

# Mid-Century Modern Architecture Survey Training



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

# Modernism



Bauhaus Building in Dessau, Germany built 1925-26  
[www.bauhaus-dessau.de/english/home.htm](http://www.bauhaus-dessau.de/english/home.htm)



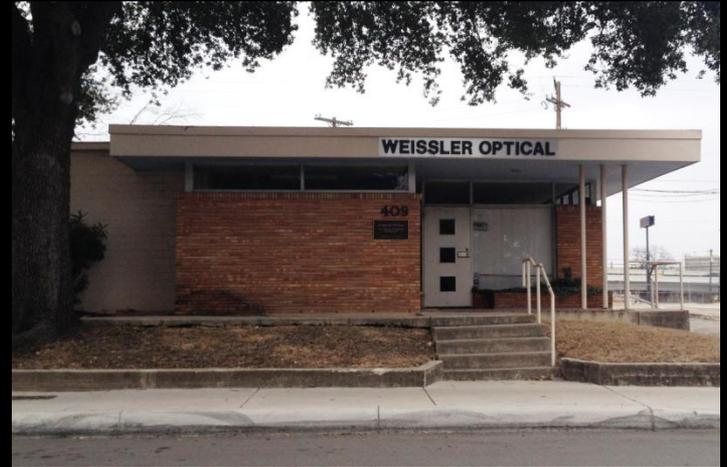
- Begins in Europe in early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Break from traditional precedents
- Clean lines and surfaces, simplicity, lack of ornamentation
- New materials, building techniques

# **Mid-Century Architectural Styles**

# International Style

(1950s - 1960s)

- Rectangular forms
- Flat roofs
- Lack of ornamentation/details
- Curtain walls of glass
- Ribbon windows (bands of windows)
- Cantilevered projections
- Smooth wall surfaces
- Visible structural elements on exterior



# International Style



# International Style



# Populuxe/Googie (1950s - 1960s)

- Futuristic forms
- Influenced by car culture, jets, Atomic Age
- Often used for restaurants, motels, gas stations
- Upswept roofs, curving lines, bold uses of glass
- Space age designs of motion (boomerangs, flying saucers, atoms)
- Often elaborate signage/neon



# New/Neo-Formalism

(mid 1950s – 1960s)

- Reaction to the strict confines of modernism
- Reference to the past but adaptation of new technologies
- Embraces scale, proportion, and columns of Classical architecture
- Usually monumental in scale
- Symmetry
- Smooth walls
- Flat projecting rooflines
- Use of concrete
- Often on raised podium or base



# New/Neo-Formalism



# Neo-Expressionism (1960s - 1970s)

- Also a reaction to the strict ideals of earlier modernism
- Sculpture-like, theatrical
- Distortion of form
- Unconventional roof designs
- Use of concrete
- Often found in religious and public buildings



# Neo-Expressionism



# Brutalism

(1960s - 1970s)

- Massive, fortress-like buildings
- Rough exposed concrete
- Blocky shapes
- Recessed windows
- Often used for college buildings



# Brutalism



# **Mid-Century Architectural Elements**

# Clean Lines and Simple Construction



# Clean Lines and Simple Construction



# Clean Lines and Simple Construction



# Clean Lines and Simple Construction



# Distilled Forms



# Distilled Forms



# Distilled Forms



# Distilled Forms



# Distilled Forms



# Distilled Forms



# Minimal Ornamentation



# Minimal Ornamentation



# Minimal Ornamentation



# Rooflines



# Rooflines



# Rooflines



# Rooflines



# Rooflines



# Rooflines



# Vertically Oriented Plate Glass Windows



# Vertically Oriented Plate Glass Windows



# Ribbon & Clerestory Windows



# Ribbon & Clerestory Windows



# Ribbon & Clerestory Windows



# Ribbon & Clerestory Windows



# Curtain Wall Construction



# Curtain Wall Construction



# Structural Transparency



# Modular Construction



# Porte Cocheres



# Porticos & Entrances



# Porticos & Entrances



# Porticos & Entrances



# Porticos & Entrances



# Decorative Screens & Accent Walls



# Decorative Screens & Accent Walls



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# Decorative Screens & Accent Walls



# Decorative Screens & Accent Walls



# Colonnades



# Arcades



# Arcades



# “Floating” foundation



# “Floating” foundation



# Wing Walls



# Wing Walls



# Pylon Signage



# Signage



# Mid-Century Modern Survey

