A Guide to Flint Architecture

Welcome to the revised AIA Guide to Flint Architecture! After more than 15 years we have updated and revamped this guide to showcase the exciting changes to the built environment that reflect the resurgence of Flint and the region. While some buildings have been removed, many have been added, and this revised guide represents the historical buildings that still carry meaning and mark the identity of the city. Many of these historical buildings have been renovated and now have new life and continue the vibrant diversity of the city. New buildings that have been added were carefully selected and represent the future growth of Flint.

How to use this guide: The fold out guide is divided into one driving route and four walking routes. Each tour route is grouped together with the buildings or landmarks along that route. The four walking tours are all near the downtown Flint area and you can feel free to explore one or all of them. We have added enhanced digital content to this guide. Scan the code on this page or visit **www.aiaflint.com/guide** to watch short videos about the selected buildings and download an interactive PDF.

AIA Flint hopes that this guide will inspire all generations to explore and appreciate the beauty of architecture in Flint, in your hometown, and wherever you may travel throughout the world. The brief explanations of each building are written to define the history and meaning within each of the buildings. On behalf of our entire chapter, the committee members, and sponsors of this effort, I hope you enjoy experiencing the city.

Sincerely,
Kurt Neiswender, AIA
2018-2019 AIA Flint President
AIA Guide to Flint Architecture
Committee Chair

AIA Flint

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Flint

Driving Tour
1. Flint Cultural Center
2. Applewood Estate
SN: College Cultural
3. Woodside Church
4. MCC Regional Tech Cen
5. Stockton Center
6. MSD / Powers
SN: Woodcroft
7. Bishop Airport Terminal
8. Kettering Student Center
9. Saxton Residence

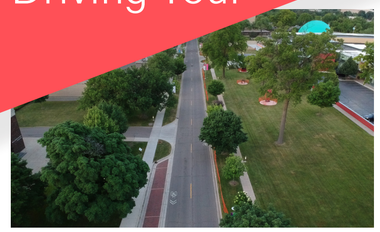
Walking Tour 1
10. Cornwall Building
11. Saint Matthew's Church
12. Flint Elks Lodge

Walking Tour 2
13. Saginaw Street
14. Mott Foundation Building
15. Capitol Theater
16. Paterson Building
17. Flint Farmer's Market
18. Flint Journal
19. U of M – Flint

Walking Tour 3
20. Saint Paul's Church
21. Flint Masonic Temple
22. Phoenix Building
23. Flint City Hall
24. Genesee County Courthouse
25. Court St. United Methodist Church
26. Halo Burger/Vernor's Mural
27. First Presbyterian Church

Walking Tour 2
28. Huntington Bank
29. First St. Lofts
30. Riverbank Park
31. Northbank Center
32. Carriage Factory
33. Durant Dort Office

Driving Tour



1. Flint Cultural Center / Address: 1120 East Kearsley Street
Architect: Smith, Hinchman & Grylls – Master Plan, Whiting Auditorium, Longway Planetarium, and Flint Institute of Arts (Original) **Fredrick Fisher Partners / John K. Costa** (Additions) | **S.A. Nurmia / Louis B. Kingscott** – Flint Public Library (Original) Waterstreet Design (Addition) | **Mackenzie Knuth & Klein** – Bower Theater | **Ellis, Arndt & Truesdell** – Flint Institute of Music | **Gazall-Krapek** – Sloan Museum | **THA Architects Engineers** – Flint Youth Theater, Longway Addition | **Sasaki** – Master Plan Revision

Conceived in a 1950s master plan, the Flint Cultural Center represents an outstanding example of Mid-Century Modern planning and design with its strong geometric shapes, large expanses of glass and opaque panels, and use of modern, sleek materials. Many architects, over several decades, have contributed their interpretation to the Mid-Century Modern style represented here in the diverse collection of buildings which form the campus. Visitors can enjoy the architecture while exploring the museums, art galleries, theaters, planetarium, and library they house.



2. Applewood Estate / Address: 1400 Kearsley Street
Architect: William Pitken, 1916

Charles Stewart Mott, a founding partner in General Motors, prominent philanthropist, and former mayor of Flint, had his home built in Flint in 1916. It was designed in a modified Jacobean style by a cooperative effort between his brother-in-law Herbert Davis and Landscape Architect William Pitken, Jr. This gentleman's farm was named 'Applewood Estate' in part due to the estate's apple orchard that is still thriving today. The pasture land was donated in 1951 to expand the Mott Community College campus.



3. Woodside Church / Address: 1509 East Court Street
Architect: Swanson and Associates, 1950-1952

The architectural engineering of the church was carried out by Swanson and Associates. The design was heavily influenced by mid-century master, Eero Saarinen. The church is a distinctly modern building with a simple yet massive steeple, pedestrian-friendly curved canopy and ground-hugging education wing. The building is now owned by Mott Community College.



4. Mott Community College Regional Technology Center
Address: 1401 East Court Street (near Robert T. Longway Boulevard)
Architect: SSOE, 2001

The Regional Technology Center is a pioneer in the development of technical educational facilities. The contemporary design was achieved on the exterior using glass curtain walls and split-face concrete block. The interior features a 3-story atrium clad in aluminum panels, flowing waves of perforated metal, futuristic sculpted furnishings, art, and splashes of bold color. This state-of-the-art building houses programs that push the boundaries of engineering and fabrication.



