

This flat-roofed, block house is one of a few Quincy houses that is both modern and historic. Built to keep his construction crew working during the late days of the Depression, this special house was the design of William Arp, of Arp Plastering Company. Arp and his craftsmen created the ornate plasterwork on the Quincy Junior High School Auditorium.

Depression Modern is one of the several Modern styles that were popular in the 1920s and 1930s. They were considered intriguingly sexy at the time. Their looks were based on the then-new streamlined styles of planes, boats and airplanes. The designs were intended to give people an optimistic outlook that, with reliance on technology, the United States could pull out of the Depression. Close in appearance to the popular Art Moderne style of the times, the Arp house has a more severe and technologically-reliant look than Art Moderne has.

Arp built a solid house, making the concrete blocks in his own 15th and Ohio shop. He also made the floor joists, which are poured concrete rather than wood. Floors in the house are oak parquet except in the kitchen and bathroom where they are colored concrete with flecks of wood.

Note the modern house's tubular "ship's railing", its steel windows and absence of exterior trim. Inside modern features are the terrazzo window sills, the "tray" or three level ceilings, art deco sconces, plaster picture molding, recessed lighting and arched niches in the dining room. Also notice the scaled down kitchen countertops and cabinets, which increase floor space in the small kitchen.

Current owners, Karol and Brad Ehmen, are intent on renovating their new-old home. Scraping away years of paint build up, they discovered the original wall colors that the walls are painted today. They took up layers of old and new vinyl to expose the original concrete designed floors in the kitchen and bathroom. The Ehmens enjoy decorating their home in keeping with its historic/modern style.



2235 Madison Street



*BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
OCTOBER 20, 2001*

Year Built:	1939
Name of House:	William Arp House
Style:	Depression Modern
Architect:	William Arp, Builder