











VISITORS TO ANN ARBOR MAY BE SURPRISED that amidst the academic buildings and historic nineteenth century homes are some of the finest examples of modern architecture in the Midwest. Modern architectural design was able to grow and develop in this region because Ann Arbor was, and still is, an open, diverse community that fosters an atmosphere ideal for creative expression and experimentation. The University of Michigan provided access to the advancements in engineering and building materials, as well as many of the forward-thinking architects, needed to create these new works.

Emil Lorch, who in 1906 came to the University of Michigan to establish a department of architecture in the College of Engineering, set the pattern in teaching modern ideals. In 1923, Lorch brought Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen as visiting professor and then in 1930 he hired MIT trained architect George B. Brigham, who introduced residential modernism to the community. Other impressive hires by Lorch and his successor, Wells Bennett, led to Modernism eclipsing the Beaux-Arts, which had been the dominate American architectural style since the 1880s. Starting in the 1940s, modern design was further strengthened through the College's support of the "Ann Arbor Conferences." This series of meetings brought architects and designers including Mies van der Rohe, Walter Gropius and Laszlo Moholy-Nagy to campus as a means to exchange ideas.

Research and practice were added to traditional studies and out of Brigham's studio came Robert C. Metcalf, who in turn became a prolific modern designer based in Ann Arbor. In addition to private practice, Metcalf was a leader through his positions as chair and then dean of the architecture school from 1968-1986.

After World War II, with a booming economy and an influx of new students and faculty, the area was ripe for residential development. The result was this remarkable collection of fine architect-designed homes in the style that has come to be known as mid-century modern. This brochure highlights a selection of residential architecture and architects working in Ann Arbor during this period.

COVER: Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Metcalf residence [#1]. BACK COVER: Dr. and Mrs. Stefan Fajans residence [#31].