

Quincy thoroughfares proudly and prolifically bear the signature style of Mid-Century Modern architect, John Benya.

More than 500 buildings across the country were designed by Benya, everything from factories to churches and public housing to banks. His works include several of Quincy's most prominent public spaces and remain some of the most admired buildings in western Illinois today.



BENYA CRUSH

John Benya attended Northwestern University outside of Chicago and served in the Navy during World War II. Following his marriage to Virginia in 1947, he began practicing in Quincy with his earliest designs dating to 1949.

Easily recognizable about town in his swanky white Cadillac and a cigar between his fingers, Benya was an amiable fellow, well-liked among his peers. He built his own home for his family of five in the Lincoln Hill subdivision and developed many progressive residences, outfitted with state-of-the-art appliances, lighting and intercom systems.

St. Boniface Church is considered Benya's finest work, with its towering steeple an iconic landmark in Quincy's downtown. Friends refer to the masterpiece as his favorite and most spiritually inspired work. The modernistic terminal at Quincy Regional Airport is also a Benya work of art, featuring bold circular patterns and a blue-glass skylight. As the story goes, he conceptualized the design using a bar glass and a napkin over cocktails one evening. He dumped his martini out, turned the glass upside down, and drew a set of seven circles in a grouping. Those seven circles became the foundation for the terminal's blueprint. Upon the airport's completion, Benya was quoted as saying "All of my designs are original, and I never do the same thing twice."

CHEERS TO "OUR" BENYA

His visionary designs ushered the region's architecture boldly into the mid-20th century with imagination & flare. Imbibe in a martini at The Patio Restaurant & Lounge, and relax Benya-style! QuincyPatio.com

For an immersive Mid-Mod architecture experience, download or call for the 30-point self-guided driving tour: **Mid Mod Quincy / SeeQuincy.com / 800.978.4748.**



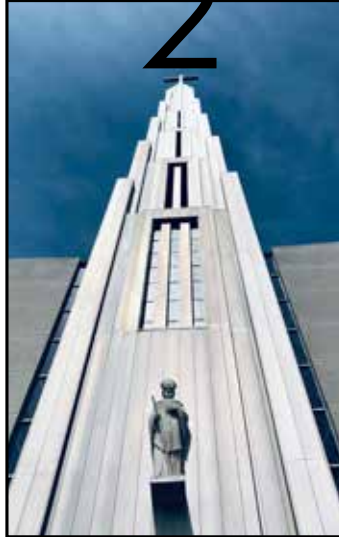
1



636 Hampshire / First Mid Bank & Trust / 1969-1973

Originally built for Gem City Savings & Loan and constructed around an original 1939 building, this complex has a large cantilevered wing over the bank drive-thru and maintains a full city block. The plaza on the grounds offers a wonderful green space for events in The District.

2



701 Maine / St Boniface Church / 1962

A modernistic & iconic masterpiece in the downtown skyline, terrazzo floors and stone walls envelope the interior. The 160-ft steeple is constructed of a steel shell with stainless steel interior, designed to house the historic three bells from the original church, as well as the heating & air conditioning. Named by the IL Association of Architects as one of Illinois' 150 most important structures.

The building may be reopened as a shrine to Augustus Tolton, the first Black Roman Catholic priest in the U.S., ordained on this site in 1886.

3



2409 Country Club Drive South / 1954 / Built at a cost of \$35,000

One of Quincy's most iconic mid-mod homes, "The Kuna House" included innovative features of glass support walls, heated cork, and indoor garden with koi pond. Here, as with Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian houses, Benya blurred the distinction between indoor and outdoor space.

4



2923 Lincoln Hill SW / 1953

Benya's family home in the subdivision he fashioned himself, modeled after those designed by Joseph Fichler in California. The landscape of this home reflects the waves of the ocean in the buff brick serpentine wall that encloses the property. The interior is also comprised of characteristics common in Benya homes. Cypress wood accents the living room ceiling and windows, and the attached garage served double duty as a supplemental entertaining space.

5



3001 Lincoln Hill NE / 1956

The only International Modernism home in Quincy, a rare gem featuring glass designed to replicate the Northern Lights as light reflects during rain (30th Street facade), renovated using glass from Colorado.

6



Quincy Regional Airport Terminal
1645 Hwy 104 / 1972

The futuristic airport terminal was a definite coup in Benya's portfolio, a circle of many circles on a split three-level plan. The exterior walls are made entirely of brown-toned, half-circle windows separated by upward-curving sections of a striking green masonry.

Grab a bite to eat at the Blue Haven Cafe on the upper level.