



THOROUGHLY MODERN

Home tour's focus on this architectural style reflects openness, natural light, up-to-date lifestyle choices

BY MARTINA SCHIMITSCHEK

Does modern architecture bring to mind an austere white rectangle filled with only a few items of black leather furniture? Or perhaps a 1950s Jetsons-style house with space-age molded plastics? ■ Modern architecture is that, but also much more.

"It's a canvas for your own style. A modern home is a home that's easy to live in and embraces new technology," said James Leasure, the founder of the Modern Architecture + Design Society and the MA+DS Home Tour Series.

Seven examples of modern architecture will be on display during the Modern Architecture + Design Society's San Diego Modern Home Tour on Oct. 12.

Leasure, who owns an event company in Austin, Texas, started the MA+DS Home Tour Series nine years ago. He said he noticed a shift in his city's architectural style from the sprawling one-story ranch-style homes. "People wanted to do something different," said Leasure, who calls himself a student of history and visual design. "I thought a tour would be a fun event."

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JACKSON DESIGN & REMODELING INC.

ENCINITAS This home has a two-story addition in the center of a ranch-style home. The design was inspired by the artist Piet Mondrian.



JIM BRADY ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

BANKERS HILL An exterior and interior view of a re-stored office building that was designed by Homer Delawie.



LANCE EMERSON

PACIFIC BEACH This 1984 condo was updated with an ocean-inspired color scheme.



GETTY IMAGES

A male rufous hummingbird showing off his beautiful gorget. These birds are expected to lose all of their range in the United States within this century.

BIRD-WATCHERS SPOT MIGRATORY CHANGE LINKED TO CLIMATE

Conservation efforts attempt to restore inhabitable locales for endangered species

BY KATHERINE ROTH

The types of birds coming through your neighborhood are probably changing, and so is the timing of their migrations. Bird-watchers noticing these differences are on the front line in figuring out how climate change and more severe weather events are putting stress on bird populations.

"Birders have to be much more alert to when birds are coming through than they used to be, since birds may be coming through much earlier or later than they used to," says John Rowden, director of community conservation at the National Audubon Society.

Bird-watchers are increasingly noticing unfamiliar birds normally found elsewhere, he says, and are seeing fewer of the birds they'd taken for granted.

"People are shocked when I say it. But just because we've seen these birds (year after year) doesn't mean they'll always be there. They are declining in numbers because we're throwing so many things at them, so we need to do what we can to help them," says Rowden.

At least 314 species of American birds are expected to lose 50 percent or more of their range by the end of the century, and have been listed by the Audubon Society as climate-threatened or endangered, Rowden says.

A United Nations science report issued recently says 1 million species of plants and animals are at risk of going extinct. Scientists issuing the report in

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HEED REGULAR MAINTENANCE FOR FULL LIFE FOR VACUUM

Owner's manual, videos spell out procedures for keeping appliance in peak condition

BY JURA KONCIUS

Vacuums, the appliances in charge of removing dust, crumbs and pet hair from our homes, need more cleaning than just about any other household appliance.

Whether you buy a cheap vacuum every year or you've invested in a higher-quality machine, you need to add "clean the vacuum" to your list of regular chores, ideally every week or two.

Proper maintenance will pay off with better performance and give the vacuum a longer life span. How much longer? Experts say that depends on frequency of usage, how many people and pets are in your household, and what brand and model you've chosen. If your machine is not maintained, the bad news is it probably won't last more than two years. With proper maintenance, you could get four to 10 years, or even more, says Craig Dorman, Vacuum Dealers Trade Association marketing director.

Routine maintenance issues are most commonly the reason an iRobot vacuum may not run properly, according to Ken Bazydola, director of product management at iRobot, which designs and builds robots, including Roomba. Bazydola says the newer models have apps that will alert you when it's time to empty

SEE VACUUM • E4



PAUL BODY PHOTOGRAPHY

BANKERS HILL The open interior of a Bankers Hill town home will be on the modern home tour. The town homes were recently completed by Nakhshab Development & Design.



JACKSON DESIGN & REMODELING INC.

SUNSET CLIFFS This two-story home went through a whole-house remodel.

MODERN • It's distinct from contemporary

FROM E1

He now organizes 10 to 15 tours a year throughout the United States and in Vancouver, British Columbia. The San Diego tour, which is in its seventh year, will focus on remodels and includes six homes and one architectural studio.

