



AUSTIN

1964

22nd Annual Homes Tour
April 5, 2014
10am - 4pm



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Homes
Tour
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Preservation Austin (PA) welcomes you to the 22nd annual Homes Tour. We believe that one of Austin's great assets is the wealth of intact historic neighborhoods that stabilize and enhance our central city. The Homes Tour provides a valuable resource to our community by raising awareness and appreciation of these noteworthy neighborhoods. Attendees learn about our community's history and architecture and witness how residents value older neighborhoods, preserving the qualities that made them special.

I invite you to become actively involved in our mission to promote Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic places. There are a myriad of ways to apply your time, talents and interests to furthering our work. PA members can join one of our standing committees and work alongside other Austinites that share a passion to preserve and celebrate what is unique about our city, including our Education, Special Events, Development, Pioneer Farms, Homes Tour, and Historic Preservation Committees. For more information on joining a committee, please contact angela@preservationaustin.org.

We encourage you to get involved in your neighborhood associations to champion the value of historic resources in your neighborhood. You can also arrange for PA to make a presentation to your neighborhood group, or provide articles for its newsletter on how to establish a local historic district, why historic windows should be repaired and not replaced, and other topics. Another great way to have an impact is to focus on a particular project or historic site that interests you. Save Austin's Cemeteries, Friends of Wooldridge Square, Norwood Park Foundation, and MidTexMod are just a handful of local groups with members that are actively working to preserve our historic resources.

Preservation Austin's work is made possible through the generous donations of our members and sponsors. In recent years, we have led successful efforts to improve and sustain Austin's historic Landmarks program, protect the historic character of the Governor's Mansion, help to institute Local Historic Districts, and advocate for the preservation of the Capitol View Corridors. These actions are added to our ongoing vigilance of protecting treasured historic assets like the Driskill Hotel and the Paramount Theatre. Become a member to get involved and learn more about historic Austin -- from Pioneer Farms to Homes Tour volunteering to Inherit Austin, our membership arm for younger Austinites. Join us in "Saving the Good Stuff"!

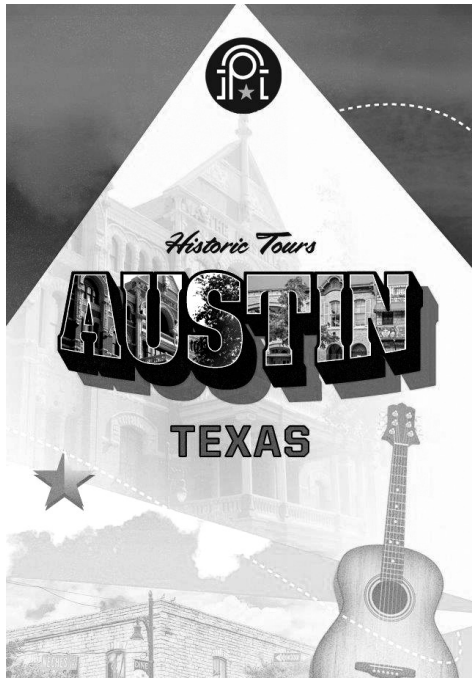
Warm Regards,

Jacqui Schraad
Executive Director



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Modern Austin!*



Historic Austin Tours App

Preservation Austin proudly present the Historic Austin Tours iPhone App. Learn about Austin's past at your own pace with these tours including mapped locations, property descriptions, current and historic photos, and audio commentary. Explore Austin's present through the lens of the past.

Current Tours available include: Congress Avenue (free), East Sixth Street (free), The Tejano Trail (free), Iconic Music Venues (\$1.99) and Old West Austin (\$1.99).

Download these tours currently available for iPhones through iTunes, keyword search "Historic Austin Tours".

- Visit the Preservation Austin Information Table at 2603 La Ronde to learn about membership, our programs and activities, and for other questions.

- Like us on Facebook and be the first to know about ticket sales, calls to action, local preservation news, and to participate in fun heritage quizzes.

