
Art Deco Architecture in Delaware: A Geographical Interpretation

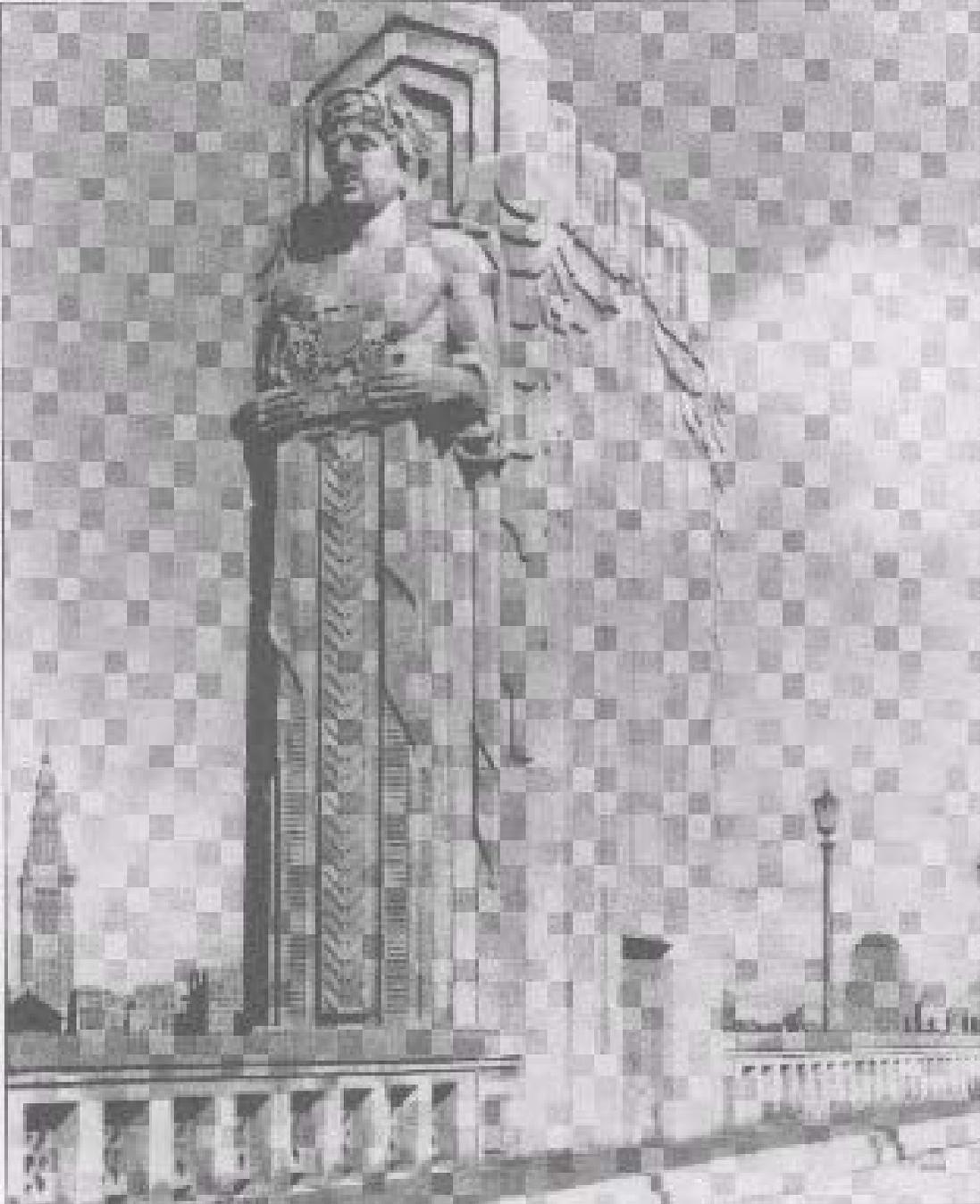
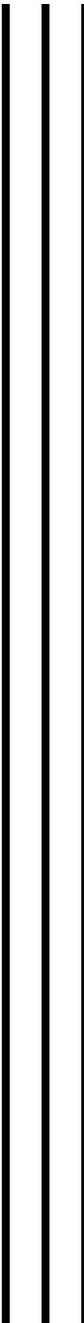
Art Deco Architecture in Delaware?

- This is going to be a short talk!
- Is there any? Well...
- Thesis topic in conversation
 - “That’ll be a short paper!” -- preservation researcher.
 - “I always thought Art Deco Architecture was in Miami -- you know, associated with tropical, tourist areas.”

How did I get interested in Art Deco Architecture?

- Probably always interested -- though I never thought about it until this research.
 - Cleveland, OH and Bandung, Indonesia
 - Auction phase and collecting Art Deco Artifacts.
- Drawn to the uncluttered beauty of Art Deco -- especially Architecture

Cleveland, Ohio





Bandung, Indonesia

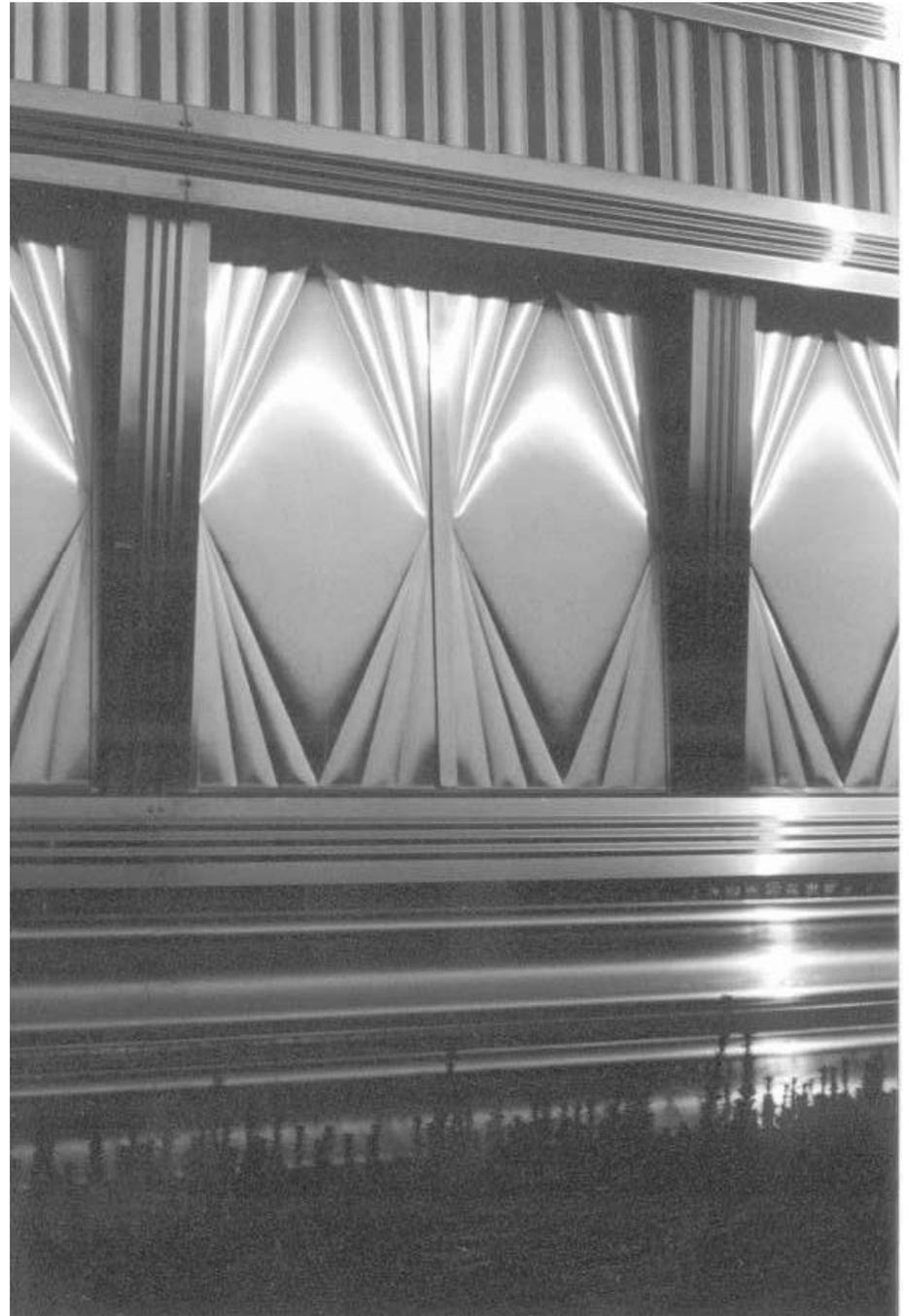
Milford, Delaware

- Move to Milford, Delaware
 - Shines Movie Theatre
 - Milford Diner
 - The "Recent" Past in Milford?

Diner

Sun Ray Motif

Stainless Steel

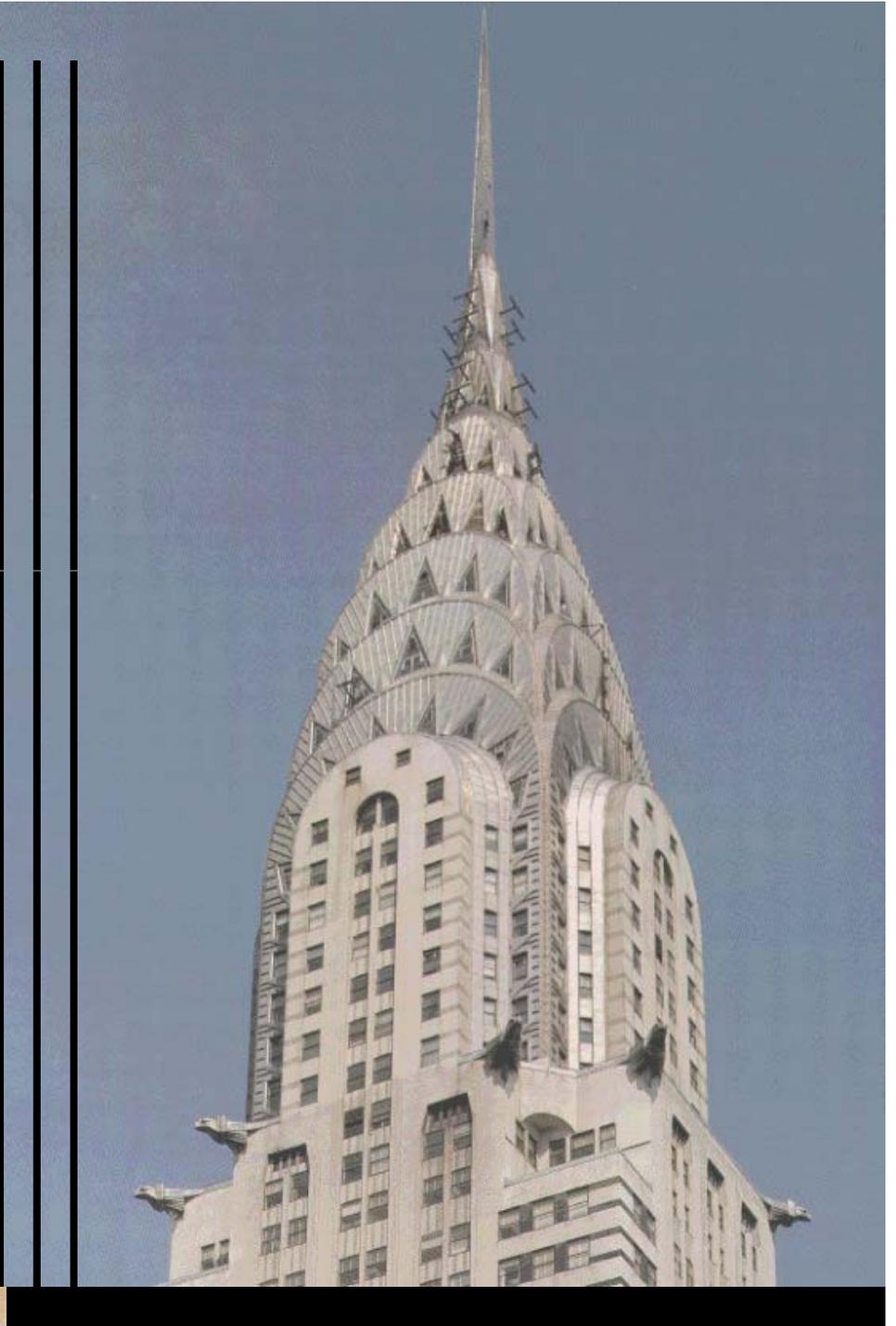
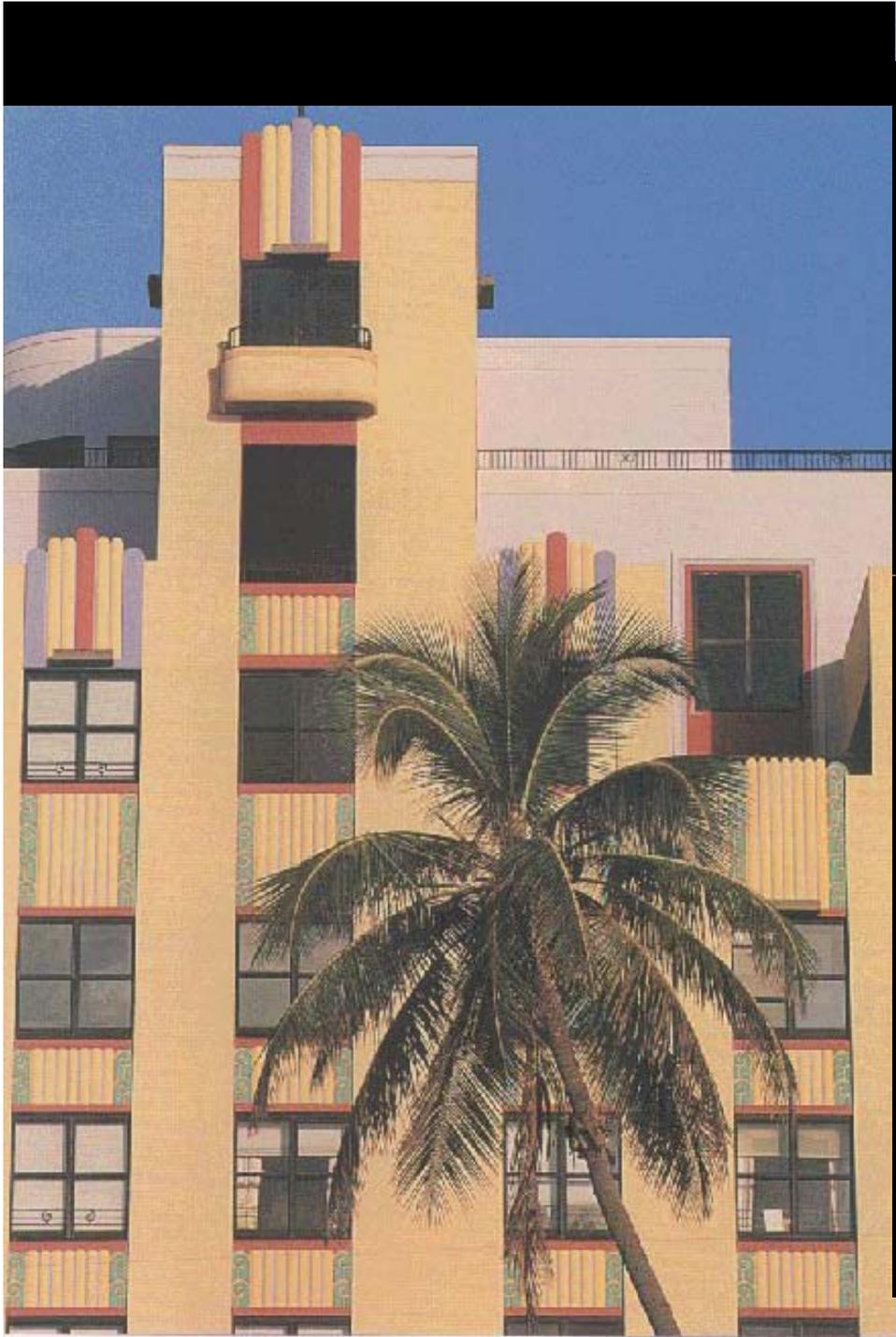




Shines Theatre in Milford

Tired of Common Examples of Art Deco Architecture

- How many times can one look at the Chrysler Building and remark “Wow, what a beautiful building... and did you know it’s Art Deco?”
 - New York City Examples
 - Miami Beach Hotel Examples
- Was Art Deco confined to 2 cities as “Encarta” would have you believe.



**Thesis: Art Deco Architecture and its
adoption into Delaware's Cultural
Landscape:** 

- Prove that it exists and is more extensive than perceived.
- Geographic pattern of diffusion -- whether it reflects traditional patterns of geographic diffusion. Compared with national diffusion patterns?
- Surrogate for more general geographic patterns of cultural diffusion in Delaware?

