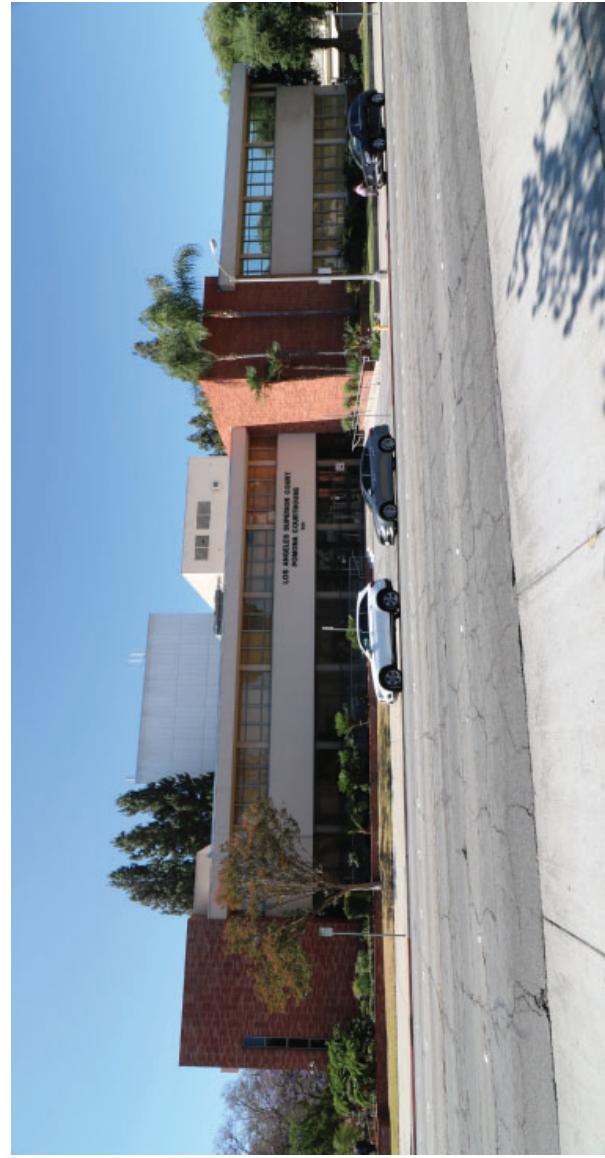# MID-CENTURY MODERN ARCHITECTURE
1945 – 1960S

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

- Clean Lines.
- One-story in height most common
- Floor to Ceiling Windows
- Sliding glass doors
- Flat roofs or low pitch roofs
- Occasionally a Butterfly Roof
- Canopies extending roofline to outdoor space

The Mid-Century Modern is the development of the 1920s International style. As the style developed it split into the the Corporate International style, and this Mid-Century Modern style. This style still was based on LeCorbusier's principles in his book "Towards a New Architecture", but starts to experiment with different shapes and materials. The angled, soaring roofs that developed during this period were adopted into the Googie style in the 1950s. The change from the international style is that materials were bought back into the design. They were no longer hidden, and natural materials were acceptable again. In addition, the interior was integrated with the exterior.

MASSING AND PLAN

- L-shape or rectangular in plan
- One or two story in height.
- Split level design possible.

FACADES

- Floor to ceiling windows act a glass walls
- Walls hide the front of the building, glass opens the building to the back.
- Brick, stone, or smooth plaster Finish stucco walls to compliment the glass.
- Carport more common than garage.

PAINT COLORS

- Natural and Bright Colors
- White common with a bright accent color.

ROOFS

- Three types of roofs: Flat, low pitched gable/cross gable, and butterfly roofs.
- Roll roofing most common.

TRIM AND ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS

- This style building was very simple with no window or door trim (except the metal mullions of the window frames).

DOORS AND WINDOWS

- Doors were typically simple wood doors, and could include glass panels. Windows were typically fixed glass single-paned windows with metal frames.

PORCHES

- None, covered entry only, typically cantilevered.
- Can extend canopy in rear yard to connect spaces to house.

FENCES AND WALLS

- Painted block walls common.
- May use block wall to conceal front entrance.