



## TOURS . EVENTS . MODERNISM



Thanks to all who attended the first ABQ Mid Mod Home Tour. With your help, we've located over a dozen more mid-century modern homes in Albuquerque! Their addresses don't simply enter into our records; the mid-century modern building inventory is shared with fellow researchers and the City's Office of Historic Preservation.

Thanks also to the tour's founder, Ted Janka, and sponsors, **Denver Modernism Week**, **Dekker/Perich/Sabatini**, the **Antique Specialty Mall**, and Realtor **Talia Freedman & Associates**, without whom the event would not have been possible. - **Thea Haver**

### THE PERFECT BUILDING: THE ALBUQUERQUE CIVIC AUDITORIUM

Over the last year, Modern Albuquerque has become increasingly familiar with what remains from the mid-century era as well as what's been lost. Places like the Western Skies Hotel. Winrock Shopping Center. The Albuquerque Civic Auditorium. It's the Civic Auditorium, seen in this postcard from the Nancy Tucker collection, that is perhaps the city's most-missed mid-century landmark.



We're now embarking on our most ambitious endeavor yet, the production of a short documentary film that will explore the design and cultural impact of this lost relic of the recent past, designed by architectural firm Ferguson, Stevens & Associates (now SMPC Architects) in 1955/56. To fund the film, we are running a campaign on Indiegogo, a forum that allows us to challenge the idea that the auditorium was 'unloved' as claimed by headlines on the day of its demolition. To support the project and learn where it gets its name, please view the **campaign's page on Indiegogo**.

**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT**



## RESOLVING THE 'MYSTERY' BUILDING

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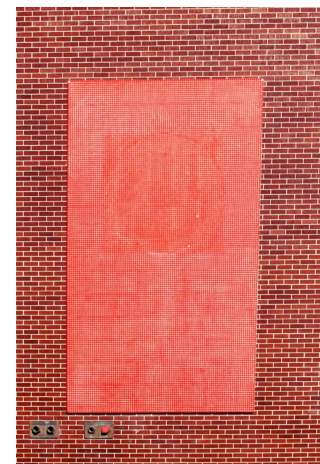
As we approach the first anniversary of the start of Modern Albuquerque, we're looking back on the first modern building our team looked at. It was before Modern Albuquerque was even a thought that I encountered this one.

After relocating to Albuquerque in the sticky summer of 2014, I set about finding friends with similar interests. The discovery of Albuquerque's architecture was how I

bonded with another new resident, a fabricator and philosophy student. He regularly rode his bike up and back Copper Ave. to the University, and on both ways, passed this building.

Confused by its lack of windows and "mysterious red spot", he hauled me over to look at it with him. The 'red spot' in the red mosaic tile was seemingly the result of signage that had been installed over it and removed. I convinced him that it was a communications building, and the spot had once sported the Bell symbol. Bell, as in Mountain Bell, the telephone company. At the time, I had little sense of how to resolve the mystery conclusively but our read felt right. There were service trucks in the back, and what looked like a satellite dish atop the building.

A month into the start of Modern Albuquerque, I flipped a page in a copy of **New Mexico Architect magazine** and found the mystery building. The issue dated to 1962, when it was commissioned as the East Exchange for the Mountain States Telephone Co. The structure's story was more interesting than I'd imagined. Architects were tasked with expanding the facility for the telephone company while at the same time being unable to discontinue operations at the site. Their solution was to essentially wrap the new building around the old one, which predated 1952. The reportedly \$1.25 million expansion commenced construction in 1960. The architectural firm responsible was Ferguson, Stevens, Mallory, & Pearl.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Remember the Civic / 'Led Zeppelin Played Here'

**AUGUST 2ND:** On the 50th anniversary of Led Zeppelin's August 2, 1969 concert at Albuquerque's Civic Auditorium, we celebrate the venue and the band with a one-night only

program.

*Led Zeppelin Played Here* explores the start of the modern rock concert industry, focusing on Led Zeppelin's first month in the US, and a concert mystery: did they play on January 20, 1969 in a suburban Maryland gymnasium, in front of 50 confused teenagers, while President Richard Nixon was celebrating his first inauguration nearby? Many swear the concert took place, but just as many cast doubt. Did it really happen? Or over fifty years later, is it some sort of a *'Rock-and-Roll Rashomon'* re-imagining of history? Featuring interviews with rock writers, musicians, and fans, and several who claim they were there witnessing history that night.

"The movie is one of those stories of rock war veterans that's great fun to hear, even if you don't buy a word of it." – Mark Jenkins, The Washington Post

More details and tickets will be released in late June.



## WALKING TOUR SEASON RESUMES

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Though we never stopped offering our weekly modern architecture walking tours for the winter season, what many consider 'walking tour weather' has resumed.

Popular *Hairpin Legs* modern architecture tour will be split into a 75-minute guided experience and self-guided extension on June 14th to minimize walking in the heat of the summer. The ticket price will be trimmed down to \$20, too.

**BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY!**



"I learned so much, saw new buildings I'd never seen before, and came away with a new appreciation for that stretch of Central and mid-century architecture. It's a great way to build a sense of community. The tour guide was great - very knowledgeable & passionate."

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