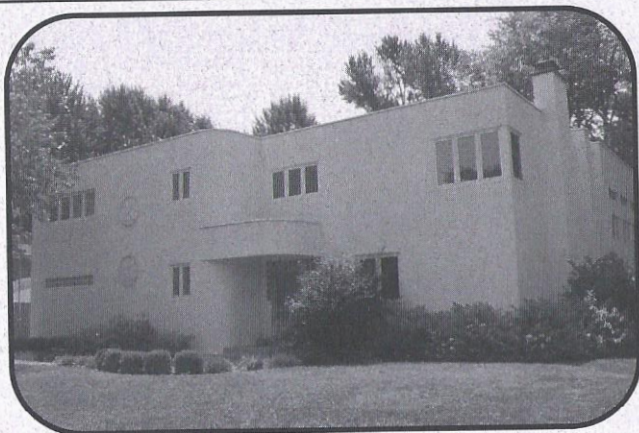


2210 Aldo Boulevard (1939/1940)



Clarence A. and Anna Gerdes House
Art Moderne/International Style
Charles Behrensmeyer

The Post World War I era house at 2210 Aldo, built in 1939/40, is a rare and beautiful Quincy example of the International or Art Moderne style which developed in reaction to all previous architectural traditions. This house was designed by Quincy architect Charles Behrensmeyer, for his cousin, steel wholesaler Clarence Gerdes.

Fully utilizing the materials and perceived glamour of the Machine Age, as interpreted by Behrensmeyer, this home is constructed of concrete and steel, with clean lines and smooth, curved walls, ranks of metal casement windows set flush with the exterior walls, and flat roof lines. This home represents one of only two examples of this distinctive design style in the city of Quincy, the other being the Ernest Chatten House, also by Behrensmeyer, at 2336 Oak Street, now known as the Gardner Memorial Scout Service Center.

The use of neutral colors in the exterior stucco finish, and simple wall and roof lines, seem perfectly complimented by the ornamental medallions mounted vertically on the front façade. The Medallions were not part of the original design but were installed by a previous owner who bought these elements on a trip to the Southwest U.S. A deep half arched curved wall overhang over the front entry, and curved upper and lower porches on the southern façade soften the otherwise hard angles of the exterior walls.

A later two story addition to the rear of the home fits seamlessly with the original design. The expansion of the rear patio at the time of the addition was also handled with great attention to detail, blending perfectly into the original landscaping by Stark Brothers Nursery.

Neutral colors are also found on the interior walls. A glass block surround at the front entry door, and double string glass block windows in the double car garage built into the east façade of the home, compliment the use of direct and reflected light on the interior. These elements plus a false drop, natural wood coving in the addition, bring a sense of spaciousness to the living spaces on a cozy, homelike and personal level, despite the soaring two story addition, simple wall coverings, and minimal use of woodwork surrounding interior doors, fireplace and casement windows.