



## Modern, Again

### The Benda House & Garden in Chicagoland

Serge Ambrose

Michelangelo Sabatino

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- For preservationists of modern architecture; professionals (architects, landscape architects), academics (historians, architects, etc.), generalists (home owners)
- **Modern, Again: The Benda House & Garden in Chicagoland** weaves lessons of history, preservation, and stewardship of a 1930s International Style house into a captivating story for professionals and enthusiasts interested in modern architecture and landscape

**Modern, Again: The Benda House & Garden in Chicagoland** is equal parts a history of modern residential architecture in America and a rewarding journey of preservation and stewardship. Ambrose and Sabatino — co-authors of this book and co-owners of the Winston Elting designed Benda house — summarise their in-depth archival research and hands-on work undertaken for the restoration of their 1939 International Style house in Riverside, a historic village designed by Olmsted & Vaux in Chicago's western suburbs. The Benda House was commissioned during a time when excitement for modern architecture, art, and design was very much alive amongst the public in America, partly due to the enthusiasm created by Chicago's Century of Progress International Exposition held between 1933 and 1934 and culminated with the New York World's Fair of 1939. This book features archival materials ranging from architectural drawings to historic building product catalogues alongside contemporary photographs taken before and after the restoration process. Finally, the co-authors discuss their addition of a new landscaped garden that re-establishes the relationship between nature and this modern house while extending Olmsted's vision of idealised suburban living in America.

**Serge Ambrose** is an architect and engineer focused on residential design and preservation of 20th-century architecture. Ambrose served as a commissioner of the Riverside Historical Commission. From 2016–2020 he served as Chairman of Docomomo US/Chicago and is currently a board member. **Michelangelo Sabatino** is a publicly engaged historian, curator, educator, and preservationist whose research focuses on modern architecture and the built environment. He is Professor of Architectural History and Historic Preservation in IIT's College of Architecture where he directs the PhD program and is the inaugural John Vinci Distinguished Research Fellow. Sabatino serves on the Board of Directors of Docomomo US.