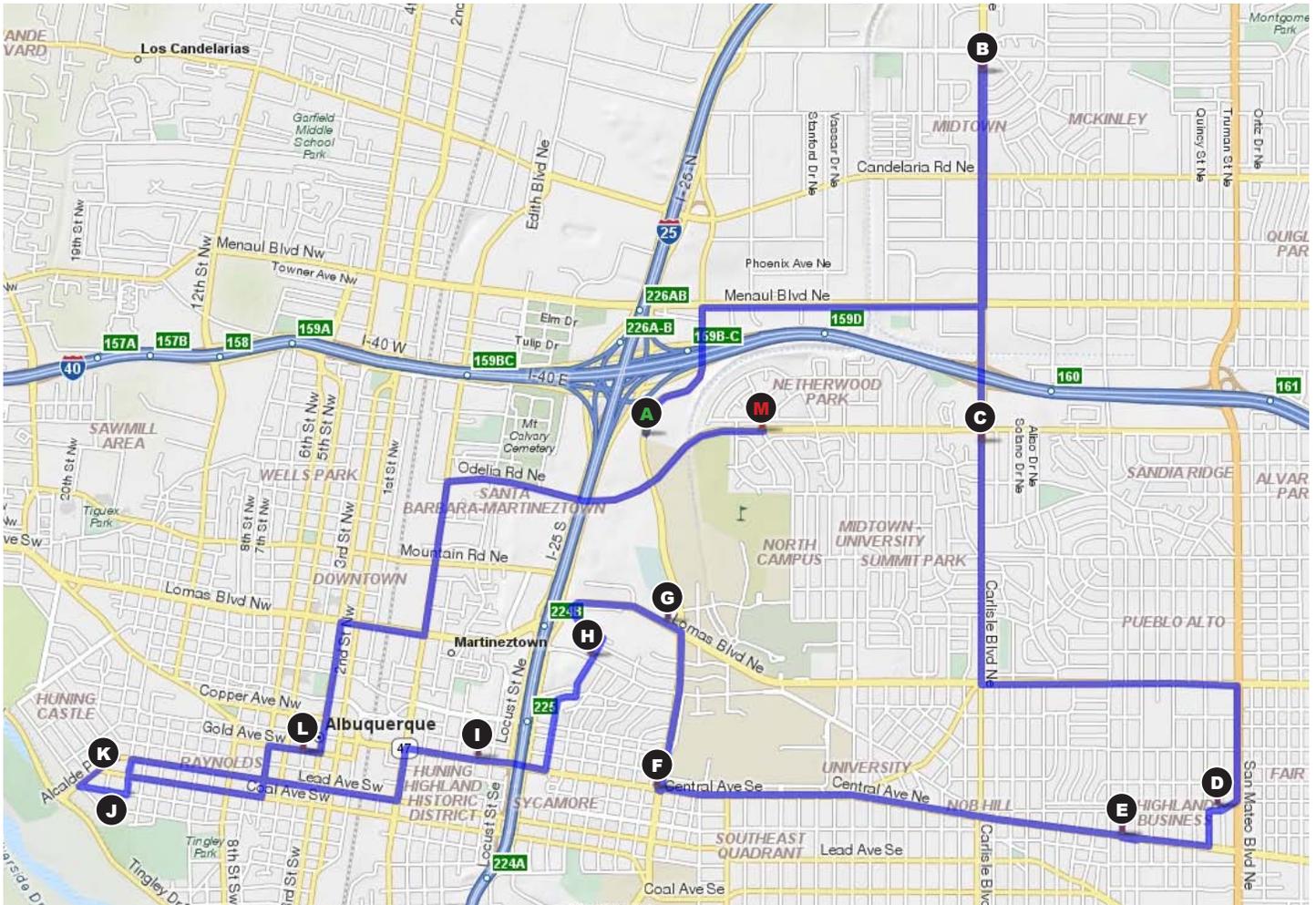


2011 NEW MEXICO ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION TOUR
 Mid-Century Modern Architecture in Albuquerque



