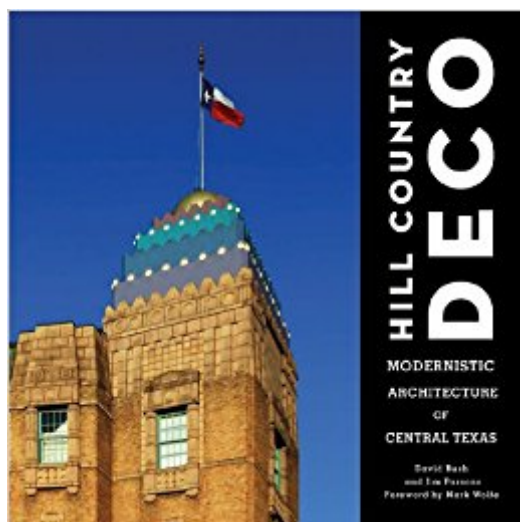


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# Hill Country Deco: Modernistic Architecture Of Central Texas



## Synopsis

Using a host of vibrant images, David Bush and Jim Parsons's *Hill Country Deco: Modernistic Architecture of Central Texas* captures the essence of the Art Deco style of architecture as represented in the Hill Country of Texas. *Hill Country Deco* explores how the rich history of these structures collides with progressive notions of historic preservation for remodeling buildings and restoring façades. This collection of historical and modern photographs will encourage a newfound appreciation for Art Deco as seen in Central Texas. The Art Deco style covers a range of buildings, from commercial to residential. The sweeping curves of the Alameda Theater in San Antonio exhibit typical Art Moderne style. The Austin U. S. courthouse brings WPA Deco up to date from the 1940s, and the San Antonio Express-News Building showcases the classic style of what most people today think of as Art Deco. Not only does this book of photography embrace the history of Art Deco, it takes a series of edifices and recognizes the artistic elements and economic purposes of each one. The authors offer insight on architectural preservation while providing an appreciative view of sometimes overlooked corners of Central Texas. Some buildings are obscure and hardly recognizable as what they once were; others were fortunate enough to have their Deco style maintained over the span of decades. Bush and Parsons have made it a personal mission to ensure that the readers of *Hill Country Deco* will, upon viewing these beautiful buildings, yearn for a road trip to some of these sites to discover Art Deco history for themselves.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Many San Antonio landmarks grace the pages of a fascinating, lavishly illustrated coffee-table volume published late last year, *Hill Country Deco*. (Steve Bennett San Antonio

Express-News) Scott Andrews announced that Museo Alameda would be hosting “an after-hours reading and book signing in the museum lobby [for] Hill Country Deco: Modernistic Architecture of Central Texas” by Texas history authors David Bush and Jim Parsons. (Scott Andrews San Antonio Express-News 2011-05-23)

DAVID BUSH was born and raised in New Orleans where his parents and grandparents encouraged his appreciation of historic architecture. He holds a master’s degree in historic preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. Since 1990, he has worked professionally with preservation organizations in Connecticut, Florida, and Texas, spending most of his career with the Galveston Historical Foundation and the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance. With Jim Parsons, he is co-author and co-photographer of the book *Houston Deco: Modernistic Architecture of the Texas Coast*, released in 2008. JIM PARSONS, a native of Baytown, Texas, puts his lifelong interest in Texas history and architecture to use as director of Greater Houston Preservation Alliance’s Museum of Houston and volunteer chairman of its Walking Tours Program. A freelance writer, editor, and photographer. He lives in Houston.

I really enjoyed "Hill Country Deco" because I was born and raised in San Antonio and spent a lot of time in Austin and the Hill Country in many of the photography locations -- especially my home town. I am a big Art Deco fan and have several books of photography featuring examples this architectural style in other places around America, but this is the first book I have seen that concentrates on the part of the country that I am most familiar with, so it was an extra treat for me. My old High School (Thomas Edison, in SA), was even included, and although I didn't recognize it right away from the angle of the photograph in this book, it was neat to see it again. I never realized it had Art Deco features until now! I'm sure I will reread "Hill Country Deco" many times and enjoy it over and over again as I see favorite buildings, and things I missed on previous reads. There is a lot to like in this wonderful volume. Jim Gibson

This is a thoughtful, well-researched book. Its somewhat obscure topic is one that's dear to my heart. I was born and grew up among these buildings, and nowadays I still see some of them often. The authors avoid the cant and heaviness found in many books on architecture while adroitly filling in the blanks of each building's story. This book was one of the most satisfying I've read lately and remains on my shelf as a valuable reference.

Deco lovers dream about New York, Los Angeles, London, and Miami Beach. Rarely does one think about San Antonio and Austin, Texas when reviewing great places to view Art Deco architecture. This book will redirect their gazes to the Lone Star State. Gorgeous heavy binding and sharp color photography highlight the 1930-1940 gems of these hill country cities. Text is not too extensive on each building, but the superb photographs more than make up for the dearth of written detail. This book will not disappoint!

If you like Art Deco architecture and you like Texas, this is the book for you - great photos. I wish it had been longer and had included more stuff from smaller towns. Buy this book!!

I really enjoyed this, met the authors at a conference. It is a gorgeous book, would make a great gift for the architecture enthusiast, and has some great information in it. It is functional and beautiful at the same time with large, full color images. The only complaint I have is that I would have loved more information about the pictures and the examples they use - it is a bit of a tease sometimes, and I really want to know more. I would love more information on some of the buildings you see out there - kind of art deco, but not completely, almost an art deco retrofit over an earlier style.

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