



## Banihashem-Crowston House


This house was designed by John Replinger in 1968 for the University of Illinois Dean of Communication. The house is **set back** from the street and embedded in a luscious landscape that includes an **interior courtyard** which allows the street facing facades to be solid blank walls for **privacy**. As you enter, built in cabinetry helps define the space that opens up to a living room with a direct view to the interior courtyard. The kitchen, living room, and dining room all are covered with wall to wall windows and face the courtyard creating a powerful sense of **openness**. The library is currently used as an office. The study rooms and the office are facing the court yard, with wall to wall windows; while the bedrooms are facing the west side and directed towards the patio. The built cabinets allow flexibility to share space in each room. There are several **modern characteristics** that can be found in this house including: simple geometry, open plan, natural materials such as hard

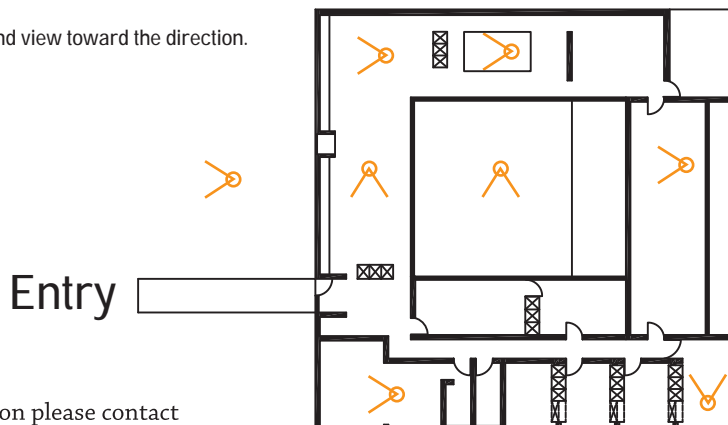
wood, relationship between outside and inside, very open to nature and sky, flat roof, horizontality, transparency which can mostly be found on the south, west façades and in the court yard.

## The Tour

All the homes on this tour bonded by their modernist aesthetic: the most noticeable common characteristics in these homes are as follows: transparency, using natural materials such as wood, relationship between indoor and outdoor, and simple geometry with open floor plans. All the homes express these commonalities differently. Some have attached garages and some have a carport. More contrasts include gable versus flat roofs. Most of the houses on the tour in Urbana open up to face the sun and landscape in the backyard by using floor to ceiling windows. By contrast, the front of some of these homes have a private front entry with minimal windows. Others exemplify openness with high transparency in the front entry. As a collection, the homes show a sampling of the mid-century modernist style, while also providing contrasts in specificities of this design genre. The proposed collection of homes provides a framework for discussion about modernism regionally, and about the mid-century housing movement in the United States. It is our hope that this Tour will serve to inspire, educate, and have you know our City, Urbana, just a bit better.

## General Info

 Please place yourself and view toward the direction.



## Things to look for:

- Open Plan
- Open Kitchen
- Interior Courtyard
- Transparency
- Natural Material (hardwood)
- Simple Design
- Horizontality
- Flat Roof

