



TOURS . EVENTS . MODERNISM

As the Director of Modern Albuquerque, I'm thrilled to have you as a newsletter subscriber! It's exciting to share our team's enthusiasm for mid-century modern design and Albuquerque history with you. Thank you for your interest and support! - **Thea Haver**

WHAT WAS IS MODERN AGAIN

Does our logo look familiar to you? We hope so! The Modern Albuquerque team was so taken with an image of the former Kistler-Collister store at Christmas-time, that the illuminated yucca display that blazed atop it became the inspiration for our design.



A local reporter called it a "space-age Southwestern nod to the holiday season." We nicknamed it the 'yuc-nik' lamp for its sputnik-like base. In a conversation with former Kistler-Collister president Doug Collister, we learned that the yucca was designed and constructed in-house and reassembled every year for the seasonal display. The fronds were made of electrical conduit and the yucca's flower was chicken wire wrapped in lights.

The original 1962 store building was recently modified, its glazed butter-yellow tile (seen in this postcard from the Nancy Tucker collection at Historic Albuquerque Incorporated) stuccoed over. The building's stylish pre-cast concrete diamond panels and wave-like canopy over the entrance remain. The shop closed its doors in 1993. While its former address is now an Ace Hardware store, we'll forever know it as the Kistler-Collister.



RETROGRADE TOURS LAUNCH

We're always disappointed when our travel doesn't coincide with a modernism event.



MARBLE PLAZA DEMOLISHED

The Marble Plaza Office Complex at the corner of Marble and Cardenas NE sat

The time and resources to find the architecture we want to see aren't always available in every city we visit. You too?

Enter Retrograde Tours. To better direct Albuquerque's visitors and residents to the city's pockets of modernism year-round, we developed weekly walking tours for those interested in mid-century architecture and history. The *Hairpin Legs* tour will feature mid-century modern buildings in the Highland Business neighborhood, accompanied by information about other such structures in the city. *Retro Risqué* is less square in its content, featuring stories that could have caused some pearl-clutching in the 1960's.

Retrograde Tours became a *Visit Albuquerque* partner at the end of July. Reservations through the week of Balloon Fiesta are now being accepted. For more information, visit www.retrogradetours.com.

BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY!

vacant for years. Three other buildings in the style had already been razed, but a single one remained. Or it had, until July.

The four-building office plaza was designed by AIA architect John Reed and built by Frank Marberry with construction commencing in 1962. Reed once had an office in the complex, first known as Marberry Plaza. It was the building that had housed Reed's office that had been the last standing. The above photo, taken by William A. Dodge, shows that building prior to its destruction, with its concrete folded plate roof, an element of form that was echoed in the design of the screen walls.

In a 1962 issue of *New Mexico Architect*, Reed wrote that he believed New Mexican architects could be most creative in the aspect of form and rallied for the development of a regional architecture, not based in Pueblo tradition, but influenced by the natural features of the state. An example of Reed's work can still be seen at the 1968 modernist chapel of Saint Timothy's Lutheran Church, located just north of the *Hairpin Legs* walking tour route.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER: We'll be screening the movie *Bunny O'Hare* in November. A 1971 American International Pictures production starring Bette Davis and Ernest Borgnine, *Bunny O'Hare* was filmed partially on location in Albuquerque. A venue, date, and time for the event will be released in our October newsletter. We can't wait to see you there!

PRESERVE ROUTE 66

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is actively collecting signatures to designate Route 66 as a National Historic Trail. This designation will help to support preservation efforts along the iconic Mother Road and ensure that its legacy continues to capture the public's interest.

If the legislation is adopted, historic buildings

along Albuquerque's Central Avenue would have a path to federal funding for rehabilitation and preservation. Learn more about the Preserve Route 66 campaign [online](#).

[SIGN THE PETITION](#)



*Revitalization efforts are already underway at the University Lodge on Central Avenue with plans to renovate into a retro-chic boutique hotel, called **The Avenue**.*

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