Presentation Outline

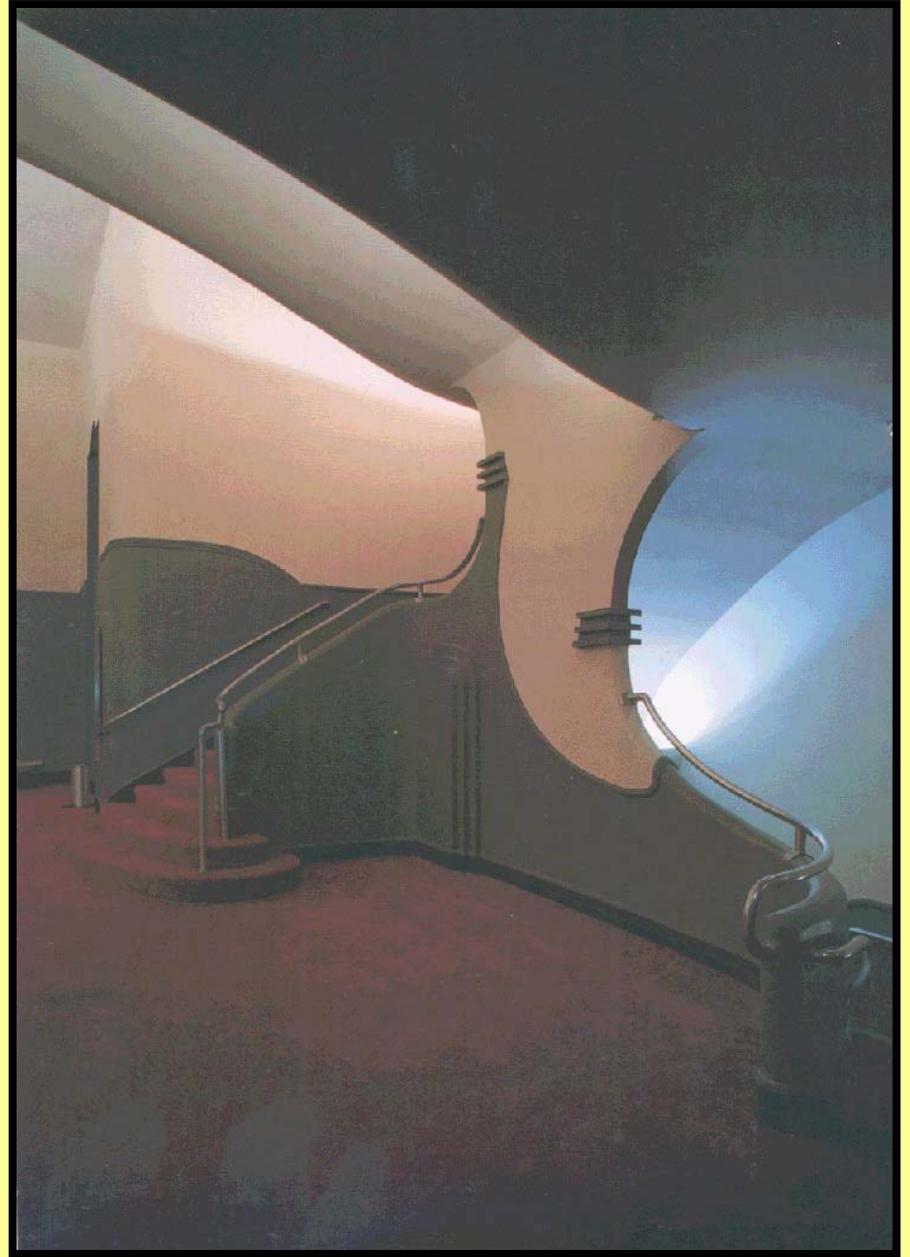
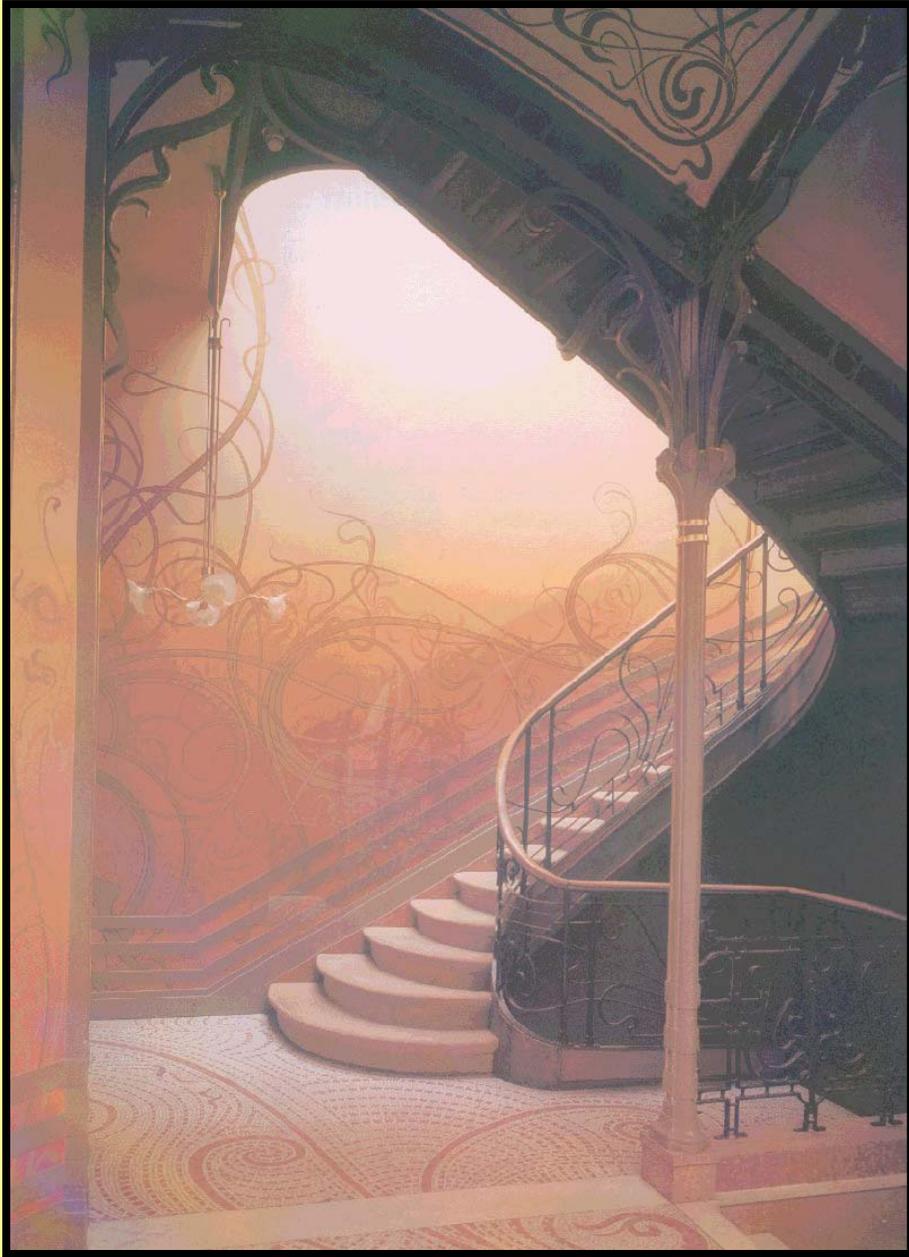
- Introduction and Stating Thesis. ✓
 - I. Defining Art Deco -- the Style and Geographic Diffusion.
 - II. Methodology for this study -- as related to Delaware.
 - III. Analysis and preliminary Findings.

I. Defining Art Deco

The Style and Its Geographic
Diffusion

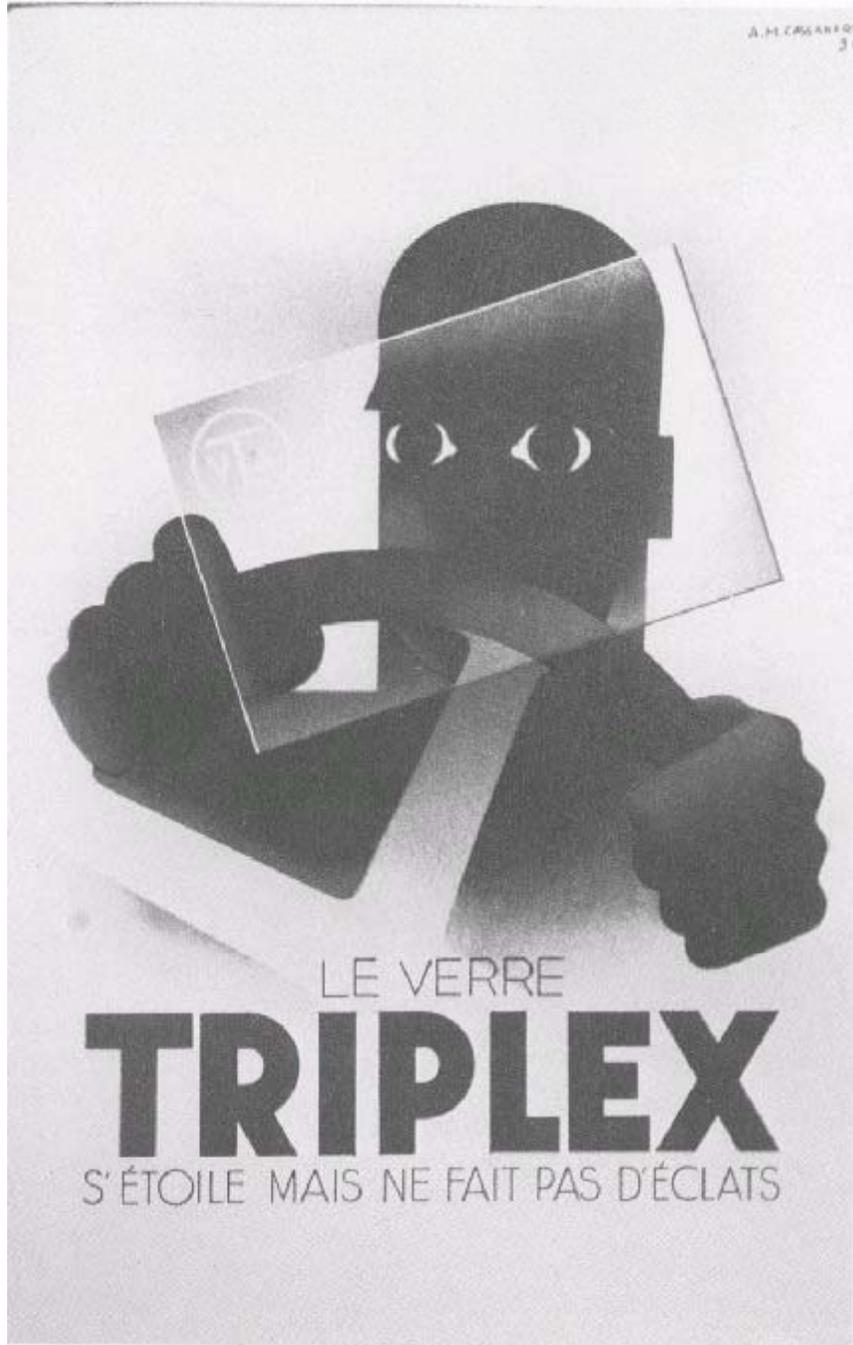
What is Art Deco?

- Style movement -- 1920s through 1930s? Reaction Against Art Nouveau; embracing the Machine Age.
- Noted by bold, crisp lines -- uncluttered
- 'New Age' Materials -- with old classics as well!
 - Bakelite, chrome, aluminum, stainless steel, colored mirror, linoleum, and *glass block*
 - Terra cotta, stucco, steel, terrazzo
- Emphasis on Strong Vertical or Horizontal Dimensions



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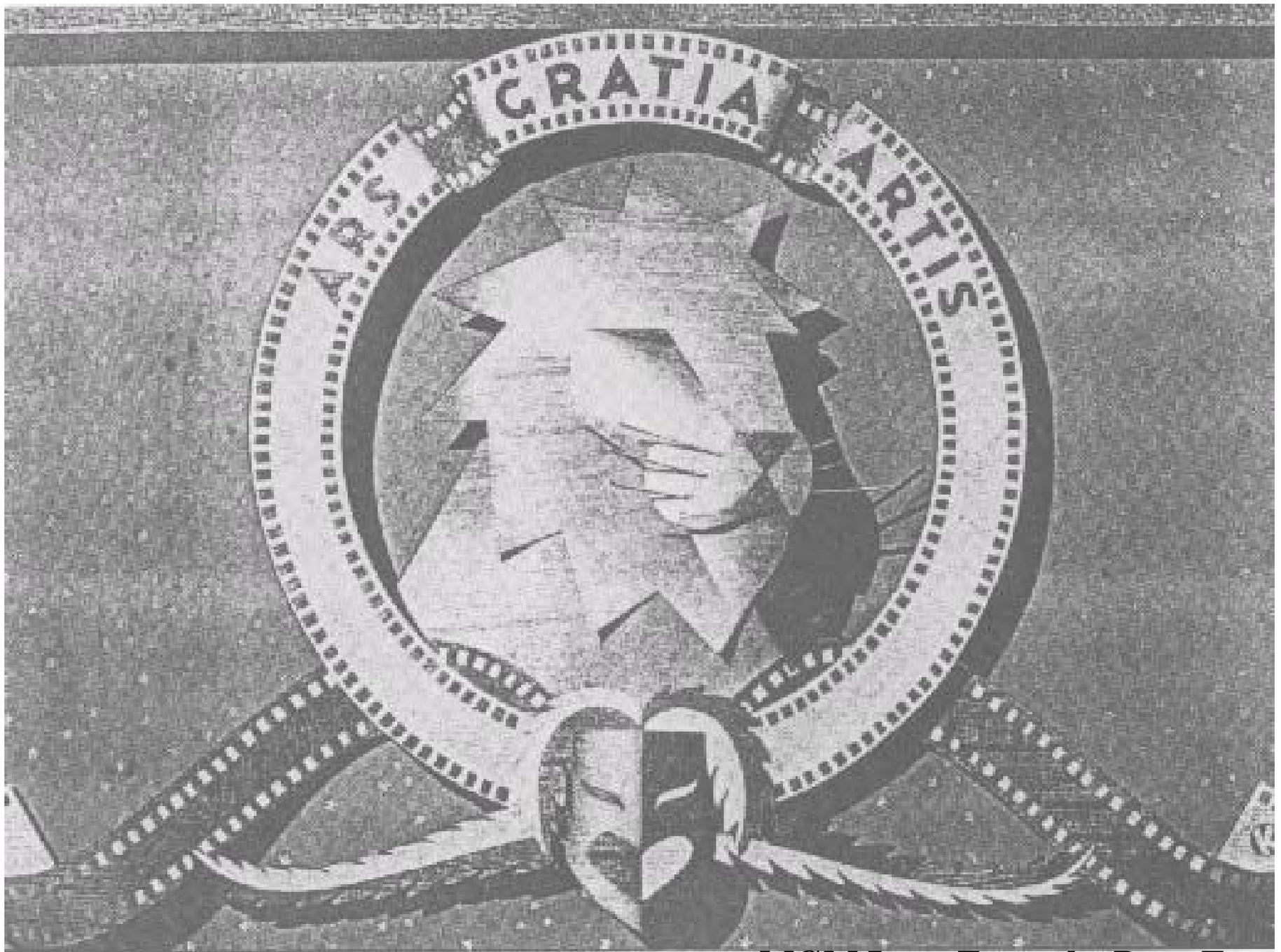
Crisp lines

Uncluttered message

**Intuitive perception -
interaction of man and
machine as partners, not
adversaries**



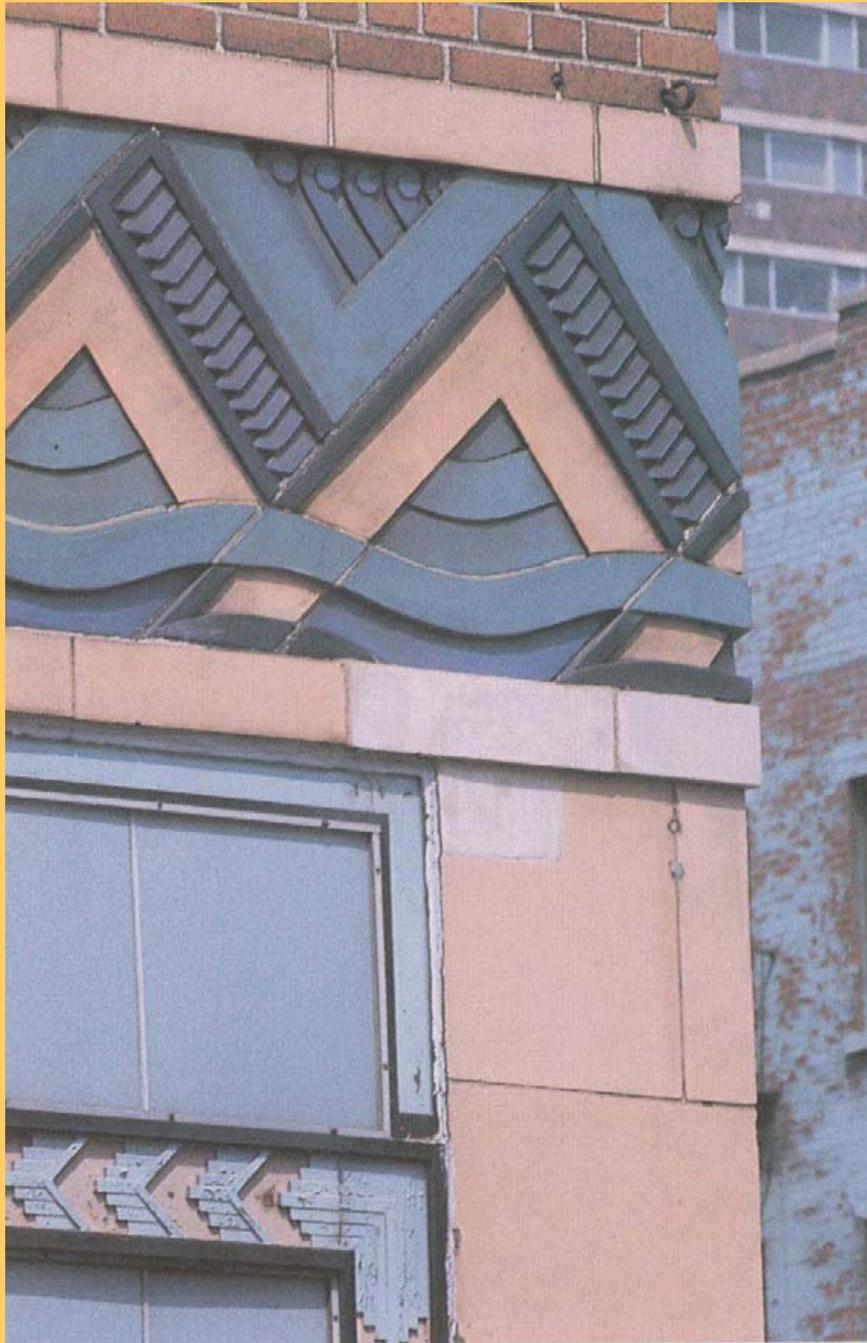
Bold Eagle Bas Relief - Miami



MGM Logo From the Deco Era

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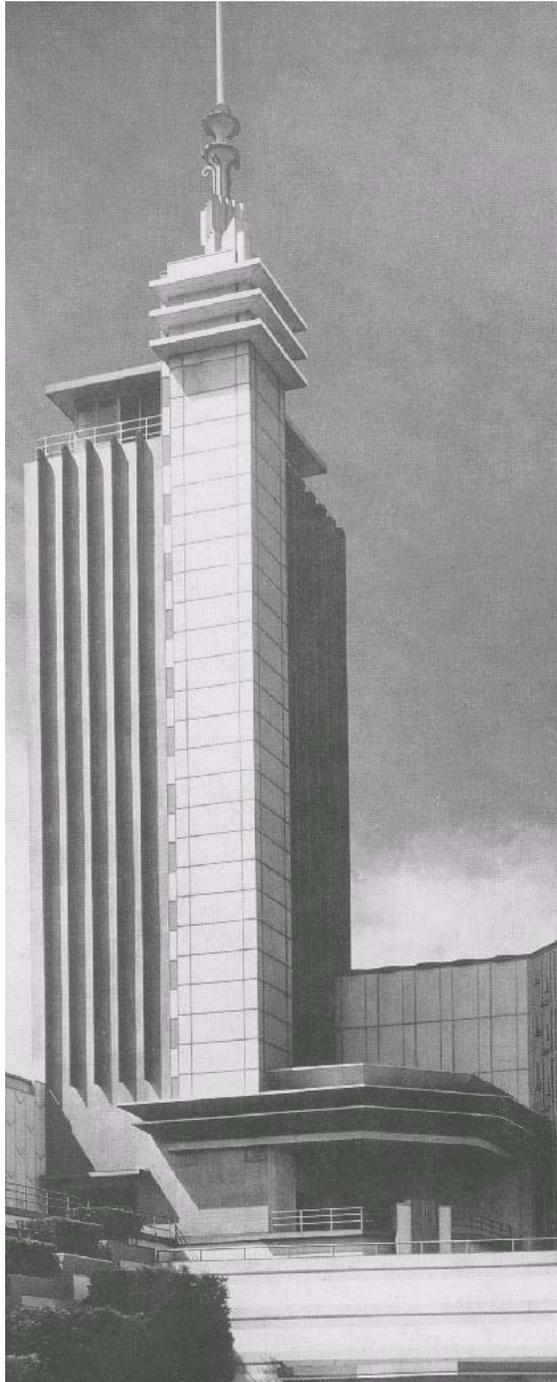
Terra Cotta Tiles and Reliefs



