

Mid-Century Modern Architecture

- What is Mid-Century Modern?
 - *Simple geometry, natural materials, and indoor-outdoor flow.*





Historical Background

- Emerged mid-1940s through the late 1960s
 - *Designers focused on simplicity and clean lines*

Historical Background

- **Mid-Century Modern design emerged in the years right after World War II, roughly from the mid-1940s through the late 1960s.**
- **During this period, the United States was experiencing rapid growth, new technologies, and a strong sense of optimism.**
- **Families were moving to the suburbs, and architects saw an opportunity to rethink how homes could function for modern life.**
- **Influenced by earlier movements like the Bauhaus and International Style, designers such as Richard Neutra, Charles and Ray Eames, and Joseph Eichler focused on simplicity, clean lines, and honest materials.**
- **They used new manufacturing techniques and large expanses of glass to create bright, open spaces that connected the indoors with nature.**
- **This era wasn't just about style — it represented a shift in how people wanted to live: more informally, more efficiently, and more connected to their surroundings. That's why Mid-Century Modern architecture became so iconic and why it still feels fresh today.**



Seven Common Exterior Identifying Features



1. Unique Rooflines

- Flat and low-pitched
- Unusual shapes—sharply angled and butterfly-design
- Wide eaves

Butterfly Roof



Wide Eaves





2. Extensive Use of Glass

- Expansive windows
- Sliding glass doors
- Clerestory windows

Glass Doors



Clerestory Windows





3. Bricks

- Roman brick
- Traditional brick
- Cut stone



White brick



Cut Stone

4. Integration with Nature

- Courtyards
- Patios
- Outdoor living spaces





Part of the
landscape
and not
separate

Indoor and
outdoor
living flow
together



5. Low Horizontal Form

- **Ground-hugging**
- **Split-level and two stories, especially on sloped lots**
- **Layout was often purposely asymmetrical**





6. Large Chimney

- A wide chimney stack suggests a large focal point fireplace inside

7. Carports and Breezeways





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