# 1802 PLEASANT CIR. BAKER, REPLINGER 1957

## Mason-Anderson Residence



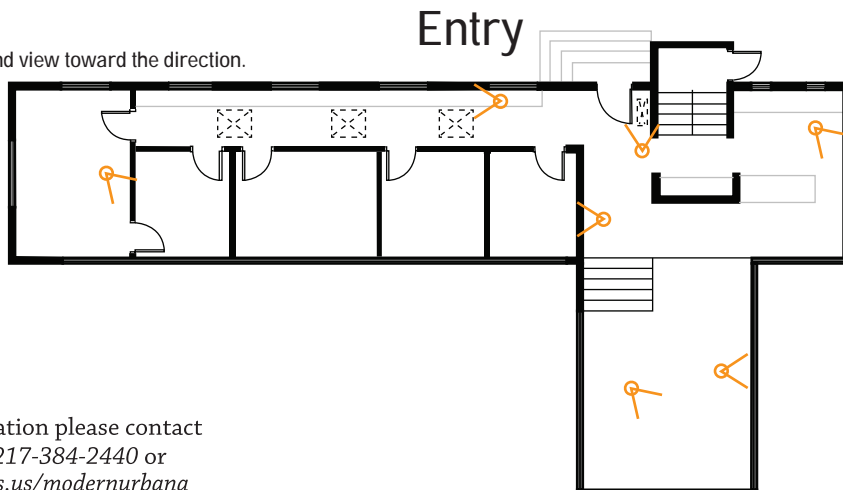
Commissioned by Alfred W. Allen in 1957, Jack Baker and John Replinger designed this house in the **Prairie-Style** and features modernist elements such as **overhanging roof eaves**, horizontal bands of casement windows, and a picturesque entrance sequence with stairs that lead up to the entry and create a contemporary and lively design. The low-pitched gable roof along with the long, thin, rectangular form and vertical siding emphasizes a horizontal plan. An overhanging carport extends off the house, completing an L-shaped volume. The **open plan** and **transparency to nature** is iconic to the Modern style and another element of Modernism can be found by the variety of skylights on the first floor - by the entrance, the long-shaped hallway and the kitchen as well. As one of the element used by that period for architecture, the skylight not only brings sunlight indoors but also graphics the design theory that breaking the box, improving the connection between indoor and outdoor. **Lack of ornamentation**, restrained materiality, and simple geometries reflect common characteristics in modern aesthetics and are exemplified in this beautiful home.

## Modernism in the Local Context

Following World War II, returning soldiers fueled the demand for affordable housing in Illinois. The Chicago area, which was often called the birthplace of Modernism in America, due to the influence of Mies van der Rohe at the Illinois Institute of Technology and Frank Lloyd Wright in Oak Park, enjoyed a robust period of mid-century residential building during this time. During this mid-century time period, the University of Illinois College of Fine and Applied Arts espoused an integrative approach to architectural design and arts and was fortunate to bring three exceptionally gifted designers to the area as faculty: Jack Sherman Baker, A. Richard Williams, and John G. Replinger. This group of three is responsible for the majority of modernist homes in the City of Urbana and on the tour. As educators and professional architects, they confronted the contemporary architectural context. They focused on achieving design solutions by materials, sites, spatial organizations, and numerous other considerations unique to central Illinois. The University functioned to supplement their studies by providing friendships, the lessons of contemporary practitioners, the inspiration of universities, and the revelations of academic travels that were significantly influential.

## General Info

Please place yourself and view toward the direction.



## Things to look for:

- Connection to Sky
- Connection to Nature
- Transparency Breaks the Box
- Open Plan
- The Art Gallery
- Built in Cabinets Define Space
- Natural Material





## Garvey Residence


Bruce Goff's contemporary design resembles something fallen from outer space. Built in 1954, the house is referred to as the Round House, or the Garvey House, as it was commissioned by University of Illinois piano professor John Garvey. Garvey commissioned Goff to design "a house that was more than a house." The primary design consideration was Garvey's intent to regularly host semi-public events in the home. The **performance** space was the main design feature of the house and other living spaces were designed to accommodate the need for privacy in a home that was intended to be semi-public. This consideration extended to the relationship between the house and the street. Anticipating that the unusual design would attract attention from passers-by, Goff strove to provide the house with **privacy** from the street without evoking a hostile or closed-off feeling by implementing a custom gate and circular drive.

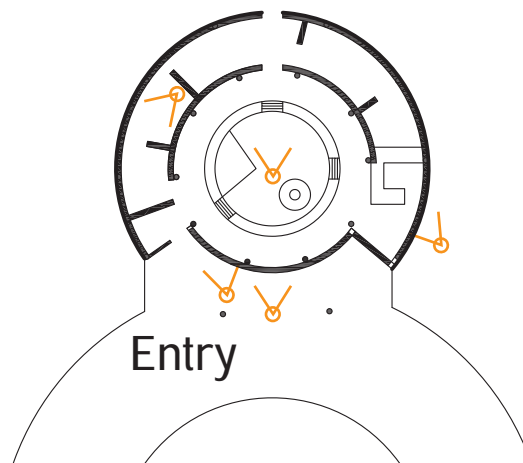
The entry considerations of the driveway and revolving doors generated a circular feeling that Goff carried throughout the design of the rest of the house. The performance space is articulated by rounded walls that are steeply slanted outward and are punched with **large windows**. The entrance side of the house has a band of floor-to-ceiling glass windows. The entryway is supported by thin steel columns. There is a futuristic cap at the apex of the roof.

