

modern living
living+modern

Welcome

DOCOMOMO/US, Georgia Chapter welcomes you to our first *Modern* Open House. We hope you enjoy this new event, and will return as the event evolves and grows. Let us know what you thought of the tour and reception.

Atlanta's diverse tradition of Modern residential design is often overlooked and forgotten. We hope that this event will highlight Atlanta's Modern homes, and demonstrate what it means to be "Living Modern."



GEORGIA CHAPTER

About the Tour

This tour is to be taken at your own pace and in no particular order, although it is logical to visit the homes clustered in each neighborhood together (Northcrest Modern, Colony Square, and Briar Hills). Homes will be open from 10 AM to 4 PM Saturday, October 7th. Parking arrangements are noted for each location. Although public transportation is accessible for the Colony Square location (via the MARTA Arts Center Station), driving is the easiest means to access most sites.

Portions of the Colony Square site and the Pound Residence are wheelchair accessible. Other homes have stairs and level changes and interiors are not wheelchair accessible.

Look for directional signs at each site. Present your ticket to a volunteer at each site (don't forget to bring your ticket) – you'll receive a sticker and be checked in.

The Rules

- Follow directions given by your hosts and guides
- No smoking at any tour location – inside or outside.
- No food or drink allowed, unless provided as part of the tour.
- Toilet facilities are available at Colony Square. Ask the volunteer at each site regarding availability at other sites.
- No photography allowed inside homes.
- To protect flooring in each home, we ask that you wear provided protective booties or remove your shoes as you enter the home.
- Do not open doors, cabinets, or drawers – or enter rooms that are marked off limits. Be a good guest!
- Be courteous and don't block driveways or sidewalks. Park in designated areas.
- Upon arrival, wait for directions from DOCOMOMO volunteers before beginning your tour.
- Note that some homes include stairs and level changes, use care and follow your guide's directions before entering these areas.
- Ask questions and enjoy!

Northcrest

1950's through 1970's

the best investment any family can make is a good home that truly meets their needs

THESE OUTSTANDING FEATURES ARE USUALLY FOUND IN HOMES COSTING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS MORE

Living room and separate dining room have wall-to-wall 100% nylon carpeting. Bedrooms, too, if desired. Decorative fireplace and plaster box in living room. Contemporary moderns have exposed beam ceilings and skylight which lets sunlight filter into room. Dining room has sliding glass doors to patio at rear of house.

Kitchens complete with built-in range, oven and washer. Features a handy Farmico breakfast bar which makes school is a breeze. Handy double and plenty of built-in storage cabinets.

Downstairs family room is designed for comfort and maintenance. Walls are painted hardwood and floor is tile. Large brick fireplace. The focal point, sliding glass doors lead to front patio. 2.5 ceramic tile bath. He bath has dressing table, built-in vanity and large wall mirror. The 1/2 and 1/2 bath are connected. Dual-size tub, accessible from either bath. Tub has glass shower doors.

10 year, 40 gallon, glass-lined gas water heater.

Quality Eljer plumbing fixtures.

Roof and outside walls insulated with full-thick Owens Corning Fiberglas insulation.

Trane central heating with optional Trane air conditioning. Wiring and ducts are set up for central air conditioning.

Here are "HIDDEN VALUES" that mean more value...more enjoyment...more comfort.

Only the finest materials are built into a Northcrest home. Actually solid, honest materials cost little more than second best...and cost no more to install. Quality materials add very little to the finished price and assure extra years of good living.

Marble chip roof lasts years longer than ordinary roof... keeps house cool in summer.

Wide roof overhang cuts down glare... keeps rain from windows.

Maintenance-free aluminum screens and awning-type windows.

150 amp, full housepower. 220 volt outlet for dryer.

The Northcrest subdivision was developed during the late 1950 through the mid 1970s by the P & H Realty Company. Over half of the homes are Modern in concept and execution, and might be described as sophisticated "ranch" style homes. Phase I marketing materials illustrate a variety of different designs, several Modern in concept and design.

