

ART / STREAMLINE MODERNE

1930s

Developed during the early days of the depression, the Art / Streamline Moderne style is a contrast to the Art Deco style. The style was inspired by technology and the emerging love affair America had with machines. The style is simple, and functional. It is also most famous for its commercial buildings, although houses were also designed in the style. There are no examples of an Art / Streamline Moderne building in Ontario.

Several famous landmark buildings in Southern California are excellent examples of the Art / Streamline Moderne style, including the Pan Pacific Auditorium and the Walt Disney Studios.

COMMON FEATURES

- Smooth wall surfaces, usually stucco (smooth plaster finish)
- Flat roof with coping
- Horizontal grooves or lines in walls
- Curved walls and windows
- Horizontal orientation

WINDOWS

Windows were typically grouped to create strong horizontal lines. Glass block was commonly used to allow light without allowing views into the building.

DOORS AND STOREFRONTS

Storefronts were typically large plate glass windows with a short bulkhead located on the ground. Doors were typically glass with metal frames.

COLORS

The Art / Streamline Moderne style used subdued colors. Base colors were typically light earth tones, usually off-whites or beiges. Trim Colors were typically bright or dark, to contrast the light color of the walls.

ART MODERNE