<https://www.facebook.com/PreservationAustin>

- Please remember while inside the homes:
 - No Smoking
 - No Food or Drink
 - No Photography
 - No Strollers
 - No Pointy High Heels

Learn more about Mid-Century Modern Architecture!

Tour ticket buyers are invited to attend a 20-minute lecture the day of the tour on:

The Principles of Mid-Century Modern Architecture

by Steve Sadowsky,
City Historic Preservation Officer
11:00 am, 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm
The Lansing Thorne House
3607 Balcones

No reservations are available for this lecture, seating is on first-come-first served basis.

Austin 1964!

Welcome to the capital city of Texas in 1964, a sleepy little college town on the cusp of transforming to a modern tech and cultural hub.

Here's a snapshot of our town:

- Population is 208,475 with an annualized growth rate 1.5%.
- City Council appoints a special committee, chaired by Harry Akin, owner of the Night Hawk restaurants, to determine the extent of local segregation. The committee reports their findings and recommends the establishment of an enforceable civil rights ordinance. The council rejects the idea, with only Emma Long dissenting. Volma Overton and other civil rights activists hold a week-long "speak-in" (filibuster) at city council, and more demonstrations follow. Joan Baez plays for the 200 protestors gathered for the "freedom hootenanny" outside city hall at the start of the filibuster. The national Civil Rights Act passes a few weeks later, but civil rights matters continue at an impasse in Austin for the next two years.
- St. David's Hospital begins a third expansion on 32nd St., reaching a total of 268 beds and adding an ICU.
- Tracor has its first public common stock offering
- The Broken Spoke opens on Nov. 10.
- The second annual Eeyore's Birthday party is held at Eastwoods Park.
- It snows on Jan. 30. The hottest day of the year was July 25 with a high of 103 degrees.
- United States Surgeon General reports that smoking may be hazardous to one's health (the first such statement from the U.S. government).
- The Ford Mustang is officially unveiled to the public.
- Walt Disney's Mary Poppins has its world premiere in Los Angeles. It will go on to become Disney's biggest money maker, and winner of 5 Academy Awards.
- Bewitched, starring Elizabeth Montgomery, premieres on ABC.
- The zip code is 1 year old in July.
- Austin American reports that Austin celebrates its 125th birthday with a bigger and better Aqua Festival.
- The LBJ presidential vote vigil instigates miles of cable and wire to be run at several locations so the world can follow LBJ as he tracks the vote count.
- The Heritage Society of Austin (now Preservation Austin) celebrates its 11th anniversary.



Compiled by
Karen Saadeh

The Shaping of the Mid-Century Modern Home in Austin

By Riley Triggs

Following World War II, a convergence of circumstances gathered into what has become known as Mid-Century Modernism in the United States of 1945-1965. Many returning service men and women were now worldlier after seeing other cultures and different modes of living, while at the same time they were optimistic and ready for a bright new future. They also generated an unprecedented demand for new housing and the furniture and household items to accompany these new houses within a growing middle class. Designers and architects were able to capture their imagination with modern, future-looking ideals and forms.

At the same time, Modernism had matured in the years preceding the war in many venues, most famously the Bauhaus in Germany, and the subsequent International Style of architecture had spread its influence of simplicity, honesty and clarity through buildings that transcended established cultural traditions and forms of building that emphasized modern materials of glass, steel and concrete. These ideals permeated architecture from large workers' housing projects and commercial and industrial buildings through to residential applications.

The influence of revolutionary German-born Modernism tempered with regional materials and responses to climate were combined with middle-class sensibilities and budgets to produce the characteristic Mid-Century Modern home that continues to resonate with many of us today. There is an aesthetic variety in homes at this time that ranges from the more modern "off the shelf industrial" Charles and Ray Eames' House, 1949 (a part of the Case Study Houses series 1945-1966 of *Arts & Architecture* magazine) and extends through to Frank Lloyd Wright's organic inspired forms of his Usonian Houses, but they share several basic attributes that permeate many of the homes of this time.

Basic tenets found in many Mid-Century Modern homes can be attributed to such architects as Walter Gropius, Richard Neutra, RM Schindler and Frank Lloyd Wright among others who began developing new relationships of space in houses.

