

You will be asked to remove your shoes in all homes.

No washroom facilities are provided in the houses.

Do not park in driveways, or block driveways or streets.

Refrain from touching furniture, art and household or personal items.

All attendees must have a ticket & be at least 6 years of age (infants in front carriers are permitted without a ticket, no other exceptions).

Please do not bring large bags & backpacks.

No food, drink, smoking or pets on tour properties.

Cell phone usage is not permitted inside homes. If you must take a call please move outside the home and notify a volunteer as you exit, to ensure you are re-admitted.

Photography on private property including gardens and interiors is strictly prohibited.

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2016 MID-CENTURY MODERN HOUSE TOUR



SATURDAY **SEPT. 24** 1pm - 5pm

THIS BROCHURE IS YOUR 2016 TICKET

The West Coast Modern



In post-war Vancouver, a small city literally "on the margin," the temperate climate, superb scenery, and irregular and sloping building lots stimulated experiment with the idiom of Modernist domestic architecture. The unique geographical setting of the city, and Vancouver's relatively distinctive socio-political character during its first phase of post-war expansion, made it an excellent place in which to examine the localization of diverse strands of "International Modernism". The renown of local progressive designs inspired the popular term "West Coast Style," an epithet that obscures its transatlantic sources.

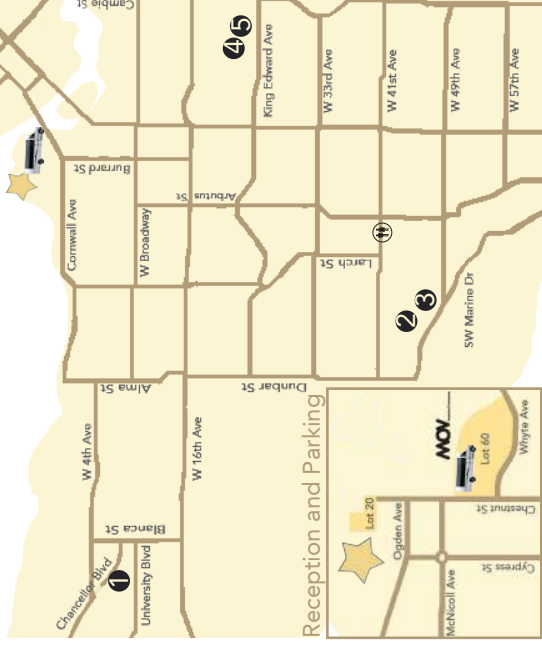
Modernist regionalism in Vancouver responded directly and imaginatively to the omnipresent landscape and weather: the dense, lush and majestic Northwest Coast forest fringing the constantly changing waters of the Strait of Georgia, the high rainfall, the remarkably luminous grey light – all encompassed by the sublime profile of the Coast Mountains. The implementation of Modernist thought and design was brought about by a relatively small if vigorous group of professionals and citizens that exerted a remarkably broad influence on local society from the mid 1940's through the 1950's.

The period between Vancouver's first, experimental Modernist houses of 1937-38 and the design competition for Simon Fraser University of 1962-63 witnessed the triumph of Modernism among institutional, corporate, and private patrons. Vancouver nurtured what the Vancouver Province in January 1953 called "a growing creative spirit (that yielded) a new Renaissance of building." The city attracted architects in search of something new – new experiences, a new manner of living."

From Liscombe, Rhodri W. *The New Spirit: Modern Architecture in Vancouver, 1938 - 1963*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1997

Map

This map is for illustrative purposes only. You will also need a Vancouver street map.



Legend

- Tour homes
- ★ Post-tour reception
Vancouver Maritime Museum (1905 Ogden Ave)
- ♿ Suggested washroom location
Kerrisdale Community Centre (5851 West Blvd)
- 🚌 The buses will leave from the Museum of Vancouver parking lot **promptly at 1 pm.**

THIS BROCHURE IS YOUR TICKET

Welcome

Vancouver Heritage Foundation is a registered charity supporting the conservation of heritage buildings and structures in recognition of their contribution to the city's economy, sustainability and culture. Through education, public awareness and granting activities, VHF is helping to create a city that appreciates, repairs and reuses its older buildings rather than demolish them.

