

Art Deco—1920 through 1941



The Art Deco style became a fad by the late 1920s, remaining popular through the 1930s. It is known for extensive use of decoration, and its use of angular and geometric shapes. Hard edges, geometric shapes, and bright colors emphasized the style. The Art Deco style was popular with, and most famous for, its commercial buildings, but rarely found in homes. There are no examples of an Art Deco home in Ontario, but there are several examples of commercial buildings with strong Art Deco elements within the City’s original downtown area (pictured above left and below right).

Several famous landmark buildings in Southern California are excellent examples of the Art Deco style, including the Eastern Columbia Building, and the former Bullock’s Wilshire building (now Southwestern Law School), both in Los Angeles.

Common Features

- Smooth wall surfaces, usually stucco (smooth plaster finish)
- Flat roof with coping
- Towers and other vertical projections
- Decorative motifs such as chevrons, zigzags (usually on towers)
- Geometric shapes
- Hard corners
- Carved ornaments
- Fluted columns and pilasters



Windows

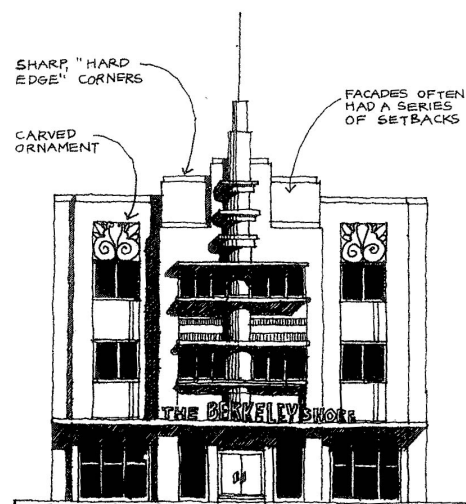
Windows were typically grouped to create strong vertical lines and to emphasize the tower elements.

Doors and Storefronts

Storefronts were typically large plate glass windows, with a short bulkhead located on the ground. Doors were typically glass, with metal frames, usually painted to resemble copper or other metals.

Colors

The Art Deco style is known for the use of bright colors, usually pastels, with the darker color for the base. Metallic colors, such as copper, brass, and gold, were used on windows and doors.



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