ARMORY ART CENTER

From the Art Deco Society of the Palm Beaches

Things to Look for In Art Deco Architecture

Eyebrows: Flat linear plane / cantilevered window shades included in the buildings structure. Eyebrows look like a "shelf" placed above a window. Eyebrows shade direct sunlight and keep interior cool.

Zig-Zag / Ziggurat or Stepped Profile Pediment: profiled like a staircase - up down, up down. Also known as "lightning bolt." Ziggurats are seen on roofline of buildings recreating **Egyptian** motifs.

Streamlined Rounded Corners: Technology allowed for construction to be built with rounded corners. In the 1930's and 1940's, the design of airplanes, ships, trains, and automobiles influenced architecture. Rounded corners made buildings appear aerodynamic, fast and sleek.

Flat Roof: Art Deco or streamline buildings usually have a flat roof or multi-level flat roofs.

Groups of Three's: In Art Deco, everything seems to come in three's. Three windows, or three bandings or three eyebrows, or three steps up, etc. this is probably due to the **Egyptia**n influence of the three-sided pyramids or just good design.

Bandings / Racing Stripes: Horizontal bandings on the facades of buildings, which can be incised or applied in decorative materials such as tile. Bandings usually come in "**3's**". This simplified ornamentation reinforces aerodynamic concepts of streamline Moderne. A great way to accent the architectural elements of an art deco building is to paint the bandings in a contrasting color.

Fluted Ribbed Columns: Many Art Deco buildings feature either whole columns, which stand away from the building or sliced columns attached to the front doorway facade acting as an archway.

Glass Block: Cool, translucent squares of glass used instead of brick: allows for light penetration. Glass block easily creates a ziggurat "step" design. Glass block has made a tremendous come-back in contemporary design.

Other Elements: Etched Glass, Relief, Porthole Windows, Ship-like qualities, Neon, Chevron, Terrazzo Flooring, Futuristic Images, Symmetrical Balance & Geometric Forms.