



# Donald Olsen: Architect of Habitable Abstractions

*Pierluigi Serraino*

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## **Donald Olsen: Architect of Habitable Abstractions** Pierluigi Serraino

The purist houses of Donald Olsen stand out as remarkably durable achievements among the post-war architectural heritage of the San Francisco Bay Area. Inspired by the curriculum that Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer brought from Germany's Bauhaus to Harvard's Graduate School of Design, Olsen's designs were deeply rooted in the Modern Movement in 20th century Europe, and the architect remained committed to this aesthetic all his life. Olsen's allegiance to these ideals drove his personal and professional itinerary, and sustained him as both an architect and an educator at the College of Environmental Design at the University of California, Berkeley. Richly illustrated with drawings, plans, and photographs, this book fully documents these little known examples of high modernism in Northern California.

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