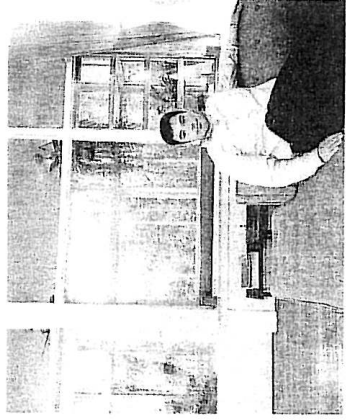


## COVER STORY

### Characteristics of local mid-century modern homes

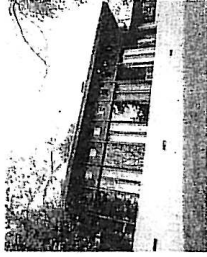
- Carpets
- Flat and shed roofs
- Home plans designed from the inside out
- Post-and-beam construction supporting open interiors
- Experimental architecture
- Prefabricated components
- A lack of trimwork and casing, including walls that "float" without baseboards
- Deep overhangs
- Walls of windows
- Multiple interior levels
- Exterior materials that flow indoors
- Natural materials
- Built-in beds, benches and hallway cabinetry
- Built-in pics for indoor plants
- Price range: low
- \$100,000s-\$1 million



The Enquirer / Cara Dweley  
Chris Magee, co-founder of Cincinnati Form Follows Function, has been living up his Paddock Hills mid-century modern home.

#### Happy birthday, Boulder House

**What:** A 50th birthday party for Frank Lloyd Wright's Boulder House, hosted by Cincinnati Form Follows Function (CFF3)  
**Where:** 1-4 p.m. today, Woods Circle, Clifton  
**Cost:** Open to members of CFF3. Membership is available at the door for \$50.



Enquirer file

#### Historic places

Mid-century moderns on the National Register of Historic Places: Frank Lloyd Wright's Boulder House in Clifton, Wright's Gerald B. Tonkens House in Amberley Village and multifamily buildings in the Greenhills Historic District.

**Source:** National Park Service's National Register Information System (NRIS) online database

**Cincinnati Form Follows Function (CFF3):** [www.cff3.org](http://www.cff3.org)  
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[www.huff.com/susanrissover](http://www.huff.com/susanrissover)  
**Cincinnati Preservation Association:** 513-721-4506; [www.cincinnati-preservation.org](http://www.cincinnati-preservation.org)

#### For more information



The Enquirer / Cara Dweley  
Linda Behen and her husband, John, have restored original mahogany paneling and ordered counter tops that replicate the original design of their, Madeira home

## A younger generation appreciates older style

By Amy Howell  
*Enquirer's staff writer*

**T**he character of hundreds of mid-century-modern homes in the area, especially in Indian Hill, Hyde Park, Columbia Tusculum, Amberley Village and Madeira, could disappear as rising land values and historically inaccurate renovations threaten their flat roofs, plank tiles and Formica countertops.

"A lot of these homes are turning 50, and that's the minimum qualification for the National Register (of Historic Places). But a lot of people still don't appreciate them, because they don't see them as historic," says Margo Warminski, preservation director for the Cincinnati Preservation Association.

In the 1950s and '60s, architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Carl Strauss and Ben and Alf Dombiar built scores of modern homes on relatively inexpensive wooded lots once considered unbuildable. Today, this land is prime real estate, and the homes often are razed for new construction.

The land is worth more than the house," says Susan Rissover, Realtor with Huff Reedy and co-founder of Cincinnati Form Follows Function, an advocacy group for mid-century-

modern design.  
 "Developers see a nice piece of land and know they can build four McMansions on a two-acre bit of woods."

And homeowners are often against historic designations.

"They don't want the controls on their property. They want to be able to get top dollar," says Warminski, who met resistance when trying to develop a historic district in Hyde Park five years ago.

As the homes grow older, CFF3 and the CPA hope to get more mid-century-modern homes into the hands of buyers who renovate with an eye on history.

"We've always loved the simplicity of modern homes," says Linda Behen. She and her husband, John, moved into their Madeira home in July and have restored original mahogany wood paneling and ordered Formica countertops that replicate the original boomer-

ang design, removed by the previous owners. "Fortunately, the newer generation has a much greater appreciation for these buildings than their parents (did)," Warminski says. "Of ten people who grow up in a (certain) style of home don't appreciate that architecture."

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