Thank You

The Mid-Century Modern Tour is only possible through the tremendous effort of over 90 people who volunteer their time, expertise and homes. We appreciate all of their contributions to ensure the success of this tour.

VHF would like to thank our Volunteers:

Elmira Aghsaei, Beryl Allen, Jack & Debbie Allen, Neil Armittage, Faran Asgharpour, Rose Bergen, Ben Blialek, Kevin & Christine Bowers, Adrienne Brown, Gloria Burgess, Sheila Butt, Anna Camporese, Renata Carrico Barrella, Miguel Castillo, Carrie Chan, Sharon Cheney, Nicki Collingwood, Michael Croteau, Lexie Evers, Curtis Foreman, Barbara Fousek, Pamela Francis, Ivyna German, Daniel Gil-Ara, Haiana Gomes Souza, Carol Gordon, Imbi & Phillip Harding, June Harrison, Richard Hartfel, Paul Hayes, Sheila Hill, Jo-ann Hilton, Jeanette Hlavach, Steve Hodder, Susanna Houwen, Phillip Howden, Livia Huang, Heidi Hunchak, Heather Hyde, Misty Jorgensen, Tamara Kabakova, Alison Keenan, Diana Kilgour, Sooz Klinkhamer, Desirée LaCas, Anne Lidstone, Cecilia Liu, Eva López, Chantelle Lupieri, Don Luxton, Ursula Macleod, Deb McGerrigle, Rhonda McLean, Stephanie McWilliams, Karly Morgan, John Morse, Peter Mustard, Sandra North, Bruce Pedersen, Valerie Reed, Eleanor & Steve Robinson, Trenton Rodney, Steve Rom, Ellen Stewart, Megan Tacq, Hillary Taylor, Sarah Taylor, Lindsey Tomlinson-Foreman, April Underwood, Cara Wang, Barbara Westmacott, Lindsay Wilkinson, Helen Wood and Stanley Zhao.

All images courtesy of Martin Knowles Photo/Media (unless otherwise noted).

Special thanks to Cornelia Oberlander, Rick Horne, Susan Alexander and Adrienne Brown.

Parking For Bus and Reception Guests

Finding appropriate parking is the responsibility of ticket holders. However, EasyPark has provided complimentary parking for those joining us at the reception and/or attending by bus. Please note VHF is not liable for any parking violations received by tour goers.

The buses will depart from **1100 Chestnut Street promptly at 1pm**. Parking is available in Lot 60, in front of the Museum of Vancouver (see map). These lots are also available to anyone attending the post-tour reception. A parking pass will be enclosed with your tickets.

If you plan to use this lot, please ensure you have received a parking pass from VHF before tour day. The pass specifies the lot you are permitted to park in, and must be displayed prominently on your vehicle dash. EasyPark does patrol lots and may ticket anyone without a visible parking pass.

Further Reading

Herrington, Susan. *Cornelia Hahn Oberlander: Making the Modern Landscape*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014.

Kalman, Harold and Robin Ward. *Exploring Vancouver: The Architectural Guide*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 2012.

Liscombe, Rhodri Windsor. *The New Spirit: Modern Architecture in Vancouver, 1938-1963*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1997.

Thom, Bing. *Bing Thom: Works*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 2011.

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Corporate Sponsor: Parking Sponsor:

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1 Chancellor Blvd via Blanca St



Friedman Residence
Built 1953 *Frederic Lasserre Architect, with Polson & Sidall
Cornelia Hahn Oberlander Landscape Architect*

Designed by the first director of the UBC School of Architecture, Frederic Lasserre, this home is a striking example of West Coast Modernism. Sited on a steeply sloping, triangular lot, it features landscaping designed by Cornelia Oberlander, internationally recognized Landscape Architect and recipient of the inaugural Governor General's Award for Landscape Architecture. Lasserre tailored the design of the split-level space to suit the needs of Dr. Sydney Friedman, the first head of the new Department of Anatomy in 1950 and Dr. Constance Friedman, a professor in the same department. Between them they published over 200 papers on salt and hypertension, a focus of her research. They required adequate space to host a class of up to 60 students which led to the open plan of the home. Beautifully preserved and updated by the Friedmans over their lifetimes, the original patterns and colours still brighten the house and landscape.

