

Gropius House - becoming a museum

The influence of Ati Gropius

In 1983, [Gropius House](#) opened as a historic house museum. The Gropius's daughter, Ati, who was twelve years old when the house was built, worked with Historic New England curators and educators to shape the story that we now share with the public.



Ati Gropius at the dining table at Gropius House

Ati also led the effort to bring the house back to its appearance at the time her father was alive in the late 1960s. She presented workshops for the museum staff to help them understand the living philosophy behind the Modern Movement. She donated textiles and ceramics from her own home to replace ones that were needed for the house museum. She was the voice for her parents and made sure we got it right.

For more than twenty-five years, Ati worked with Historic New England staff to shape the appearance of Gropius House, touching every aspect of the site from fine-tuning the arrangement of jewelry and perfumes on her mother's dressing table to helping develop a landscape plan to ensure her parents' vision for the grounds would be preserved for the future.

Over the years, staff recorded hours of conversations with Ati that chronicled the story of the house and the life within it. It is due to Ati Gropius that the house today feels less like a museum and more like a home where the occupants just stepped out of sight.