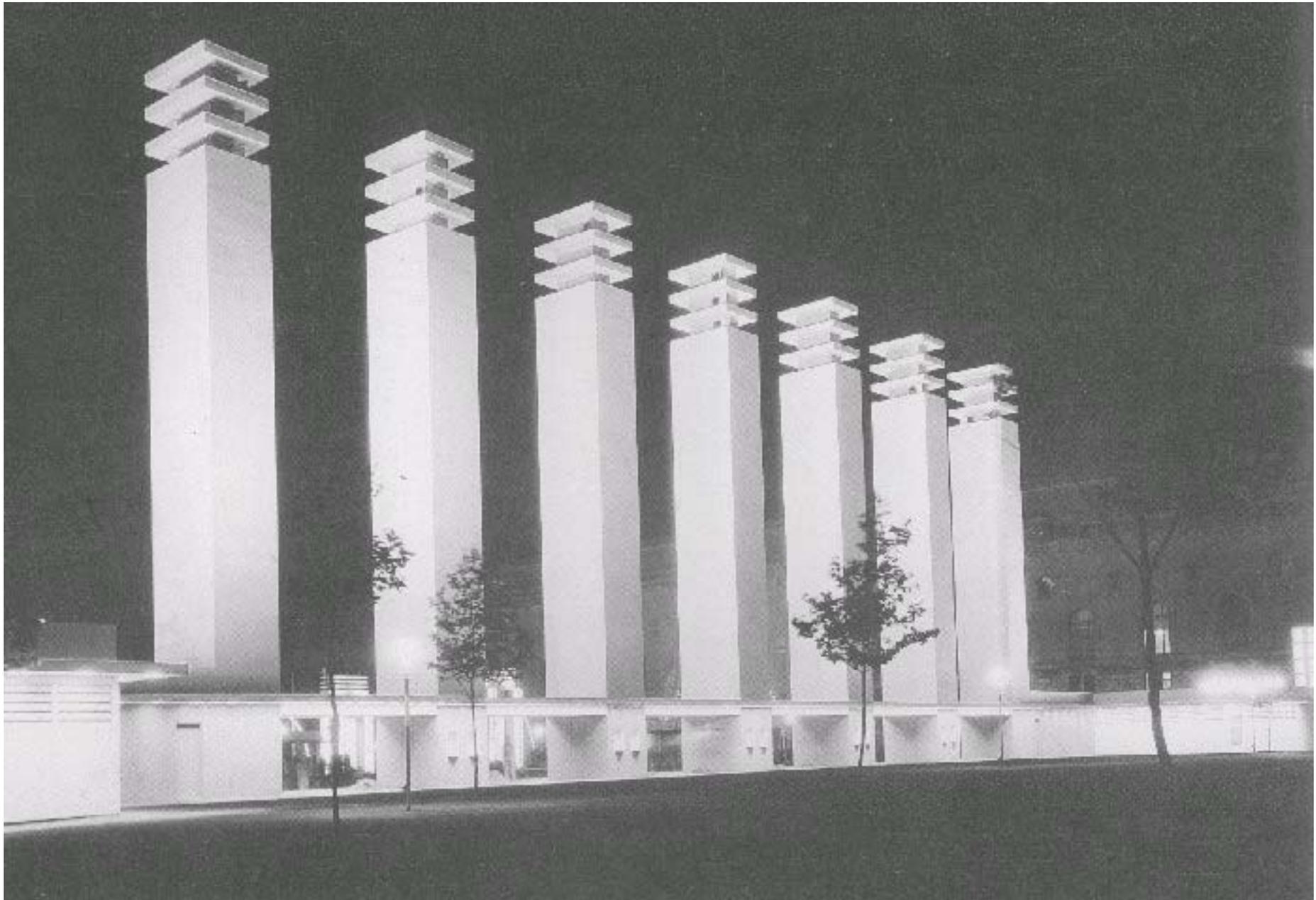
Curved Glass Block Entrance

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Hall of Science
Chicago's Century of Progress
World's Fair 1933





Geographic Diffusion of Art Deco

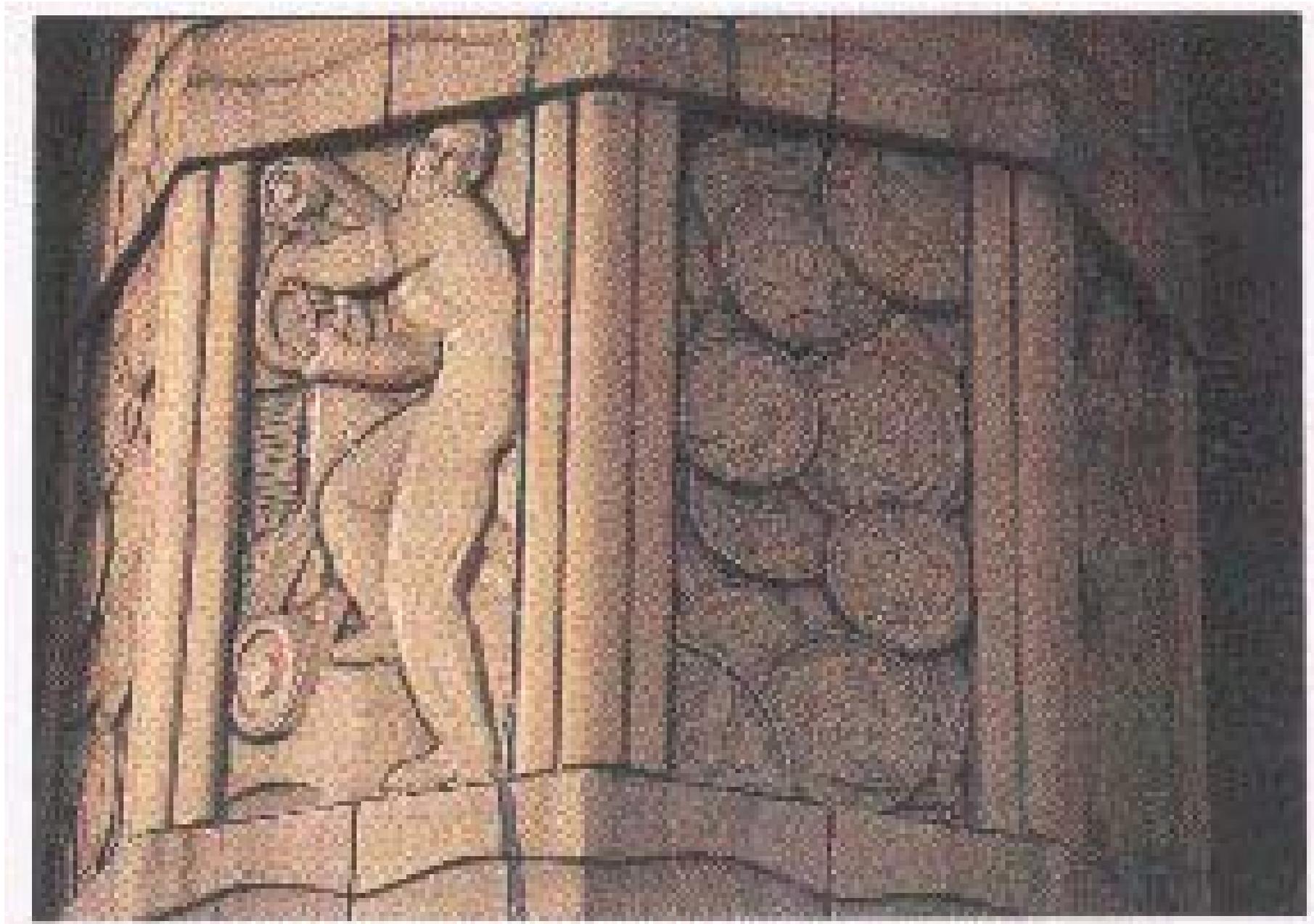
- King Tutankhamon - 1922
- Machine age after WWI
- The Paris Exposition of 1925



Egyptian, Human Head

Geographic Diffusion of Art Deco

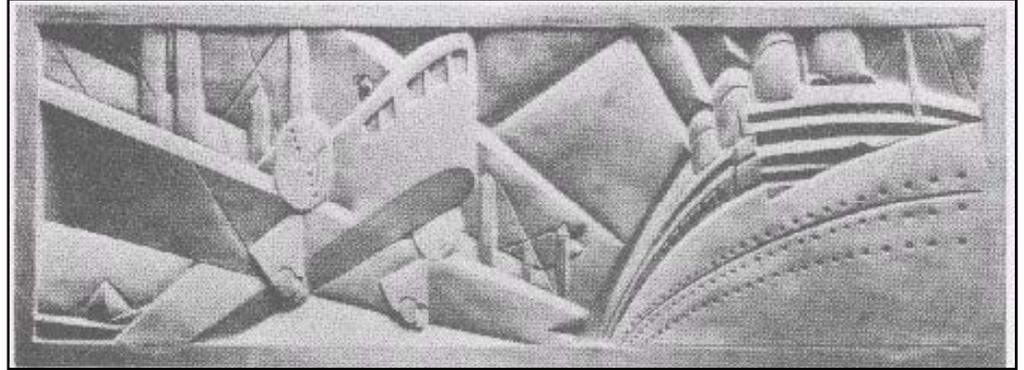
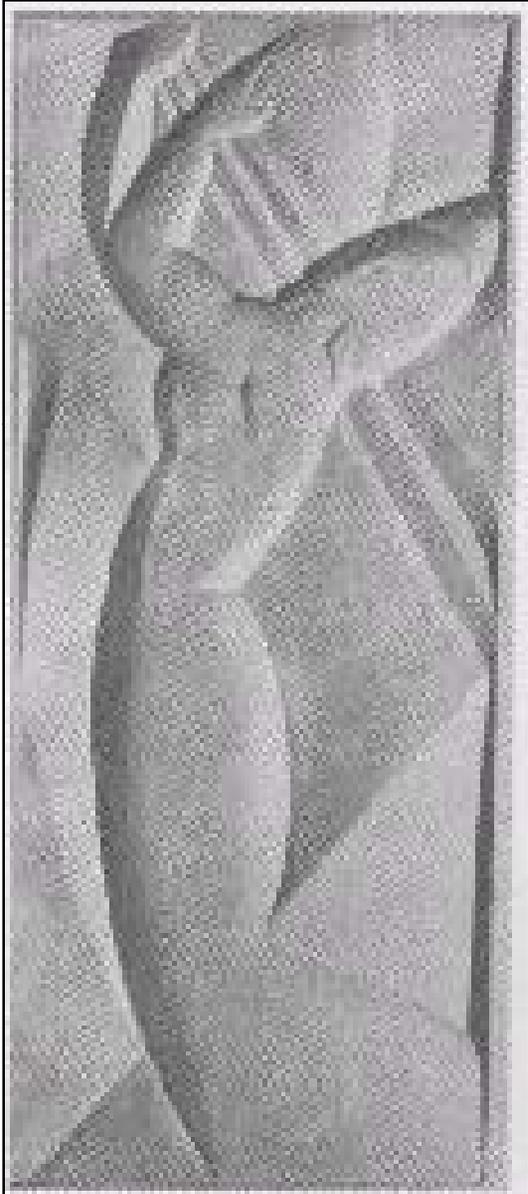
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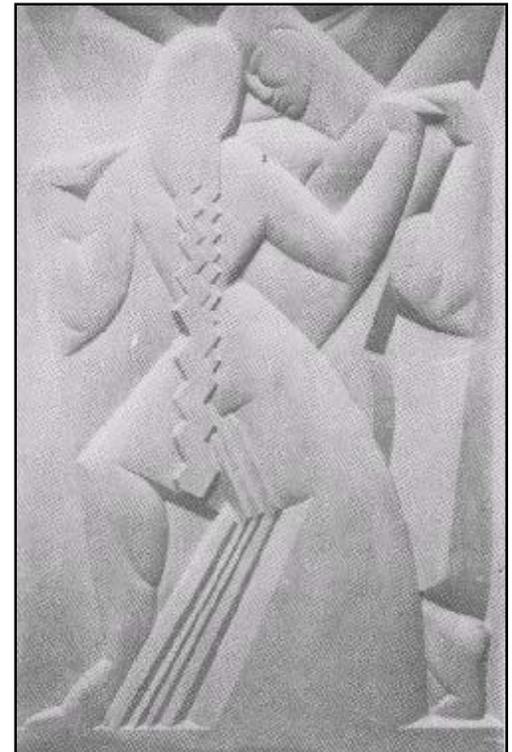
Geographic Diffusion of Art Deco

- King Tutankhamon - 1922
- Machine age after WWI
- The Paris Exposition of 1925

Paris Exposition of the Decorative Arts - 1925

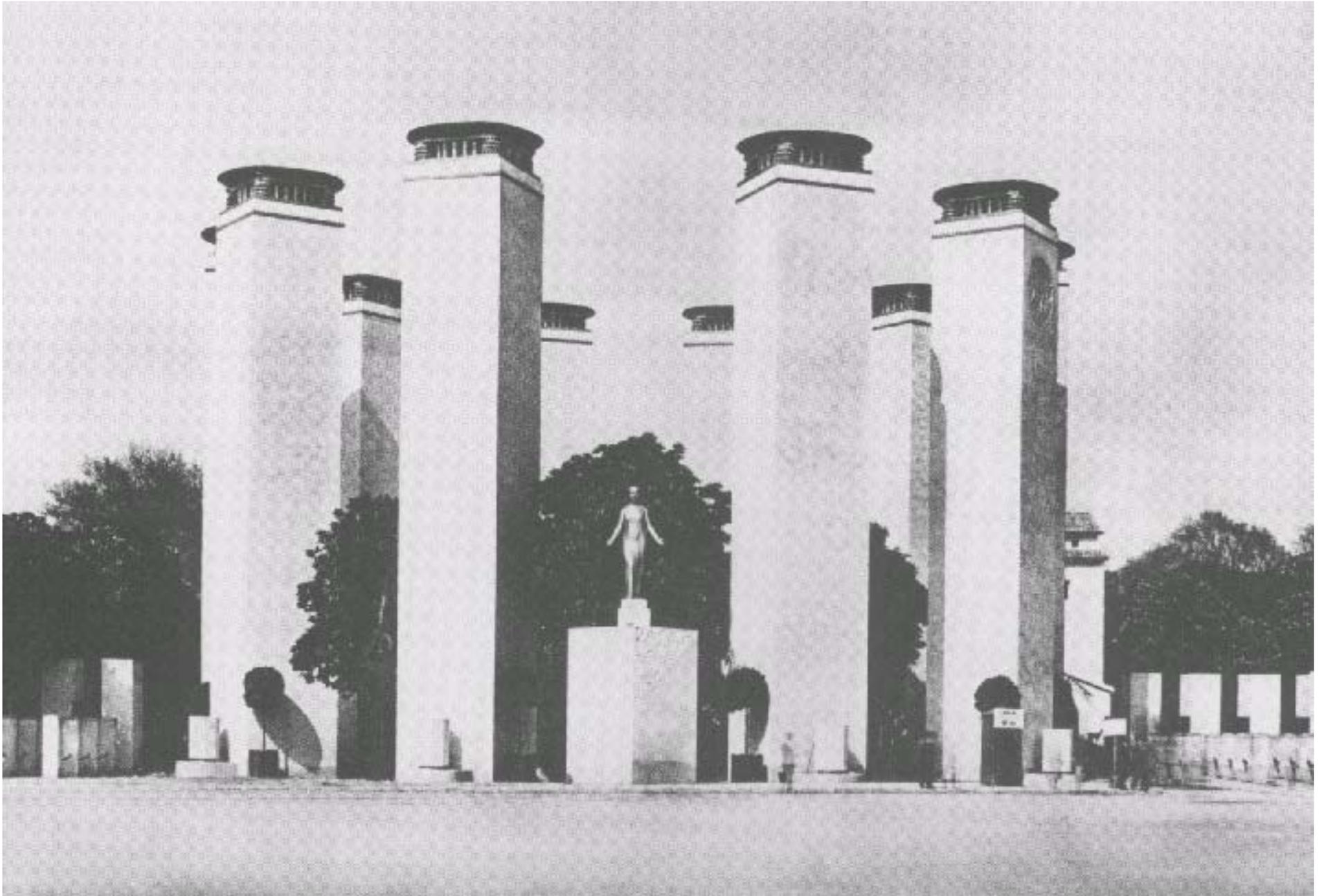


- “ART DECO” 1969
- Influence on Architects, fine arts and crafts
- Fashion Designers
- Hollywood Set Designers
- Fresh Modern Look



