

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact:  
Camila Schaulsohn  
212.358.6114, [cschaulsohn@aiany.org](mailto:cschaulsohn@aiany.org)



Interior, Siegel House by Kaneji Domoto. © Thad Russell.

## **Center for Architecture Announces *Kaneji Domoto at Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonia* June 22 – August 26, 2017**

*The exhibition explores the architecture of Kaneji Domoto in Usonia, the only exurban community Frank Lloyd Wright designed in the United States.*

**May 30, 2017, New York, NY** – The **Center for Architecture** is pleased to announce the opening of ***Kaneji Domoto at Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonia*** on **Thursday, June 22, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**. Curated by **Lynnette Widder**, Lecturer in Discipline, Sustainability Management, at Columbia University, and designed by **Studio Joseph**, the exhibition presents the houses by Japanese American architect and Taliesin fellow Kaneji Domoto in Westchester County's Usonia, a national historic district.

The community of Usonia in Pleasantville, founded in 1944, 35 miles north of New York City, is the only fully realized example of Wright's vision for an exurban United States and a unique example of what it meant to design, and live, within Wright's milieu. Wright designed the site plan and served on the building committee, defining the architectural style for the community. He eventually built three of the cooperative's 47 homes. Five of the remaining houses in Usonia were designed by Kaneji Domoto, who used the houses to translate Wright's idiom into low-cost construction.

*Kaneji Domoto at Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonia* follows Domoto as an independent architect working in midcentury America, from his time at Taliesin, to his experiences in a Japanese internment camp in the southwest, to his work in Usonia and beyond. Through construction documents and original photography of his five Pleasantville houses, the exhibition explores Domoto's architectural style, his references to Japanese design, and his connection to landscape architecture. Widder dives deep into the Lurie House, tracing the history of the home from construction, through the lives of the original occupants, and to Widder's subsequent renovation and restoration.

Featuring material from private archives never-before shown publicly, the drawings, artifacts, models, letters, and photographs exhibited show how Domoto's work applied Wrightian idiom and provide a glimpse at life in Frank Lloyd Wright's inner circles. A site model of the Usonia community, custom-built by students at the Rhode Island School of Design, and furniture by Smilow Design, a company with roots in Usonia, will also be on display. The exhibition will also feature rare video interviews with Usonia residents, projected within an intimate subterranean gallery using the Portable Ultra Short Throw Projector from Sony Life Space UX.

## RELATED PROGRAMS

### Opening Reception

Thursday, June 22, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

### Mid-Century Japanese American Designers

Monday, July 10, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Speakers include:** Lynnette Widder, Lecturer in Discipline, Sustainability Management, at Columbia University; Ken Tadashi Oshima, Professor, Department of Architecture, Washington University

### Exploring Usonia (Site Tour)

Saturday, July 22, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Meeting at the Center for Architecture, a small group will travel from NYC to Pleasantville for a walking tour of Usonia focusing on the five Domoto houses and including visits with residents.

Members of the press are invited to the opening and related events.

Please RSVP to [cschaulsohn@aiany.org](mailto:cschaulsohn@aiany.org)

*Kaneji Domoto at Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonia* is sponsored in part by:



This exhibition was made possible by the generous support of the following sponsors:

### Patron:

smilow|furniture

### Sponsors:

Barry G. Bergdoll

Robert M. Rubin

### Friends:

Henry Myerberg, FAIA and Karen Myerberg

This project was made possible through support from the Independent Projects category of the Architecture + Design Program at the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Van Alen Institute served as fiscal sponsor.

This exhibition is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



### **About the Center for Architecture**

The Center for Architecture is the premier cultural venue for architecture and the built environment in New York City, informed by the complexity of the City's urban fabric and in dialogue with the global community. The Center shares a home with the AIA New York Chapter and has the unique advantage of drawing upon the ideas and experiences of practicing architects to produce thought-provoking exhibitions, informative public programs, and quality design education experiences for K-12 students. It also leads New York City's annual month-long architecture and design festival, Archtober. The Center for Architecture's aim is to further public knowledge about New York City architecture and architects, foster exchange and collaboration among members of the design, development, building, scholarly, and policy sectors, and inspire new ideas about the role of design in communities by presenting contemporary and practical issues in architecture and urbanism to a general audience. <http://cfa.aiany.org>