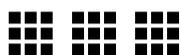


COMO



ARCHITECTURE STYLES:



A GUIDE



WITH homes and businesses from the 1870s to recent days, the Como neighborhood in Minneapolis offers fine examples of a variety of American architectural styles. It's a heritage to treasure and preserve. This guide presents architecture style and history information for a selection of notable Como houses and buildings.



Bunge Elevator - Head Tower

1936
13th Avenue SE by BNSF railroad tracks

This building is the main visual landmark of the Como neighborhood. Minneapolis was called "Mill City" because of its prominence in flour milling, along with many lumber saw mills. Accompanying the flour milling industry were dozens of grain elevators along rail lines throughout Minneapolis. The Bunge is a generally unadorned, resolutely functional commercial structure - but the form of this reinforced concrete tower is enlivened by its pentagonal wall outline, shaped roof parapet, and window groupings. After a 2007-2008 reconstruction, the head tower will remain, becoming part of a residential housing redevelopment.



Second Empire House

1885
1021 13th Avenue SE

A very good example of this quite distinctive style. For its period of fashion (1855-1885) in the Northeast and Midwest U.S., Second Empire made a "modern" stylistic statement - since it followed contemporary French building construction instead of looking retrospectively to past architecture. The house features side towers, with a line of paired windows that reinforces the verticality of the Second Empire style. Original window treatments have been removed and conventional replacement siding used, but the asymmetrical plan and massing of this house still make its stylistic impact. Key Second Empire features:

- pronounced vertical emphasis
- the hallmark element - a mansard roof - a dual pitch hipped roof, usually flat topped
- prominent dormers, often in symmetrical rows, on mansard roof face, and other towers and domes
- prominent entablature band, below the roof cornice



Donald Cattanach House Gothic Style

1893
1031 13th Avenue SE

The charm of this petite stone house in Gothic style often inspires visitors to imagine it as a fairy tale setting. The use of stone for a residence of this scale is very unusual. Donald Cattanach was a mason, and it is believed that he designed the house and did the masonry construction himself. The front window stonework is especially notable. Other stylistic features include:

- multiple front gables, a common Gothic style expression
- Gothic quatrefoil detail above porch
- polychrome detail above second floor window
- round bullseye window in gable above door



Maria Sanford House Stick Style

1885
1050 13th Avenue SE

Although certainly missing some original decorative elements, this house still makes a strong stylistic and

historic statement. Maria Sanford was the first woman professor at the University of Minnesota, a noted speaker and beloved public figure, and among the leaders of Minnesota's nascent environmental movement that led to the creation of Itasca State Park to conserve the northern Minnesota wilderness forest at the Mississippi headwaters. This house appears generally to follow the Victorian Stick style, whose features are:

- very steep pitched gable roof
- prominent vergeboards on gables
- decorative trusses on gables (not present here)
- horizontal and vertical banding in the wall surfaces and on decorative pieces. Remodeled siding here covers any Stick wall detailing, but the vergeboards show grooved decorative striping, a key Stick style detail.



Victorian / Eastlake House

1880s
1059 12th Avenue SE.

Photo circa 1895 (MHS)

Now lacking most of its original decorative ornament typical of other gingerbread "painted lady" Victorians, an 1890s photo shows this house to have been an early and isolated construction at this Como site. Generally, the western area of Como was built up earlier than the portion east of 18th Avenue SE. On this house, key historical Eastlake style features to note:

- the sawn gable decorations
- elaborately decorative turned porch posts and roof edge trim
- shingle siding in the gable wall



Queen Anne House
Circa 1880s
1041 12th Avenue SE

A good example of another easily recognizable Victorian period style, popular from 1880 to 1910 and often seen in Minneapolis. The blue exterior color

adds interest and diversity to its street setting. Queen Anne house style features include:

- corner tower or projecting bay, here on the right front side, with a cutaway
- usually shows an asymmetrical layout
- irregular roofline
- fish scale, tooth, or other decorative patterned wall shingles
- narrow siding
- porch is often partial width or wrapped to side, instead of full front



Harry Sova House
Colonial Revival Style
1933
1034 12th Avenue SE

A pleasingly proportioned example of the Colonial Revival style, built for a Marshall High School teacher. Note features such as:

- lateral gable roof, minimal overhang, moderate pitch
- symmetrical façade layout, with wide clapboard siding
- single sash window pattern, Colonial 6 over 1 pane glazing style
- decorative window shutters
- front door entry with detailing
- traditional white color

The single-story form of this style is the “Cape Cod” house.