5. Stockton Center at Spring Grove
Address: 720 Ann Arbor Sreet
Architect: Mr. Oliver, 1972
Restoration Architect: Freeman Greer, 2005

This Victorian Italianate was constructed in 1872 for Colonel Thomas Stockton and his wife Maria. The original house structure is two stories on the east elevation built into a bluff, which allows for a lower level walkout to the west. The interior has original plaster detailing and wood floors. From 1921 to 1936 it served as the St. Joseph Hospital. It now operates as an office building and a small museum. After restoration it became listed on both the State and Local Historic Registers.



6. Michigan School for the Deaf and Powers Catholic High School (Faye Hall) / Address: 1505 West Court Street
Architect: Unknown, Faye Hall – 1913-1914 (Original) / **Gazall Lewis & Associates Architects, 2013** (Additions) | New Michigan School for the Deaf – **Gazall Lewis & Associates, 2012** | Michigan School for the Deaf – Superintendents Cottage, **Unknown**, 1884

The former site of the Michigan School for the Deaf and Blind has been transformed into a state-of-the-art high school campus. Faye Hall now houses Powers Catholic classrooms and has been restored to much of its original design. A modern expansion houses gymnasium, library, cafeteria, and chapel. An abundance of natural light and views provide outstanding learning in a historic setting. The new MSD K-12 school building includes a Cafetorium, Gymnasium, Collaborative Media Center, 2-story classroom wing, and is accessible to the existing dormitory via enclosed hall. The superintendent's cottage is the oldest building on the campus. All of the woodwork was done by the students at the school's cabinet shop. The 2 ½-story brick Queen Anne Style design rests on a fieldstone foundation, a large porch wraps into a porte-cochere. Various bays and balconies feature decorated windows, gable ornaments, and detailed wood brackets.



SN. Significant Neighborhoods
Address: Woodcroft – Miller Road & Parkside
College Cultural – Court Street East of Crapo
Architect: Various, 1927-1950s

Woodcroft: In 1927, a horse-riding stable located on this property was sold and the land subdivided. The neighborhood grew to the west, with the earliest houses built near the corner of Miller Road and Parkside Drive in 1928. Residents of the neighborhood included Flint business leaders and General Motors executives.
CC: The East Court Street area offers an array of architectural styles dating from the 1920s through the 1960s. Many ranch style homes share the tree-lined streets with the Colonial and Tudor Revival homes. You can also see one of the few remaining Lustron Homes at 2205 East Court Street.



7. Bishop Airport Terminal
Address: G-3425 West Bristol Road
Architect: Reynolds, Smith, and Hills, Inc., 1993

Flight is the theme for the new terminal: the roof consists of a series of air foils representing the shape of an airliner's wings. the ticket and baggage claim areas are within a large, glass-enclosed space. Passengers take an escalator up to a lounge, restaurant, and shops. Through the glass enclosed walkway passengers reach their boarding gates.



8. Kettering University Student Center
Address: 1700 West Third Street
Architect: TMP Associates Inc., 1969

This building serves as the student social center of Kettering University. This large building floats over the plaza as it steps down in a series of terraces. Paired brick pillars support the top two stories. Glass walls open the first floors to views of the plaza. A concrete band marks the roofline. A carillon is set atop a steel and brick tower at the northeast corner.



9. Millard F. Saxton Residence / Address: 2470 Nolen Dr.
Architect: Alden B. Dow, 1946
Restoration Consulting: Sedgewick & Ferweda Architects, 2014-2018

The Millard F. Saxton residence is the only Dow-designed home in Flint and Genesee County. Alden B. Dow was a disciple of famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, and his modern minimalist style makes this home stand out amongst its more traditionally-designed neighbors. The house features a concrete slab floor with radiant heat, modern for its time. The home has been recently restored by Millard's grandson, Mr. David Schon.

AIA Flint

Walking Tour 1



Address: 624 South Grand Traverse Street
Architect: Elijah Meyer, 1883

This home was designed in a style that appears transitional between Italianate and Queen Anne for Er Milner, a successful lumberman in Flint. The beautifully detailed building is richly ornamented with fine woodworking inside and out. The elaborately carved front doors are made of solid walnut. The windows are framed with shutters made of Honduran mahogany. Elijah Meyer was also architect of the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing.

11. Saint Matthew's Church



Address: 706 Beach Street
Architect: Unknown, 1919

This Catholic Church, designed in the Romanesque style, is built with red-brown brick with limestone trim which accents the door and window openings, and a red tile gable roof. Windows on the sides of the church have arched tops, a key feature of the Romanesque style. The main entrance features a large stone rose-window that faces east.



12. Flint Elks Lodge
Address: 142 West Second Street
Architect: Malcolmson and Higginbotham, Snyder, H.V. & Son, 1913-1914

Listed on the National Register of Historic Sites, this lodge was the gathering place for many of Flint's leading industrialists. The Italianate Style, popular during the early 20th century, is expressed by brick walls, glazed tile, and a hip roof with copper gutters. The symmetrical central entrance features large half round windows set in square plaster panels. Fanlight windows adorn the west side of the building. Interior changes have been sensitive to the building's character, and many original features remain.

Buildings with the icon feature supplemental digital content. For more info, visit AIAFlint.com/guide or scan the code here:

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Flint Guide to Architecture

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