Tour day promoting the Mid-Century Modern Tour.

The tour is part of the Mid-Century Modern Tour Restore Omaha/2020 Omaha.

INDIAN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD

In 1941 the farm land that sat between Dodge, Harney, 84th and 90th streets was transformed into the 18-hole Indian Hills Golf Course by Harold W. Glissman. The public course was billed as the “Poor Man’s country club,” where players paid fees of $1 for Sunday mornings and 50 cents to play on Saturday mornings and weekdays. The course featured over 500 planted evergreens and players would say they were “golfing on the hill,” referring to the highest point at what is now 88th and Indian Hills Drive. The clubhouse sat where Swanson Towers sits today.

INDIAN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD

Swanson Towers is a seven-story luxury condominium building featuring 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom units. The building has a West Coast design constructed of poured concrete with terrazzo covered pillars. There is heated, underground parking for residents and a swimming pool surrounded by rock from Mount St. Helen’s. Original plans were to have two towers but a second tower was never built. Today the land is a 4.5 acre park featuring a tennis court, sundial and walking paths with trees and open spaces.

Currently McOsker Restoration is caulking and repairing the balconies. On view for the tour will be the lobby and “Sous Chef” (“Cuirehez) in a French Room as well as the swimming pool and grounds.

In the mid-1950s Indian Hills Golf Course land was purchased by Malvern Co., owned by Gilbert and W. Clarke Swanson. The brothers, from a prominent Omaha family, envisioned the 135 acres as an “ultra-modern community” but the land did not develop as planned.

What is Mid-Century Modern?

Mid-century modern is an architectural, interior and product design form that describes developments in modern design, architecture and urban development from roughly 1933 to 1965. Mid-Century architecture was frequently employed in residential structures with the goal of bringing modernism into America’s post-war suburbs. This style emphasized creating structures with ample windows and open floor plans to bring the outdoors in. Many Mid-Century homes utilized then groundbreaking post and beam architectural design that eliminated bulky support walls in favor of walls seemingly made of glass. Function was as important as form in Mid-Century designs with an emphasis placed on targeting the needs of the average American family.

In 1958 the new corporate headquarters of Leo A. Daly was constructed to consolidate multiple locations of the firm across the city under one roof. The layout of the headquarters was designed around the philosophy of a “multidisciplinary practice.” With this type of collaborative professional team of architects, civil engineers, structural engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, planners, interior designers and related personnel work together in the same team area on a particular project, from concept to completion, with the client participating as a team member in the planning stages. The Leo A. Daly corporate headquarters received top awards at the 1960 AIA Nebraska awards.

Rules and Guidelines

• Admission is by ticket only, no exceptions.
• Be aware that all of the tour sites are not ADA accessible. Needs of those with mobility impairments will be accommodated within the physical limits of the buildings and the availability of tour volunteers to provide assistance.
• Close doors, shutters, windows, etc. where appropriate.
• Respect the owner’s property. If a door is shut, do not attempt to open it. If a drawer is closed, do not open it.
• No smoking, eating or drinking in any of the properties.
• No photography.
• No pets.
• Only use restrooms in specified locations. Restroom facilities for patrons are available at Swanstrom Library and Swanson Towers models.
• Restrooms may be required to be seen in some of the tour locations.

In consideration of the permission granted the tour participant to enter the buildings and premises on the tour, the tour participant hereby agrees to enter the tour buildings and premises at their own risk and hereby releases the respective property owner and Restore Omaha from any and all claims or causes of action due to injury to person or property that may arise during.

The tour is part of the doc.mo.omo... Tour Day promoting the Modern Movement through tours and lectures in 30 American cities and 22 states. For more information visit www.docomo-us.org.

The architectural firm of Leo A. Daly was established in 1915 by Leo A. Daly Sr. In 1959 the new corporate headquarters of Leo A. Daly was constructed to consolidate multiple locations of the firm across the city under one roof. The layout of the headquarters was designed around the philosophy of a “multidisciplinary practice.” With this type of collaborative professional team of architects, civil engineers, structural engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, planners, interior designers and related personnel work together in the same team area on a particular project, from concept to completion, with the client participating as a team member in the planning stages. The Leo A. Daly corporate headquarters received top awards at the 1960 AIA Nebraska awards.

The tour is part of the doc.mo.omo... Tour Day promoting the Modern Movement through tours and lectures in 30 American cities and 22 states. For more information visit www.docomo-us.org.
3639 DOUGLAS ST.
ARCHITECT: UNKNOWN
YEAR BUILT: 1962

The home features original mirrored walls in the dining room, skylight roof, inlaid marble and original light fixtures. There are colored lights in the living and dining room along with original wood paneling in the living room. Home also has original curtain boxes and light fixtures and original tile in the main public bathroom. Master bath features original black and white floor tile and a built in scale. Renovations have removed the drop ceilings in the kitchen and bathroom and modernized both the rooms.