Talmadge Green Housing Complex
Late 1960s
Between Como and Talmadge Avenues
along 11th Avenue SE

The steep, asymmetrical shed or “salt box” roof style on these townhouses immediately dates this complex to the late 1960s/1970s period. A reasonably successful design for high-density housing complex, constructed around the time that I-35W freeway construction made a divisive realignment of the Como community’s west border. The canted roof lines and staggered front wall alignment of the townhouses create welcome visual flavor. The scale and color of the development makes a generally harmonious fit to the older residential blocks that surround it.



Second Empire House
Circa 1870s
1116 13th Avenue SE

An unusual combination of building style and function. This French Second Empire house, after remodeling, also served as a neighborhood store (from 1930s to 1950s), and traces of its previous design adaptation for that purpose are still visible in front where the building abuts the sidewalk. This Como house in

brick makes a strong and elegant Second Empire statement from both front and side views:

- distinctive Second Empire mansard roof – a dual pitch hipped roof, usually flat topped
- strong vertical emphasis and massing
- French doors
- irregular roofline, with towers or domes, and with prominent dormer windows on the mansard roof face
- prominent entablature band, below the roof cornice

It is unusual to find a house in a “high style” such as Second Empire to be adapted to mixed commercial and residential use. This is one of the oldest houses in Como, its original owner appears to have been a brick-layer by trade.



Neoclassical / Greek Revival House
1901
1097 13th Avenue SE

Major features of this romantic style, which aimed to evoke the Greek temple form,

are all obvious on this carefully restored house:

- full width porch
- prominent, full-height columns that dominate the façade, often rounded with capital or base detailing
- symmetrical front gable
- wide frieze or entablature bands below the roof edge
- boxed eaves, often with a triple window row beneath gable peak

This Como example is a modestly scaled house that fits in well with its surrounding dwellings. The neoclassical style was followed in various parts of the U.S. from the start of the 1800s, through several phases of

popularity. In the South the much larger scaled plantation examples of the style constitute the Southern “antebellum” mansion architecture. Here on this Como house, note the urns at the roof corners, certainly a recent item from house restoration, adding a somewhat whimsical decorative note that nonetheless is very compatible with the aims of the neoclassical house style.

Neoclassical houses built from the mid-1890s to 1920, like this one, may have been inspired by examples shown at the Chicago Columbian exposition in 1893. At 1070 13th Avenue SE is a similar Neoclassical house, with smaller columns, but with notable dentil trim below the porch roof.



Folk Victorian Cottage
Circa 1880
1060 14th Avenue SE

This cottage shows the combination of Victorian period detailing on a simple

folk, or traditional (non-architected) building form. The cottage has a gable front with a decorative bracketed bay. The new, and readily available range of mass-produced milled decorative wood detailing elements (brackets, spindles, columns) in the 1880s made simple detailing of basic folk house forms possible for even a builder with a very modest construction budget. In larger houses this effect became “carpenter’s gingerbread.” On this Como cottage, the effect is a pleasing blend of small scale and minimal detail.



Andrew Rasmussen House
Arts & Crafts Foursquare
1926

1055 14th Avenue SE

A Craftsman styled Foursquare house that also shows clear Prairie style influences. Note features such as:

- the Arts & Crafts 6 over 1 pane sash window glazing pattern
- typical low pitched, overhanging hip roof, with boxed eaves (Prairie)
- a strongly textured tile block exterior, showing alternate color patterns with the triangle arch motif that is repeated in the porch window frame lines
- the matching style door glazing pattern, with dentils below
- Prairie style square spindles on the balcony railing, with overhanging post caps

Built on the site of a razed public school, this house was designed for University of Minnesota Anatomy professor Andrew T. Rasmussen by architect Carleton W. Farnham. During this same period, other U of M Medical School doctors commissioned several notable Prairie style houses around the city. Farnham shortly after designed the landmark 1928 Mediterranean style Frank Grove villa on Lake Harriet, for the construction industry magnate. The Rasmussen house in Como also features an early style of attached garage, appropriately sized for a Ford Model T era motorcar – possibly the first attached auto garage in a Como residence.