The report **Atlanta Housing 1944 to 1965** prepared by Georgia State University students identifies a number of vernacular Atlanta housing types found in the Northcrest subdivision, including the "inline ranch," "composite ranch," "neocolonial," "split level," and "contemporary flat roof." In addition, other examples and hybrids are found in Northcrest, including homes with butterfly roof forms, a-frame variations, and L-shaped single level and split level variations.

Marketing materials for the development note features considered important to mid-century homebuyers: Exposed wood beams and ceilings, 100% nylon wall-to-wall carpeting, skylights, sliding glass doors, brick fireplaces, wet bars, modern kitchens, and "Hollywood" bathrooms – many of these original features are preserved.

Northcrest is located between three municipalities, and as a result property taxes are low, contributing to Northcrest's appeal as a Modern alternative.

N1

Hedrick/Pages Residence
3457 Summitridge



The residents of this three bedroom and two bath home are “living Modern” because they “...love the way modern fits our casual lifestyle without sacrificing design and architectural detail” and have “always been drawn to the California Ranch Style and feel this house is a great example of that; sliding glass doors and easy access to the outside gives us the feel of a Cliff May.”

Note the owners’ collection of vintage furniture, including period Eames classics; the garden with fountain; unique original fireplace design; and the interesting collection of period accessories.

Parking: Park on the same side of Summitridge as the residence. Be aware that Summitridge is a major neighborhood thoroughfare.

N2

Szurgot Residence
3427 Northlake Trail



The owners were attracted to this house due to its lack of significant modifications and meticulous maintenance by the prior owners. Among its original features are unpainted tongue-and-groove wood ceilings with matching exterior soffits and original walnut kitchen cabinets. An unusual “Hollywood” bath arrangement shares a single bathtub between two bathrooms.

Complimenting the home’s design are classic Eames furnishings, an original Robshohn-Gibbings Widdicomb buffet, and an owner-designed-and-built dining table.

The Szurgots’ chose Modern because “...of our need to live more simply with less square footage but more efficient use of the space we do have...” and “feel fulfilled to finally support the preservation of a design and architectural style with a history and a strong future.”

Parking: Park on either side of Northlake Trail

N3

Sokol/Eaton Residence
3467 Lori Lane



This custom home's spacious floor plan and large windows extend living areas outside and flood interior spaces with natural light. Unique features include a "Cherokee marble" exterior, the butterfly-and-a-half roof, clerestory windows, and exterior globe lights. Original features include vaulted tongue-and-groove ceilings, bathroom fixtures, built-in interior planters, an operational NuTone intercom and hi-fi system, and original kitchen with "floating" cabinets.

The owners have documented much of Northcrest's history, and are responsible for the www.northcrestmodern.com website.

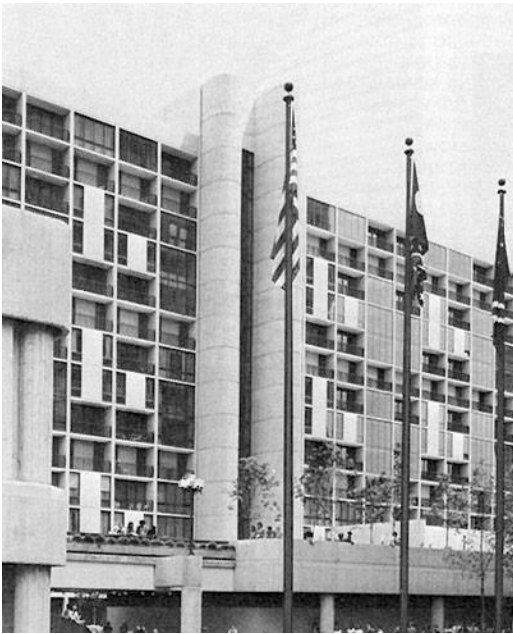
Parking: Park on either side of Lori Lane

C

Colony Square

1969, 1975

Jova/Daniel/Busby, Architects



Parking at Colony Square: Limited street parking is available at no charge on 15th Street and Peachtree Circle - be aware of areas marked “No Parking” and public parking is available for a fee in the Colony Square parking deck, with entrances from 14th and 15th streets and Peachtree Road. Handicapped parking is available near the Colony House entrance from 15th Street.