Typical of the Modern movement, interior and exterior flow seamlessly, with floor to ceiling windows allowing an unobstructed view of the enclosed pool area from the living room. Exposed beams pass through the glazing, drawing the eye from inside to out, embracing the changing seasons and skies. The landscape around the home functions as both an extension of the interior and a natural setting, with plantings and fencing creating a private space despite the close proximity to two roadways on the triangular property.

The home was refreshed in 2013 by the late Dr. Sydney Friedman, adhering to the original design and colours in the house including the drapery. The kitchen was fitted with linoleum similar to the original and new period-appropriate appliances, while red concrete scored to look like tile was covered with real tile. The Friedmans' 1950s furniture is now gone but the main living area has been staged by Article to bring the space to life once more.

This important well-preserved mid-century design now has new owners whose love of West Coast Modernism motivated them to negotiate the purchase before even seeing the house in person. Work is underway to restore the landscaping and prepare the home for a new chapter.

2 Carnarvon St



Built 1986
Bing Thom Architect

This more recent home is indicative of the continuing influence of the Mid-Century Modern movement in the 1980s and beyond. It was designed by architect Bing Thom, a graduate of UBC Architecture who worked for Arthur Erickson Architects before establishing his own firm that has designed internationally-renowned projects.

Here Thom employed many elements from the Modernist vocabulary — raw wood, vast glazing, courtyards, skylights, and open plan. A strong connection to the outdoor landscape is evident with the house thoughtfully sited to harvest natural light, create privacy and accentuate the southern exposure of the rear gardens and living spaces. An extensive use of wood, with wide plank siding and an exposed wood structure over the breakfast area, reflect both the owners' ties to the lumber industry and the prominence of this local material in West Coast design.

The house is oriented around a back garden and a courtyard. The street facade presents a solid wall and gives little away of the light-filled living spaces behind. Deep overhangs with wood soffits shelter the exterior walls. The living room, dining room, kitchen, breakfast area and master bedroom form an L-shaped configuration facing the rear yard where beautiful established trees were retained. These include a variety of rhododendrons that bloom in succession, a stunning grafted maple, and established cedars along the southern perimeter. The property was originally the garden of a large estate owned by Fyfe-Smith, a lumber baron. This lot and three to the north of it together were known as the Cliff Estate until it was divided in the 1980s. The 1958 Cliff residence, designed by Thompson Berwick and Pratt, remains, although a Daniel Evan White home on the neighbouring lot was recently demolished.

3 Carnarvon St



Built 1964
Architect Unknown

This home is an example of a developer-built design that catered to the values and concepts of domestic living in the 1960s. The purchasers of the land divided the double lot and engaged a developer to build two identical homes. In exchange, they gifted this lot to the developer and retained the house to the north which has now been greatly remodeled by subsequent owners.

Generous open plan living and dining areas with a glass wall face the large backyard where ten of the neighbour-hood's remaining established cedars surround an in-ground pool. Mature landscaping front and back connects through the living spaces and provides privacy. The upper floor features a long ridge skylight, cathedral ceilings and generous windows. The house benefits from abundant light, particularly in the morning and evening, due to the home's front to back orientation running east to west. This makes the most of the sun's natural path.

The current owner looked at several homes before this one, and immediately knew it was the one for her. The house has evolved to suit modern family life, most notably with a substantial kitchen addition, expanding this as a living space and connecting it further to the outdoors.

The basement is a highly functional space, with abundant storage, a wine room, a decommissioned sauna and spa, the owner's primary art studio, and a guest room. Artworks around the home are by the homeowner and include pieces in concrete, cast bronze, resin, and stone.

4

4 W 23rd Ave



Bodlak House
Built 1982
John Raymond Griffin, Dalla-Lana/Griffin Architects

Dalla-Lana/Griffin Architects designed this home for Stan and Jean Bodlak, balancing privacy with natural light and employing a harmonizing palette throughout. The current owners purchased the home in 2013 from the original owners, appreciating both the functional and aesthetic qualities. Ray Griffin and Fred Dalla-Lana both graduated from UBC School of Architecture in 1961. Dalla-Lana in particular gained experience working with Arthur Erickson and Barry Downs, influences that shaped the partnership's residential work.