Tourisme Pavilion
Paris Expo 1925



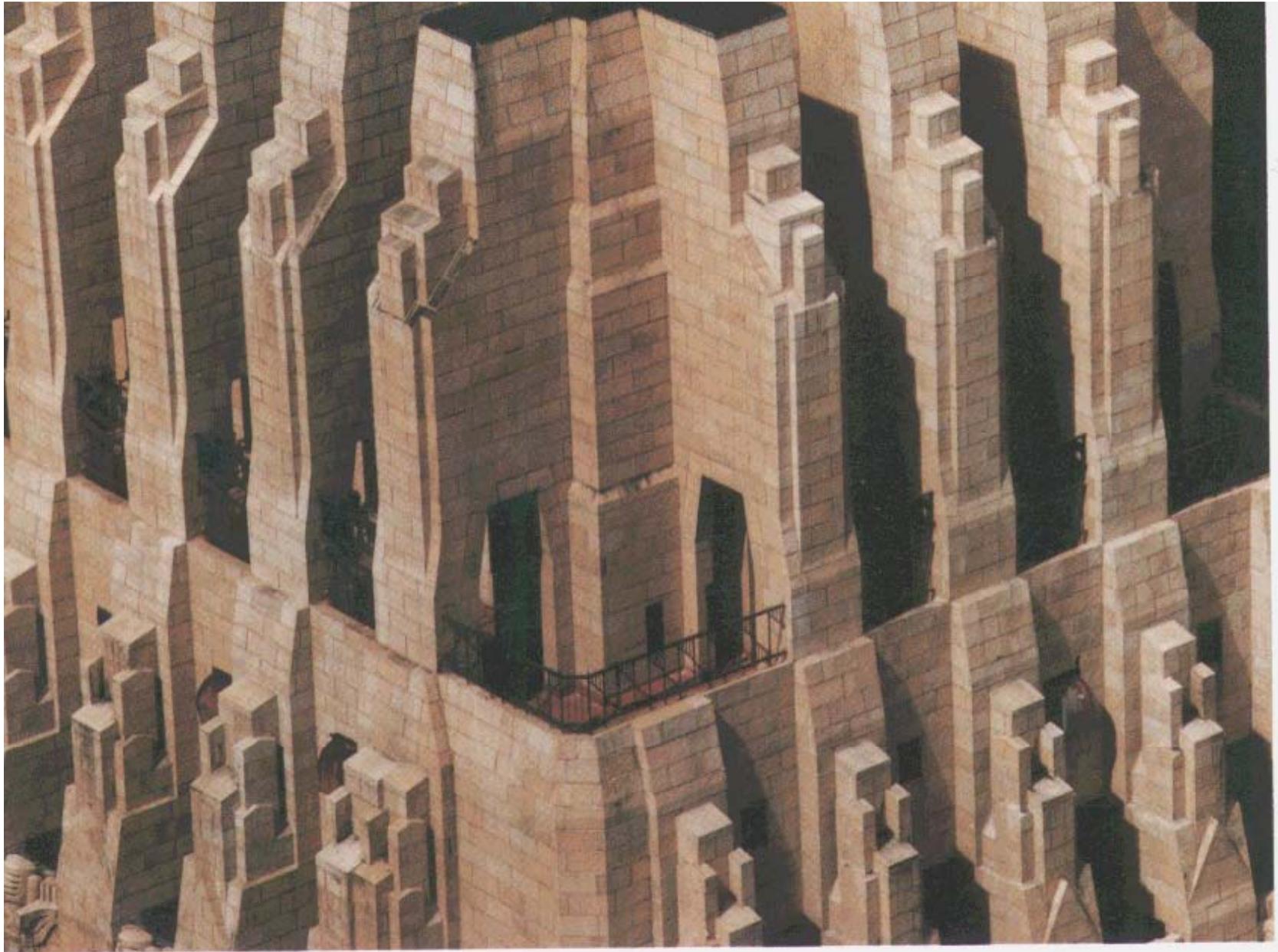


Main Entrance Gate - Paris 1925

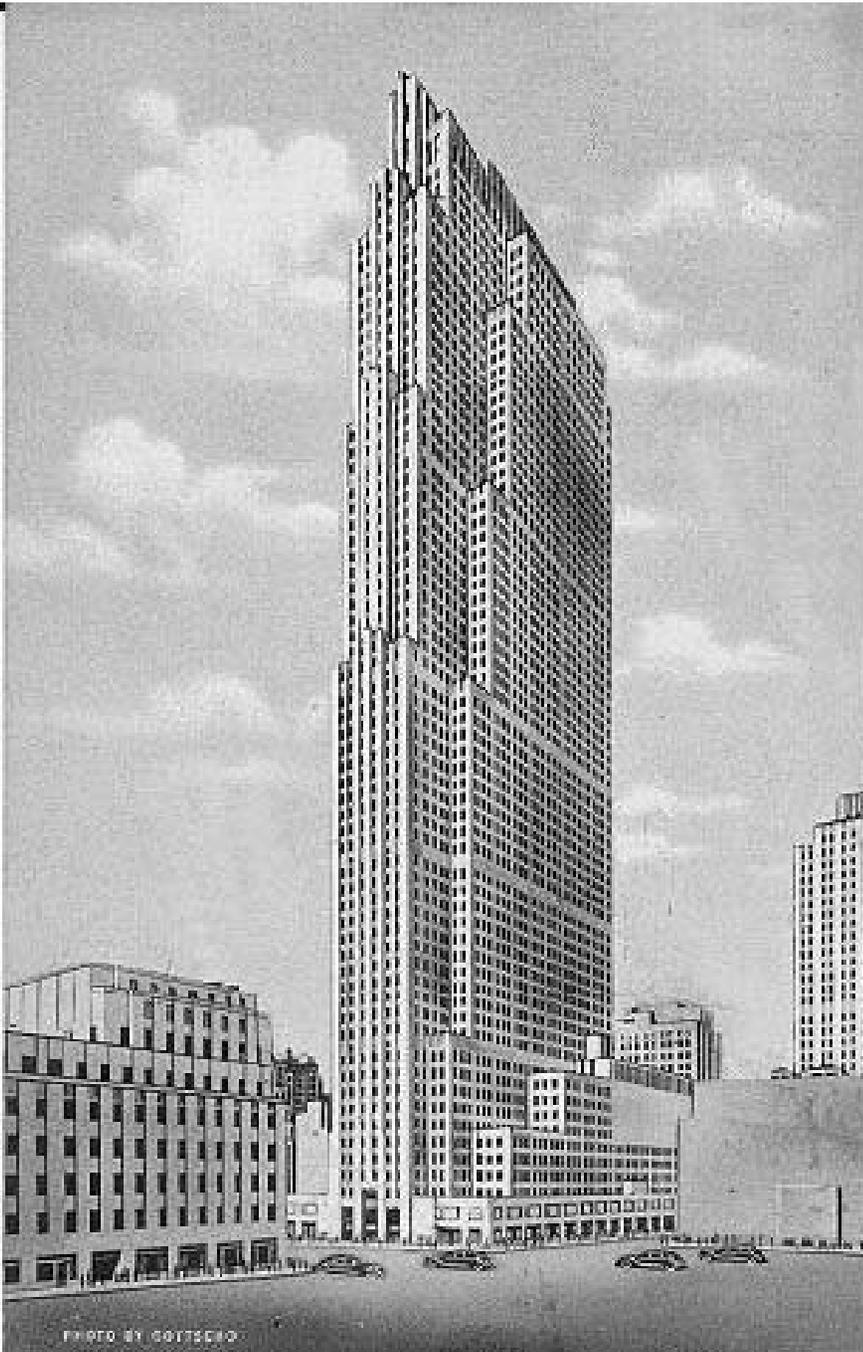
New York City

- Embraced the Art Deco Architecture early as the city built its characteristic skyline
- “Stepped Back” - “Skyscraper Style” - “Jazz Age” Deco
 - Chanin Building
 - The Chrysler Building
 - The Empire State Building
 - Rockefeller Center
 - » RCA Building
 - » Radio City Music Hall

NORMANDIE



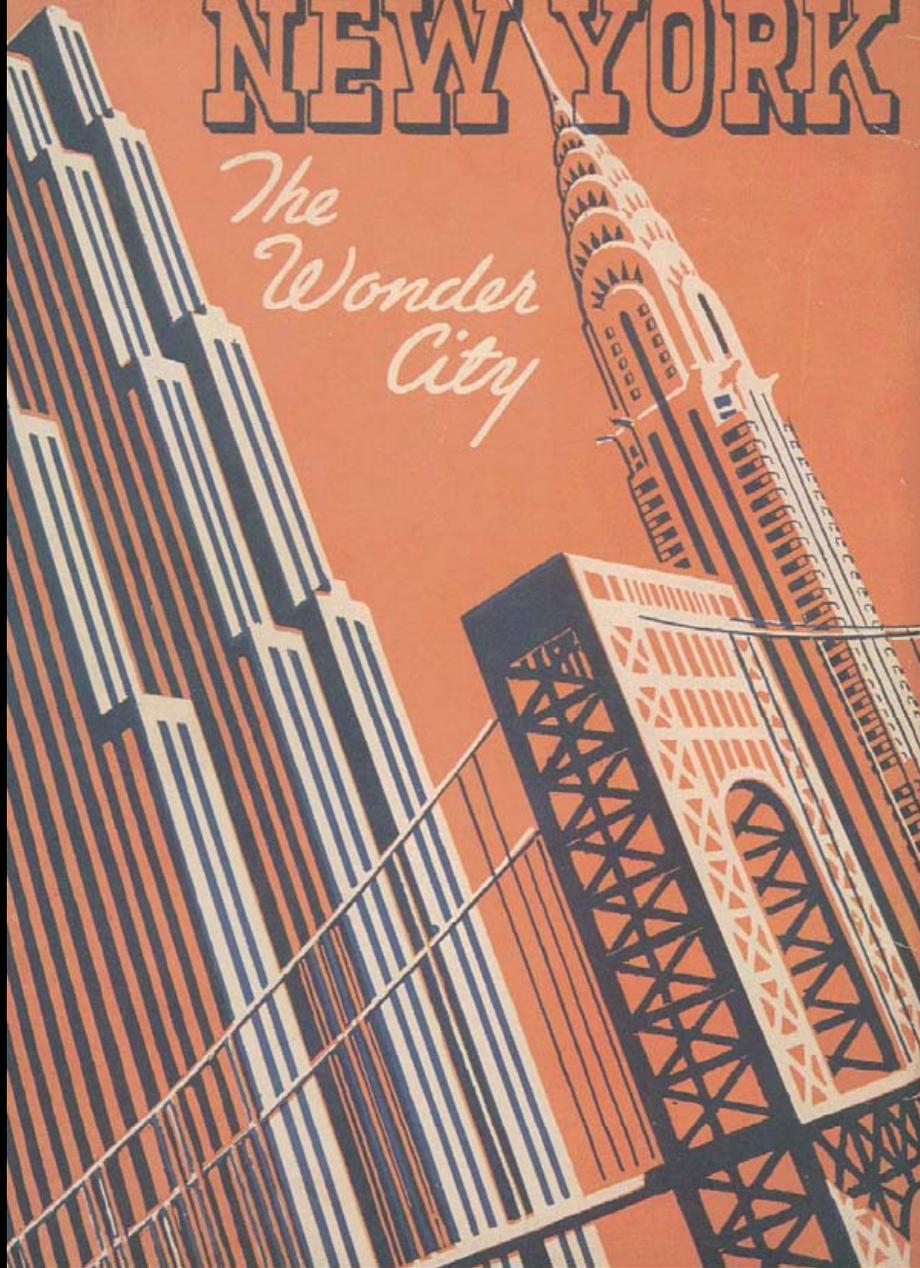
“Stepped Back” Style of Chanin Building, NYC 1928



**RCA Building in
NYC**

NEW YORK

*The
Wonder
City*

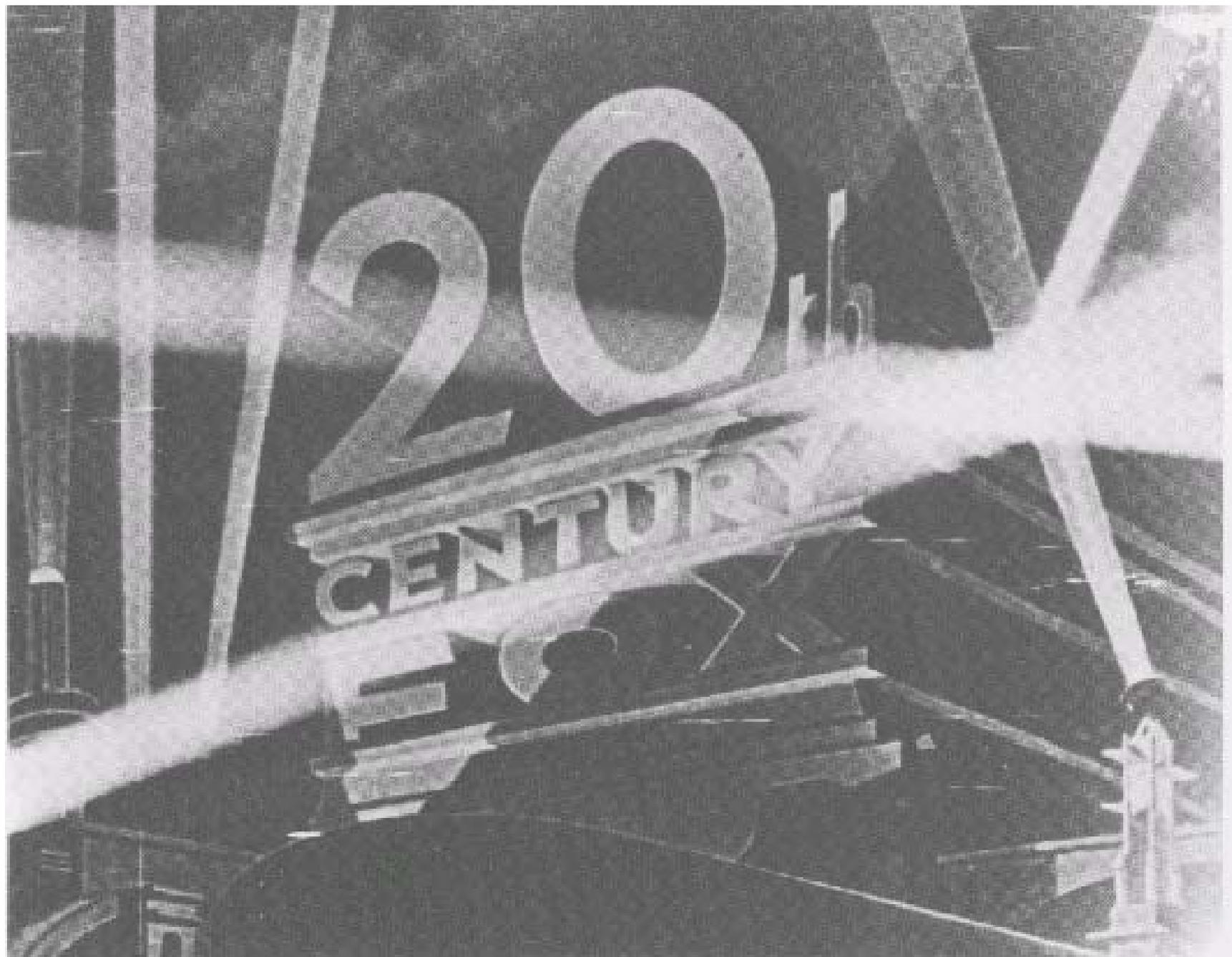




Los Angeles

- L.A. City Hall 1926
- "The Hollywood Style" - Art Deco on Screen and at the Theatres.
- Evolution of Art Deco to a New Phase called "Art Moderne" Deco
 - Indicative of the Los Angeles Landscape
 - Graceful Curvilinear Emphasis and less ornamentation "Less is More"



