



Berthold A. Brosmith

Berthold Allan “Bert” Brosmith was born on July 1, 1928, in West Hartford, Connecticut. He studied architecture, first at the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1953 as Bachelor of Architecture, and then at the University of London on a Fulbright Scholarship. While at Penn, he met Paul Rudolph, a visiting professor. Bert’s natural talent caught Rudolph’s attention and he was selected to run the Rudolph office in Sarasota, Florida in 1953 when Rudolph moved to New Haven to become the Dean of Yale’s School of Architecture and take on larger projects. This was quite an honor for someone fresh out of university!

In 1959, forming his own firm, Bert took on his first commission, an elevated cottage with cantilevered decks on a barrier island off Naples, Florida. He was recommended to the client by Paul Rudolph. Bert maintained this Sarasota practice until 1965. In 1969 he became a partner with the New York firm of Juster, Brosmith, Levine, where he is still an active partner.

Bert’s first client, Peter M. Hart, has nothing but praise for his architect, who, some years later, went on to design an “extraordinary” family beach house for him in the West Indies. Hart speaks to Bert’s professionalism: “Bert is a designer all the way – so very particular in all aspects of location and prevailing climate ... His knowledge of construction seems limitless and so, too, his patience with builders who lacked experience.”

According to Fort Myers architect Joyce Owens, “Brosmith learned from and with Rudolph about ‘architecture as space’, which he still feels is the essence of architecture. It’s not about focusing on what is built, i.e., the walls, floors, doors and windows, but defining boundaries and connections between functions and the outdoors and understanding how a person navigates between spaces. It’s the ‘space’ that creates the experience. Brosmith, like Rudolph, advocates site-sensitive design, incorporating indigenous materials in construction and building in harmony with the native landscape, environmental conditions and the culture”.

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Bert married Catharina “Trip” Boman in Sarasota in December 1961. Trip was born on January 12, 1938 in Stockholm, Sweden. She immigrated to Sao Paulo, Brazil, where she attended English high school and college. She worked for the Brazilian airline Panair, and for 5 years flew internationally with PanAm. Since 1965, she has worked as a broker for Prudential Douglas Elliman Real Estate in Katonah, New York.

Bert and Trip have three children: Kevin E., born in 1962; Sean Benedict, born in 1964; and Karina A., born in 1968. Kevin is a Senior VP for Oppenheimer Funds and lives in Natick, Massachusetts; Sean studied industrial design at Carnegie Mellon University and currently lives in Beverly Hills, California, where he is Chief Creative Officer at Maesa Group; and Karina works as a RN at Phillips Andover Academy and lives in Chelmsford, Massachusetts.



Catharina (Boman) Bosmith

Bert's parents were Allan Edward Brosmith, born July 21, 1880, in New York City, and Georgette Comeau, born August 12, 1898, in Connecticut. They married about 1925 and settled in West Hartford, Connecticut, living at 220 South Main Street. They had two children: William M., born about 1926, and Berthold A., born about 1928. Allan was a lawyer. Up to 1914, he had been trial counsel for Travelers Insurance in New York, and subsequently entered into private practice with Frank V. Johnson. By 1933, he had an office at 700 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Bert's grandparents on his father's side were William H. Brosmith, who was born November 8, 1854, and died on August 21, 1937, and Anna Gray, who was born about 1858 in New York and died some time before July 1925. William was Vice President & General Counsel at Travelers Insurance.

Bert's grandparents on his mother's side were George A. and Laudia Comeau. Both were French-Canadian; George was born in September 1865, and Laudia was born in November 1871.

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Bert Brosmith's principal works include:

Hart Cottage "Noble Camp", Keewaydin Island, Collier County, 1959

Paulk Dental Office, Sarasota, 1961

Sarasota Junior High School Addition, 1961

Sarasota County Juvenile Detention Facility, Sarastoa, 1963,
(as associate architect with Frank Folsom Smith, Sarasota)

Dorothea Dawson Residence, Sarasota, 1964

New College Housing, East Campus, Sarasota, 1965,
(as associate architect with I.M. Pei & Partners, N.Y.C.)

Brosmith Office & Residence, Pound Ridge, NY, 1966

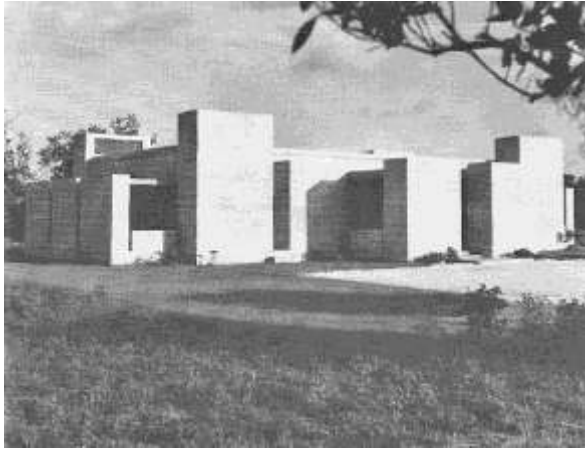
The following are some of Bert's most notable works:



Hart Cottage "Noble Camp", Collier Co., Florida, 1959

The cottage is located on Keewaydin Island, a barrier island south of Naples that is accessible only by boat. It was built for Peter M. Hart and family, and in the 1970s it was sold to the in-laws of the current owner, Irene Fascher.

Bert describes the cottage as "a simple elevated platform on a secluded island". The central square platform is raised on four columns with decks cantilevered from these columns on all sides. It is built high enough to be above the vegetation, which not only affords excellent views but also saved it from flooding and spared it serious damage when Hurricane Donna slammed Southwest Florida in September, 1960. The external walls of large sliding windows or screens allow natural breezes to ventilate and cool the interior. Inside, it is open and abundant with daylight. Screened porches are positioned to overlook the inland waterway to the east and the Gulf of Mexico to the west.



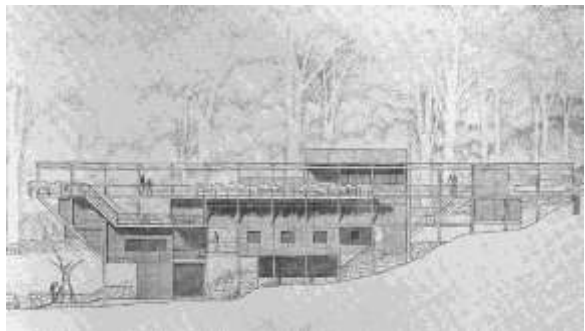
Paulk Dental Office Building, Sarasota, 1961

According to John Howey, this building is “composed of ordered rectangular concrete-block cubes carefully separated by vertical glass panes. It is skillfully scaled to its surrounding neighbors even though only part of the planned complex was built”.



New College Dormitories, Sarasota, 1965

I.M. Pei was hired as the architect for a master plan for New College, and Bert was picked to be Pei’s local representative. Although the plan was not carried out in full, in part due to some community opposition, Bert’s work was cited as architecturally significant and he was selected by Architectural Forum as a “New Talent for the Sixties”.



Brosmith Office & Residence, Pound Ridge, NY, 1966

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