

## Photographer in residence: Pedro E. Guerrero's architectural images of mid-century New Canaan are on view.

By: Christina Hennessy | October 29, 2018

As Susan Guerrero tells it, her parents' desire to move their growing family out of New York City and into the suburbs brought them to New Canaan in 1951, where for a sum of \$10,000 — which was all they could afford — they found a two-acre spot upon which to put down roots.

"It came with a beautiful maple and a tumbledown shack," she says of the property on Brookside Road. A toddler at the time, she would grow with the house, which was renovated and added on to in a DIY fashion. Her parents, Pedro and Barbara Guerrero, shouldered the load along with their handy friends, including architect David Henken, an apprentice of Frank Lloyd Wright.

The United Church of Rowayton, just over the New Canaan town line, was designed by architect Joseph Salerno. This shot from 1962 is one of dozens of photos on display in "Pedro E. Guerrero: The Photographer of Mid-Century New Canaan," exhibition through Dec. 9. Below, the photographer in 1938 and his camera.

Photo: Pedro E. Guerrero Archive Courtesy Edward Cella Art + Architecture / Contributed Photos



Where the family settled was an important part of its story. But for Pedro E. Guerrero, this rural burb and its surrounding bedroom communities had a profound impact on his artistic legacy. In his proverbial backyard, a handful of architects was creating a mid-century modern look that came to define a golden era in American architecture. Bold and innovative, it shaped homes, churches, offices, ice rinks and apartment complexes.

Guerrero captured it all through the lens of his camera and brought it to the world.



Through Dec. 9, the New Canaan Historical Society is honoring the work and life of internationally known photographer Pedro E. Guerrero in the aptly named exhibition, "Pedro E. Guerrero: The Phtographer of Mid-Century New Canaan." Dozens of the black-and-white photographs Guerrero took of that town's architecture are on view, as well personal photos and the tools of the trade used by this longtime town resident.

Photo: Christina Hennessy / Hearst Connecticut Media

The intersection between the personal and professional life of Pedro E. Guerrero can be traversed through Dec. 9 at the New Canaan Historical Society, which is presenting the exhibition "Pedro E. Guerrero: The Photographer of Mid-Century New Canaan," along with Edward Cella Art and Architecture, the Los Angeles gallery that represents Guerrero's estate.