A major ambition was to establish a direct connection of interior spaces to the exterior landscape. This is seen as early as 1922 in Schindler's own home that places the same value on interior and exterior space by fully integrating building and landscape with large movable glass walls. This was also important to Neutra who believed that we had an innate need to be attached physically to the landscape and nature because of the tie of our genetic code back to the savannahs of east Africa in his notion of "applied biology".

This also led to the predominance of the horizontal in Neutra's and others' work of the time, because it was the flat horizon and distant mountains that formed the boundaries and ability to gauge distance in the space of our ancestors. This emphasis on the horizontal also pushes our gaze and sense of place further out into the landscape and is a central concept in the work of Wright with his low ceilings and extended horizontal planes.

Also evident in many homes of the era are open, flowing spaces between programs, or functions, in the home. Gropius created a single component of dining-living space in his own house that helped the interior space seem larger, and Schindler broke down conventional notions of rooms in the house when he created a "utility room" that combined the

family kitchen into the rest of the house which blurred the distinction between areas service and served. These open plans with room or space dividers instead of walls and visual access between rooms and the exterior effectively increases the space of a house while maintaining low actual square footages. Using interplay between these open spaces and the more protected, closed areas of refuge in the bedrooms further heightened the spatial effect.

Material expression is another hallmark of the time. Many architects brought exterior materials inside and extended surfaces from interior to exterior in continuous planes. Rock and brick walls run seamlessly past exterior glass walls and large overhangs carry exposed structural wood and metal decking past high windows. The hallmark post and beam construction are emphasized in large cantilevered overhangs that not only protect the large expanses of glass, but further the feeling of movement and connection to the exterior. Horizontal bands of sheet glass and casement windows provide views uninterrupted by mullions and allow for natural ventilation.

Creators of what is commonly referred to as California Modern, those architects who practiced extensively in California, along with the mainstreaming efforts of California builder, Joseph Eichler and publications such as the Case Study Houses, had a great influence on the architects of the entire United States, and direct connections informed several prominent local architects in Texas and Austin.

One of the first to bring the more formally modern aesthetic to town was Chester Nagel who studied at Harvard and then worked with Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius. Another architect who was able to briefly bring distinctly modern residences to town was Harwell Hamilton Harris, who later would become director of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin from 1951 to 1955 and worked with Richard Neutra and RM Schindler in Los Angeles where he absorbed the modern architectural language.

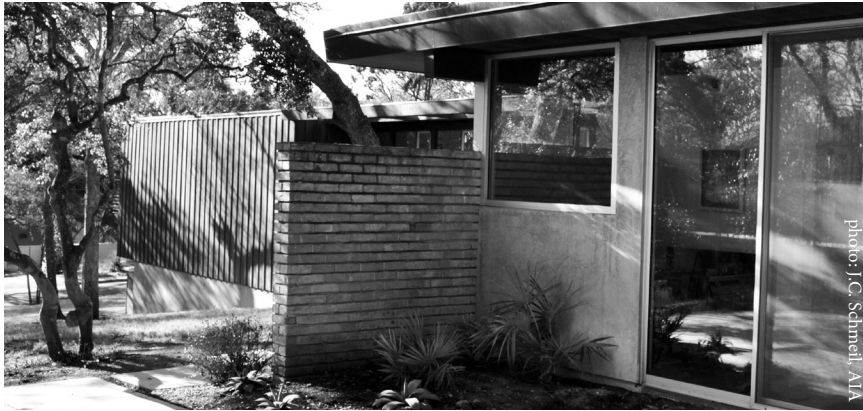
Two other notable architects were Austin natives and partners Charles Granger and Arthur Fehr. Granger's sensibilities were shaped by his time working with Richard Neutra and studying where other notables Charles and Ray Eames had just left at Cranbrook Academy of Art. Granger then worked as a designer in the office of long time instructor and president of Cranbrook, Finnish-born modernist Eliel Saarinen before bringing his modern ideas home to Austin. Fehr was educated at University of Texas at Austin as well as Columbia University, New York University and the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design in New York. The two teamed up after the war to design the very modern Robert Mueller Municipal Airport and O. Henry Junior High School.

