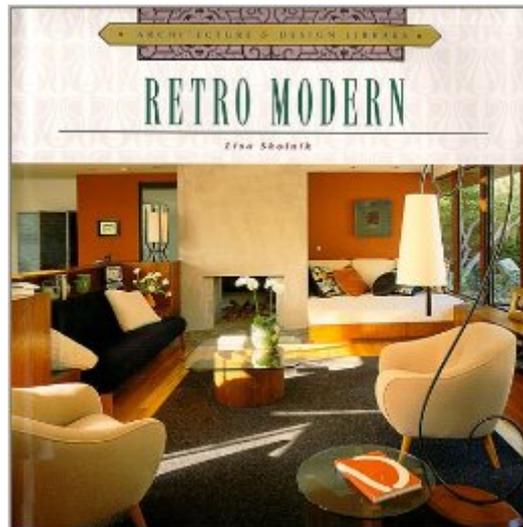


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# Architecture And Design Library: Retro-Modern (Arch & Design Library)



## Synopsis

With roots in prewar Germany, modernism leapt to popularity in postwar America. Advocated by architects Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Walter Gropius (who fled the encroaching Nazi movement and settled in the U.S.), modernism blended functionality with frugality. Between 1945 and 1960, architects like Frank Lloyd Wright and designers like George Nelson revolutionized the home landscape. Today, modernism is experiencing a resurgence in popularity. Filled with incredible photographs of classic modern homes and beautifully spare rooms, *Retro Modern* is well researched and admirably demonstrates the intersection of history, society, and the arts. The clean, cool lines of modern architecture was a direct rebuttal to the neoclassical styles that came before. Rooms flowed into one another and often included floor-to-ceiling glass walls to open the house to the natural world. "The new structures placed emphasis on efficiency and function, as well as informality and comfort," says author Lisa Skolnik. Inside, bold, spare furnishings like low-slung sofas and ovoid glass coffee tables were arranged with minimum clutter and often featured built-in furniture to keep the space open and airy. Clocks, lamps, and glassware took on asymmetrical and free-form shapes; most popularly, kidneys, amoebas, and boomerangs. That lime-green Egg chair of grandma's--which you thought hideous as a child--would now be snapped up in a second by a savvy collector.....--Dana Van Nest

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I picked this book up on a whim at a local book store, so I had an opportunity to look through it before buying. You should be aware that it's mostly pictures, with relatively little text aside from the captions. However, if what you want is a book of photos of Modern architecture and furniture, it's superb. There is a seemingly endless series of photos showing various diverse interpretations of the Modern style, with excellent captions explaining the details of architecture, furniture, and decoration. It both looks at rooms as a whole and at details in specific, in separate sections of the book. The rooms shown are almost universally stylish and inspiring to the budding home decorator. The book shows furniture and design from throughout the Modern period, ranging from the 1920's through the 1970's, and also shows how Modern pieces can be blended smoothly with Contemporary designs of today. As it is largely a photo book, I should comment that the paper and printing quality are excellent, with superb color, fine detail, and gorgeous glossy pages. If you like the modern style and are looking for some inspiration on how to decorate your home, this is a wonderful book to have, and in my opinion [inexpensive] for its quality. If you're looking for a reference book with long discussions of the style and its influences, this is not the book you're looking for.

Not much substance for anyone looking to use this as a reference (I recommend Taschen's series for this) but the layouts and photography are superb. There is a wide range of furniture and accessories illustrated with many of the "famous" designs being shown in quite interesting arrangements. Definitely for the aficionado, this is something you flip through for inspiration when trying to decide how to reupholster that old Danish chair you found at a yard sale.

For as long as I can remember, I have always loved Architecture & Design. [even though I FLUNKED out in Home Ec., in high school] I have always enjoyed designing my "Dream Home" in hopes that one day, I will, not only, build but live in that dream home of my own design. That's why, book's like "Retro Modern" by Lisa Skolnik is a great find. Whether you enjoy, Architecture, design, or even photography, this is one book that I feel, should be in your collection. Ms. Skolnik takes you from literally, from the outside in, of homes built in the mid-century. It has given me some ideas for MY "Dream Home".

As with all of the other books in this series, this book is well put together and has awesome examples of retro-modern style...I am definitely pleased with my purchase.

The nicest picture is the one on the cover. I was looking for images of retro homes to model my

rooms after, but didn't find what I was looking for in this book. I like books where items are named specifically so one can track them down. This book fell short.

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