Photo circa 1920

Como Congregational Church

1886 with 1909 and 1919 additions
1035 14th Avenue SE

A major piece of Como architectural history. This 1886 church features a very impressive interior worship space. It is currently repurposed as the home of a preservation institute of sword weaponry and armor, while continuing to serve as a church. In the 1950s the tower was removed and exterior was stuccoed, muting its visual impact. The architect is believed to be Charles S. Sedgwick, who designed the Dayton's Department Store and Westminster Presbyterian Church on downtown Nicollet Avenue. While many details have been lost, the style is the Gothic style often used for churches, as can be seen in the massing, shortened tower, and in some preserved window details. The very interesting building interior may be visited by arrangement when the Oakeshott Institute hosts public events. The recent building restoration is a welcome effort of conservation in Como.



William Simms Victorian / Queen Anne Style House
Circa 1890
1085 14th Avenue SE

This house is generally in the Queen Anne style of the Victorian period. Note features such as:

- asymmetrical front façade
- angle bay on right side
- steep roof pitch
- irregular roof line

William Simms was a prominent Como business man. In Dinkytown, the painted wall sign for his Simms Hardware store can still be seen. Simms also built the attractive Bungalow house, in the Arts & Crafts style with some European flavor, next door at 1089 14th Avenue SE, in 1911 for his son.



Gothic Revival Style House
Circa 1890
1022 15th Avenue SE

This brick house, now a rental property, has certainly lost most of its original stylistic detail (windows, doors, porches, and similar), but still strongly calls attention with its strong vertical massing and its prominent bays and tower.



Rayvic Service Station
Early 1930s
1501 E Hennepin

A delightfully restored 1930s service station, with period paint scheme details, including a matching bright red pair of Mobil Oil Pegasus figures that add a touch of mythology. The three doors with bowed overhang roofs, flowerboxes, and other details add much visual interest to the low scale structure, with its stepped parapet roofline. A quite refreshing, but still fully utilitarian commercial building that enlivens its locale amid an otherwise plain and functional arterial street environment. In 2008 adaptive reuse of the building is planned.



Hawkinson Company Building – Streamline Moderne Style
1946
1325 Winter Street NE

The curved aluminum and glass entry, the typestyle of the building entry sign, rounded building corners, and horizontal protruded brick band all make this single-story commercial building a good, energetic expression of the 1930s-1940s Streamline Moderne version of the Art Deco building style.



Postwar Modern Style House
1956
1060 15th Avenue SE

The Como neighborhood is also home to a number of post-WWII styles, during the residential building boom that created the suburbs. Here is an example of how some elements of the Postwar Modern (Rambler/Ranch) style can be traced as a simplified 1950s adaptation of the earlier Prairie style from 50 years before – envisioned as a horizontally stated roofline over a single story dwelling, with more open and flowing interior floor plan replacing the Victorian interior design scheme of separate room boxes packed inside the house box. On this Como house, note the unusually prominent, heavy massing of the chimney over the hip roof line, a feature that signals a strong stylistic continuity with many low profile Prairie house designs, including those by Wright. Other elements here – the absence of porches or balconies, the living room picture window, and exterior siding – are all very typical for the Postwar Modern style.



Boyum Block – Early 1900s Commercial
1914
North side of Como Avenue between 15th and 16th Avenues SE

Photo 1962 (MHS)

Because Como a major Twin Cities streetcar line served Como, here at a major intersection where the line turned south from Como towards the University and Dinkytown, a typical small streetcar business hub developed. The Boyum business block shows typical brick construction, recessed doorways, and simple cornice – in the past there were awnings over the four storefronts. It contained the common local businesses that serve neighborhood needs – hardware, drug, butcher, and Boyum’s grocery – several of which continue at the location today. Also typical is a second floor of residential apartments, for use by business proprietors or other renters.



Photo 1954 (MTM)

“Lost Como” – Como Streetcar Line

This 1954 picture shows the Harriet-Como streetcar turning from 15th Avenue SE, heading east on Como. Growth in the Como neighborhood was fed by easy transit on a main double track streetcar line between the Twin Cities during the first half of the twentieth century.



