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## **A Mid-Century Modern Gem Must be Moved**

Buyer sought to relocate Princeton's historic Atle Selberg residence

A charming Mid-Century Modern residence designed by distinguished Princeton-schooled architect Wynant D. Vanderpool, Jr. for noted mathematician Atle Selberg is being offered for sale. Only the structure is being offered; the successful buyer must move the home from its current location at 35 Stone House Drive, in the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) neighborhood in Princeton, New Jersey.

Relocating the Selberg house will permit both the IAS and Princeton Battlefield State Park to realize their plans for the site in an agreement negotiated several years ago. Because the Selberg house is currently sited on land recognized as significant to the Princeton Battlefield National Historic Landmark, and because the provenance of the house and the important work that Selberg was conducting at IAS make it significant in its own right, preserving the structure on a new location has been identified as an acceptable solution by both organizations.

"Selling the structure and moving it to a new location would be a win / win for the IAS and Princeton Battlefield State Park," notes David Schure of Callaway Henderson Sotheby's International Realty, one of the listing agents for the Selberg residence. Schure studied architecture and decorative arts at Columbia University's graduate program in Historic Preservation and continues to advocate for the preservation of historic properties.

"Historians, students, and Princeton businesses engaged in the local tourism economy can benefit as well," he continues, "as Princeton was the location of pivotal actions in what are today referred to as the Ten Crucial Days, when George Washington led clear victories that are regarded as turning points in the Revolutionary War."

According to a report prepared for the American Battlefield Trust in 2019, the Selberg residence is described as a "Usonian house designed by architect W. D. Vanderpool, Jr. for Atle and Hedvig Selberg, circa 1952. A noted Norwegian mathematician, Professor Selberg was employed at the IAS and lived in the house from 1952 until his death in 2007..." A noteworthy example of the Usonian school, the Selberg residence is a single-story flat-roofed dwelling that employs stone and other natural materials, as well as cantilevered overhangs for passive solar heating and natural cooling.

"While selling a house which must be removed from its site may seem to be a bit unusual, Princeton has a history of successfully relocating historic structures that dates back centuries," adds Grant Wagner, the listing agent handling the sale with Schure. "The most recent example is the former Court Club, a 96 year old historic brick Tudor Revival building serving as one of the University's eating clubs. On February 9<sup>th</sup> of this year, the building made an eight-day journey from 91 Prospect Avenue across the street to 110 Prospect Avenue."

Callaway Henderson Sotheby's International Realty's Schure and Wagner are known for their sensitivity to significant architectural styles. Past listings have included several mid-century modern houses, a meticulously restored villa overlooking the Delaware River, and an intact farmstead. Additionally, the pair were co-sponsors of a program in the Morven Museum and Gardens' lecture series Grand Houses and Gardens, a presentation on the home and studio of 20th century design icon Russell Wright.

Schure and Wagner are launching a vigorous campaign to find buyers that will both appreciate the Selberg residence and have the capacity to move it to an appropriate location near or far. Information about modern day house moving, sites in Princeton that would satisfy zoning requirements to receive the Selberg house, guidelines for planning such a project and further particulars about the structure are available through Mr. Schure ([dschure@callawayhenderson.com](mailto:dschure@callawayhenderson.com) / 609-577-7029) and Mr. Wagner ([gwagner@callawayhenderson.com](mailto:gwagner@callawayhenderson.com) / 609-331-0573) at Callaway Henderson Sotheby's International Realty.

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