The house achieves remarkable privacy without compromising on light. The living areas occupy the upper floor and take advantage of mountain and garden views through extensive glazing front and back with side windows omitted in favour of skylights. A largely open-plan design is subtly divided by a difference in floor level and a den at the rear can be closed off by hidden pocket doors. The north-facing living room is oriented around a wood-burning fireplace and warmed by original oak cabinetry and fir plank ceiling.

The new owners have carefully adapted the home to their needs and updated some finishes, while retaining the key formal aspects as the architect intended. The removal of a steep second stair provided space to enlarge the kitchen. The master bathroom is updated with new fixtures and finishes, replacing a Japanese-style soaker tub, and adding closets where a door and passageway led to the backyard through an arcade beside the pool. Original efficient in-floor radiant heating continues to warm the ground floor and the dining room area upstairs. A new railing lines the rebuilt front deck and a rotted horizontal frame that extended out beyond the house structure was removed, revealing a view of the sky through the transom windows. The mirroring structure remains on the back deck.

5 Heather St



Built 1956
2007-08 renovations by Alan Davies, Acton Ostry Architects

The straight, orthogonal lines of this house underline the emphasis on simplicity and functionality in Modern architecture. The efficient layout and striking design caught the eye of the current owners who brought their architectural expertise to an update of this one-of-a-kind home. The structure utilized recycled timber with cascading flat roofs. The house made effective use of the zoning's allowable square footage with an efficient interior lay-out and original basement suite. Maximizing the allowable FSR also motivated the design of Vancouver Specials a decade later.

The siting of the house is as critical to the design as the structure itself. Located to the rear of the lot, it extends beyond the adjacent houses to the north and south, with a deep front yard setback. This placement exposes the kitchen to a clear south view and a broad north-facing view to the mountains and the city below.

The current owners did some general upgrading in 2003, a major exterior renovation in 2007 and interior changes in 2008 and 2015. Through the renovations, the owners adhered to the design principles of the original building in form, layout and materials, reflecting contemporary detailing in new work, and preserving and reinforcing the siting aspects.

The floor layouts are largely unaltered, however the kitchen and bathrooms were rebuilt in their original configurations. An open replacement staircase eliminated winders at the base to create a compact den on the main level. The owners kept and refinished the main and upstairs wood floors, and retained existing plasterboard panels. Painted wood channel siding was replaced with new to match and new aluminum windows were installed in the original openings. An unstable rear enclosure was rebuilt with extensive glazing added to extend sightlines to the north and east. Due to thoughtful updates and respect for the unusual design, this mid-century original connects the experimentation of the era with contemporary design.

Join the Post-Tour Reception



Reception ticket holders are invited to attend a wine and cheese reception at the Vancouver Maritime Museum from **5pm - 7pm September 24th**. Enjoy the amazing view and architecture of the space, as we hear from Christopher

MacDonald, Professor of Architecture at UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and author of *A Guide to Contemporary Architecture in Vancouver*. The Museum was designed in 1959 by CBK Van Norman & Associates and is a wonderful example of A-frame construction.

Little Australia

On the UBC Endowment Lands there is a small but lovely neighbourhood known as 'Little Australia'. Not as commonly known as other Vancouver neighbourhoods, Little Australia is bound by Chancellor and University Boulevards, and Blanca and the University Golf Course. The area is named for its Australia themed streets such as Adelaide Road, Tasmania Crescent and Queensland Road.

The area is an enclave of Mid-Century homes with several homes built around the same time as the Friedman Residence, including two across the street, both built in 1948. 4862 Queensland Road*, designed by Douglas Simpson, and 4872 Queensland Road*, designed by Harold

Sermens are great examples. Sermens and Simpson formed in 1949 and became one of Western Canada's most significant early Modernist architecture firms, yet only lasted 8 years. In that short time their office designed the Downtown Library at Burrard and Robson which won a silver medal Massey Award of Excellence. The pair also designed other Modernist landmarks such as Hycroft Towers in South Granville, St Anselm's Church at UBC, the BC Sugar Refinery Offices, and numerous distinguished Modernist apartment buildings in the West End.

**Please note these homes are not open on the Mid-Century Modern House Tour but you are welcome to observe them from the street. Please do not trespass on these properties.*