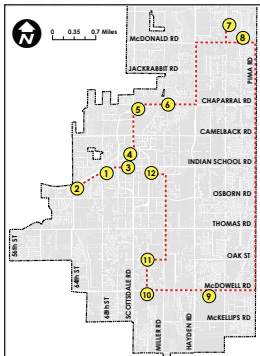


DRIVE YOURSELF MOD: MID-CENTURY ARCHITECTURAL TOUR OF SCOTTSDALE



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WHAT YOU CAN DISCOVER ON THIS TOUR

This self-guided driving tour provides an introduction to mid-century modern architecture in Scottsdale on a route that is approximately 15 miles long with twelve destinations. A variety of uses are represented by the architecture including; civic buildings, townhouses, churches, industrial, commercial, and hotel uses. The architects or builders are well known in the Valley and include; Bennie Gonzales, Ralph Haver, Ed Varney, Cartmell & Rossman, T. S. Montgomery, and Dell Trailor. Some of the buildings are already on the Scottsdale Historic Register for their historic and architectural significance and some are candidates for future consideration for being listed on the local register. The self-guided tour begins at the Hotel Valley Ho and ends on 75th Street adjacent to City Hall and the Civic Center Mall. People driving themselves may be able to complete the route in roughly 1-hour. The map and description are also posted on the internet (scottsdaleaz.gov/historic-zoning) so people interested in modern architecture can take a tour of mid-century modern architecture in Scottsdale.



**HOTEL VALLEY HO
6850 EAST MAIN STREET, ED VARNEY (1956/1958),
LISTED ON SCOTTSDALE HISTORIC REGISTER**

In 2002, the City placed the Hotel Valley Ho on its local register when it was for sale and fortunately the buyer wanted to save the building designed by Ed Varney. Like other Modern buildings of this period in the Valley, the architecture also added ornamental elements of the pre-cast sculptural railings and cladding for the columns in the lobby area. The long, two-story, hotel wings

emphasize the horizontal lines with an added tower feature by the entrance, similar to the Garden Industrial forms of Motorola by the same architectural firm. Each guest room had floor to ceiling windows and arcadia doors with screens between the patios or balconies of each unit. The new owner and architects added the tower element, a health club and spa, meetings rooms, a new 2-story guest room and brought the Trader Vic's restaurant to Scottsdale. A similar vintage hotel in Scottsdale by Al Beadle called the Safari Hotel was demolished.

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST, 6427 EAST
INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD, T. S. MONTGOMERY (1962),
LISTED ON SCOTTSDALE HISTORIC REGISTER**

This Modern style architecture features local materials from the southwest and Arizona like copper and burnt adobe bricks. T.S. Montgomery, architect, designed a wall of concrete blocks in a breeze-block configuration on the north façade of the sanctuary and along the side of the building, reminiscent of screen walls used by architect Edward Durrell Stone in several buildings during this time period. Copper with raised seams was used for the fascia and tower, and burnt adobe bricks for the solid walls. Doug Sydnor featured this church in his book on Scottsdale Architecture and wrote: "The structure epitomizes an innate understanding of an appropriate scale, which is accomplished with natural materials and great skill." The gate on the driveway is often closed but a car could park between the street and the closed gate.





TRIANGLE BUILDING, 7120 EAST INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD, RALPH HAVER (1962)

This two-story commercial building is included on this tour because the City leased the building for administrative offices before the City Hall was built. Designed by Ralph Haver, it has his signature low-pitched gable roof, with the gable end facing the street. Glass globe lights are a very '60s feature of the design, along with the large expanses of glass and a concrete block screen wall at the stairs. The Modern design is simple but elegant. Fortunately the property has not been the target for

redevelopment. You may want to compare the design and materials for this building to the earlier 1953 Pima Plaza building, 7221-7237 East 1st Avenue, by the same architect, Ralph Haver. In keeping with the Western theme for the Old Town commercial district, he used different materials like board-and-batten siding on the 1st Avenue building.