Itinerary

- | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|
| A | 8:30 meet at 1642 University, load onto bus | H | Drive by Medical Arts at Encino Place
Comments by Ed Boles |
| B | Unitarian Church at 3701 Carlisle NE
Speaker Doug Heller | I | Drive by Milton at 725 Central NE
Comments by Ed Boles |
| C | Drive by 2001 Carlisle NE
Comments by John Briscoe | J | Drive by Rio Grande Zoo swimming pool at
1410 Iron SW
Comments by Ed Boles |
| D | Drive by Solar Bldg at 213 Truman NE
Comments by Ed Boles | K | Arrive at Alcalde Place SW
Comments by James Lucero and others.
Depart at 11:30 |
| E | Drive by Loyolas/Sherms at 4500 Central SE
Comments by Ed Boles | L | Arrive at Simms Bldg
Lunch
Comments by Bob Peters and others.
Depart at 2:00 |
| F | Drive by Cadillac dealership at Central and
University – (just west)
Comments by Ed Boles | M | UNM North Campus Neighborhood homes.
Depart at 4:00 |
| G | Drive by Galles Chevrolet at Lomas and
University
Comments by Ed Boles | | |

NMAF Tour of Mid-century Modern Architecture in Albuquerque Itinerary and outline narrative

Frank Lloyd Wright reportedly said, "The truth is more important than the facts." The following document contains facts from several sources in City of Albuquerque files. Please look elsewhere for truth.

Edna Heatherington Bergman's thesis, The Fate of Architectural Theory in Albuquerque, New Mexico: Buildings of Four Decades, 1920-1960, provides most of the substance of this document. See excerpts in quotes below, following her initials, EHB.

We will be visiting all underscored buildings.

First Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle NE

1966 – Harvey Hoshour, architect

Remarks by Doug Heller, Mullen Heller Architects

Office Building, 2001 Carlisle NE

1967 - Joe Boehning, architect

Remarks by John Briscoe

EAST CENTRAL & VICINITY

Solar Building 213 Truman NE

1956 - Stanley and Wright, architects

National Register of Historic Places.

Built to house the offices of Bridgers and Paxton, innovative mechanical engineers, and considered the world's first fully solar-heated commercial building. The solar array, integral with the architecture, has been covered with sheet metal roofing. The system is inoperable but intact.

Merrill Office Building / Media Arts Charter School, 131 Adams NE

1959 - Wm. Ellison, architect (John Hawkins, designer)

EHB: "A notable feature of this building is its lack of symbolic or legible meaning. It could house any kind of office: it does not reveal anything about what goes on within, though with its elaborated entrances it is somewhat less reticent than Stevens' bank building (see Albuquerque National Bank below).

White's Department Store / Classic Century Square, 4616 Central SE

1957 - Flatow and Moore, architects

Big box with a difference – a curtain wall storefront of three stories, rear parking and multiple entrances, and a central stair worthy of MC Escher creepy-crawlies. Mechanical penthouse has a butterfly roof and there was once a roof-mounted sign.

Jones Motor Company / Kelly's Brewery, 3222 Central SE

1939, Tom Danahy, architect

City Landmark, National Register of Historic Places

EHB: "This generous composition of rectangles and semi-circles, anchored around a cloudlike tower over the entrance and sparkling with smooth white stucco and large areas of glass, is a particularly fine example of the early International style, and rare in Albuquerque. It suggests an acquaintance with de Stijl, especially the work of J.J.P. Oud, and the central tower constitutes a Constructivist sculpture." "Danahy's talent as a designer is clearly in evidence here; it is probably also significant that a young man, not long from his schooling, executed several designs in this newest style. When the interviewer asked his (Danahy's) schoolmate, Bainbridge Bunting, where he thought Danahy had gotten an interest in cubist style, Bunting replied, 'Cubism was in the air.' Nineteen thirty-nine was Modern Times."

UNIVERSITY AREA

Galles Motor Company, 1601-25 Central NE

1951 - William Burk, Jr., architect

EHB: "The fieldstone of the front makes sense in the varied horizontals of the retaining walls holding landscaping at the base, and rises up in a simple rectangle on the façade, carrying the enrichment of (quoting Burk) 'the last architectural sculpture I ever did,' the trademark medallions in low relief."

