
Professional Certificate in Mid-Century Modern Restoration

Mid-Century Modern Architectural Details and Features

Mid-Century Modern (MCM) architecture is a design movement that emerged in the mid-20th century, roughly between 1945 and 1969. This style of architecture is characterized by clean lines, simple forms, and a focus on bringing the outdoors in. Here are some of the key terms and vocabulary associated with Mid-Century Modern architectural details and features:

1. **A-frame:** An A-frame is a type of roof where the rafters form an "A" shape. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it allowed for high ceilings and large windows, creating a light and airy feel.
2. **Asbestos:** Asbestos is a mineral fiber that was commonly used in building materials until the 1970s. It was often used in insulation, ceiling tiles, and flooring in Mid-Century Modern homes. However, asbestos is now known to be hazardous to human health, and should be removed by a professional if found in a home.
3. **Balloon frame:** A balloon frame is a type of construction where the studs run the full height of the building, rather than being cut to size for each floor. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it allowed for open floor plans and large windows.
4. **Bi-level:** A bi-level is a type of home where the living space is divided into two levels, often with a split-level entryway. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it allowed for the efficient use of space and a modern, open floor plan.
5. **Boomerang countertops:** Boomerang countertops are a type of countertop that features a curved, boomerang-shaped design. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it added a touch of whimsy and playfulness to the kitchen.
6. **Butt glazing:** Butt glazing is a type of window installation where the glass is installed directly against the frame, with no visible mullions or dividers. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it created a seamless, uninterrupted view of the outdoors.
7. **Carport:** A carport is a covered structure for parking a car, typically attached to the side or front of a house. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it provided protection for cars without the need for a full garage.
8. **Clerestory windows:** Clerestory windows are windows that are installed high up on a wall, often near the ceiling. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it allowed for natural light to enter the home without sacrificing privacy.
9. **Colored bathroom tile:** Colored bathroom tile was a popular design element in Mid-Century Modern homes. Bold, bright colors like pink, blue, and yellow were often used to create a playful and fun atmosphere in the bathroom.
10. **Eichler home:** An Eichler home is a type of Mid-Century Modern home designed by Joseph Eichler. These homes are characterized by their open floor plans, large windows, and indoor-outdoor living spaces.
11. **Flat roof:** A flat roof is a roof that is almost perfectly horizontal, with little to no slope. This design was

popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it created a sleek, modern look and allowed for the installation of large skylights.

12. Geometric shapes: Geometric shapes like circles, triangles, and rectangles were a common design element in Mid-Century Modern homes. These shapes were often used in lighting fixtures, furniture, and textiles to create a modern, minimalist aesthetic.

13. Glass block: Glass block is a type of building material made from hollow glass blocks that are stacked together to create a wall or partition. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it allowed for natural light to enter the home while still providing privacy.

14. Hidden hardware: In Mid-Century Modern homes, hardware like hinges and door handles were often hidden or recessed to create a clean, seamless look.

15. Low-slung roof: A low-slung roof is a roof that is low to the ground and has a gentle slope. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it created a low profile and allowed for large windows and high ceilings.

16. MCM restoration: MCM restoration is the process of restoring a Mid-Century Modern home to its original condition. This can involve repairing or replacing original features, like wood paneling and terrazzo floors, and removing non-original features, like drop ceilings and popcorn textures.

17. Mid-century modern architects: Some of the most famous Mid-Century Modern architects include Frank Lloyd Wright, Richard Neutra, and Joseph Eichler. These architects were known for their innovative designs and focus on bringing the outdoors in.

18. Natural materials: Natural materials like wood, stone, and brick were commonly used in Mid-Century Modern homes. These materials were often left in their natural state, without being painted or stained, to create a warm and organic feel.

19. Open floor plan: An open floor plan is a layout where the living spaces are not separated by walls. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it created a sense of spaciousness and allowed for easy entertaining.

20. Paneling: Wood paneling was a popular design element in Mid-Century Modern homes. It was often used on walls and ceilings to create a warm, natural feel.

21. Picture window: A picture window is a large, fixed window that provides a clear view of the outdoors. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it allowed for a connection to nature and created a sense of spaciousness.

22. Post and beam construction: Post and beam construction is a type of construction where the roof is supported by large, horizontal beams. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it created a sense of spaciousness and allowed for large windows and high ceilings.

23. Radiant heat: Radiant heat is a type of heating system that uses hot water pipes or electric coils to heat the floors or walls of a home. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it provided even, comfortable heat without the need for bulky radiators.

24. Ranch home: A ranch home is a type of Mid-Century Modern home that is designed in a single story. These homes are characterized by their long, low profiles and open floor plans.

25. Sputnik light fixture: A Sputnik light fixture is a type of modernist light fixture that features a cluster of spheres or globes suspended from a central point. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it created a sense of drama and whimsy.

26. Terrazzo: Terrazzo is a type of flooring made from small pieces of marble, granite, or quartz set in

concrete and polished to a high shine. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it was durable, easy to clean, and had a modern, sleek look.

27. Transom window: A transom window is a small, horizontal window located above a door or larger window. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it allowed for natural light to enter the home while still providing privacy.

28. Vaulted ceiling: A vaulted ceiling is a ceiling that is higher than normal and has a curved or arched shape. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it created a sense of spaciousness and allowed for large windows and high ceilings.

29. Wall of windows: A wall of windows is a design where a large portion of a wall is covered in windows. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it allowed for a connection to nature and created a sense of spaciousness.

30. Wet bar: A wet bar is a small bar area that includes a sink and running water. This design was popular in Mid-Century Modern homes because it allowed for easy entertaining and created a dedicated space for socializing.

In conclusion, Mid-Century Modern architecture is a design movement that emerged in the mid-20th century and is characterized by clean lines, simple forms, and a focus on bringing the outdoors in. The key terms and vocabulary associated with Mid-Century Modern architectural details and features include A-frame, asbestos, balloon frame, bi-level, boomerang countertops, butt glazing, carport, clerestory windows, colored bathroom tile, Eichler home, flat roof, geometric shapes, glass block, hidden hardware, low-slung roof, MCM restoration, Mid-century modern architects, natural materials, open floor plan, paneling, picture window, post and beam construction, radiant heat, ranch home, Sputnik light fixture, terrazzo, transom window, vaulted ceiling, wall of windows, and wet bar. Understanding these terms