**CRAFTSMAN COURT
7121-7141 EAST 5th AVENUE, T. S. MONTGOMERY
(1955), LISTED ON SCOTTSDALE HISTORIC REGISTER**

This seven building retail complex on 5th Avenue was designed by T. S. Montgomery, the same architect as the one for First Church of Christ, Scientist. Craftsman Court, now called Kiva Centre, is associated with Scottsdale's development as an arts colony and tourist destination. A number of prominent artists were associated with this arts center when it opened. One was Lloyd Kiva New, who was a champion for the emerging Indian crafts movement in postwar Scottsdale and nationwide. The Modern architectural design of the complex blends with the desert landscape and uses a dignified western design motif adopted by downtown businesses in the fifties for marketing "The West's Most Western Town". The structures have low-pitched gable roofs and floor to ceiling glass walls like other Modern buildings of the period. The large panels of stained glass in the rear building on the courtyard have been removed but the original tile panels remain.



**ROYALE GARDENS TOWNHOUSES, NORTH 72ND WAY,
SOUTH OF RANCHO VISTA DRIVE, DELL TRAILOR (1970)**

This Modern style townhouse development from 1970 has homes facing a two-block street with a landscaped median down the middle of the street and a pool and bathhouse at the south end of the cul-de-sac private street. There are two townhouse designs by two different unknown architects in this Dell Trailor housing development. The project is small for a townhouse development with just 44 homes but the home sizes were comparable to single family detached homes of the period – about 2000 square feet average. Parking for residents is off alley in the rear of the homes. The Historic Preservation Commission considers the project an excellent candidate for local register designation due to its outstanding design, architecture and layout. The scalloped concrete roof over the bathhouse/clubhouse illustrates how architects were experimenting with thin-shelled concrete forms in the 60s. Dell Trailor built several townhouse developments in Scottsdale and the Valley. The lamps on the entry walls were also used at other Dell Trailor projects.



**VILLA MONTEREY UNITS 1-7 HISTORIC DISTRICT
MILLER & CHAPARRAL ROADS, DAVE FRIEDMAN (1961-
1967), LISTED ON SCOTTSDALE HISTORIC REGISTER**

The Villa Monterey “Casita Colony” was a very large age-restricted townhouse development by Dave Friedman and his Butler Homes company in the 1960s, one of the first large townhouse developments in the Valley. Unlike many projects by other developers at the time, he borrowed elements from several older architectural styles for the facades of the homes

to give each buyer a variety of styles to choose from, including Spanish Colonial, Territorial, Mission, Monterey, Mediterranean, and Pueblo. Ornamental ironwork is seen in early and later plats but is more prevalent in later units along Chaparral Road. Decorative concrete blocks were also used at the top of parapets and for applied reliefs. Friedman made sure buyers knew he was selling townhomes on their own lots and NOT condominiums. Each Unit had their own community pool, clubhouse, ramada and other amenities. Units 1-7 are on the Scottsdale Historic Register as a historic district. The one and two-story homes use a variety of simple details to differentiate each home. By 1975 one out of every four homes in Scottsdale was a townhouse. The percentage of townhouses today is lower.

ST. MARIA GORETTI CATHOLIC CHURCH
6261 NORTH GRANITE REEF ROAD, ROSSMAN
ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECT, JOHN PARSONS, ENGINEER
(1967)

Unlike the nearby Glass and Garden Community Church, this thin-shelled concrete building lets the shape of the building speak for itself without much ornamentation. This very sculptural style is often called Expressionist by academics or architectural critics. The 60-foot-tall parabolic arch structure resembles two intersecting saddles with a dome on top. This sculptural concrete style is related to the work of a Spanish architect, Felix Candela who built several thin-shelled concrete churches in Mexico in the 1950s using curving or parabolic forms. Scottsdale and Valley churches from the '50s and '60s demonstrate an acceptance of new styles of building and provided opportunities for architects to express their concepts of sacred space for worship using a variety of construction techniques. Expressionist architecture was often the result of a collaboration between an innovative architect and engineer. The same architect and engineering firms were responsible for the thin-shelled concrete Los Arcos Methodist Church (demolished) near north 74th Street and east Culver Street.



GLASS & GARDEN COMMUNITY DRIVE-IN CHURCH
8620 EAST MCDONALD DRIVE, E. LOGAN CAMPBELL
(1966), LISTED ON SCOTTSDALE HISTORIC REGISTER

This church by E. Logan Campbell was a definite departure in design and concept from other places of worship. It was a drive-in church with speakers on posts, like a drive-in theatre, in the eastern parking lot. People could observe the service through the large glass wall on the eastern façade. The architect was not satisfied with a plain concrete cylinder or dome, but

felt compelled to add more southwestern details to the structure including sculptural columns with green aggregate, ornamental ironwork on the cross tower over the dome and an ornamental frieze/border of colored sculptured concrete along the top of the cylinder – what Robert Venturi would probably call a decorated cylinder and dome. Venturi liked to describe architecture as a box or a decorated box. Like the City Hall and Library buildings by Bennie Gonzales a couple of years later, this building is Modern with southwestern details added to the structure, a style referred to locally as Southwest Modern.