One of Austin's favorite Mid-Century architects and builder-developer, A.D. (Arthur Dallas) Stenger attended the University of Texas at Austin just prior to Harris' tenure there. If Harris had arrived just one year earlier, Stenger probably wouldn't have been driven out for his "outlandish" designs with operable glass walls and modernist sensibilities. This allowed him, however, to capitalize on the growing demand for modern homes in Austin and to become one of the more prolific local Mid-Century architects.

With clean, open spatial arrangements and comfortable materiality and interplay between interior and exterior, the classic Mid-Century Modern home has a sophisticated hominess that is warm and inviting. Local architects were able to incorporate the ideals and idioms of the larger Modern movement with the particulars of the Texas climate to create a fine collection of work that captures the energy, exuberance and optimism of the mid twentieth century right here in Austin.

Earl Dillard House

4506 Crestway



Roy Earl Dillard was a student in the Architecture Department at UT when World War II broke out. He quit school and, from 1941 to 1945, flew B-24s over the South Pacific for the Army Air Corps. Following the war, he returned to school and after finishing his degree in 1949 he married Patsy Davis. He worked for architectural firms in San Antonio and Austin, then began his own practice working from home in 1955. Earl Dillard was a talented artist as well as an architect. He designed a wide variety of buildings, from homes to schools to commercial buildings; however, his favorite projects were the 22 churches he designed. The Dillards built this striking, vintage modern home on a wooded, half-acre lot that they cleared themselves. The structure was originally a one-story two bedroom house and was expanded in 1969 to house a master bedroom and downstairs office. It now contains three bedrooms, two and one-half bathrooms, two living areas and two dining rooms. An avid gardener, Dillard laid out all the terraces and brick walls in the yard. The Dillards resided here almost 54 years.

There are many Mid-Century Modern features: flat roof, extensive use of glass in floor-to-ceiling windows and 8-foot sliding doors, casement windows with aluminum frames, interior walls of elm, redwood beams and ceilings, etc. In 2006, another owner acquired the property and remodeled where appropriate while taking care to preserve Dillard's architecture. The carport was enclosed, extending the kitchen to add a pantry, dining area, breakfast nook and laundry room. The master bathroom was remodeled and enlarged. Some aging and damaged redwood cantilevers were replaced with new steel structures. To comply with current code requirements, the glass "walls" in the master bedroom, downstairs office and living room were replaced and new glass doors were added to the main entry and kitchen. New cork flooring replaced original cork flooring throughout the house. Since purchasing the house in 2010, the current owners have landscaped the back yard, which backs up to Bright Leaf Preserve. They have also added a detached carport and renovated the bedrooms, hallways and built-in cabinets. They also added the pool and additional decking. Dead and dying trees were removed and over 20 new trees have been planted.

Arthur Fehr House

5102 Ridge Oak



This unique house was designed and built c. 1949 by one of the most well-known and accomplished architects ever to call Austin home. Arthur Fehr began practicing as an architect after receiving his degree from UT in 1925. During the Depression he helped with survey and restoration work of one of the missions in San Antonio, and then was hired as park architect for the National Park Service, working on projects at Bastrop State Park, then at nearby Buescher State Park with the Civilian Conservation Corps. During this time he met a kindred spirit in Charles Granger, newly graduated from UT, who would later become his business partner. In 1937 he opened his own practice in Austin, where his first commission was the First English Lutheran Church. By this time he was beginning to turn away from his traditional training toward modernism. An admirer of Walter Gropius and the Bauhaus, he emphasized craft, economy of construction, the use of readily available materials and functional design. The hallmark of Fehr and Granger's work in the post-war years was a spare and "industrial" look, admitting abundant light and ventilation, and treating economy of construction not as a limitation but as another design element. It was important to use local materials and local craftsmen, as well.