## Selection Process

As a first step in the selection process of home was to search for homes built between 1950 and 1970 in Urbana. While the style of Modernism extends from the early 1920's into today, we felt that this 20-year mid-century range best represents the period of construction closely tied with the post-war residential housing period. We looked for houses that have been translated well in Modernism aesthetic in terms of materiality, simple geometries, clean of ornamentation, and open floor plans. Using existing research from current University faculty, Professor Jeff Poss and Paul Armstrong, the team conducted additional research through interviews with Jeff Poss, Kim Smith, and Alice Novak, library holdings (Urbana Free Library System), and The Champaign County Archives to form a list of Modernist homes in Urbana. Our research returned an impressive number, nearing 40 that fit the criteria. We then went about the task of conducting a design inventory – looking at home condition, location, and design – in order to conceive of the best possible collection of homes to include on the tour.

## General Info

 Please place yourself and view toward the direction.



## Things to look for:

- Horizontal Planes
- Single Geometric Shape
- Large Lites of Glass
- Large Open Plan
- Lack of Ornamentation



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## Kaufman Residence


The house is composed of 2 linear masses; one being perpendicular to the axis of entry and one being parallel to it. They each have the distinctive functional characters of the perpendicular one for public area and parallel one for private rooms. As one enters to the interior space, he/she can find a great deal of **Philippine mahogany** inside the house. This material is used on the ceiling, closets and built-in furniture. It is also used for the **columns** sit on the closets, which was the guideline of **spatial layout**. It is not hard to find the widths for main doors, closets, doorways, built-in furniture are based of the column spacing. Another interesting use of material is the use of brick. All bricks are painted white. From the exterior, the white colored house emphasizes its existence from the surrounding environment. Inside the house, the continuous exposure of the brick surface on one side with Philippine mahogany on the other creates the **color contrast**. The fireplace in the

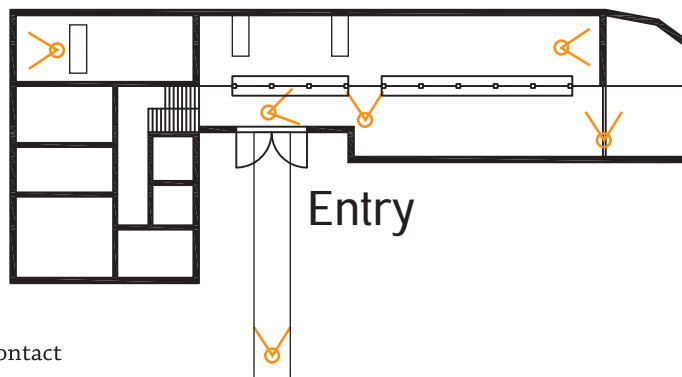
living room carries the brick surface as well but the grid like **pattern** distinguishes it from other surfaces. The house was built in 1956 by John Replinger. Dr. Kaufman, current resident of the house, moved into this house in 1971. Except the bar area, which was also designed by John replinger and his assistants, he didn't feel a need to change any over 40 years of living.

## Relevancy for Today (part 1)

## General Info

Modernism created a new approach to designing architecture that is still relevant in 2012 because of its ideals of simplicity, rationality, and functionality. These ideals allow the residential home to become a sanctuary, reducing the number of choices and decisions down to the basic needs. These ideas also manifest themselves in commercial architecture, but the focus is on rationality and functionality. These principles help to maximize space and create an efficient workplace, the basic needs of a commercial enterprise. The modern buildings we see today express their purpose, serve its function and take advantage of the site and surroundings.

 Please place yourself and view toward the direction.