8743 HARNEY ST.
ARCHITECT: STANLEY J. HOW JR.
YEAR BUILT: 1963

The home was designed by Stanley J. How Jr. for his family. Mr. and Mrs. Howe along with their four children were happy to move from their 1200 sq. ft. Panca Hills home to this 2160 sq. ft. home with a full basement. Remodeling work had been done prior to the current owners moving in to update the color scheme and make the home more functional.

Since purchasing the home in 2002, the owners have gutted the basement creating an entertainment room, bathroom, workout room and play areas for their two children. They added wood floors to the living room, an office space all the living room and retil the master bedroom closet using maple board and slate and marble in the master bathroom. They also added a closet and shelving in one of the smaller bedrooms.

Like the other homes on the block designed by How, this home features floor to ceiling windows along the south side of the home that open into a private back yard.

8704 DOUGLAS ST.
ARCHITECT: UNKNOWN
YEAR BUILT: 1964
RENOVATIONS: ARCHITECTS DON POLSKY AND STEVEN CONLEY

The original home owners were Mr. and Mrs. Jay Swanson, son of Gilbert Swanson, one of the developers of the Indian Hills area. In 2006 the current owners purchased the home and opened it up making it more functional. The renovations also made the home an ideal place to highlight their extensive art collection and their mix of old and new furnishings. Mid-Century modern touches include floor to ceiling windows, original orange Eames chairs and original fireplaces.

In 1962, the home was built to capture the day and night views of the 79th and Dodge Street area from the living room, master bedroom, den, enclosed porch and from a long balcony that runs along the rear of the home. The current owners inherited the home from his parents who moved into the residence in 1972 after purchasing it from the original owners.

The building won a 1966 national award of merit for its architecture. The library is in the Brutalist architectural style, popular from the 1950s through the 1970s. Typically this style is represented as being carved out of concrete with slender columns and topped with hovering massing. The distance between columns along the sides of the library were spaced larger in the adult section to align with the book stacks and narrower in the children’s section. The library is no longer used in that respect. The smaller columns are in the adult sections and the wider columns are now in the kids section.

W. CLARKE SWANSON LIBRARY
9101 WEST DODGE ROAD
ARCHITECT: LEO A DALY/ WILLIAM LARSON AND GOLDEN ZENON
YEAR BUILT: 1966

The Swanson Branch Library was designed by Leo A Daly staff architects William Larson and Golden Zenon. The library is in the Brutalist architectural style, popular from the 1950s through the 1970s. Typically this style is represented as being carved out of concrete with slender columns and topped with hovering massing. The distance between columns along the sides of the library were spaced larger in the adult section to align with the book stacks and narrower in the children’s section. The library is no longer used in that respect. The smaller columns are in the adult sections and the wider columns are now in the kids section.

The building won a 1966 national award of merit for its architecture. The library is in the Brutalist architectural style, popular from the 1950s through the 1970s. Typically this style is represented as being carved out of concrete with slender columns and topped with hovering massing. The distance between columns along the sides of the library were spaced larger in the adult section to align with the book stacks and narrower in the children’s section. The library is no longer used in that respect. The smaller columns are in the adult sections and the wider columns are now in the kids section.

The building won a 1966 national award of merit for its architecture. The library is in the Brutalist architectural style, popular from the 1950s through the 1970s. Typically this style is represented as being carved out of concrete with slender columns and topped with hovering massing. The distance between columns along the sides of the library were spaced larger in the adult section to align with the book stacks and narrower in the children’s section. The library is no longer used in that respect. The smaller columns are in the adult sections and the wider columns are now in the kids section.

The building won a 1966 national award of merit for its architecture. The library is in the Brutalist architectural style, popular from the 1950s through the 1970s. Typically this style is represented as being carved out of concrete with slender columns and topped with hovering massing. The distance between columns along the sides of the library were spaced larger in the adult section to align with the book stacks and narrower in the children’s section. The library is no longer used in that respect. The smaller columns are in the adult sections and the wider columns are now in the kids section. The building won a 1966 national award of merit for its architecture. The library is in the Brutalist architectural style, popular from the 1950s through the 1970s. Typically this style is represented as being carved out of concrete with slender columns and topped with hovering massing. The distance between columns along the sides of the library were spaced larger in the adult section to align with the book stacks and narrower in the children’s section. The library is no longer used in that respect. The smaller columns are in the adult sections and the wider columns are now in the kids section.