Arthur Fehr and his wife Mary Jane lived in this house until his death in 1969; his widow remained here until the 1990s. The current owners acquired the property in 2010 and, beyond paint and needed repairs, decided to wait three years before undertaking any remodeling, so as to get the feel of the home. The old retaining wall around the pool was falling down, so they replaced the pool and developed a flat play yard below. As remodeling has progressed, they have been careful to replace stone with stone, wood with wood, etc. Original steelwork has been exposed and the built-ins have been preserved. The original 33' sliding doors looking out to the pool have been repaired and asbestos tiles have been removed from the bathrooms. They have also removed a hedge and AC unit to expose the graceful cantilevering of the house over its foundation. The Fehr house is being brought back to life by new owners sensitive to its history and style. Surely Arthur would approve!

Hosted by the volunteers of Inherit Austin.

Crume House

2603 La Ronde



Herbert C. Crume, born in Dallas in 1921, served in the Navy and obtained his BA in Architecture from The University of Texas. After graduation he taught in the university's Architecture Department for several years while working as a draftsman for the prominent local firm of Fehr & Granger Architects, then relocated to Chicago to work from 1949 to 1952. When he returned to Austin, he was hired as Chief Designer-Planner for Fehr & Granger, where he received an award from Progressive Architecture magazine for the design of Mueller Austin Municipal Airport. Together with fellow architect Riff Stirman, Crume purchased land north of 45th Street on Shoal Creek on which to build their new homes. It is said that they selected the site since it was outside the city limits and thus not subject to City regulations and that they named their new cul-de-sac La Ronde in a playful reference to a racy Italian film popular at that time. During construction, Herbert and Carol Crume lived at "The Perch", located behind the home of Charles Granger on West 16th Street. (The Granger property was on PA's 2008 Mid-Century Modern tour.) Naturally, Crume was the architect of his family's new home, and is believed to have been the designer as well.

True to its Mid-Century Modern style, the house is situated so that the front maintains privacy from the street and the rear is mostly glass, with views from every room. It features an exposed steel frame with a flat roof, redwood ceilings, extensive use of brick, and walls of glass. There is an interesting sunken tub/shower in what is now the guest bathroom and a custom steel fireplace that hangs in the living room. In the 1960s, Crume added a master bedroom suite and two other bedrooms were reconfigured. The pool was also added during this period.

By 1957, Crume moved to another architectural firm, Jessen Associates, where he became a partner in the 1960s. Jessen Associates built such local landmarks as Palmer Auditorium, the Texas Supreme Court Building, St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Faulk Central Library and Advanced Micro Devices. The present owners acquired the property from the Crumes in 2010. They have done some remodeling, such as replacing the kitchen cabinetry and flooring, while remaining sensitive to the home's original look and feel. Note: Herbert Crume will be present at the house during the morning hours.

Lansing Thorne House

3607 Balcones



In the early 1950s, Balcones Drive was a relatively new road; in fact, it did not appear in the City Directories until 1954. Around this time, twin brothers Clifford and Lansing Thorne, pediatricians in practice together, hired UT professor of architecture Roland G. Roessner to design homes for them on this scenic road. The Clifford Thorne residence was finished first and was named Newsweek magazine's House of the Year in 1955. (Sadly, it was later demolished.) During the design process on Lansing and Shirley Thorne's home, plans had to be revamped when she became pregnant; the southeast bedroom and bath were added and the plans were made so that the mother could keep an eye on her daughter from anywhere in the house. Roland Roessner taught at UT for over 30 years; he typically taught fifth-year Design Studios and Undergraduate Thesis Studio. He required excellence in design and technical communication from his students and was described by his student and faculty colleagues as "an architect's architect." His small professional practice was very successful and resulted in many awards.

The current owners acquired the home from Mrs. Thorne, who resided here well into the 21st century. Few, if any, modifications have taken place since it was built, aside from paint and carpet, making it a pure example of Mid-Century Modern style. It is a simple and elegant house, sited on the hillside with its signature cantilevered concrete porch floating above Balcones Drive. The structure is slab on grade and features dark red brick veneer, aluminum casement windows, sliding glass doors and jalousie doors. Inside finishes are sheetrock, mahogany paneling, vinyl tile, carpeted floors and terrazzo tile at the screened porch. Some pieces of the Thorne's furniture remain in the house, as well as a painting by mid-century Austin artist Michael Frary. Fortunately, the new owners are interested in preserving the original style and character of the home and are working with Clayton & Little Architects on a renovation, to begin later this year.

