



Photos by NATALIE CAUDILL/Staff Photographer

Architect Svend Fruit designed a house for a small triangular lot in Bluffview. Because the finished house is close to the street, he elongated the process of walking to the front door and gave the entrance depth by creating a winding pathway in the front yard. Below: The study is in an appendage to the house's mass, designed to fit the residence into a wedge-shape lot.

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There's been a resurgence of modern architecture in Dallas in the last 10 years, says architect Frank Welch, and he should know. He is a lifelong practitioner of Texas modernism, learning at the knee of legendary architect O'Neil Ford before establishing his own practice in Midland and, in 1981, in Dallas.

"There was a flurry for a year or two in midcentury modern in the '50s and '60s," says Mr. Welch. "It wasn't necessarily cutting-edge modernism, but it wasn't Eurocentric — you know, Spanish or French or whatever. Now the demand for architects called upon to design modern houses is increasing again."

See for yourself when the Dallas chapter of the American Institute of Architects introduces us to some of the younger practitioners and their new residential projects that break the bonds of historicism. Its second annual tour Nov. 8 and 9, with stops in Oak Cliff, Lake Highlands, Oak Lawn and Bluffview, will assert that Dallas, long a fan of the past, has its eye on the future.

Modernism arrived in Dallas in the late 1920s and early '30s, when architects were influenced by Europeans Le Corbusier, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe



Tour details

The second annual AIA Dallas Tour of Homes is Nov. 8 and 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets for all nine houses are \$25; tickets for individual houses are \$10 each. To buy tickets, call 214-742-3242 or contact Ania Deptuch at adeptuch@aiaDallas.org. For more information see www.hometourdallas.com

Polished geometry

Bodron + Fruit

Svend Fruit says the Bluffview commission might have been the most difficult of his career.

"The lot is small, and it's shaped like a piece of pie. The client wanted a nice-size house, but we did not want to fill up the lot and overwhelm the site."

His solution was to extend wings from the central mass. He positioned the second floor on only one side of the ground-floor roof to decrease its visual bulk. The result is an interior that embraces the wooded lot. Douglas fir paneling, Lueders limestone and dark wood floors take their cues from the natural terrain visible through the window walls in every room.

"I like the more natural materials," says Mr. Fruit, 44. "I like the warmth they give."

Another goal was to fill the house with natural light. In the kitchen, a frosted glass panel opens to reveal a secret window overlooking the front yard. In the living room, windows framing the canes of golden bamboo flank the fireplace.

Mr. Fruit's business partner is Mil Bodron, an interior designer. They view the firm as a collaboration to provide a consistent vision in architecture, interiors and furniture design. The interiors of the Bluffview house, as a case in point, mirror the architecture's sleek geometry and natural materials used inside and out.