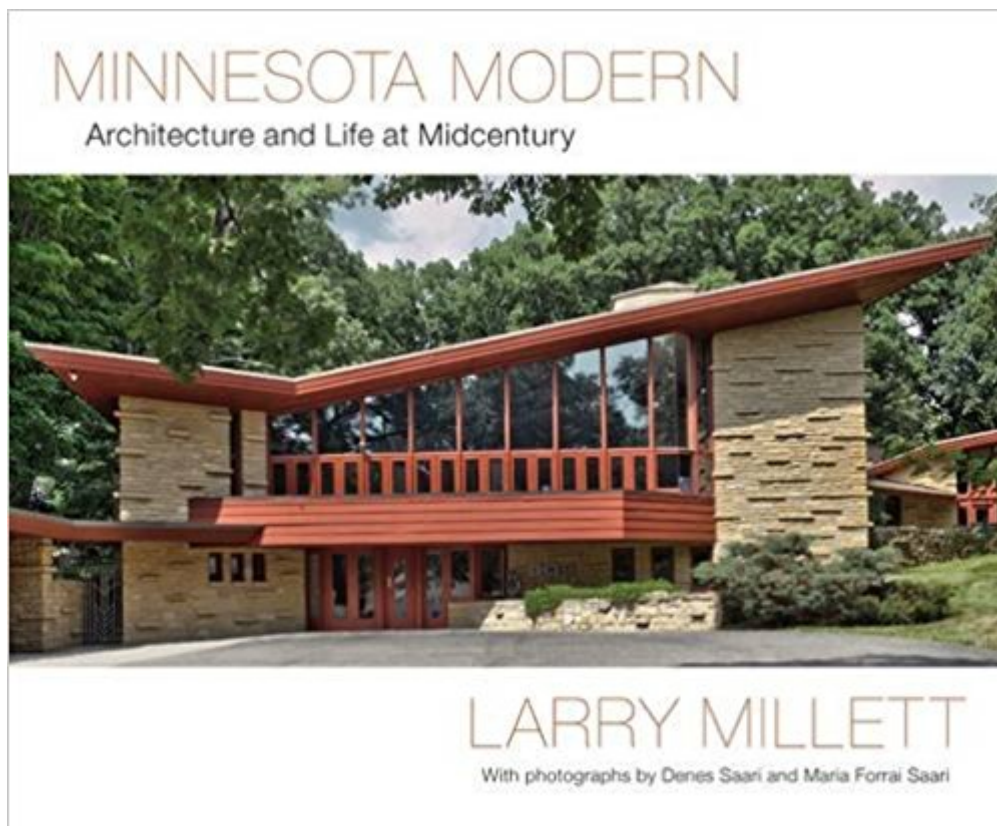




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# Minnesota Modern: Architecture And Life At Midcentury



## Synopsis

From the genteel elegance of Christ Lutheran Church in Minneapolis to the lowbrow wonder of Porky's Drive-in in St. Paul, the Twin Cities and other Minnesota communities are nothing short of a living museum of midcentury modernism, the new style of architecture that swept through much of America from 1945 to the mid-1960s. Renowned Minnesota architecture critic and historian Larry Millett conducts an eye-opening, spectacularly illustrated tour of this rich and varied landscape. A history lesson as entertaining as it is enlightening, *Minnesota Modern* provides a close-up view of a style that penetrated the social, political, and cultural machinery of the times. Extending from modest suburban ramblers and ranch houses to the grandest public and commercial structures, midcentury modernism expressed new ways of thinking about how to live, work, and play in communities that sprang up as thousands of military members returned from World War II. Millett describes the style's sources in the work of European masters like Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Walter Gropius, as well as the midwestern innovations of Frank Lloyd Wright, and its refinement at the University of Minnesota under the guidance of Ralph Rapson and other modernists. He shows us its applications in twelve midcentury homes in Minnesota and takes us through its many permutations in sites as different as Barry Byrne's St. Columba Catholic Church in St. Paul and Eero Saarinen's sprawling IBM complex in Rochester. This is Minnesota modern at its historic best, a firsthand, in-depth history of a singularly American sensibility and aesthetic writ large on the midwestern region.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An entertaining and beautifully illustrated stroll through an era." —Rochester Post-Bulletin  
"Millett has created the definitive book on the midcentury era in Minnesota, including residential, public and commercial designs." —MinnPost  
"An engrossing account of our social and cultural past. And a wonderful tour of the enviable midcentury residences around us." —Chris Lee, Midwest Home  
"Comprehensive and meticulously researched." —Minnesota History

Larry Millett, a Minneapolis native, spent much of his career as a writer, reporter, and editor for the St. Paul Pioneer Press. In 1985 he became the newspaper's first architecture critic, a post he held until his retirement in 2002. His many books include *Minnesota's Own: Preserving Our Grand Homes and Once There Were Castles: Lost Mansions and Estates of the Twin Cities* (Minnesota, 2011).

Beautifully photographed book filled with Larry Millett's insightful historical perspective. A must-have for Minnesota history buffs!

Gorgeous book. Nicely done. But what would anyone expect from the U of M Press?

Great Gift for a Modern Architecture lover.

Astonishing photography of some of Minnesota's best public and private buildings. Some of the buildings in the book hold sentimental value for this owner!

Excellent book on the development of modernism in the state of Minnesota.

Wonderful look into mid century modern in the Midwest. Another well put together effort from Mr. Millett. I have several of his books and he has yet to disappoint.

Larry and team do an amazing job of telling the story of this generation of architecture and those who created it.

This is a great book of mid-century modern homes and other buildings. Larry Millett is coming to talkin to our Woman's Club about it.

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