## Things to look for:

- Column spacing
- Surface contrasts
- Use of material
- Comparison of late addition to original
- Natural light
- Similarity with Earlander house



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## Erlanger House

The house's original client was Margaret Erlanger, head of **dance** at the University of Illinois, and was bequeathed to the University of Illinois School of Architecture in 1975. In the gracious and collaborative spirit of Margret Erlanger, the house continues to host receptions for events and be a place for visiting artists to stay and enjoy. Key modernist features include rectilinear geometry, lack of ornamentation, framed views and **openness to nature**. The house was designed as a central two-story mass flanked by two towers that are connected by **glass voids**. The planes of the brick walls pass almost seamlessly through unframed glass creating an invisible line between interior and exterior. The towers frame interesting views of the park while creating privacy from adjacent lots. Similarly, the enclosed front courtyard becomes a buffer to the street while increasing **natural interior views**. The main room was designed for performances and

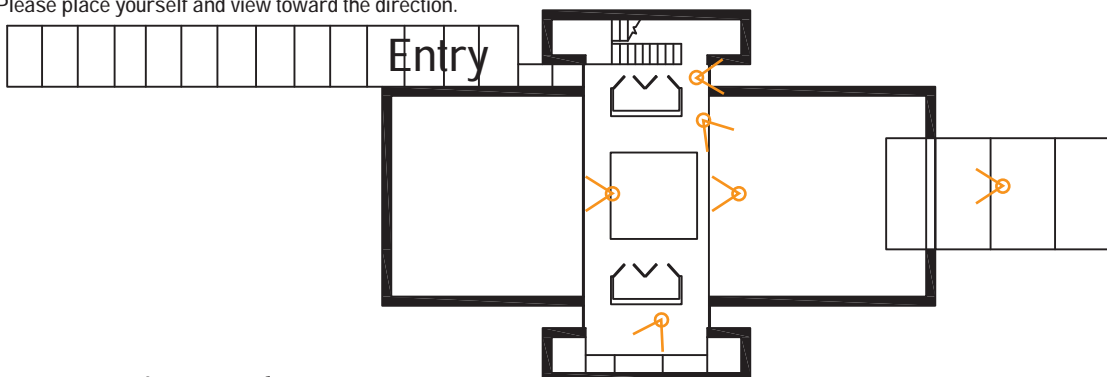
includes a material palette of Chicago common brick, oak wood, glass, and exposed aggregated concrete. Other features designed in the modernist style include a sunken conversation pit featured in the house. The house is considered a masterpiece of modern architectural design and won an **honor award** from the Central Illinois chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

## History of Modernism

Modernism is a design movement that began at the turn of the 20th century, which combined new ideas about architectural design with technological advancement. Modernism first emerged in Europe with key architects such as Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe and Walter Gropius. They rejected the use of unnecessary ornament in design and believed instead in creating ornament and interest through structure. Fascinated by new technologies, they often used concrete, glass, and steel because the increasing strength of these materials allowed more structural freedom in the design of their buildings. As shown in the Farnsworth House, the steel structure allowed an entirely open space for living surrounded by glass, giving the resident views into the trees and a connection to nature. As Corbusier famously wrote in *Towards A New Architecture*, the "house is a machine for living" which meant that every component of the house has a functional use designed in a simplistic manner. Pure utilitarian structures were seen as beautiful. Previously, buildings were enclosed and certain functions were sacrificed to achieve a certain style but the modern movement allowed the spaces to open up.

## General Info

Please place yourself and view toward the direction.



## Things to look for:

- Horizontality
- Open Plan
- Relation of interior and exterior
- Difference of sensory aspect
- Relation with Nature



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## Lerum Residence


The house was designed and built by University architecture professor Vidar Lerum. There are two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a den with the kitchen, dining, and living areas all opening up to the back deck and garden. The original home was as wide as the garage is now at 24 feet. The home owner added extra square footage where the living room and master bedroom are located. The siding from the old house turned out to be an unexpected feature. The planks of wood were turned to their backside and changed from a vertical to a horizontal orientation on the garage. The front of the house is a large glass wall that lets in the south light, heating the house in the winter and providing **view** of the tree canopy. The glass wall is an add-on timber-system which means the **curtain wall** was added to a wood frame constructed out of the old roofing material. The homeowner also reused the old wood flooring and other recycled wood materials for the kitchen counters and staircase. The living room