Cranfill-Beacham Apartments

1911 Cliff St.



Dr. Thomas Cranfill was a professor in the English Department at UT, where he became nationally known as a scholar of Shakespeare and Renaissance literature. He was the editor of *Texas Quarterly* and also an avid art collector. In 1958 he purchased two lots next to his home at 1907 Cliff Street in order to build this triplex apartment building for his partner, photographer Hans Beacham. He hired the designer of his own house, Harwell Hamilton Harris, Dean of UT's School of Architecture, for the project. Harris was from California, where he had honed his talents while working for Richard Neutra in the 1920s and 1930s. He was influenced by Neutra, as well as Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan in the efficient use of space, natural materials, and in designing a house to fit into its physical environment. He used large expanses of glass to blend the outside with the inside.

The structure features three two-story loft apartments and is built of concrete block on the ground floor with board-and-batten wood siding above. A courtyard is formed by concrete masonry walls, while the back of each unit features a two-story expanse of glass framed in vertical wood mullions with aluminum muntins, overlooking a bamboo and elm grove. Beacham's apartment was unit #3 and contained a photographic studio and darkroom.

Only a few alterations have taken place: the original tar and gravel roof has been replaced with a modified bitumen roof. The original cantilevered pergola at the entry has been removed and wood caps at the parapet have been replaced with metal caps. The wood and fiberglass screen that formed the western enclosure to the courtyard was destroyed in a windstorm in 2006 and has been replaced with a steel-framed screen with poly carbonate panels, which reproduce the original proportions and divisions of the screen wall. All the apartments have had mechanical updates and a skylight was added to unit #3 after the darkroom was reconfigured.

Many architects have resided here over the years, including the present owner. The property was converted to condominiums in an effort to properly preserve it, and was designated a City of Austin Historic Landmark in 2013. The owner has done restorative work on the building and is a strong believer in the unique brand of modernism embodied here.

Note: Residential Permit parking only restrictions are suspended for the hours of the tour.

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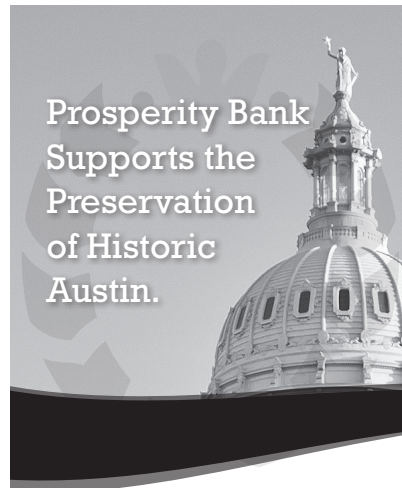
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Shoehorn Design

*"Design is
where science
and art
break even."*

— Robin Mathew

HOUSE

cocktails

Presented by Drippings Springs Vodka

Preservation Austin is pleased to present a series of cocktail parties with a unique twist. Join us as we gather in beautiful historic homes and enjoy hand crafted cocktails that match the house's era, served up by Alamo Drafthouse's award-winning mixologist, Bill Norris.

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday May 8, 2014

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Fiegel House (ca. 1890)

