

ARIZONA DIARY

TODAY IN ARIZONA HISTORY

In 1890, a midnight battle developed at the Red Rock railroad station when a band of tramps tried to capture the Southern Pacific freight train.

In 1908, the Shattuck-Arizona Copper and Denn-Arizona Copper companies announced plans to construct a smelter at Douglas.

In 1913, the first train to serve Fort Huachuca arrived at 4:35 p.m. along the El Paso and Southwestern lines.

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Couple preserve Arizona's architecture heritage

By Angela Cara Pancrazio
 THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

What is Arizona architecture?

Is it the early-20th-century homes and buildings layered with hand-fired adobe bricks? Is it the postwar ranch house? Or is it Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West, Paolo Soleri's Cosanti or Will Bruder's modern-day public library?

Scott Jarson, who grew up in Paradise Valley near Cosanti, says it's all Arizona architecture.

Some of the most unique architecture in the country.

For 15 years, Jarson and wife Debbie said they've been "fighting the good fight" with their real estate partnership that specializes in finding and selling Arizona's architecturally unique homes.

It's architecture that deserves celebration.

From historic revival architecture to the true modern designs of today, architects have viewed the desert for its attributes instead of its harshness.

"Architecturally, this is a very interesting place," Jarson, 48, said. "It's a place where architects feel free to experiment."

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Scott Jarson
Real estate partner

light and shadows you don't see anywhere else."

The desert's reputation has been overwhelmed with the perception of production housing, Jarson said, overshadowing the architecture that can't be seen anywhere else but the Sonoran Desert.

Architectural gems are scattered across the Valley.

There's a greater appreciation and demand for architect Alfred Newman Beadle's 1960s designs. One of the great modernist architects, Beadle is known for his very crisp geometry against the desert backdrop.

"Really good architecture tends to be quiet," Debbie Jarson, 47, said. "It shouldn't scream at you."

She described a house in the desert she drove by recently, one that you could easily miss if you didn't know it was there.

The way the house blended in and gently sat on the land, she said, made the house quiet, respectful of the fragile desert ecosystem.

Beadle is known for his shade structures that diffused the harsh sun while allowing the house to luxuriate in light.

Built between the 1940s and 1970 with postwar optimism, materials and labor, postwar ranch houses are among those that deserve proper respect, too.

Jarson jokes about the day the architecture here died: "June 2, 1970, I remember the day; there was an eclipse."

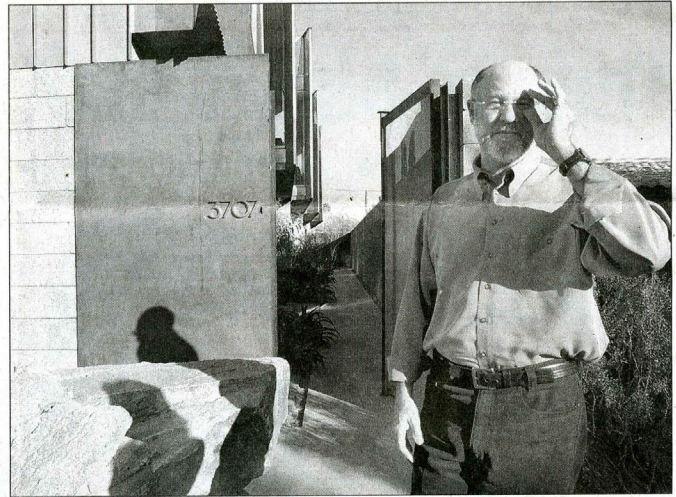
But with the "new urbanism" and infill projects, Jarson said, Arizona is reclaiming its architecture.

"Even tract-home, production builders are starting to get some expression again," he said.

One of the Jarsons' recent projects, a cutting-edge design by Will Bruder called the Vale in Tempe, is a nod to the old and the new.

The Vale takes its name from "the Vale of Tempe," a Grecian style of landscape that inspired Darrell Duppa to name Tempe in the late 1870s.

Each of the colors used to paint the mixed-use condominium project means something.



ANGELA CARA PANCRAZIO/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Scott Jarson, who specializes in finding and selling homes with unique architecture, says that Arizona has some of the most architecturally interesting homes in the nation.

There's a coral that is the shade of an ocotillo blossom, and Bruder painstakingly found a green to match the new growth on a palo verde tree. White,

yellow and orange match Arizona wildflowers.

"It's a modern design," Debbie Jarson said, "that has eyes to the future."

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