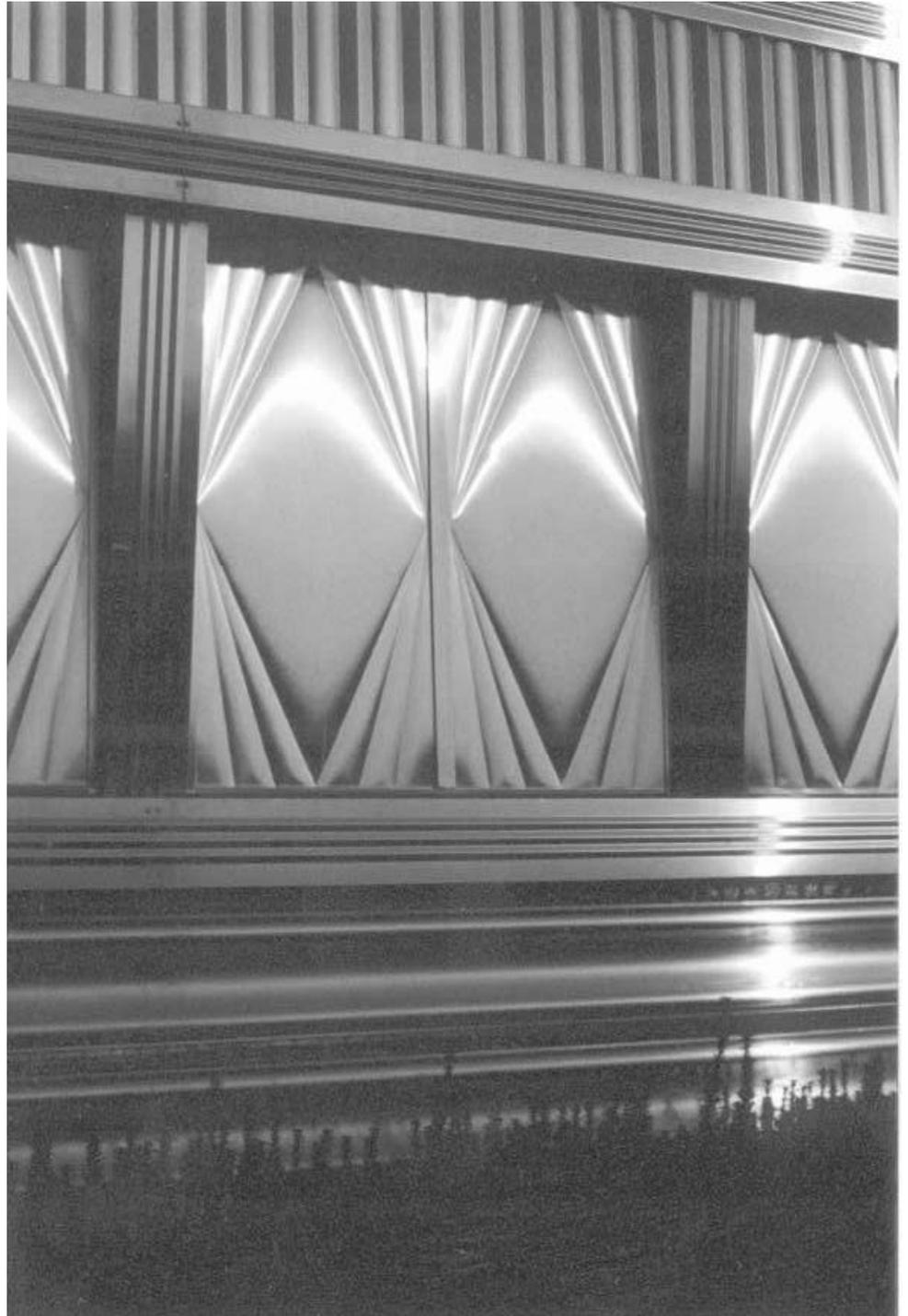




Radio
PICTURES

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

**Sun Rays on a Stainless
Steel Diner -- the Auto
Culture of Los Angeles**

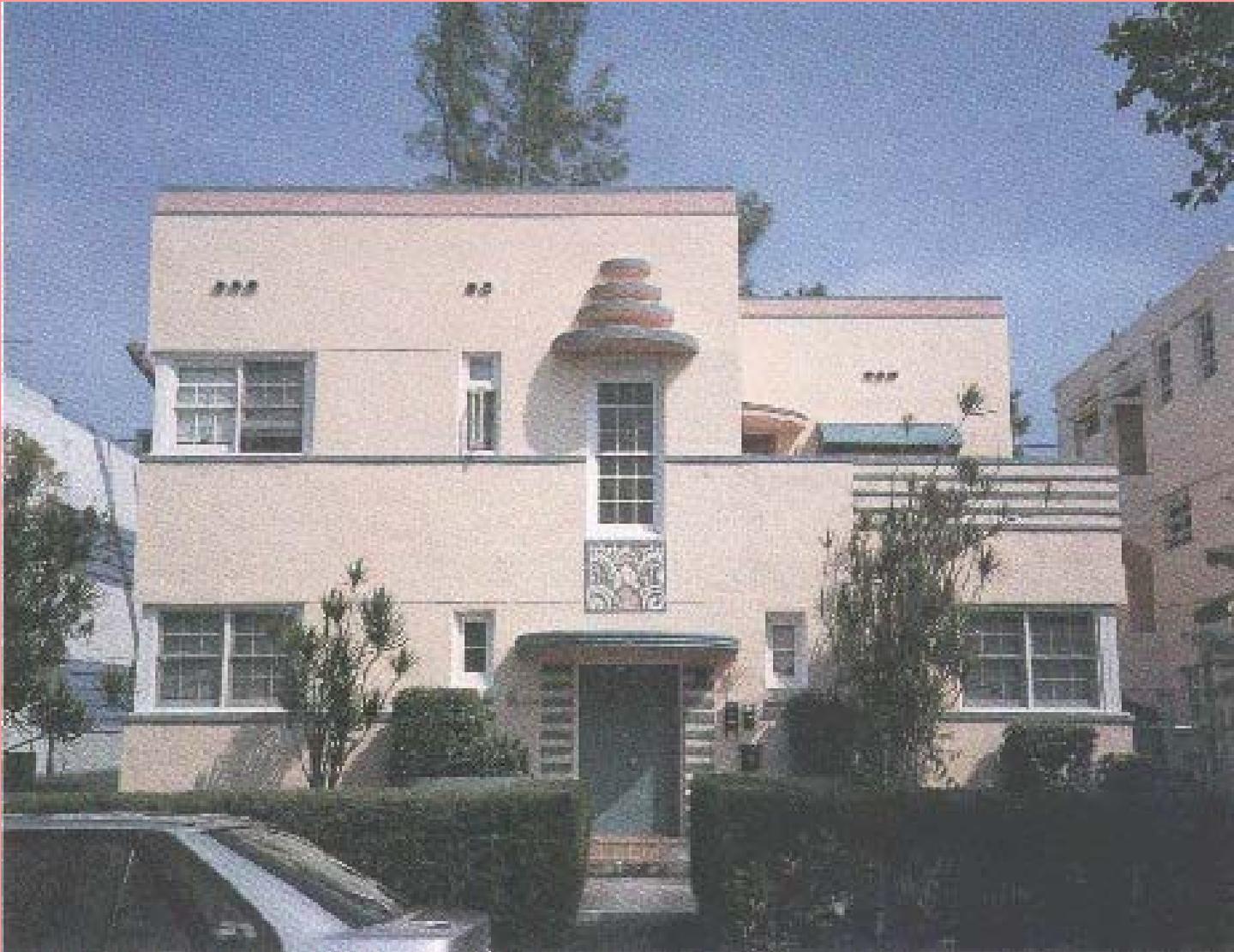




Ocean Liner Factory

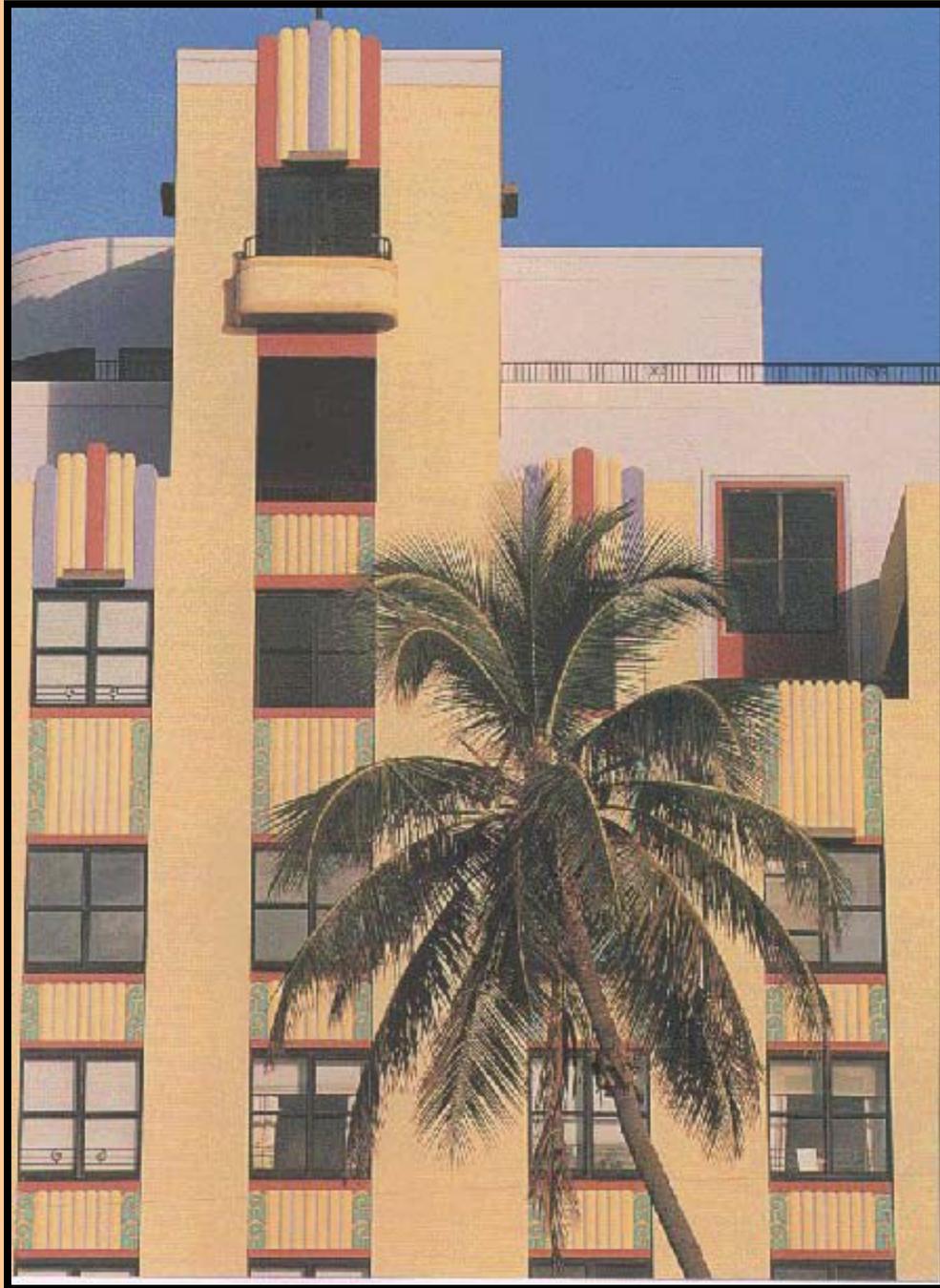
Miami

- Embracing “Art Moderne”
- Tropical colors and playful spirit of Art Deco
- Pan American Seaport Terminal - 1928
 - Became Miami City Hall in 1945

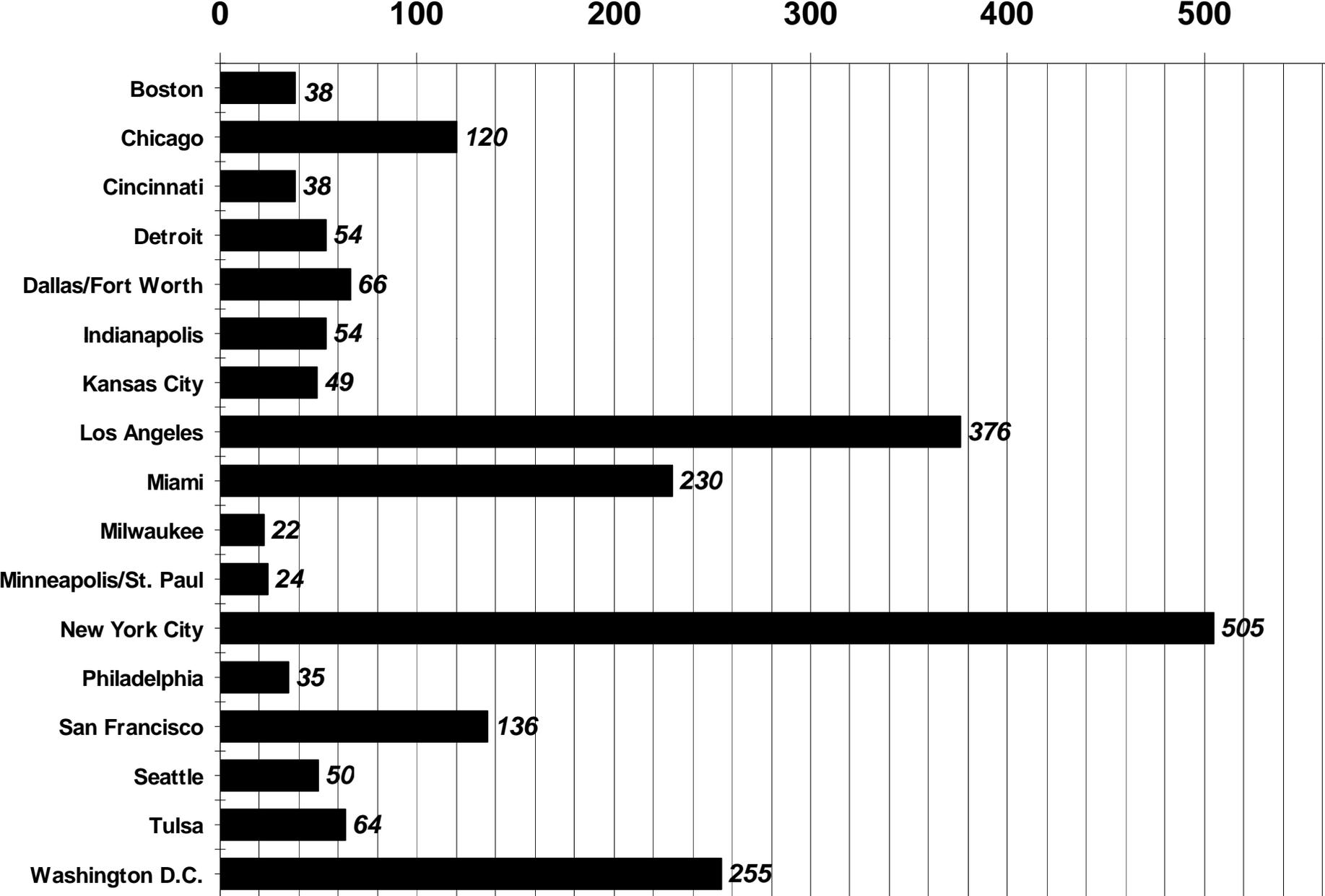


House in Miami





No. Buildings Surveyed By City



Methodology and Study Goals

- Initially set out to compile an inventory of all Art Deco Examples in the Delaware Cultural Landscape
 - Tedious - “Though a small state - many roads!”
 - Naïve beginning leads to wiser approach.
- Site location, date built/designed, history of structure, and its present state/use/condition
- Each example as a learning tool to identify Art Deco features and details.

Defining Study Area

- Art Deco not prior to 1920 and not after 1960 - thus eliminate certain areas:
 - *Excluded*
 - Rural areas - after initial jaunt in the rural areas West of Harrington south towards Seaford, realized other styles of architecture predominated.
 - Urbanized areas built post 1960 - Hockessin Area an especially good example.
 - *Included*
 - Municipal Bounded Areas - CBD, historical town centers.
 - Main transport arteries between municipalities-consulted road density patterns from Historical DelDOT Road Maps.

Defining Study Area

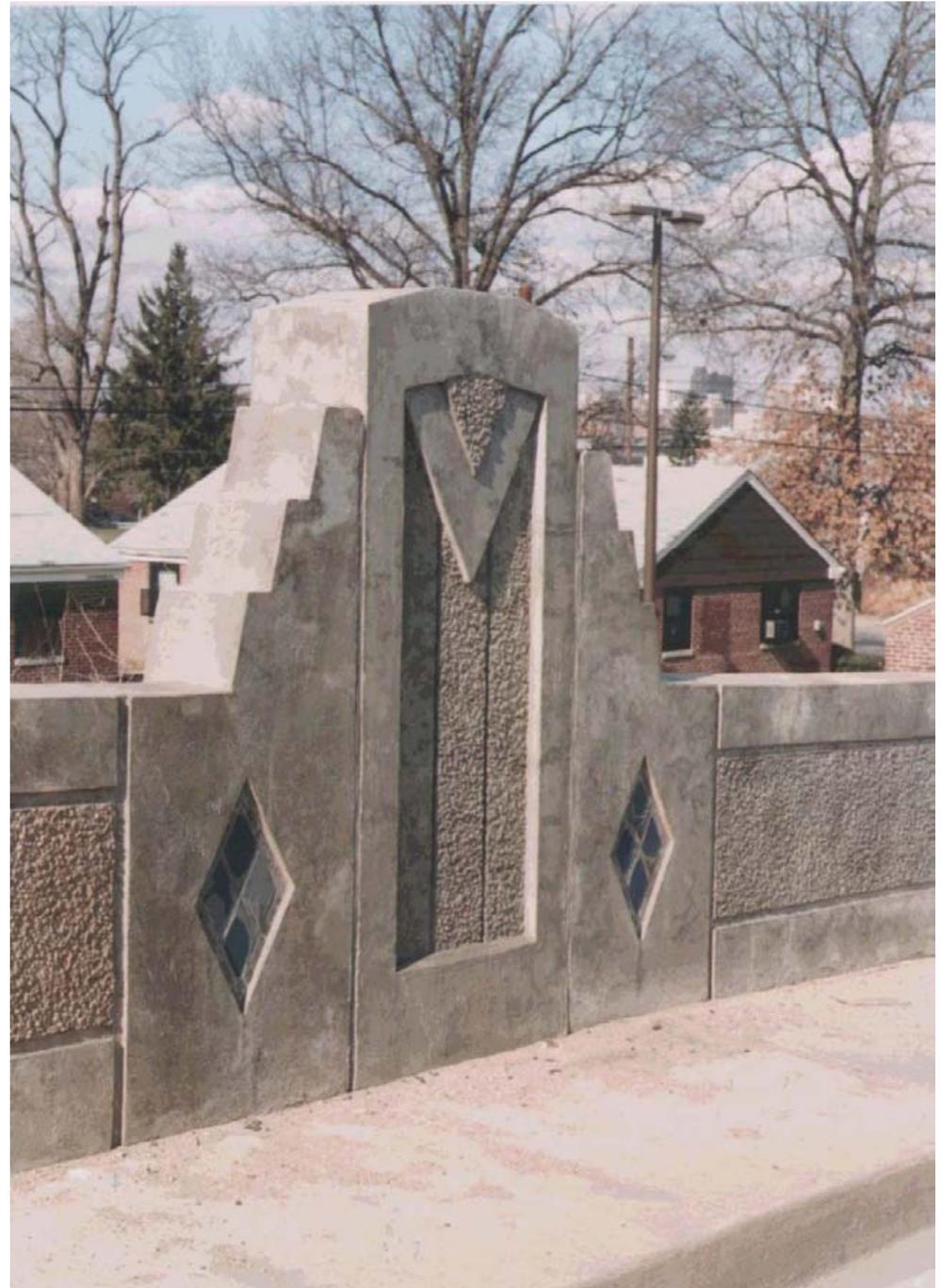
- Archival research
 - led to areas outside the predicted areas where I expected to locate examples of Art Deco
- Ran preliminary queries on GIS system at DelDOT
 - Bridges
 - Schools
 - » Most of the schools were no longer valid
 - » Redistricting and sale of schools
- Interviews with other agencies and “Deco Philes”

Defining Study Area

- Studied and Reviewed Historical Maps of USGS
- Looked at historical auto routes and compared with current road alignments
 - Town of Marshallton
 - New alignment of Capitol Trail “Kirkwood Hwy.”
 - » Displacement of Town Center
 - » Rich 1930s Presence
- Hit the road and modified search area based on experience
- City Blocks and Town Centers - “On Foot”

**What I Found:
Art Deco Examples
in Delaware**

**Jazz Aged Deco
Skyscraper Style
Bridge**





Classic “Skyscraper Style” Deco

Bridge



People's Bank Building
Jazz Age, zigzag Pattern.