1600 Pennsylvania Ave., 78702

Featuring classic punches and sherry cobbler

\$35 per guest

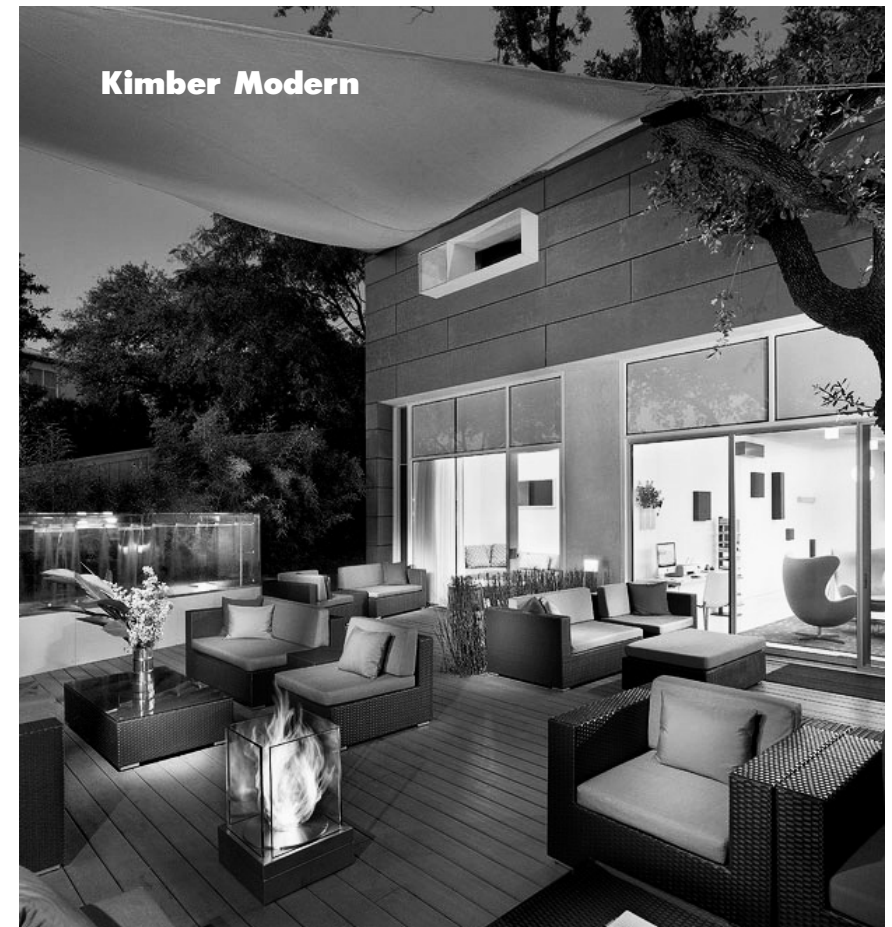
Don't miss this spring evening on the wrap-around porch of this charming historic treasure. George Fiegel moved to Austin from New Orleans in the 1860's and bought what had been a shotgun shack at this address. The building was added onto through the years, and Fiegel lived here until 1905. Fiegel was a master builder for the Brenham family, and built all but one of the homes on the Bremond Block including what is currently the beautiful Classroom Teachers' Association building. Tickets available at preservationaustin.org.

Bid on our On-line Auction!

Don't miss the opportunity for a great deal and support the work of Preservation Austin! On-line bids can be made until **Sunday, April 6 at 5:00 pm.**

- \$250 Gift Certificate to Hip Haven
- 1 Night Stay at Kimber Modern
- 2 night stay in the Carriage House of Austin's historic Herblin-Shoe House
- 5 Course Dinner for Two at The Driskill Grill
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- 9 Books About Austin from Villa Finale: Museum & Gardens
- Carol Jones, Professional Organizer at A Jones for Organizing
- Dinner at Chavez & Tickets to Jackpierce at the Paramount Theatre

Place your bid at <http://www.32auctions.com/2014homestour>





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Get Involved. Join Us.

As a non-profit, community-based organization, we count on our membership support to help keep us involved in preservation efforts that benefit greater Austin. In fact, we have returned more than \$2.8 million to the community for these efforts.

MEMBERSHIP OFFERS YOU:

- * PA's quarterly newsletter
- * Discounts on PA events
- * Invitations to unique social events
- * Programs presented by leading preservationists and historians
- * Opportunity to contribute to the community by preserving its historic and cultural resources

SIGN ME UP AS A MEMBER OF THE PRESERVATION AUSTIN:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preservationist \$5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Inherit Austin \$90/\$65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$2,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Circle \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Dual \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Name

Address.....

City.....StateZip.....

