



THE PHILIP JOHNSON  
GLASS HOUSE

A SITE OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
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**THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION ANNOUNCES  
THE PHILIP JOHNSON GLASS HOUSE  
INAUGURAL GALA PICNIC + OPENING EVENTS RAISE \$750,000**

**PROCEEDS TO GO TOWARDS ADJACENT LAND PURCHASE  
TO PROTECT THE GLASS HOUSE VIEWSHED**

**MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY PERFORMANCE  
A STUNNING HIGHLIGHT**

NEW CANAAN, Conn. (June 27, 2007) The Philip Johnson Glass House, a National Trust Historic Site, celebrated its public opening with an Inaugural Gala Picnic on June 23, 2007, allowing guests to experience the visionary 47-acre site, located in New Canaan, CT, designed by Philip Johnson. The Glass House site represents a survey of architecture, art, and landscape design from the second-half of the twentieth century. Oldcastle Glass was the inaugural sponsor of this historic event.

Over five-hundred guests were treated to an exclusive open house of the site, including many of the fourteen structures, and a gourmet picnic lunch on the grounds, a one-time performance by the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, recreating a 1967 dance at the site, followed by a private reception, for special ticket holders, with Merce Cunningham, his dance company, and the 1967 dancers.

All proceeds from the inaugural events will go toward the purchase of 4 acres to the north of the site. This purchase will protect the viewshed from the Glass House against future development. The crowd was roused by this announcement made by Glass House executive director Christy MacLear preceding the performance: "Two large-scale homes were to be developed within the viewshed of the Glass House. Not on our watch. We want to protect the clear view from development and preserve this site as Philip and David would have."

The Merce Cunningham Dance Company re-staged its historic 1967 performance at the Glass House. Merce Cunningham, founder, choreographer, and artistic director of his eponymous dance company, is known for his visionary contributions to the world of dance through close collaboration with contemporary musicians and artists, and the site-specific Glass House Event was no exception. The 14-member Merce Cunningham Dance Company performed on two stages set up on the lawn: one in the original 1967 position and one closely adjacent. The dancers traversed between the stages over a catwalk connection, and live musicians accompanied the dance that featured some of the original 1967 choreography. A hill-full of viewers looked on from above, and the audience rose in applause after the 45-minute performance concluded.

Guests included:

**Artists/Architects/Designers:**

Artists **Jasper Johns, Frank Stella, Lynn Davis, Cecily Brown, Maira Kalman, and Andrew Lord;** Designers **Yves Behar, Jens Risom, and James Carpenter.** Architects **Paul Aferiat, Peter Gluck, Alexander Gorlin, Zack McKown, Maya Lin, Toshiko Mori, Ron Radziner, Juergen Riehm, David Piscuskas, Alan Ritchie, Robert A.M. Stern, Paul Stamberg, and Calvin Tsao.**

**Leaders in preservation, architecture, and the arts:**

**Merce Cunningham** as well as his company who performed in 1967 including **Valda Setterfield** and **Carolyn Brown** with 1967 company director **Lew Lloyd;** **Wim de Whitt** of the Getty Research Institute; author **Francine du Plessix Gray;** **Frank Sanchez,** Municipal Arts Society; **Charles Birnbaum,** Cultural Landscape Foundation; **Ron Bogle,** American Architecture Foundation; **Bonnie Burnham,** World Monuments Fund; **Lisa Dennison,** Guggenheim Museum; **John Elderfield,** Museum of Modern Art; **Steven Evans,** Dia Beacon; **Adi Shamir,** Van Alen Institute; **Theo Prudon,** U.S. head of DoCoMoMo; and Connecticut Congressman **Christopher Shays.**

**Cultural Patrons:**

**Agnes Gund; Michael Maharam; Richard and Susan Marcus; George C. Lancaster** of Hines; **Rosamond Bernier** and **John Russell,** who were married at the site 32 years ago; and **Mary Warburg,** whose late husband was a close Johnson friend at Harvard and a founder of MoMA.

**About the Philip Johnson Glass House**

The mission of the Philip Johnson Glass House is for the 47-acre campus to become a center-point and catalyst for the preservation of modern architecture, landscape, and art; and a canvas for the cultivation of new ideas and talent honoring the spirit of Philip Johnson and David Whitney. For more information visit [www.philipjohnsonglasshouse.org](http://www.philipjohnsonglasshouse.org).

**About the National Trust for Historic Preservation**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to protect the irreplaceable places that tell America's story. Staff at the Washington, D.C., headquarters, six regional offices and 28 historic sites work with the Trust's 270,000 members and thousands of preservation groups in all 50 states. For more information, call 202.588.6000 or visit [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org).

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