Garment Factory
Streamline Moderne



Bridge

**Streamline Moderne with
Stepped Back Deco as well**





House

**Flat Rooflines/Overhangs -
Portico**



Head Start -- Streamline Moderne

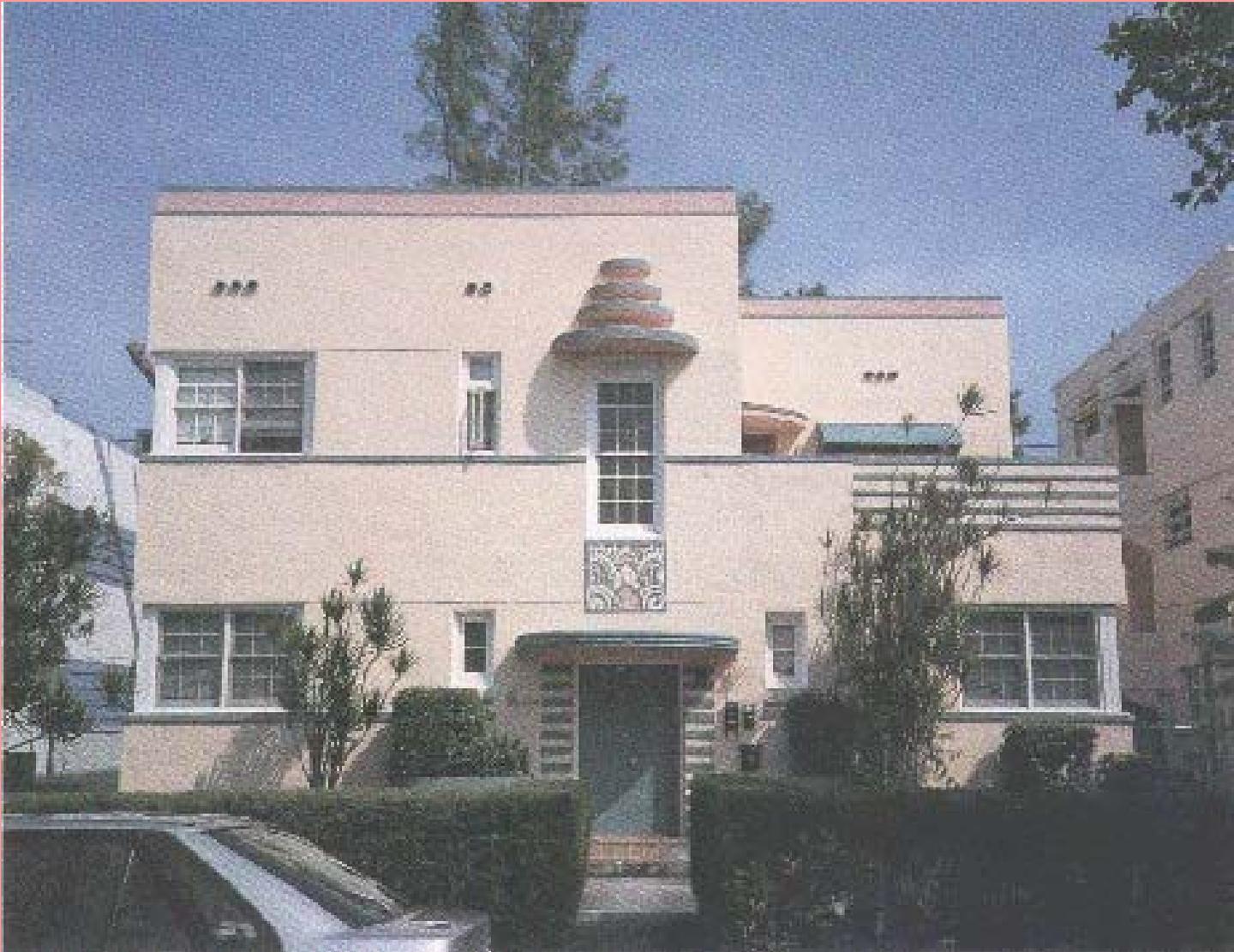
Head Start Building

Note chimney





House - Art Moderne



House in Miami

Store Front - Jazz Age Deco





**Electric Sub Station -
Chevrons
Classic Jazz Age Deco**



Warehouse - Streamline Moderne "River



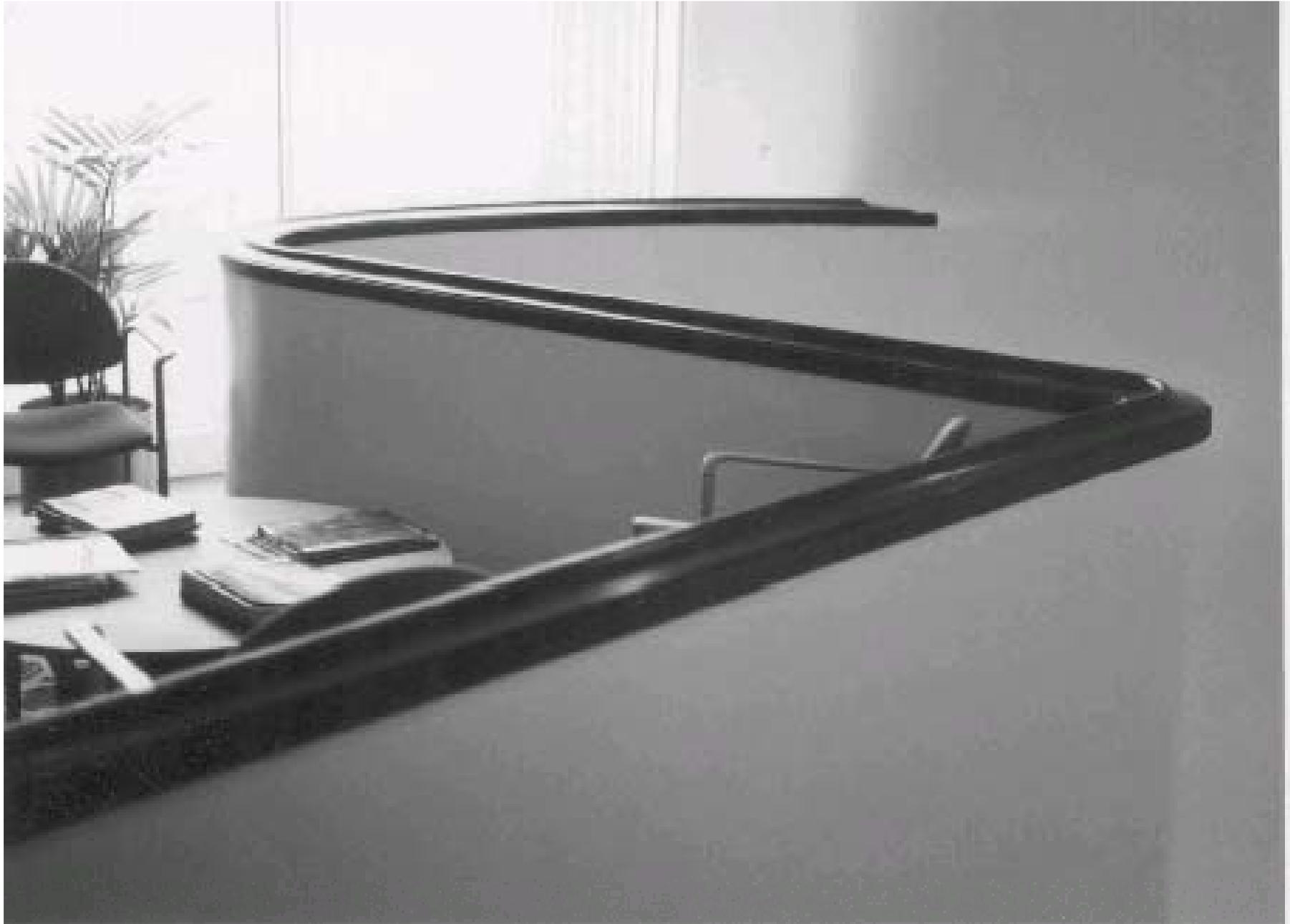


Old Butcher's Shop - Streamline Moderne





Apartment Bldg. - Jazz Age Deco



**Interior of an Auto Dealership - Exterior Jazz Age Interior Streamline
Moderne**



Auto Dealership - Art Moderne



House - Streamline Moderne



House - Streamline Moderne (UD Prof.?)



Commercial Bldg. - Jazz Age



Bank Bldg. - Jazz Age Deco with Bas Reliefs



Bas Relief "Thrift is Foundation of All Human Happiness - Founded 1864 Erected 1930"

Template for Art Deco Inventory: Commercial Buildings

Photo:

Location:

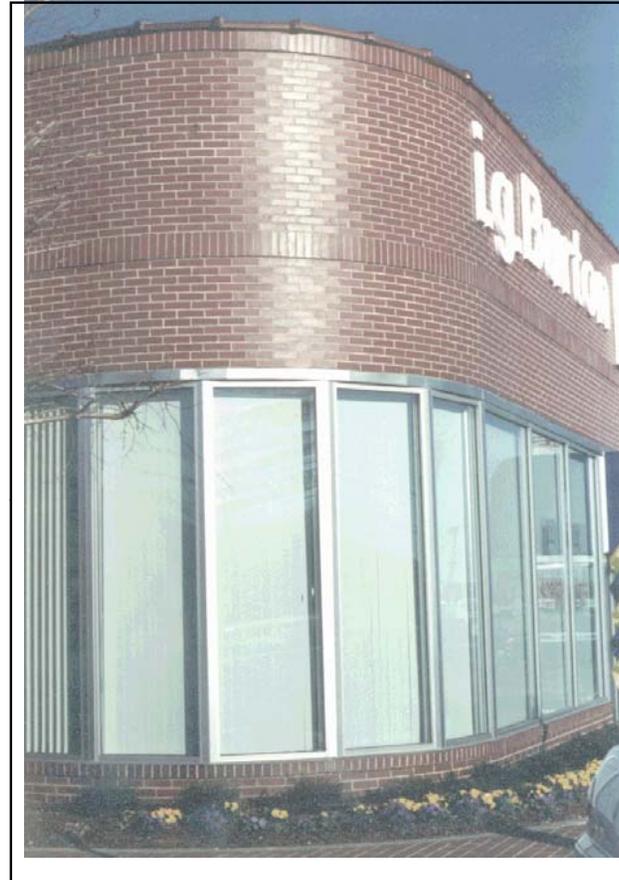
Milford, DE

Longitude: _____ Latitude: _____

Date Built: **1946**

Architect/Firm:

Description:



Art Deco Features Rating: Circle (1 being none)

1. Ornate entranceway in the Art Deco Style?
1 2 3
2. Type set for engravings in Art Deco Font?
1 2 3
3. Steel windows?
1 2 3
4. Exterior of tan or light colored brick or stucco?
1 2 3
5. Evidence of "Speed Stripes"
1 2 3
6. Geometric designs in ornamentation?
1 2 3
7. Rectilinear motif on building façade?
1 2 3

Original Purpose of Structure:

Chevrolet Auto Dealership

History of Structure:

Follow-up Contact: **I.G Burton SR.**

DecoMan

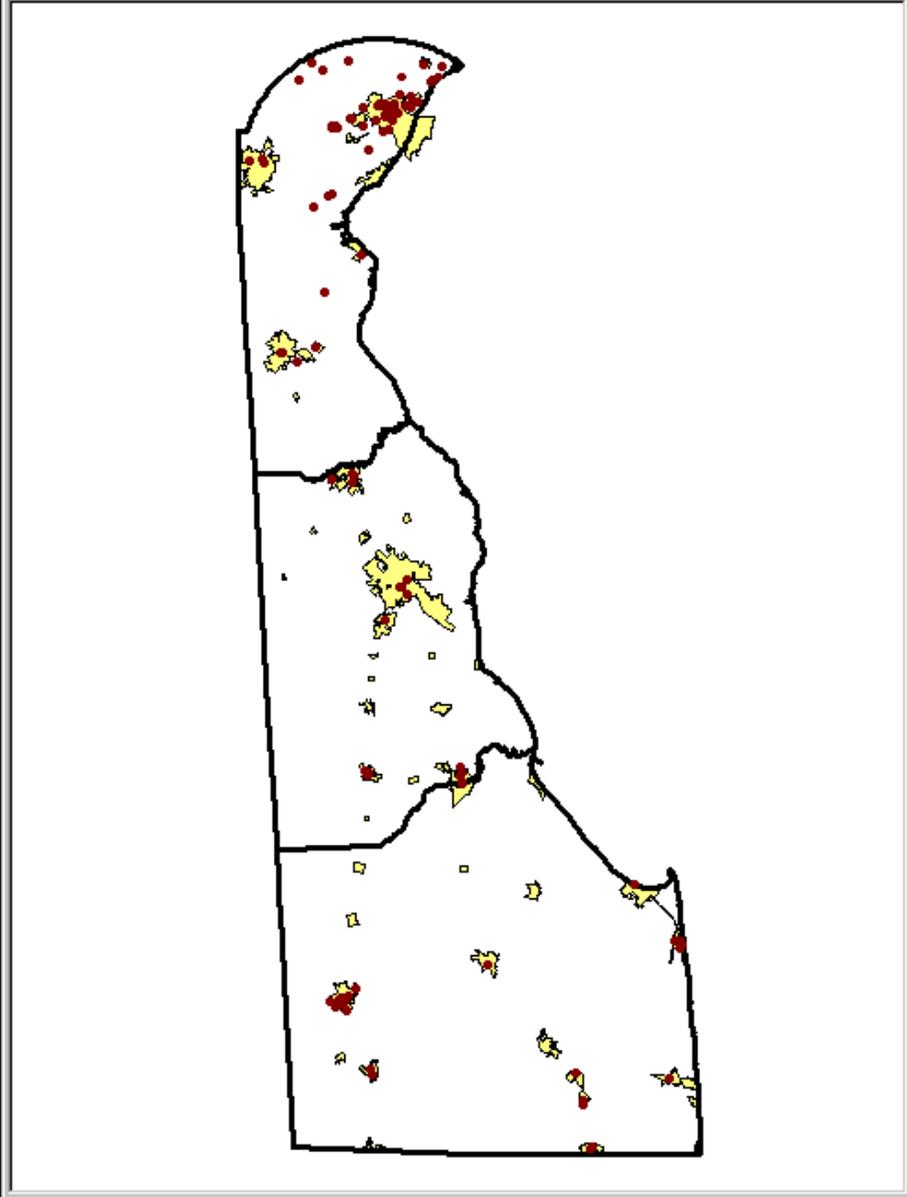
ID	Name	Class	Address	Longitude	Latitude	Photo	Year	CurrentUse	Contact
72	Yorklyn Elementary	2	Upper Snuff Mill Rd.	-75:40:14.7805	39:48:38.3215	D:\Geography\Delav	1932	Center for Creative	Rebecca 239-2
73	Red Clay Creek Brid	10	Rt. 82	-75:39:09.1144	39:48:03.4317	D:\Geography\Delav	1930	Bridge	DelDOT
74	Christina Landing M	11	Fort Chritina Park	-75:32:18.9781	39:44:11.7686	D:\Geography\Delav	1938	Park, monument	Parks Dept.
75	Wilmington Hospital	1	Washington St.	-75:32:58.2407	39:45:05.9520	D:\Geography\Delav	1940	Hospital	Front office
76	Streamline House	4	2117 Meadow Lane	-75:29:17.7879	39:48:30.6336	D:\Geography\Delav	1947	Home	Beverly Barnet
77	Esso Gas Station	6	1215 Philadelphia Pl	-75:28:29.8144	39:47:17.0667	D:\Geography\Delav	1946	Flower Shoplandsc	Talked with ow
78	Gas Station	6	708 Philadelphia Pike	-75:28:44.4709	39:47:01.9297	D:\Geography\Delav	1947	Gas Station	Indian owner
79	House	4	909 Euclid Ave.	-75:29:59.1799	39:45:37.9299	D:\Geography\Delav	1948	Vacant home	Chet Rice 529-
8	Shaughny Insuranc	8	15 Commerce St.	-75:34:41.7272	38:55:25.7787	D:\Geography\Delav	1933	Vacant, for sale.	Marvel Agency
80	Georgetown Armory	1	West Pine Street	-75:23:10.3137	38:41:15.7157	D:\Geography\Delav	1940	Armory	City of Georget
81	House	4	198 Brandywine Blv	-75:30:29.5825	39:45:33.7571	D:\Geography\Delav	1948	Home	County Record
82	Conrail Bridge	10	Bus. Rt. 13 S. of Wil	-75:32:44.7594	39:43:33.5242	D:\Geography\Delav	1942	Bridge	DelDOT
83	Church St. Bridge	10	Church St. N. of Wil	-75:32:14.4300	39:44:35.6201	D:\Geography\Delav	1932	Bridge	DelDOT
84	Amoco Station	6	7901 Gov. Printz Blv	-75:27:56.9562	39:47:27.4914	D:\Geography\Delav	1950	B&D Automotive	Dave 798-1993
85	Brookview Apartme	3	Brookview, Claymor	-75:27:41.2828	39:48:22.5829	D:\Geography\Delav	1951	Apartments	Brookview Apt
86	Waterway	10	Rt. 2, just North of V	-75:36:16.2821	39:44:18.9567	D:\Geography\Delav	1939	Bridge	DelDOT
87	Little Mill Creek Brid	10	Rt. 2, north of VA H	-75:36:25.7956	39:44:18.9411	D:\Geography\Delav	1939	Bridge	DelDOT
88	Gulf Station	6	915 Maryland Ave.	-75:34:03.0581	39:44:14.6422	D:\Geography\Delav	1951	Auto Repair	Talked to owne
89	School?	2	1600 Jessup St.	-75:32:19.8492	39:44:54.5308	D:\Geography\Delav	1949	Delaware Adult Prog	Dr. Debra Bail
9	Harrington Service	6	8 Clark St.	-75:34:36.5882	38:55:24.7233	D:\Geography\Delav	1937	Auto Repair	Terry Stewart
90	Brandywine Creek E	10	Jessup St.	-75:32:22.5785	39:44:54.0889	D:\Geography\Delav	1925	Bridge	DelDOT
91	Modern House	4	710 W. Matson Rd	-75:31:39.6441	39:46:11.3027	D:\Geography\Delav	1956	Home	Spoke with ow
92	Modern House	4	704 W. Matson Run	-75:31:39.6391	39:46:08.1596	D:\Geography\Delav	1954	Private Home	Spoke with Yv
93	Frank Llyod House	4	619 Shipley Rd.	-75:31:27.2110	39:47:31.7233	D:\Geography\Delav	1956	Private Home	Dorothy Spenc
94	UD Prof. House	4	102 Briar Ln.	-75:46:12.1393	39:41:06.5290	D:\Geography\Delav	1946	Private Home	Prof. Nelson
95	Everett Theater	7	Main Street Middleto	-75:43:09.7363	39:26:58.9782	D:\Geography\Delav	1922	Theater/Playhouse	Ellen Combs
96	Comb's Bldg.	5	13 W. Main St.	-75:43:02.5204	39:26:59.3619	D:\Geography\Delav	1930	Sub shop	Talked to owne
97	Warehouse Bldg.	12	112 South Main St.	-75:36:15.1285	39:18:05.9128	D:\Geography\Delav	1948	ChemWorks Warehc	Jack Wilson 65
98	Mill Creek Bridge	10	Rt. 13 South Smyrne	-75:35:59.4761	39:17:49.1517	D:\Geography\Delav	1940	Bridge	DelDOT
99	Smyrna Deco House	4	Private Rd. on Lake	-75:36:18.3441	39:17:14.1977		1947	abandoned	Kent County De