Daytime Phone Evening Phone

Fax Email

My check is enclosed (Please make checks payable to Preservation Austin)

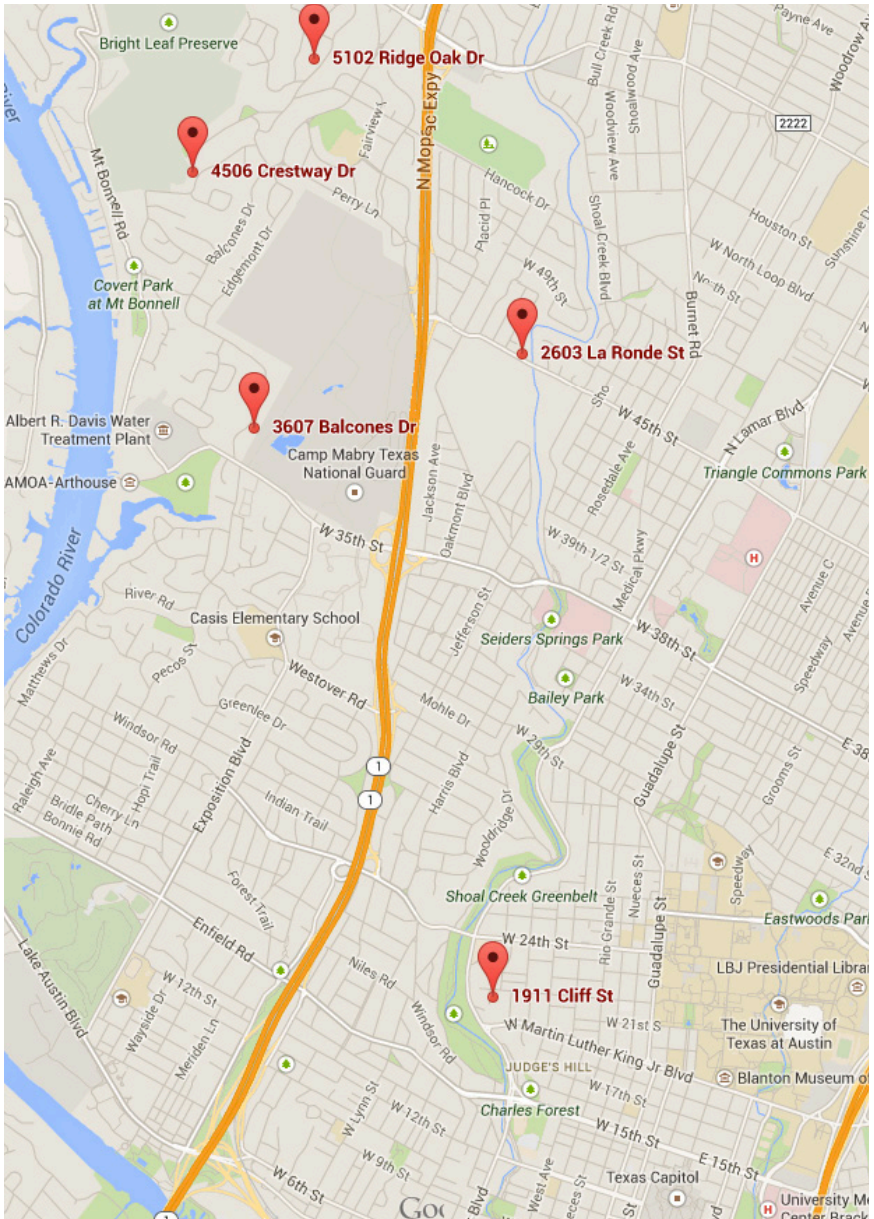
Please charge to my: Visa Mastercard AmEx

Card Number:..... Exp. Date.....

Your Signature:.....

Thank you for your support!

Mail to: Preservation Austin, P.O. Box 2113, Austin, Texas 78768



AUSTIN 1964! HOME LOCATIONS:

- 4506 Crestway
- 5102 Ridge Oak
- 2603 La Ronde - The PA info booth will be here
- 3607 Balcones
- 1911 Cliff St.