

The Ben Rose Automotive Pavilion

The Spot Made Famous by Ferris Bueller

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A tranquil path leads to the modernistic Ben Rose home, made famous (again) by Hollywood.

Garage: 1. A building or wing of a building in which to park an automobile.

This definition seems to encompass a great deal of the images that come to mind when one thinks of the traditional car park. For Textile artist and automobile collector Ben Rose, this title would not suffice for his automotive menagerie. That is exactly why this writer was immediately corrected when he asked to see the garage. "It is called the pavilion," I was informed by the listing agent that is currently selling the 1953 glass and steel A. James Speyer-designed home in Highland Park, Illinois for a cool \$2.3-million. The pavilion is not just a pretentious title for a common garage, as I would all too soon find out first hand.

The Rose home was an architectural gem when it was designed and built in 1953. The all glass and steel elevated structure was a marvel of simplistic design and function. The home itself is laid out to capitalize on the best use of space in all areas, and the home's exterior is deceiving to say the least. This seemingly tiny box of glass unfolds like an onion, revealing multiple rooms that serve as functional areas of the home. If this style of modernism screams Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe, there is good reason. That architect's first graduating student was none other than A. James Speyer.

The original structure still features a pea gravel driveway that leads you to the main entrance of the home flanked by a