Witte Dental Office – Eclectic Modern Commercial Building Style
1963 – 1601 Como

An unusual small medical office building, with a striking mix of design features that set it off from more conventional commercial box buildings of its 60s period:

- contrasting wall surfaces on front and side walls (stucco, brick)
- a typical flat roof, but very prominently emphasized with a playful zig-zag white decorative cornice
- side walls with concave outlines and inset widows
- front façade with overhanging bay windows
- side wall brick façade and front bay overhangs create a “raised” effect, seeming to lift up the main building mass from the ground line

Compare this commercial structure to the Woodsy Modern house example on 25th Avenue in Como, for a similar design spirit.



“Lost Como” – Charles Way Mansion
Circa 1890s
15th Avenue SE and Brook

No longer existing. Built for the manufacturer Way, who was a Como neighborhood pioneer, this house may have been the largest home constructed in the Como community, and also notable for its third floor ballroom. Later in the 1930s the house served as a UM Jewish men’s student fraternity, before being demolished in 1963 for the construction of the University Church of Christ (now Southeast Christian Church).



“Lost Como” – Van Cleve Park Pond
1905
Como and 15th Avenue SE
(Photo MHS)

While Van Cleve Park and Como residents now enjoy recently renovated park playground facilities and landscaping, here is an amenity that long ago vanished from the park – a shallow scenic pond with walking paths around its edge. This view clearly shows the park design esthetic that came from Horace Cleveland and other landscape designers around 1890-1900 for Minneapolis parks, parkways, and the UM campus knoll.



Houghtaling House – Tudor Revival Style
1906
1519 Brook

After 1900, a turn to revival modes such as Tudor

expressed an elegant upper and middle-class ethos that was again defining its architecture through European style adaptations, rather than the American-rooted Prairie or Craftsman styles. This is a clean, and strongly styled large Tudor Revival house, by leading Minneapolis architect Harry W. Jones – noted for the Butler Square building, and his own Elmwood house on Nicollet Avenue by Minnehaha Creek. The house features an unusual side gable form, with other characteristic Tudor style features:

- decorative false half timbering (on house sides)
- stucco wall finish
- decorative, heavy vergeboard on the front entry roof

The Houghtaling house was originally built and occupied by members of the Elwell and Way families, who figure prominently in early Como history.



Dutch Colonial Revival House

1922
894 18th Avenue SE

When the Dutch colonized Man-

hattan in the early 1600s, they originally introduced this “barn-like” house style to New York state. When during the post WWI building boom the Colonial Revival style returned attention to early American East Coast house forms, this Dutch style variant became especially popular. Its hallmark feature is the prominent gambrel roof – a steep, dual-pitched gable roof. This house, in excellent condition and with pleasing proportions, shows a lateral gambrel roof, along with another common feature – a long second floor shed dormer. The front entry columns, and the fine round arch roof over the front door, also signal Colonial styling.



Hubert Humphrey House

1927
890 19th Avenue SE

This house is historically notable as the residence of Hubert Humphrey while he was Minneapolis mayor (1945-1948); he later served as U.S. Senator and Vice President. After building a coalition of citizen, labor and business groups, Humphrey led reform of the Minneapolis government and police in order to combat civic corruption, and later gave the renowned 1948 “Sunshine of Human Rights” speech that helped spark the U.S. civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.



Arts & Crafts Style Bungalow

1921
1915 Como

A rather well preserved example of this 1900 to 1920s style of small house. The bungalow was popularized in its time in several styles – as an East Coast Craftsman style, in Chicago suburbs constructed of fireproof brick, and as the California Bungalow style (often with Japanese style influences). This style, both as a house form and as an interior decoration fashion (such as Mission oak furniture) has recently strongly revived in popularity for preservation since the 1980s.

This Como house shows several key prized features of the style in the Midwest, such as:

- small form of the house, single or 1 1/2 story (the bungalow house form)
- low-pitched gable roof, with distinctive wide eave overhang beyond side walls
- exposed roof rafter tails, roof braces or knee brackets are typical
- exposed gable end beams
- a porch, which often features tapered, full length columns
- wood board, shingle, rough-faced brick or tile, or river rock stone as materials for visual texture, and as an expression of authenticity through local materials



Postwar Modern (Ranch) Style House

1955
1911 Talmadge

The Como neighborhood displays many instances of post-WWII house styles, which usually infilled the remaining open lots during the postwar residential building expansion of the 1940s and 1950s. Here is a clean example of this postwar style, envisioned as a moderate-cost single story dwelling, along with the necessary utilitarian addition of the attached auto garage – all typically under a single hip roofline. As usual, this long rectangular Ranch house is sited laterally to the street, using a wide building lot and positioning the typical living room picture window to face visitors. This Ranch style remained popular from 1950 to the 1970s.