Please check-in at the Colony House Conference Room.

Prior to World War II, Peachtree Street near the Colony Square site was residential in character. In the mid-1960's plans were announced for the Colony Square multi-use project, the first of its kind in the South, and a major change for the neighborhood. The project's developer envisioned a revitalized Midtown Atlanta stimulated by the mix of offices, residential, retail, and entertainment uses planned for the project.

The complex includes three high-rise buildings and two mid-rise residential buildings connected by a sky-lit atrium with several levels of automobile parking below.

Landscaped pedestrian and automobile courts segregate auto and pedestrian traffic.

Notable for their cast-in-place exterior and interior walls, the 14-story Colony House and Hanover House mid-rise residential buildings were designed in 1966 and built from 1971 to 1975, their designs are strongly reminiscent of the Unite's of Le Corbusier. There are a variety of apartment arrangements, including 2-story “crossover” units, made possible by locating public corridors on every other floor; 2-story townhouse units; and flats.

C1

208 Colony House

This two-bedroom townhouse apartment showcases dramatic views from Colony and Hanover House of the Midtown skyline. A recent renovation included installation of new kitchen cabinets and fixtures, bathroom fixtures and finishes, and refinishing of wood flooring. The apartment is furnished with a collection of mid-century and contemporary furniture and accessories.

Note the arrangement of the stair and landing and its relationship to the hallway below. This is possible due to the arrangement of public corridors on every other floor in Colony House.

C2

10-B Hanover House



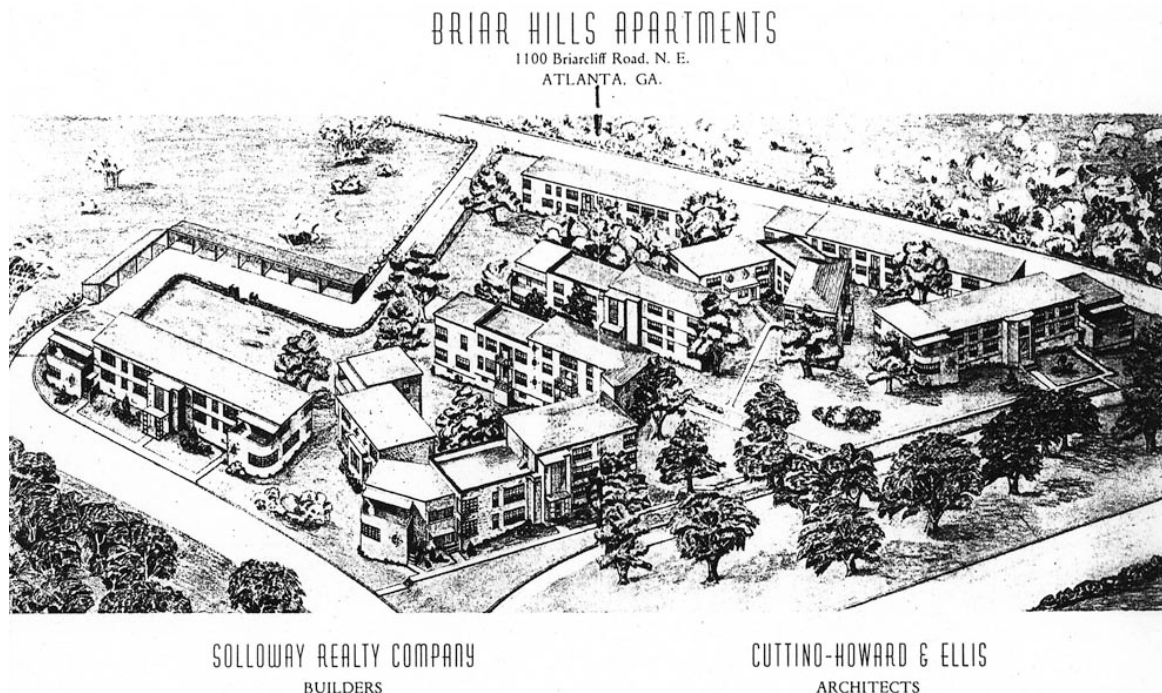
The 1,750 square foot Cottle/Khan Residence received a 2005 Merit Award in the AIA Residential Design Awards. An important consideration was preservation of the view, according to architect Mark Cottle (Georgia Tech College of Architecture Newsletter, 2006): “We were careful to preserve and reinforce the breathtaking panorama in the main space, as well as provide framed views from deep within the gray zone. We wanted the space to feel like a verandah in the sky.” The designers cleared away original “cubicles and corridors” to create one main space, articulated by vaults into four spatial cells, and divisible into three rooms by sliding panels. Observe how colors compliment the landscape view and sliding panels allow reconfiguration of the space.

