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Seven stops on Oklahoma City Architecture Tour

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View of the rooftop of the Mason Residence, 824 NW 8. [PHOTO PROVIDED BY SIMON HURST PHOTOGRAPHY/AIA CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER]

The American Institute of Architects Central Oklahoma Chapter will present the 16th annual Architecture Tour from noon to 5 p.m. April 22, featuring four homes, a school and two businesses.

Tickets for the self-guided tour are \$20 in advance online at www.aiacoc.com or Fitzsimmons Architects, 2721 N Walker Ave., or ADG at 920 W Main. Tickets are \$25 the day of the tour at any tour stop.

Tour stops, with partial descriptions from AIA, are:

- Brewer Residence, 204 N Sugar Hill Drive, Arcadia, designed by Bockus Payne Associates Architects, owned by Mark and Beth Brewer. The home is high above Route 66, 3 ½ miles east of Interstate 35 in Arcadia's Sugar Hill neighborhood.

Oklahoma Vernacular Prairie Style architecture includes sweeping wings that take advantage of the view from every room. Extensive use of stone on the exterior and interior blurs the distinction between outdoors and indoors and connects the home to the land.

The single-story residence has 4-foot overhangs that protect the generous number of windows around the house. This emphasizes the horizontal lines of the house and naturally anchors it to its prairie setting.

The landscape plan is well groomed next to the house; however, the majority of the 2 ½-acre lot was returned to buffalo grass and native wildflowers, which reinforces the Prairie Design of the home.

The interior of the house is organized around a fireplace and inglenook. The interior details and millwork are simple and clean in keeping with the Vernacular Prairie Design. The quality of craftsmanship clearly displays the pride with which the home was built.

- Mason Residence, 824 NW 8, designed by ADG PC, owned by Steve Mason. The goal was a house that would optimize a small urban lot and maximize the views of Oklahoma City.

The home includes two stories of living space with a garage in the basement. A roof deck caps the home and affords sweeping views of downtown to the south.

Indoor and outdoor living spaces were connected by pushing the home to the property line on the west and reserving nearly half the site for a linear outdoor living space complete with a small lawn, patio, outdoor kitchen, linear pool and hot tub.

Large windows on the east, including a wall of sliding doors on the first floor, create a light, bright home during the day and a glowing lantern of a home during evening hours.

The entry sequence sets up the organization of the home nicely: visitors enter via a secure garden gate into a side yard; (there is no traditional front door); visitors walk along the outdoor terrace to the sliding door and enter the home at the living room.

- White Residence, 3200 N Harvey Parkway, owned by William and Susan White. It is an iconic Streamline Art Deco home designed by a 1936 MIT graduate, Robert Vahlberg, for his parents under the firm of his uncle, Walter Vahlberg Architects.

Renovation incorporates an open floor plan, minimizing hallways, and retains the modern vision of the designer.

The thoughtful renovation includes incorporating central ventilation and recessed lighting while protecting the beautiful period glass block and corner glass windows.

William and Susan White have restored the home to its classic design using the original blueprints, lighting fixtures, and interior design elements.

The Whites have given new purpose to the servant's quarters by developing a new master en suite with a spacious bedroom, bathroom, and walk in closet while maintaining the Art Deco look.

- Nepveux Residence, 6325 N Villa Ave., No. 135, designed by Ken Fitzsimmons, owned by Janise Nepveux. The 1980s, 1,800-square-foot, two-story condo was quite the bachelor pad complete with a hot tub room appointed with dark wood paneling, mirror ceiling and built in "hifi" speakers.

The lower level, originally cut up into several small spaces with little access to daylight, was stripped to the studs and transformed into one large open area for the kitchen, dining and living area. Rather than hiding it from view, the television is elegantly displayed in a minimal cabinet.

The upper-level renovations for existing baths and closets provides an open and airy feel with increased storage. The new "Solatube" skylights bring in natural daylight to the windowless baths while new pocket doors disappear when open to enhance the flow.

New white color walls, doors, trim with natural wood and concrete flooring become a dramatic backdrop for splashes of color. New dimmable LED lighting throughout provides flexibility for displaying art and daily activities.

- Heartland Middle School, 4900 Explorer Drive, Edmond, designed by FSB.

School officials wanted a design "empowering all students through creativity, collaboration and technology."

FSB created a two-story design with safe and secure entries, a student commons, student collaboration areas and a "learning stair" that provides students with both assembly and presentation spaces.

- Bob Moore Auto Group, 700 NW 5, designed by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris.

The new headquarters for Bob Moore Auto Group reinvents the firm's existing Collision Center to be the first element in a unified campus. Contractor was Smith & Pickel Construction.

- BP Lower 48, 1100 N Broadway Ave., designed by Fitzsimmons Architects.

BP's regional office is the hub for its Midcontinent Product Operations. BP wanted the offices to reflect the changing demographics of the company, to attract today's professional workforce with a noncorporate atmosphere. Interior decorator was Laura Leffler of BP Lower 48. Flintco Inc. was the contractor.

Sponsors of the tour and other events during AIA Architecture Week are Bell & McCoy Lighting and Controls, J.E. Dunn Construction, Timberlake Construction, Triple C Lighting & Controls, The Womble Co., Acme Brick, Bentley Flooring, Triangle A&E, Boldt Construction, Bryan's Flooring, Flintco Inc., Harrison Walker Harper Construction, TRW Oklahoma, Wallace Engineering, Smith & Pickel Construction, Thermal Windows, and Crossland Construction.

For more information, go to www.aiacoc.org or call 948-7174.