Analysis

and

Preliminary

Findings

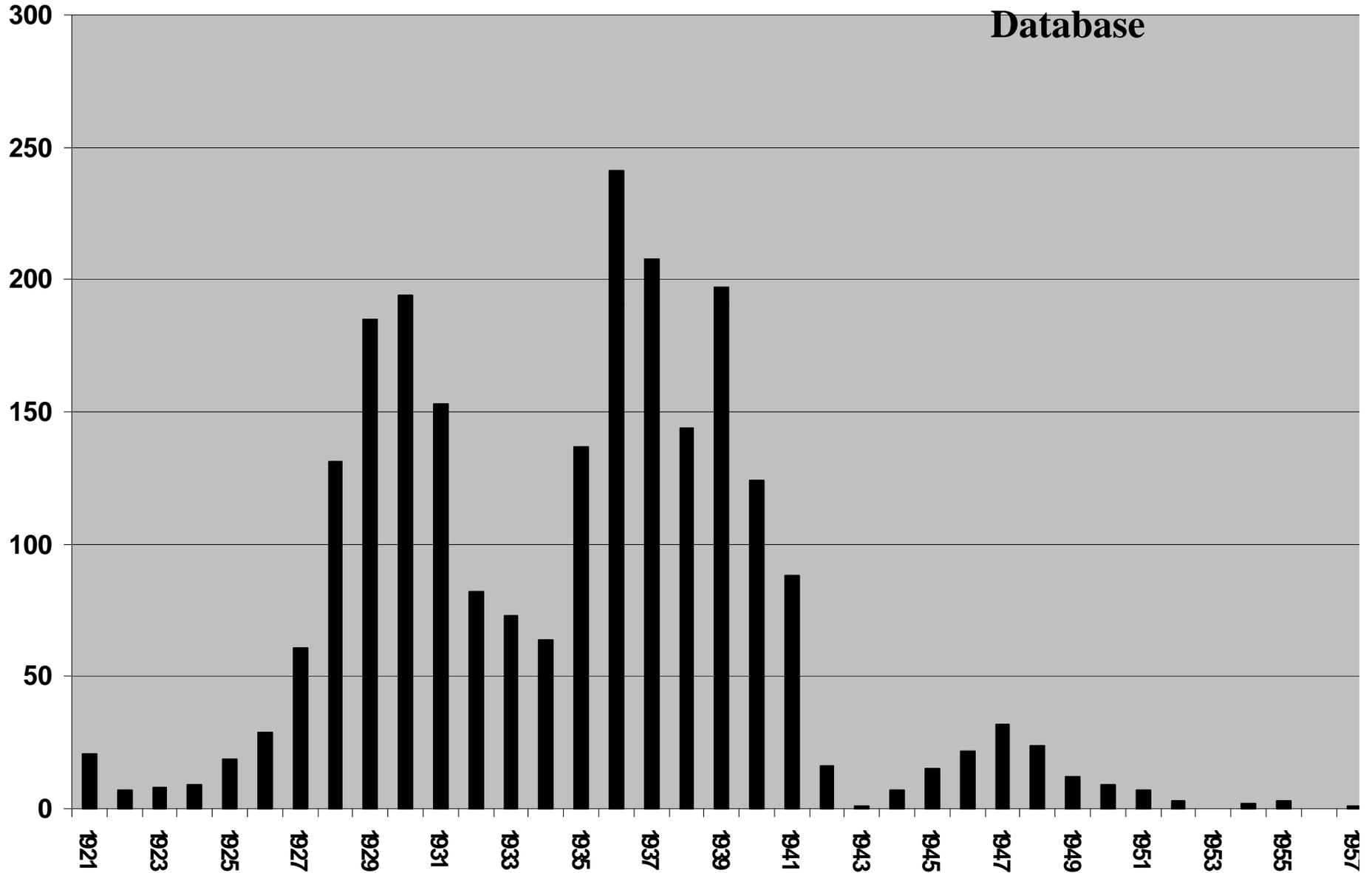


Press F1 for Help.

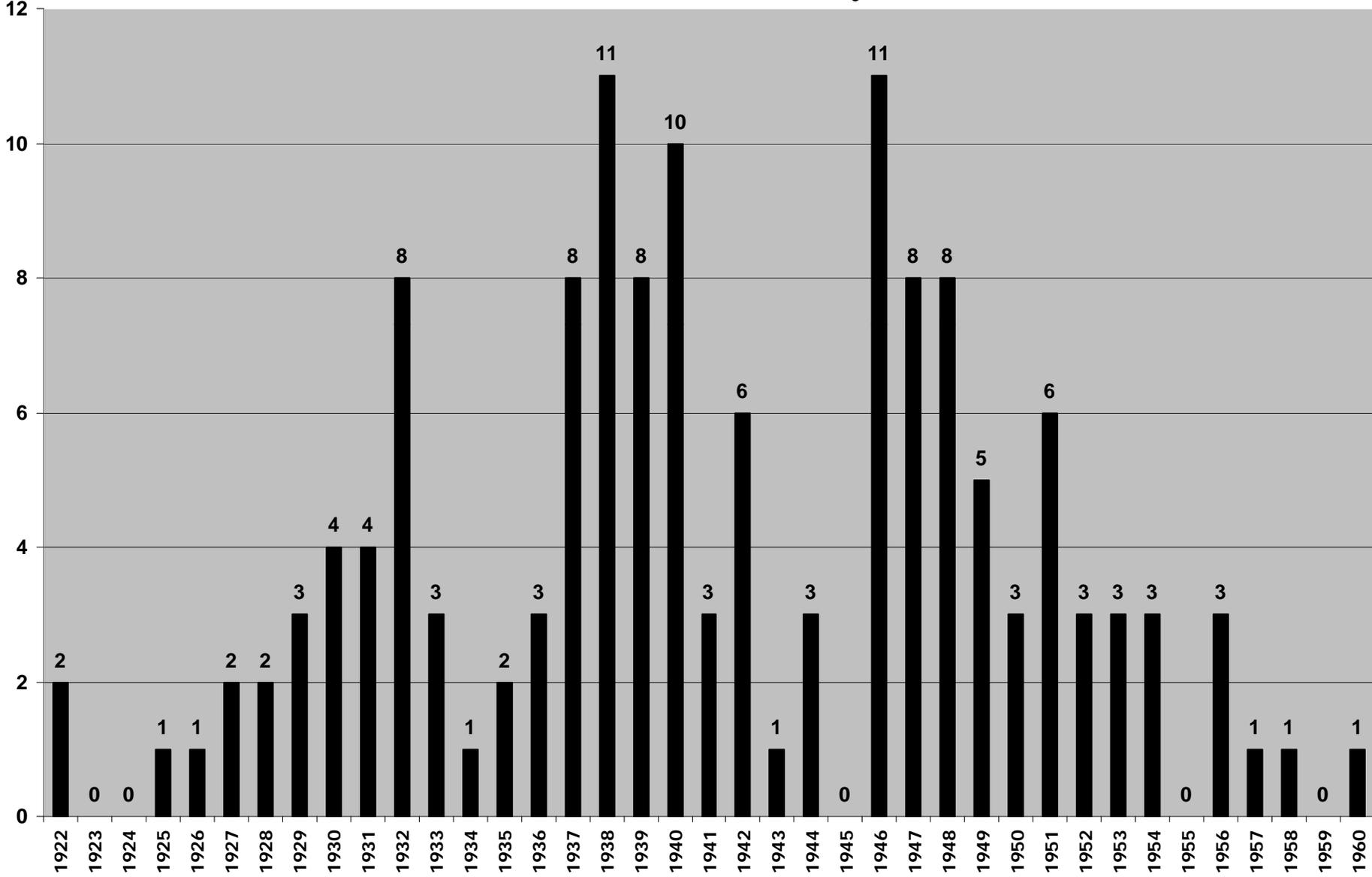
1:1,197,296

Art Deco Buildings Surveyed - By Year Built

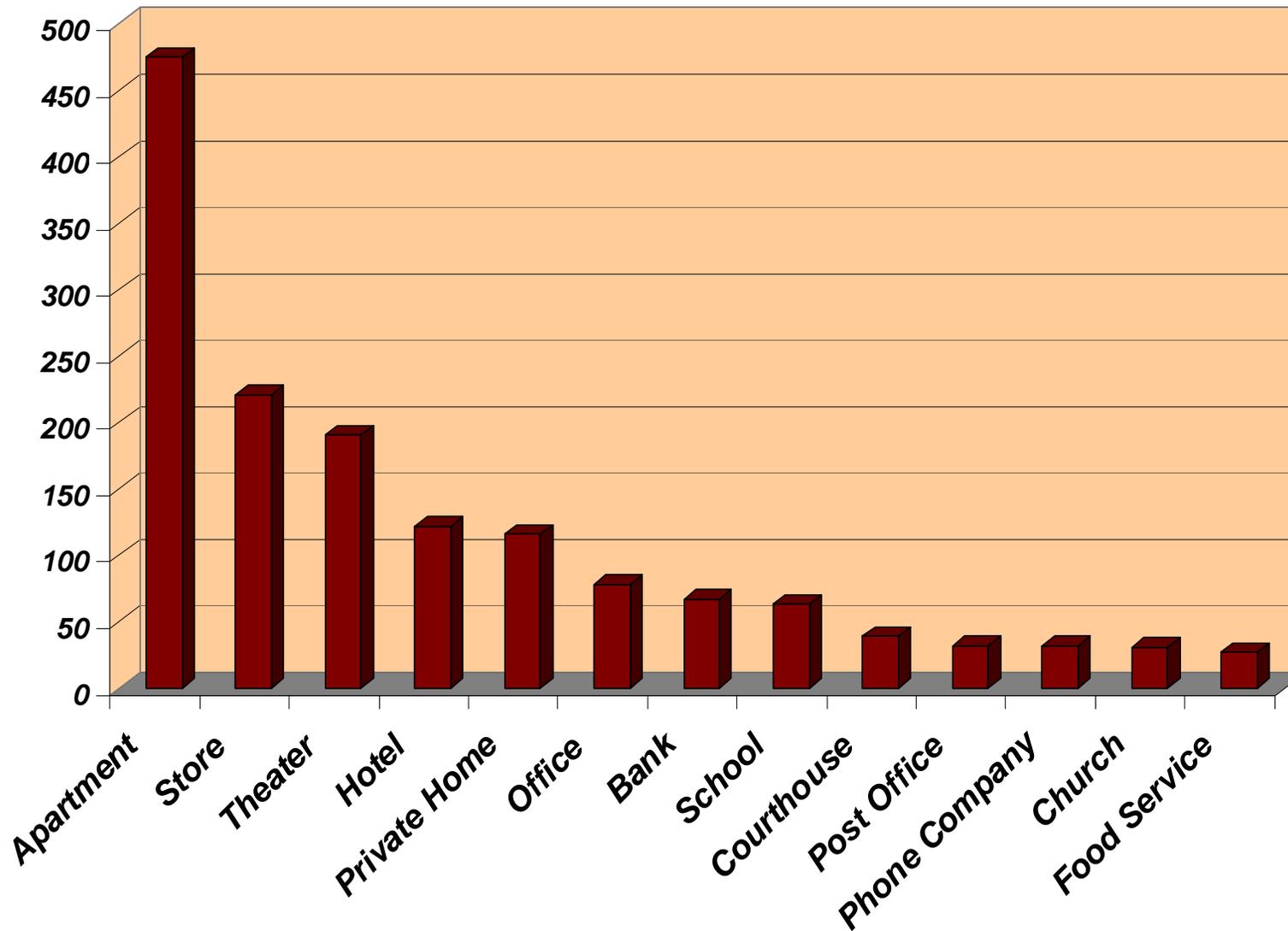
National Survey - Capitman Art Deco Database



