

THE MODERN HOUSE



Frinton-on-Sea, Essex
Sold

The Round House

Designed by Oliver Hill in the mid-1930s, this remarkable Grade II-listed four-bedroom Modernist house is the most architecturally significant building on the Frinton Park Estate, and has a privileged location on the seafront.

As its name suggests, the house is entirely circular, with 1,923 sq ft of internal accommodation over two floors with a flat roof and a wraparound garden. It is set back from the road, and accessed via an Art Deco gate and a lawn. Upon entering, there is a large entrance hall on the ground floor, which leads to a curved dining room at the front overlooking the sea. At the rear is a reception room (which was formerly a bedroom), and there is a separate kitchen with secondary access to the garden and the street, a bathroom, a study and a utility room. A wonderfully grand S-shaped staircase leads to the first floor, which has three bedrooms, a shower room with a double-sized cubicle, and a sitting room across the front of the house with spectacular views. There is also a garage.

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The house has been dearly loved and looked after, and in recent years a new kitchen and bathroom have been added and the roof has been replaced. However, it would benefit from further renovation. In particular, some of the original curved Crittall windows remain in situ and require attention, while others were replaced a number of years ago with double-glazed uPVC units.

Developed from 1934 onwards, the Frinton Park Estate was intended to be Britain's most ambitious housing settlement, with the country's leading young architects (including Wells Coates, Frederick Gibberd and Connell, Ward & Lucas) invited to contribute. In the end, only a small fraction was built, but it remains the largest grouping of Modern Movement houses anywhere in the UK. The Round House acted as the offices – or “Information Bureau” – for the estate. A map of the estate was built into the floor of the house using coloured mosaic tiles, and this survives in largely original condition, running through the entrance hall and the dining room.

Frinton-on-Sea is a picturesque town with a growing community interested in preserving its architectural heritage. A path opposite the house leads directly down to the lovely sandy beach, which is lined with colourful beach huts. The town offers basic amenities including a grocery, chemist, newsagent and bakery. Further services can be found in the nearby seaside towns of Clacton-on-Sea and Walton-on-the-Naze. A little further afield is the larger town of Colchester. Frinton offers a train service to London Liverpool Street in one hour and twenty minutes (the station is a ten-minute walk from the house).

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About

The Modern House is an estate agency that helps people live in more thoughtful and beautiful ways. We believe in design as a powerful force for good. Inspired by the principles of modernism, we represent design-led homes across the UK which celebrate light, space and a truth to materials. Esquire credits The Modern House with “rewriting the rulebook on estate agency” and GQ voted us “one of the best things in the world”.