"I love homes that have been updated," Leasure said. "A modern home is a home that embraces a contemporary lifestyle and has forward-looking design and structure. It could be built in 1963 and still be forward-looking. It's about the space, light and flow. For a lot of people contemporary modern is cold. What I see is glass, light and openness."

For Soheil Nakhshab, modern design is sleek and minimalistic while contemporary design is more about mass.

"Modern has an elegance and comfort. It's not stark like contemporary," said Nakhshab, the principal of Nakhshab Development & Design, which specializes in building modern residences.

But modern architecture is about more than style and function, but also about how people live.

"A modern home has a

lot to do with how we have changed as a society. People want to be more family centric," Nakhshab said. The open floor plans and great rooms, he said, are about communal spaces that bring people together.

The town homes his company recently completed in Bankers Hill, which will be on the upcoming tour, also take into account changes in work habits. Each unit has a ground-floor suite that can be used as an office. Each town home also comes with an elevator so the three-story homes with private rooftop decks can stay accessible as owners age.

Another key element of modern design is the connection to the environment, Nakhshab said. Large picture windows and gigantic sliding doors, which have become more efficient with better technology, connect interior and exterior. The town homes have the open great room on the top floor to take advantage of city and harbor views.

Nakhshab said the minimalism of modern architecture speaks to his love of mathematics.

"I love the geometry and the alignment. You can't

cover up errors. We put a lot of love and energy into the detailing," he said.

Geometric shapes, whether curved or straight, are key in modern design, said John Kavan, an architect at Jackson Design & Remodeling. He used a mix of materials, including stucco, tile and metal, to accentuate the vertical and horizontal lines of a two-story whole-house remodel in the Sunset Cliffs area. The home is one of two houses Kavan designed that will be on the tour.

Kavan called the second house in Encinitas more conceptual. The two-story addition is in the center of an adobe ranch-style home and was inspired by the Dutch artist Piet Mondrian, known for a cubist style using primary colors.

The couple, he said, "didn't want to lose the idea of what was past," so they decided to keep the sides of the adobe and contrast it with the modern build in the middle. The home is bright and colorful and seems to be stretching out toward the ocean, Kavan said.

Traci Taylor and Joe Metcalf, the husband-and-wife team who founded Arise Interiors, also com-

bined the past with the present. They transformed their 900-square-foot, 1940s Bay Park home with the help of Boston-based ThoughtCraft Architects, by building an addition using rusted steel siding that seems to sprout from the original structure.

"We took the position that the (original) architecture isn't saying much at all. So we didn't want to mimic it," Metcalf said. The home, he added, has had an impact on the neighborhood. "We're challenging the perception of what a house could be."

The interior is filled with light as well as texture and color. The idea is to have uninterrupted shapes and planes to create a larger visual space.

"Modern design has intentionally well-thought-out choices. To me it's design with a purpose," Taylor said.

The home's windows have been placed to create snapshots of views. And because the couple has two young children, the kitchen

Modern Architecture + Design Society San Diego Modern Home Tour

When: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 12

Where: San Diego and Encinitas

Tickets: \$40 in advance; \$50 day of tour; \$20 for ages 10-17

Online: sandiegomodern-hometour.com

The tour will include single- and multifamily homes, as well as one commercial building. Here is what will be open for viewing:

Sunset Cliffs: A contemporary-styled home with a neutral color palette.

Pacific Beach: An updated

1984 condo with an ocean-inspired color scheme.

Bay Park: A postwar home expanded with a steel-clad addition.

Bankers Hill: A new town home with privacy, views and green building practices.

La Jolla: A midcentury-modern home update that stays true to its roots.

Encinitas: A remodel inspired by artist Piet Mondrian combining old and new.

Bankers Hill: A restored office building designed by renowned San Diego architect Homer Delawie.



JIM BRADY PHOTOGRAPHY

BAY PARK Rusted-steel siding transformed this postwar home.



BRADY SPEAR SPEARHEAD MEDIA

LA JOLLA The decks in the outdoor areas of this updated midcentury-modern home showcase large format tile and custom-built iron railings with open riser wood staircases.

cabinets are a white Melamine on the bottom for easy cleanup and walnut-stained wood on top. "At some point I could change the doors if I wanted to," Taylor said. The remodels, Leasure said, are examples of how to

reuse homes without destroying them.

"They are not just OK," he said. "They're something special."

Schimitschek is a San Diego freelance writer.