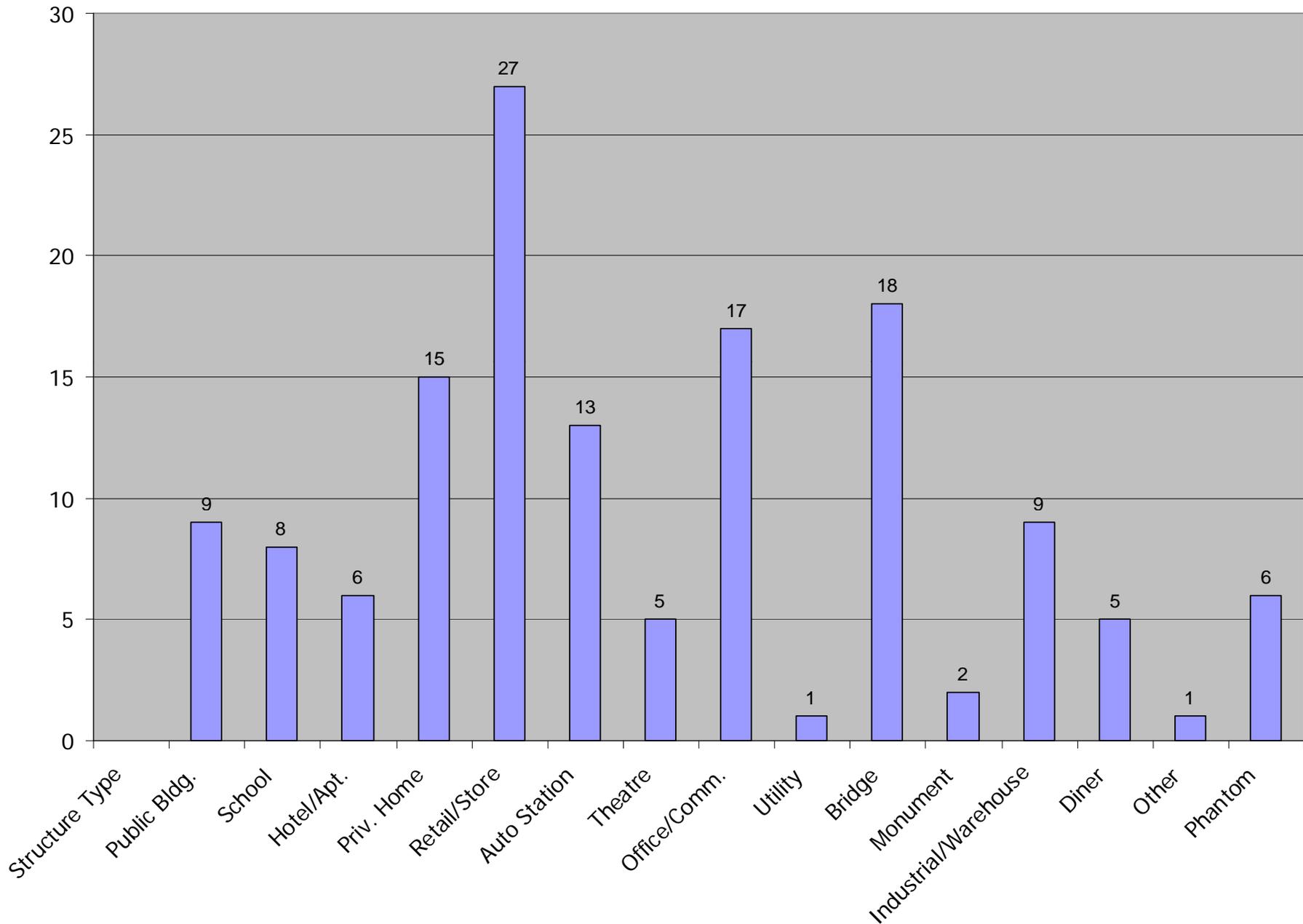
Art Deco by Year Delaware Survey

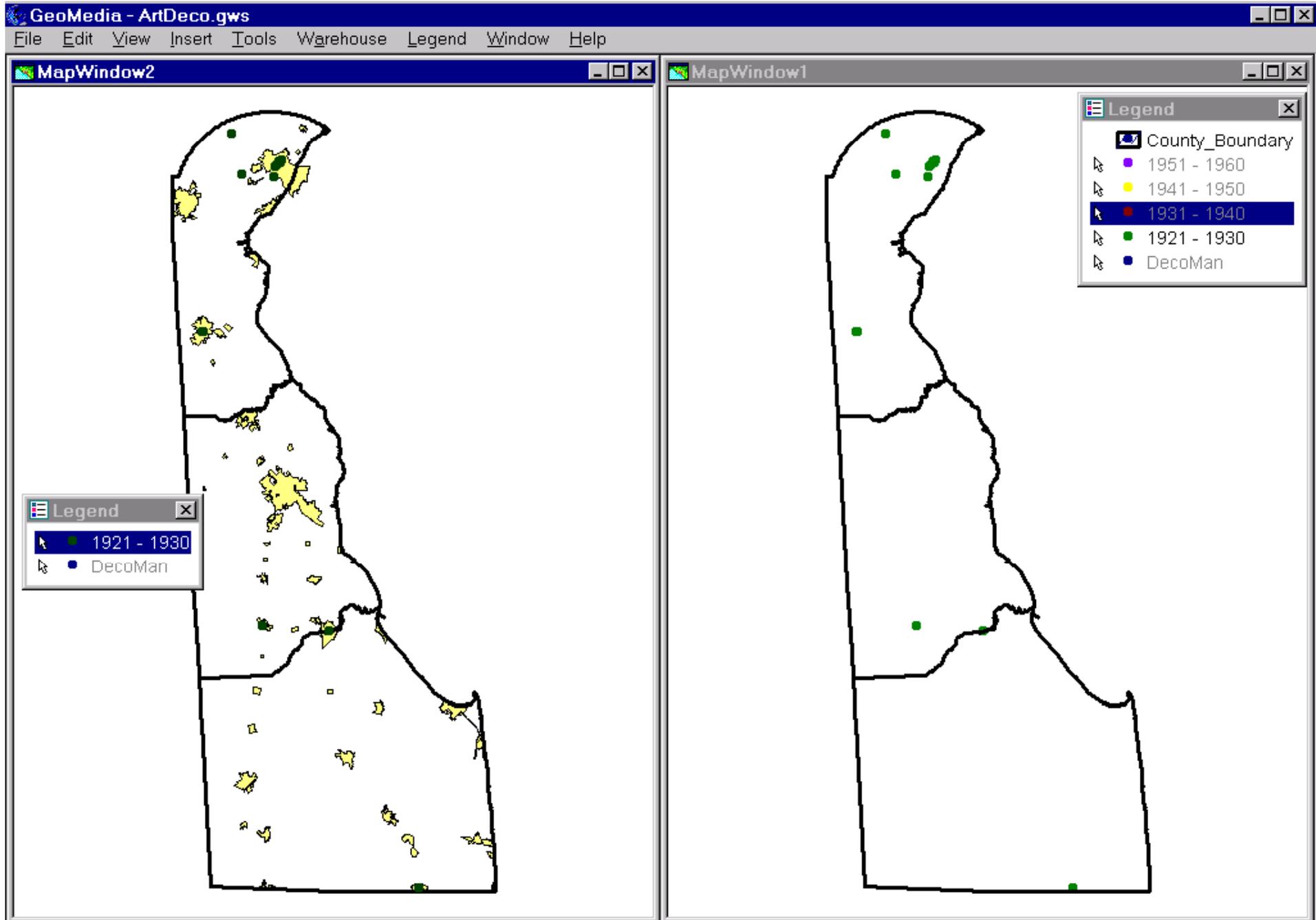


Art Deco Sites Surveyed - By Building's Original Use



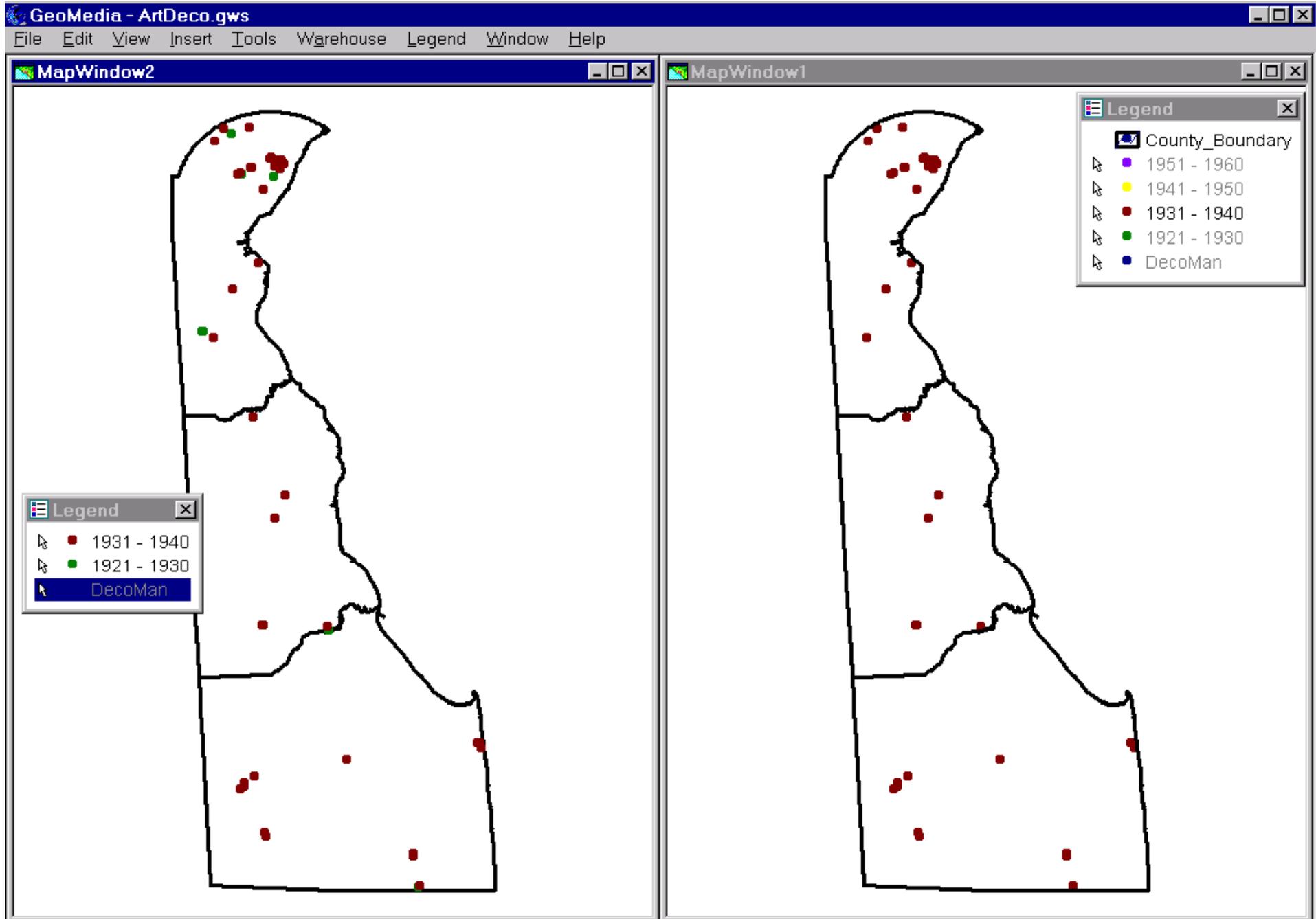
Art Deco Sites In Delaware - By Category Type





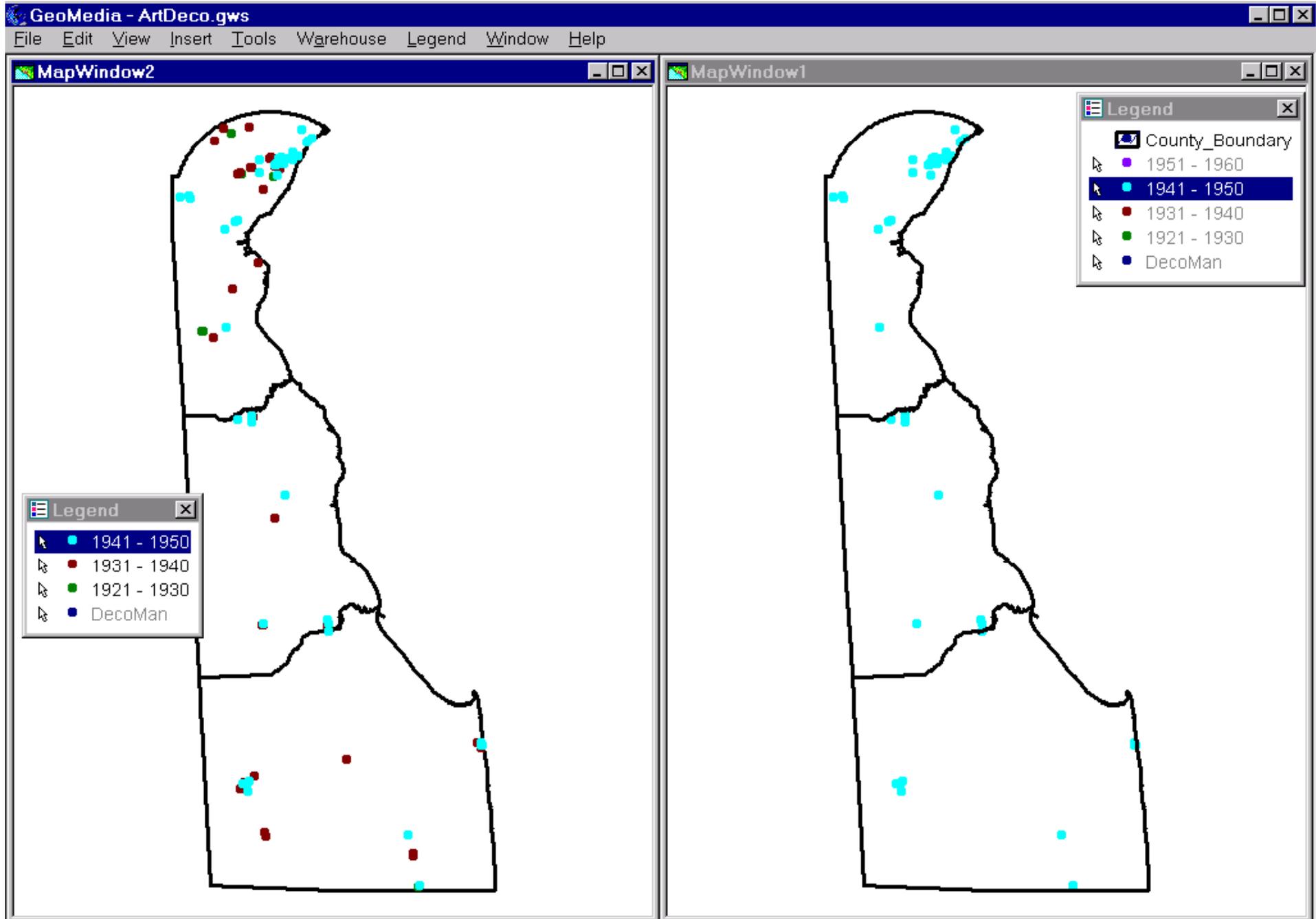
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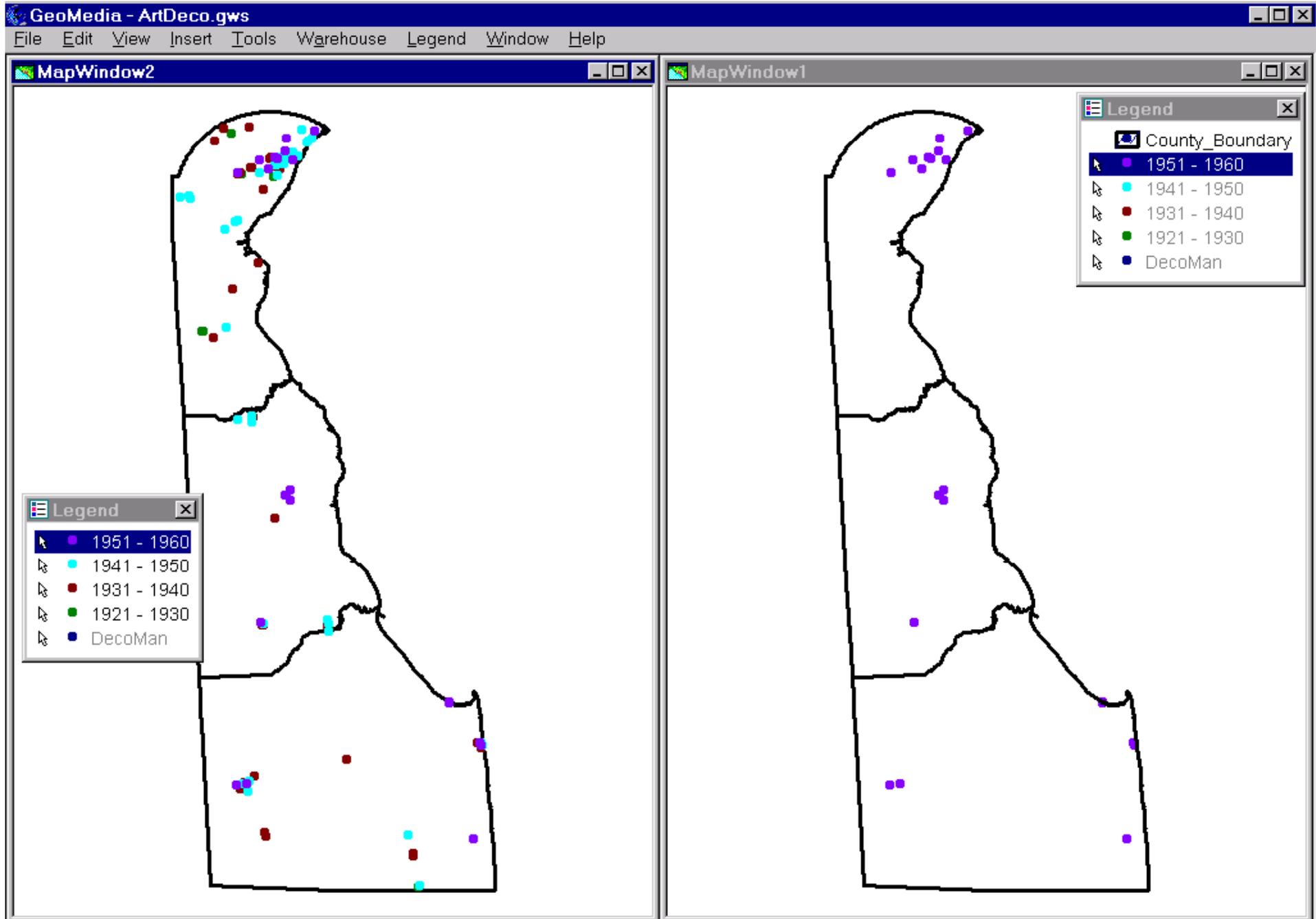
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Postscript and the Fate of Art Deco



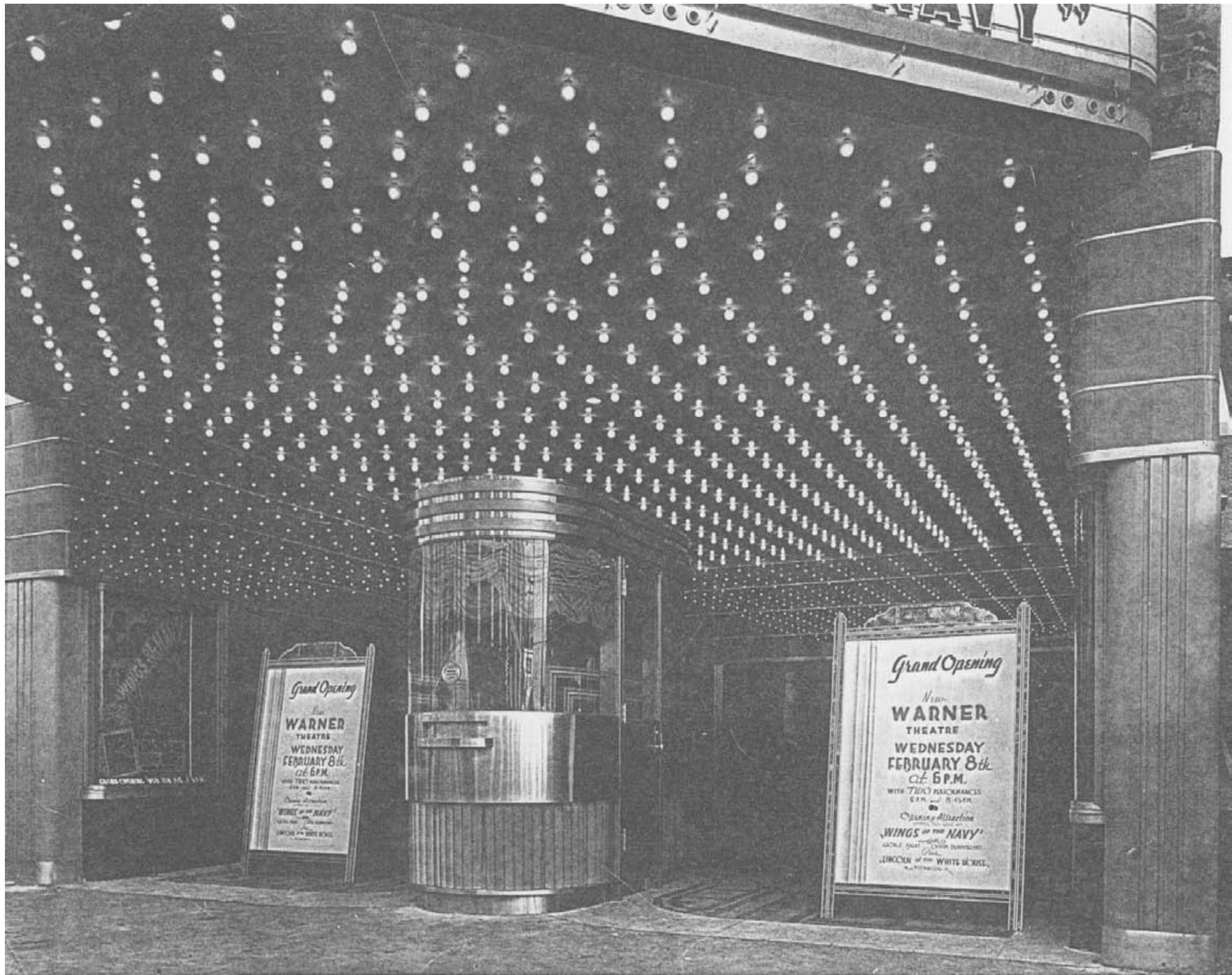
**Caesar Rodney High
School**

**Slated for demolition in
June**



**Deco Bldg. In
Wilmington
Faded Glory**







NNET

DUBON

DUBO

NET



...à l'eau
avec un peu de cassis ou un zeste de citron

DUBONNET