Overall, this Como example of this more recent suburban style makes a pleasing contrast amidst the older Victorian two-story house styles surrounding it, while keeping a good consistency with home sizes along its street.



Edward Baker House - Prairie Style Foursquare

1910
1734 Como

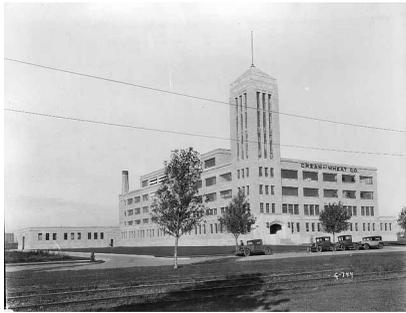
An example of the utilitarian and very

common Foursquare house form, favored in the Midwest because of its cost-efficient design for maximum usable space and easy winter heating. The foursquare form is also notable for its adaptability to a broad range of architectural stylistic expression. The Prairie style, pioneered in Chicago and the Twin Cities during 1900-1925, forms the first American architectural style that is modern and does not draw from past European sources. This house was built for Dr. Edward Baker – the Prairie style was especially popular among professionals and self-made business men and women. The house immediately conveys its Prairie School styling by:

- strongly emphasized horizontal lines, even in a two story building form, through proportions, rooflines, and exposed wood beams in walls
- low pitched hip roof, with pronounced overhang and boxed eaves
- visible Prairie window divider pattern and glass panes



Northwestern Terminal
1919
500 Stinson Boulevard
Photo 1930 (MHS)



Cream of Wheat Building
Art Deco Moderne Style
1928
Stinson Boulevard at Broadway
Photo 1928 (MHS)

The Elwell family that founded the Como neighborhood originally farmed on land along Stinson Boulevard, north of Hennepin.

In the post WWI economic boom, this area was developed as a main rail delivery terminal for industrial purposes. At the time, Minnesota was considered a gateway from the East into the “Northwest” region of the US, hence the Northwestern Terminal name for this large rail and truck shipping delivery warehouse terminal complex serving Minneapolis.

The 1928 Cream of Wheat company head-

quarters and manufacturing plant, in the Moderne style with a striking corner tower (architect Walter H. Wheeler) – now a Minneapolis Historic Landmark – represents a combination between a Midwestern food science invention and a very effective early 20th century advertising campaign – for a popular packaged breakfast food.

Both these buildings have been intelligently repurposed in the last decade, as high-tech office and administrative space, and as condominium residences respectively.



Farnham presentation drawing, circa 1930s

General Mills Laboratories
Streamline Moderne Style Buildings
1930 with later 1930s/1940s additions
2010 East Hennepin Avenue.

This complex is the birthplace of renowned breakfast foods such as Cheerios and Wheaties! This complex of food science research facilities and laboratories was launched in 1930 by the Minneapolis milling firm. With WWII military needs, General Mills converted much of the complex over to electronics and computer hardware development activities until the end of the 1950s – when the deep undersea diving submersible “Alvin,” which explored the wreck of the lost RMS Titanic liner, was designed and built here.

Two Art Deco / Streamline Moderne style buildings from the 1930s/1940s in the complex stand out for attention:

- the large laboratory wing added on the west side of the main building, probably mid/late 1930s, architect Carleton W. Farnham
- the current Quinn Violins shop, the standalone building at 1081 21st Avenue SE, 1947, possibly also designed by Farnham

The laboratory addition makes its statement through strongly pronounced horizontal window bands and continuous sill.



The standalone 1081 building (now partly obscured by an ivy cover) features continuous glass block window bands that curve around the building corners, with heightened emphasis from the narrow band of clear windows above the glass block. These window treatments on both buildings create the sleek “streamline” look that is a hallmark expression of the 1930/1940s Streamline Moderne building style. The rake-faced tile block exterior wall construction on the Quinn building also adds a rougher surface texture and visual interest that strikingly contrasts with the smooth machined window appearance.



