

Contact: Rebecca Bird
City of Urbana
(217) 384-2440
rlbird@urbanaininois.us



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Thursday, April 16, 2012

The City of Urbana will host a tour of Urbana’s mid-century modern homes on May 6, 2012. The tour will feature 6 houses built during the middle of the twentieth century that exemplify modernist design features, such as the use of transparencies, the connection to nature, the use of open plan design, and simple geometries.

The tour is self-guided and we invite people to park at Yankee Ridge Elementary School at 2102 S. Anderson Street in Urbana and take the tour on foot. Tickets are \$10 (cash only) and will be on sale from 12:30 – 3:00 PM on the day of the tour at Yankee Ridge Elementary School, or at Urbana’s Market at the Square on Saturday, May 5th from 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The houses on the tour will be open from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. For more information, please visit www.urbanaininois.us/modernurbana or contact Rebecca Bird at (217) 384-2440 or rlbird@urbanaininois.us.



Urbana has a rich architectural heritage dating back to the 1800s when the City was first settled. Architecturally, Urbana is known primarily for its Victorian buildings. However, the city has another significant architectural heritage in its mid-century modernist homes. The aim of Urbana’s modernist home tour is to raise public awareness of this rich modernist architectural heritage both locally and as part of an important genre of design on the national and international level. As a collection, the homes on the tour show a sampling of the mid-century modernist style, while also providing contrasts in the specifics of this design genre. It is our hope that this tour will serve to inspire and educate, and offer you the opportunity to get to know Urbana a bit better.

According to city planner Rebecca Bird, “This tour is unique. We’ve had numerous tours in Urbana-Champaign over the years that showcase historic homes, but never a tour devoted to our modernist homes. We’ve had so much interest in this tour already. Most people don’t even know these modern homes are there, as they are often hidden on quiet residential streets. They are, in a sense, Urbana’s hidden gems.”

MODERN URBANA a home tour is the result of collaboration between the City of Urbana and *CU-Engage*, a Spring 2012 seminar course at the University of Illinois that connects the design currency and critical thinking abilities of graduate students in the School of Architecture to design projects in the community.