

ENDANGERED CINCINNATI

MID-CENTURY MODERNISM

Mitchell House

8060 Brill Road
Indian Hill
1957

"Teardowns," or replacement of vintage homes by "McMansions" or new subdivisions, are one of preservation's greatest challenges. Mid-Century Modern houses on large suburban parcels, such as the Mitchell and Moore houses, are at great risk due to high land values and lack of appreciation for architecture of the recent past.

These two Indian Hill residences are among the few residential works by Cincinnati Modernist architect Woodie Garber. In the style of the famous Case Study houses, the Mitchell House is a sleek glass-and-redwood box with all original features intact. Built five years later, the wood-and-stone Moore House is a conscious embodiment of Bauhaus principles.

Update: Demolition of the Moore House began in January 2007.

Moore House

9575 Tall Trail
Indian Hill
1962

American National Bank Building

647 Monmouth Street, Newport
c. 1948
Monmouth Street Historic District

For over half a century, the former American National Bank has been an anchor of Newport's downtown business district. Built c. 1948, the bank building is a sleek ensemble of steel, glass and granite, whose vertical orientation harmonizes with its older neighbors.

But now the present owner seeks to demolish the Modernist landmark, calling it obsolete, and build a new bank on the site. Monmouth Street has no local historic district overlay, so no review is required.