Italianate Style House
Circa 1875
2108 Talmadge

The Italianate style intended to follow Italian country villa houses as models. This style strongly dominated American residential construction from 1850 through the 1880s, when housing development of Como began. This early Como house now unfortunately lacks some of its original defining stylistic details (such as, probably, its original porch) – but the house still presents a very clear instance of the Italianate style. Italianate features to look for:

- typical square floor plan
- two story height
- a vertical emphasis created by the façade proportions and narrow windows
- very low hipped roof, with prominent rounded eave brackets
- deep trim board below roof
- narrow, often arched windows, usually with decorative crown hoods or full surrounding decorative trim



Manning's Café with Streetcar

1907
2200 Como

Photo 1954 (MTM)

Originally built as a corner butcher/grocery store, it was acquired in 1927 by the Manning family, who established as a tavern in 1932, after Prohibition ended. It went on to become a popular and well-known Como eating and drinking establishment. Seen here in a 1954 street scene, shortly before the end of Como streetcar service, Manning's has received façade and interior remodeling several times during its history as a café (1957, 1977).



Modern American / Minimal Traditional Style House

1939

867 22nd Avenue SE

During the Depression 1930s through WWII to 1950, new house construction was often done in this plain but comfortable style:

- small scale
- single floor
- minimal traditional detailing, here seen in the Colonial decorative window shutters

Similar Minimal Traditional houses are located throughout Como, but these are mixed in among other house styles on their blocks, in contrast to some post-WWII Twin Cities suburbs where this style can be seen repeated continuously along streets. Later in the 1950s new housing was more often constructed in the larger Ranch and Split-Level styles.



National Folk Style House

1910
2211 Talmadge

An example of a popular folk

style of dwelling, with a basic house form that was easily constructed by an owner or carpenter from available sawn lumber, and with minimal or no ornament. This L-shaped, gable front version was especially popular in the Northeast and Midwest areas of the U.S.



1920s Period Kit House

1924
1048 23rd Avenue SE

After World War I, Sears Roebuck, Aladdin, Montgomery Ward and many other sources pioneered the concept of inexpensive kit houses, consisting of pre-cut, numbered lumber and other house components that could be packaged and shipped to the building location by rail and wagon, then assembled from a blueprint in a few days. These homes were offered in catalogs with many styles and sizes to select, from Craftsman to Colonial. This Como example shows a modest but pleasant, quite simplified Craftsman style, intended for mass consumption by working families.



Brick Duplexes

Circa 1950
23rd and 24th Avenues SE,

between Elm and Fairmount

For Como, an unusual grouping of single floor duplexes constructed in brick and a simplified functional style. The duplexes are part of the post WWII building boom that filled remaining lots in the eastern half of the Como neighborhood.



Prairie Style House

1913
2508 Como

This house stands out from its neighbors through the sharp austerity of its boldly simple form and decor. The house is a simplified version of the quintessential Prairie "cube house" design, in a two-story plan with strong stylistic features such as:

- an extreme porch roof overhang
- a small visor roof running below the top flat roof line
- typical Prairie earth toned stucco and trim color palette
- symmetrically placed and paired window groupings
- absence of other decorative ornament

This small house makes its powerful, pure statement through its severe geometrical form and lines, in a way that is very unusual among most other Como homes.



Storybook Style House

1931
1017 25th Avenue SE

In the 1920's to the Depression the various revival styles occasionally were bolstered by a strong stylistic playfulness, coming from Hollywood, Los Angeles and other California builders. This Como house shows that the basics of the solid Tudor style could be propelled up into an exuberant picturesqueness -- what is now distinctively named the Storybook style. The sharp gable rooflines, round arch top front door in its emphasized stone surround, the prominent and strongly splayed chimney stack, and the vertical ornament on the chimney all make for an amusing and striking statement that is lighter and more care-free than many other house styles.