Sigma Chi Road Historic District

1938-59

State Register of Cultural Properties

The Orval G. Bradbury House (1400 Sigma Chi NE), 1949, and Edward Burke House (1101 Sigma Chi NE), 1953, stand out among their ranch style and regional revival neighbors as modern designs. The Burke House is by Flatow and Moore, architects. Among the other residents was James Ryan at 1314 Sigma Chi NE, designer/builder of the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, a mid-century landmark that placed first in an American Institute of Steel Construction competition in 1966.

Medical Arts Square, 801-17 Encino Place NE

1953 – Flatow and Moore, architects

EHB: "As far as (Max) Flatow recalls, this was the first such medical plaza he had ever heard of. It received national attention, and he was visited by architects interested in the new building type. The move of doctors from downtown to a site accessible only by car, arranged like a shopping center with a large parking area, and situated relative to the hospitals which the doctors themselves would also reach by automobile, is again expressive of the trends of the fifties."

DOWNTOWN

Albuquerque National Bank Main Branch, 125 Central NE

1952 - Ferguson Stevens (Donald Stevens, designer)

EHB: "This strictly simple building is triumph of stylelessness. It is so free of exterior detail as to be difficult to describe...a very uncommunicative building, and yet must have had a strikingly up-to-date appearance on the Central Avenue of 1952."

Rio Grande Pool, 1410 Iron SW

1957 – Flatow and Moore

Alcalde Place Apartments, 600 Alcalde Place SW

1961 – Newton P Gunter, Tung-Yen Lin, RM Yearant;

Ann Hebenstreit, designer

Remarks by James Lucero

Simms Building, 400 Gold SW

1952-4 – Flatow and Moore

National Register of Historic Places

Remarks on Modernism in Albuquerque by Bob Peters and Don Schlegel

EHB: "Altogether this building is a remarkably sensitive and rich example of its genre, attentive to both the structural expressiveness of modern theory and to associations with its setting and history."

Federal Building, 501 Gold SW

1958 - Ferguson & Flatow firms, joint venture

EHB: "Cheapness was the primary criterion for the project, and when (Jason) Moore proposed to elaborate the façade without adding expense by placing the windows in a checkerboard pattern, this was rejected from Washington as "flippant." "The presence of such thoroughly sterilized buildings once built, made even happy suburbanites aware that the central city could not really be written out of existence, and a few years later Moore was able to employ the checkerboard window pattern in the much richer federal building south of the 1958 structure. This checkerboarding is of interest as a means of structural expression, for it makes clear that the wall does not carry the weight of the building but only encloses it."

Insurance Building, 610 Gold SW

1953 - Brittelle and Ginner

Built for Albert and John Simms, this is a multi-tenant office building with ample daylight and several suites flanking a central passage and stair. Alley parking, a commodious rear entrance, and banks of rear windows set it apart from other downtown buildings. It has never housed an insurance business, according to the owner.

Valliant Printing Building, 619 Gold SW

1940 - AW Boehning

EHB: "One of the few structures built downtown during this decade (1940s), the Valliant has a richness and solidity which shows confidence in its time and place, but is at a very modest one-story scale. It is legibly modern in its lack of ornament, its rounded corners, and the shining curved metal edge of the canopy over the door...This is one of the most successful examples of the special originality of AW Boehning's work."

Losses

Albuquerque National Bank, Menaul branch (east of Bekins Building/Baillo's)

1956 – Ferguson Stevens Mallory and Pearl (George Pearl, designer)

EHB: "The complication of the main entrance with the slight angle, articulated at the joint, the layered junction of the three different rows of raised vertical blocks, is at once simple and rich. The ornamental aluminum doors, their gem-like richness set into the shelter of the arch, are distinctly Sullivanesque, making an obvious reference to Sullivan's beautiful small-town banks. The interrupted arch is an element which stems from Pearl's liking for contradiction and contrast."