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Denver Modernism Week Returns August 19-22

Aug. 01, 2020 (DENVER)—The third annual Denver Modernism Week returns with virtual programming August 19-22, 2020. Denver Modernism Week an annual event designed to celebrate the mid-century modern architecture, design, and culture that is prevalent in the Denver area.

Programs this year consist of lectures, tours, and more, virtually hosted to allow for safe participation and greater access. “It’s exciting to get to share this event now with a wider audience, not just Denver but nationally,” said Denver Modernism Week Co-Founder Atom Stevens. “While in-person tours and events have a very limited capacity, this virtual shift allows for greater participation, and attendees can sit safely at home and celebrate modernism in Denver.” Tickets are available for purchase at www.DenverModernismWeek.com.

Five signature events comprise 2020 Denver Modernism Week, all priced at \$10 each, with proceeds benefiting the newly formed Colorado Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects, NOMA 5280. “If you attend nothing else during Denver Modernism Week, I would attend Air Force Academy presentation—one of the most interesting projects happening in preservation architecture right now,” said Stevens. The event consists of the following sessions:

Then and Now: The Art of Photographing Mid-Century Modern Architecture Today

Modern technology meets mid-century modern design in this session presented by Darren Bradley, the face behind the well-followed @modarchitecture Instagram moniker. Why does architecture look so different photographed now than when it was first constructed? What are some techniques to best capture iconic mid-century modern design today? In this virtual keynote presentation, Bradley will discuss the juxtaposition of mid-century modern photography then and now, sharing his perspective and approach alongside examples of his work.

Twilight Tour: Littleton’s Arapaho Hills Historic District

Developer Clyde Mannon marketed the neighborhood of Arapaho Hills to “rocket scientists” who worked at the nearby Martin Company—better known today as Lockheed Martin—using the tagline “Adventure in Space.” Join Denver Modernism Week Co-Founder Atom Stevens on this Twilight Adventure of Arapaho Hills right from the comfort and safety of your home. Nestled on a hill in Littleton, Colorado, Arapaho Hills is a neighborhood of semi-custom modern homes listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The homes were designed primarily by Denver architect Bruce Sutherland in the International or Usonian style built to take advantage of the neighborhood’s sloped lots. Post-and-beam construction, large expanses of glass, natural rock, low-sloped roofs, and playful geometry are on brilliant display at twilight as interior

and exterior lighting is switched on, a scene never before experienced during Denver Modernism Week. During this virtual tour, Stevens will take you on a guided walk of two special blocks of Arapaho Hills, weaving in neighborhood history and highlighting several illuminated homes to offer a glimpse of their beauty outside and in. The session will be followed by an interactive audience Q&A.

Saving Modernist History: Restoration of the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel and Air Garden

There are not one, but two nationally significant restoration projects underway at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The first: the repair and restoration of the beloved and famed Cadet Chapel, designed by Walter Netsch. The other: Dan Kiley's four-acre Air Garden, a central garden containing a 700-foot-long gridded series of grass panels and fountains. In this virtual presentation, USAFA Campus Architect Duane Boyle will guide attendees through the storied background of these incredible pieces of Modernist history and will shed light on the process, progress, and a virtual walking tour of their painstakingly detailed restorations, of which the Chapel still has four years to go. Attendees will enjoy an interactive Q&A with Boyle following the presentation.

Virtual Walking Tour: Mid-Century Marvels of Littleton Boulevard

Wander back in time along this well-preserved, mile-long stretch of Littleton Boulevard, examining commercial expressions of mid-century architecture—a diverse collection of Brutalist, Commercial Modern, Expressionist, Fantasy Modern Formalist, Late Modern, International, and Usonian styles. Littleton Boulevard is one of the most unique streets in Colorado. Take in the progression of architecture from the 1800s to the advent of buildings catered to the automobile on this virtual walking tour, offering attendees a primer and history for a future onsite visit while being introduced to some of Colorado's most prominent architects who contributed to this region, including Eugene Sternberg, Joseph and Mary Louise Marlow, Earl Chester Morris, Temple Buell, Richard Crowther, and Victor Hornbein.

The Healthy High-Rise: Best Practices from Mid-Century Modern Multifamily Design

In the midst of a quarantine, the effects of good residential design have never been more impactful. In this virtual session, join architects and designers for a presentation on modern multifamily design, the concepts and theories behind the buildings, and why these unassuming structures are high design. How do Modernist multifamily communities promote healthy living, and how we can implement those same ideas and strategies in new construction today? We'll discuss that and more during this virtual tour of Denver's Cheesman Park high-rises, with an in-depth home tour at the Wellshire Arms followed by an interactive Q&A.

For more information and tickets, visit www.DenverModernismWeek.com.

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About Denver Modernism Week

Denver Modernism Week was founded in 2017 to celebrate the mid-century modern architecture, design, and culture that is prevalent in the Denver area. For more information, visit www.DenverModernismWeek.com.