Arts & Crafts Foursquare Style House

1924
1069 25th Avenue SE

A notable and very pleasantly presented Craftsman house in stucco, on which the splayed porch columns are accentuated by a quite effective period color scheme. The house's esthetics clearly assert the early 1900s Craftsman movement ideals of an American family lifestyle that would be simple, honest, and egalitarian, within a well-designed house of simple building materials and décor, in authentic harmony with beauty and nature.



Woodsy Postwar Modern Style House

1979
1089 25th Avenue SE

In a probable reaction against the prevalence and sameness of mass-produced 1950s/1960s suburban Ranch style housing, from around 1970 throughout Minneapolis a number of eclectic or “woodsy” Modern houses began to appear.

Stylistic features of these Woodsy Modern houses include:

- wood clad exterior with emphasized texture and visuals – diagonal grooved siding, battens, or similar
- narrow casement windows or awning windows, often asymmetrically placed
- combination of shed-like and projecting cube shapes, with steep shed (half gable) or full gable roof

This house, with its board-and-batten wood finish, asymmetrical massing, irregular and protruding front wall line, paired casement windows, dark red-brown color scheme and landscaping, expresses this Woodsy/Eclectic Modern style quite well. The University Grove neighborhood in Falcon Heights has a number of similar woodsy style houses.



Tudor Revival Style House

1926
104126th Avenue SE

In the 1920s, when a new wave of revival styles emerged into vogue after World

War I ended, Tudor style was an especially popular revival version choice for homes in Minneapolis neighborhoods through 1940.

This house displays key features:

- a dominant front gable roof, here capped by a small hip section, often steep pitched
- an expressive wall surface pattern formed by the dark decorative half timbering (false timbering) and windows
- the light colored stucco finish, with contrast to the visible dark half-timbering

The Tudor Revival style romantically calls back with its mix of features, which are actually drawn more from medieval and early English houses.



Como Student Community Cooperative Housing Complex

1974
Como and 27th Avenue SE.

Another generally successful high-density housing development in Como, aided by the appropriate scale of the units, well designed landscaping, and the handling of the design problems of density, common access, parking and amenity spaces, and other needs of its student family residents as a community.

Immediately after WWII, this site had housing constructed out of war surplus Quonset huts (one-story half-cylinders of corrugated galvanized steel panels) and trailers, for the numerous ex-service men and women returning to U of M studies aided by the GI

Bill. These 1970s co-op residences are presumably much more quiet and conducive to study during rainy weather.



Como street-car stop by University Village Quonset hut student housing

Photo circa 1950 (MTM)

Other historical Como residents and their homes

Some other notable residents of the Como neighborhood over its history include:

- Frederick Manfred – Western novelist and historian, at 1076 18th Ave SE, during the early 1940s.
- Les Bolstad – a renowned golfing champion during the 1930/40s, later the University of Minnesota team coach, whose family home was at 1100 12th Avenue SE. The U of M golf course nearby in Falcon Heights carries his name.
- James Wright – the Pulitzer prize winning poet and UM professor, resided at XX Como during the late 1950s.
- The house occupied by Como neighborhood founder Tallmadge Elwell, built for him by his son James Elwell, is at 1064 16th Avenue SE. Tallmadge Elwell lived in it from around 1882 until his death in 1903.
- Well-known *Star Tribune* columnist, outdoors writer and bicyclist Jim Klobuchar (whose daughter is Senator Amy Klobuchar) lived at the 1720 Como rooming house during his U of M student years.

General information

- Privacy: None of these buildings are open to public, except for the commercial properties as noted. **Please respect the privacy of all property owners and remain on public property** when viewing residential buildings in this guide.
- This guide is published by the Southeast Como Improvement Association. Primary research for this guide was done by Naomi Austin, for the SECIA History Group (Connie Sullivan, Jeane Moore, Jennifer Lee, Larry Crawford).
- Photos courtesy of: MHS - Minnesota Historical Society, MTM – Minnesota Transportation Museum (Aaron Isaacs).
- For further information about architectural styles and Minnesota architecture, see Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1997); David Gebhard and Tom Martinson, *A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977); Larry Millett, *AIA Guide to the Twin Cities* (Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2007).

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The Southeast Como Improvement Association works to maintain and enhance the physical, social, and economic environment of our neighborhood:

- Through programs that serve our community's present and future needs.
- Through communication, stewardship, and citizen involvement, we strive to foster a sense of community and to promote the neighborhood as a vibrant place to live and work.