Note the different configuration of elevator lobbies and corridors in Hanover House, located on each level – a key difference between Colony and Hanover House.

B

Briar Hills Apartments

Cuttino-Howard & Ellis Architects; Solloway Realty Company, Builders
1947



The two and three story Briar Hills Apartments display such Streamline Moderne characteristics as flat roofs, rounded corners with large steel casement and awning windows, round windows, glass block panels at stair halls, and small cantilevers over entrances. Evidence of the growing influence of the automobile in the post-war era is found in the landscape design, with two parking garages.

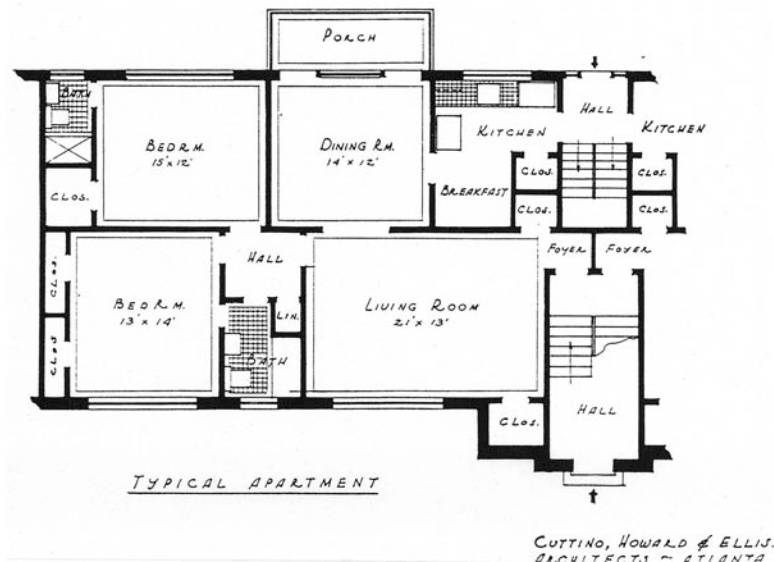
Atlanta's Briar Hills Apartments are considered the first cooperative built in the southeast. Early marketing materials describe co-operative apartment ownership: "...a simpler

form of home ownership than owning a house. There are fewer details and responsibilities, and most of these are taken care of for you by experts." This same brochure notes the site location adjacent to the "nationally famous" Druid Hills neighborhood as making "these buildings a much sought-after home for a discriminating clientele."

Built in response to the growing market for new housing in the post-war era, Briar Hills remains a desirable address.

B1

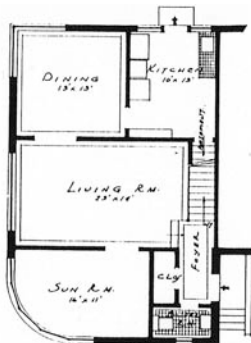
White Residence
1361 Chalmette Drive, NE



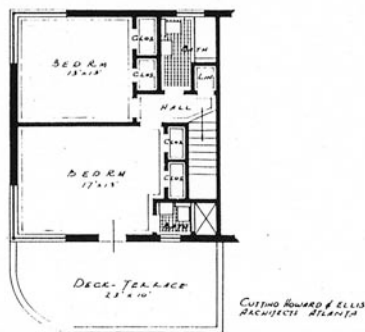
Building number 8 (of 8 buildings in the complex) burned in a fire in 1963 . As a result, interiors of the units in this building reflect this period in the detailing. Original faux marble linoleum tiles, a bar unit, teak wood cabinets in the kitchen (with original range and oven) and the original bathrooms are all of interest in this eclectically decorated flat. Mr. White has collected late '50's and early '60's furniture and lighting fixtures from around the world, including a chandelier for the dining room recently brought back from Berlin, Germany.