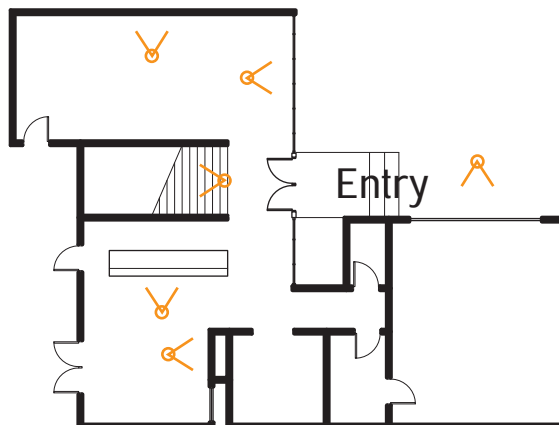
on the opposite side of the staircase is the new part of the house. Structural insulated panels were used for the new construction to help further insulate the building. The design intent was to get a well insulated house and use the environment to its advantage for **low energy** usage yet provide a comfortable home that still gives views to the outdoors. He installed low-e windows, energy efficient appliances, and solar panels to help lower the energy consumption.

## Introduction

## General Info

The City of Urbana has a rich architectural heritage dating back to the 1800's when the City was first developed. Although known for its Victorian style homes, the City has another significant architectural heritage, and that is its mid-century modernist residential projects. The aim of the Urbana Modernism Home Tour 2012 is to raise public awareness of this rich modernist architectural heritage both locally, and as part of an important genre of design on the national and international level. The Modernism Home Tour 2012 is the result of collaboration between the City of Urbana and CU-Engage, a Spring 2012 seminar course at the University of Illinois that connects the design currency and critical thinking abilities of graduate students in the School of Architecture to design projects of community partners in Urbana-Champaign.

 Please place yourself and view toward the direction.



## Things to look for:

- Glass curtain wall
- Staircase made of reused wood
- Notched wood counter
- Recycled slate chalkboards
- Structural Insulated Panels (SIP)
- Reused siding



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## Riley Residence


Designed by Robert Riley in 1972 as a one-story Midcentury Modern home, the Robert Riley Residence embodies Modernism through its relationship of **solid versus transparency**. To create privacy for the home, solid walls surround the two sides which border the streets. This is contrasted on the other sides of the home where glazing creates a **relationship with nature**. This **transparency** is highlighted in the living room where the interior space is mirrored through a sliding glass door on the exterior with a large deck in a cultivated nature. This nature is also seen through the fully glazed walls of the three bedrooms. To create a more **open plan**, built-in cabinets, shelves, and other furniture pieces are used to define spaces without solid walls. Throughout most of the home the material palette is limited to shades of white. This starkness creates a simple backdrop, allowing the colored elements to be highly contrasted. This is an important aspect with the large amount of artwork throughout the home. The

white interior also balances the dark, natural, weathered look of the exterior red wood siding, helping to further reinforce the ideas of solid versus transparent. With the addition of the second story Mr. Riley was able to create new two-story spaces that were capped off with **skylights**. These spaces become “voids” in the plan allowing light to flood into the home. These are contrasted by the areas where there is a second floor, which form “solids” of the plan.

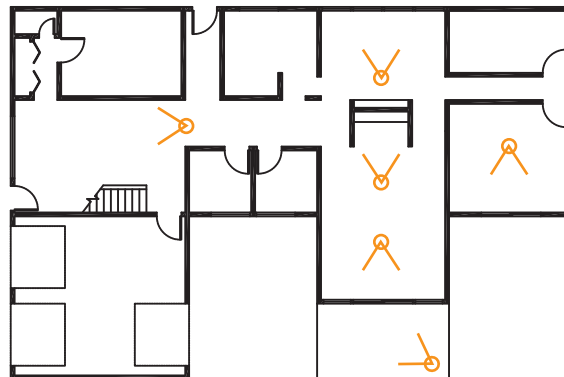
## Relevancy for Today (part 2)

## General Info

The idea of reducing architecture down to its basic needs ties directly into the ideas of sustainability and the green movement. Sustainability is about reducing water, waste, and energy, so through the reduction of architecture to its basic needs these can be reduced as well. Another ideal of Modernism is about creating a physical connection to nature through materials such as glass and steel. Creating a connection to nature is also an ideal of green design, except in a spiritual sense. The materials of Modern Architecture also tie into the ideas of sustainability, with steel and concrete being used heavily because of their recycle ability and construction with low waste. These connections between Modernism and sustainability are another reason for Modernism's relevancy in the 21st century.

 Please place yourself and view toward the direction.

Entry



## Things to look for:

lights  
relationship with nature  
open to nature  
open plan  
transparency



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