material authenticity versus the strength of ideas, the decision was made to recreate the pavilion to the exact specifications of the original, except for a few minor adjustments in materials to make it more durable. The new pavilion was inaugurated last fall. The Kröller-Müller Museum, which contains an admirable collection of 20th-century art, including many paintings by Vincent van Gogh, is located about 50 miles from Amsterdam. It is accessible by private car, or by public bus from train stations in the nearby towns of Apeldoorn and Ede/Wageningen. Free bicycles are available for exploring the vast park, which also contains an elaborate hunting lodge, built in 1916, where Anton and Helene Kröller-Müller, the museum's founders, lived for several years. For more information, visit www.kmm.nl.

Party in Palm Springs

Modernist mecca Palm Springs is holding its annual Modernism Week from Feb. 17 to 27, 2011 (modernismweek.com), a whirlwind of house tours, parties, auctions, lectures and other events, all celebrating the city's wealth of midcentury architecture and design. The Palm Springs Modernism Show & Sale offers great design to buy or simply ogle from Feb. 19 to 21 (dolphinfairs.com/palmsprings). Another highlight is the Feb. 24 tour of Frank Sinatra's Twin Palms estate (1947), designed by architect E. Stewart Williams. It's just one of the popular events organized by the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation (pspreservationfoundation.org), which also includes their Retro Martini Party, to be held this year at the William F. Cody-designed Jorgensen-Mavis Residence (1956), located at the Thunderbird Country Club in Rancho Mirage. There is also a party at a restored 1957 "Swiss Miss" A-frame Alexander house, designed by Charles Dubois, to publicize PSPF's upcoming Alexander Weekend (March 25-27) that will celebrate the famous midcentury developer's fostering of affordable modernist architecture.