B2

Scott Residence
1138 Briarcliff Rd., NE



GROUND FLOOR
WITH RECLUSIVE ADJACENT AREA
UNDER THIS FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

Briar Hills townhouse units originally featured a sunroom with a curved wall of glass on the ground level with an expansive open terrace above it on the second level. Previous owners chose to enclose the second floor terrace, creating a larger interior space. Mr. Scott recently renovated his almost 1800 square foot unit, including complete remodeling of both bathrooms on the second level. The original floor plan has been changed to facilitate use of the enclosed second level porch. Original light switches and light fixtures are of particular interest.

P

Pound Residence

Alexander and Rothschild Architects, later Finch, Alexander, Barnes, Rothschild & Pascal

Cecil Alexander, FAIA, designer

Original landscape design by Edward L. Daugherty, FASLA

1956-57



Parking: Access to the house is via a single lane driveway - use caution when entering and leaving the site. Parking is located a short distance beyond the house. Please do not park in front of the house unless you have difficulty walking.

Originally designed as primary residence for the Alexander family, the residence includes three bedrooms, guest room, five bathrooms, kitchen, laundry room, living area (including court space), recreation room, and workroom. Received nationally upon completion as an exceptional design, the home remains one of Atlanta's most significant Modern homes.

A 1959 **Progressive Architecture** survey of architect-as-designer-and-as-client residences includes the Alexander Residence and quotes the designer, Cecil Alexander, FAIA: "the family should feel itself a unit – thus, the circular plan."

A 1959 **Life** magazine series of articles "Tomorrow's Life Today" considers the "new technology" and the "changes it makes in everyday world." According to **Life**, this new technology includes jet-engine autos, nylon air houses, an aluminum beach house by Alcoa, an RCA-designed electronic kitchen, an experimental plastic house, and

houses designed by Ulrich Franzen, Eduardo Catalano, and Cecil Alexander. A photograph of the sky lit court is accompanied by a description of the roof design: “Creased roof ... is made of laminated plywood folded around plastic skylight and held together by cable threaded through lower edge...Light and cheap, it provides unsupported span for modern, uncluttered interior.”

While many changes were made to the house during the past three decades (notably the exterior cast stone columns and cornice), major interior spaces remain largely unchanged.



The current owners have recently completed a major renovation and rehabilitation project, which includes new kitchen cabinets and appliances, remodeling of original bathrooms, and restoration of finishes in living and court areas. The project is notable for its careful preservation of the living and court spaces and restoration of historic finishes, including steel columns, flooring, original copper fireplace, and walnut and mahogany paneling. Interior design was by Busman Studios.

In 2005 DOCOMOMO/US Georgia Chapter documented the house for inclusion on the DOCOMOMO Register, and interviewed Cecil Alexander, FAIA at length.

Resources

Atlanta Housing 1944 to 1965, based on research conducted by Georgia State university students is available online:
hpd.dnr.state.ga.us/content/displaycontent.asp?txtDocument=245

More about Northcrest Modern is available at: www.northcrestmodern.com

More about Colony Square is available at:
www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2002/06/10/focus17.html?t=printable
and: www.condosatcolonysquare.com/

Modernism Magazine: www.modernismmagazine.com

Dwell Magazine: www.dwell.com

Atomic Ranch Magazine: www.atomic-ranch.com

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DOCOMOMO/US Georgia Chapter, Inc.

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Learn more: www.docomomoga.org

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Thank you for your support!