**MOTOROLA GOVERNMENT ELECTRONICS DIVISION,
8201 EAST MCDOWELL ROAD, VARNEY, SEXTON,
SYDNOR ASSOCIATION (1957), TOWER ADDITION BY
PETER LENDROM ASSOCIATION (1970)**

When the Motorola electronics plant opened along McDowell Road in 1957 it stimulated new residential development in this area of Scottsdale and Motorola contributed to a high growth rate in Scottsdale's population in the post WW II era. The Valley had other defense or government related industrial plants

during and after the war. The long low building with a tower feature is reminiscent of the "Garden Industrial" style buildings in the eastern U.S., surrounded by landscaped lawns. It gives the appearance of a 'clean' manufacturing plant as opposed to older steel mills or 'dirty' industries. The grass lawn along McDowell Road has recently been replaced with desert landscaping, taking away visually from the broad lawn in front of a long horizontal building. The decidedly Modern building, by Edward L. Varney Associates, with no applied ornamentation has an International-style appearance similar to the more vertical steel and glass skyscrapers and the work of architect Mies van der Rohe. The 1970 tower addition by Peter Lendrom departs from the flat steel, glass and aluminum panels in order to have some added depth to the buildings skin. The original 1970 building is the best example of an intact Garden Industrial building in Scottsdale, if not the state.



**VALLEY NATIONAL BANK (CHASE), 7345 EAST
MCDOWELL ROAD, CARTMELL & ROSSMAN (1962)**

This branch bank building looks a bit lonely at 74th and McDowell Road today but the diagonal concrete struts holding up the broad overhanging roof would have surely have attracted the attention of passing motorists when it opened in 1962.

Walter Bimson of Valley National Bank liked to use prominent local architectural firms for his bank branches around the Valley.

Like other projects by Cartwell and Rossman architects, the structure of the building form is emphasized. Other Valley National Banks by prominent firms around the Valley are also worth preserving and being recognized for their unique designs. The style of this Modern building is difficult to classify as a sub-style but it can be related to Expressionist style buildings for the dominant diagonal struts and the subtle folded concrete roof that looks like a large shade canopy.

**TOWN & COUNTRY SCOTTSDALE HISTORIC DISTRICT
SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTH 74TH STREET AND EAST
OAK STREET, RALPH HAVER (1958-1960), LISTED ON
LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL REGISTERS**

Like other Valley neighborhoods with homes designed by Ralph Haver, this subdivision of 62 homes by Woody Woodworth is getting the attention the home designs deserve. Using four house plans, the subdivision has varied materials for walls to provide a semi-custom appearance for modest size homes with a Contemporary style. The irregular 'klinker' bricks on some of the facades make for an interesting front façade. The low pitched gable roofs with the gable ends facing the street and tall wall of windows are often a feature of Ralph Haver-designed homes. The Modern style of the homes was a departure from the predominant Ranch styles house being built in Scottsdale in the '50s. The neighborhood is listed on the National Register and many homes have retained their original features.



**CITY HALL/CIVIC CENTER, 3939 NORTH DRINKWATER
BOULEVARD, BENNIE GONZALES, (1968+)**

The Scottsdale City Hall building was designed by Bennie Gonzales and opened in 1968. The City Hall and Civic Center Library buildings and their landscaped setting were the beginning of the larger government campus of public and private building called the Civic Center Mall. In 1964 Scottsdale citizens volunteered to talk about the future of their city as part of the Scottsdale Town Enrichment Program (STEP) committees.

The town was incorporated in 1951 and became a charter city in 1961. A selection committee picked Bennie Gonzales to develop the Civic Center plan. His model helped get a bond approved to fund the campus. City Hall was designed to be very accessible to the public and to have several entrances. The three heavy block columns by the main mall entrance have since been enclosed with glass between the columns for increased security. The interior was very open and had few office doors – part of his design to make government inviting to citizens. The double thick concrete block walls till inward to give the building a similar look to old adobe buildings. The lush landscaped setting and pond also make the building more inviting. Bennie Gonzales had his own distinct style that was definitely Modern but that used Southwest elements like stucco walls with narrow window opening for a hot desert climate.