

SHADY BANKS

ADDRESS: 1500 SW 15TH AVENUE

FOLIO NUMBER: 0216150010
YEAR BUILT: 1977
STYLE: INTERNATIONAL
ARCHITECT: DONALD SINGER
FMSF NUMBER: BD07402

1500 SW 15 AVE is an irregular-plan two-story international-style house. It has a concrete wall surface and a multi-level flat roof. Character defining features include expansive glazing, raw concrete surfaces, horizontal railings and expanses of blank wall surface.

Significance (Explanation of Evaluation)

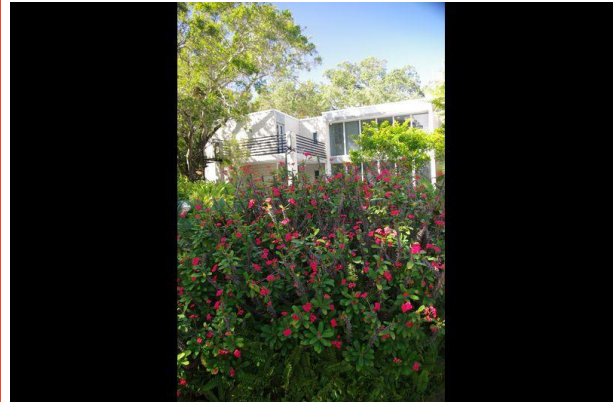
The house at 1500 SW 15th Avenue appears to meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent late example of the international style as designed by prominent Fort Lauderdale architect, Donald Singer.

The building was constructed in 1977. The original owners of the house may have been inspired by Singer’s own house, built a year earlier across the street at 1509 SW 15th Avenue. The building’s raw concrete construction is intended as a durable modern analog for traditional building stone; suitable for the wet-dry cycles of South Florida that rapidly degrades wood and steel construction. When compared to the ranch and contemporary style mid-century modern homes of Fort Lauderdale, 1500 SW 15th Ave is a rare residential example of high-style modern design.

Location Map



Reference Photo



Donald Singer, Architect¹

Donald Singer is a prolific and celebrated local architect in Fort Lauderdale. He received architecture degrees from both the University of Florida (B. Arch., 1960) and Columbia University (M.S. Arch., 1961) and became a registered architect in the State of Florida in 1962.² After years of study and thousands of miles of exploration on the American roadways, Donald Singer returned to Florida to start his architecture practice in 1962. He was particularly inspired by the organic architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, especially the use of modular concrete block construction in works like the Ennis and Storrer Houses (1923, Los Angeles). He also sought out inspiration and advice from Louis Kahn. These influences and the local climate guided Singer toward exposed concrete and concrete block construction; a modern, modular, honest, and durable substitute for traditional stone.

One of his early projects in Fort Lauderdale was the celebrated Singer Apartments, built in 1964. The stuccoed concrete building contained Singer's office and three apartments skillfully organized on a diagonal from the street grid to preserve four existing oak trees. The arrangement also provided private entries and courtyards for the apartments. The building earned Singer his first AIA Award of Excellence in 1966, and the Florida AIA Test of Time Award 25 years later. Other notable contributions to the built excellence of Fort Lauderdale include the masterful City Park Garage (1978), the Howard Brody Residence (1982), and the Fire Prevention Bureau (1983).

He has served on many local boards and committees including as president of the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Council, Chairman of Design Broward, on the board of trustees at the Museum of Art, and as a member of the Fort Lauderdale Historic Preservation Board. He has received numerous awards including local and regional AIA awards including the 1997 AIA Florida Firm of the Year Award, 1997 AIA Florida Award of Excellence in Architecture, and the 1997 AIA Florida Test of Time Award.

¹ James A. Findlay, ed. *Architecture of Donald Singer, 1964-1999*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: Bienes Center for the Literary Arts, 1999): 43.

² *Ibid.*

SHADY BANKS

ADDRESS: 1509 SW 15TH AVENUE

FOLIO NUMBER: 0216150070
YEAR BUILT: 1976
STYLE: LATE INTERNATIONAL
ARCHITECT: DONALD SINGER
FMSF NUMBER: BD07403

1509 SW 15 AVE is a rectangular-story international-style house with an integrated carport. It is raised slightly on concrete pilotis. It has a concrete wall surface and a flat roof. Character defining features include expansive glazing, deep cantilevered eaves, exposed structural framework, raw concrete columns, modular materials, and pilotis.

Significance (Explanation of Evaluation)

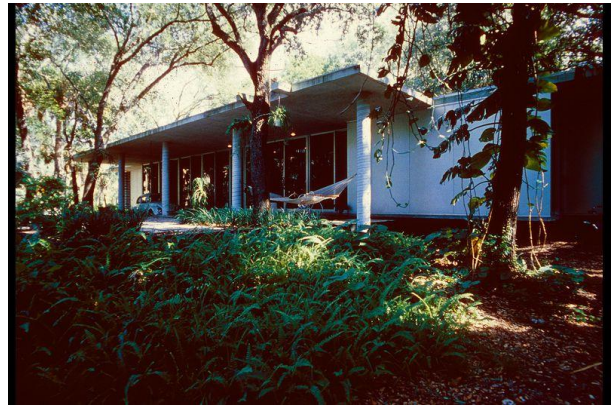
The house at 1509 SW 15th Avenue, also known as Singer House, appears to meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent late example of the international style as designed by prominent Fort Lauderdale architect, Donald Singer as his own residence.³

Architect Donald Singer constructed his home in 1976 at 1509 SW 15th Avenue. Built after Singer had been practising architecture in Fort Lauderdale for over a decade, the large house on a wild wooded lot reflects the momentum of Singer's career and looks forward to other residential commissions. The house may have inspired other nearby commissions including the building across the street at 1500 SW 15th Avenue, designed by Singer just a year later. The building's raw concrete construction is intended as a durable modern analog for traditional building stone; suitable for the wet-dry cycles of South Florida that rapidly degrades wood and steel construction. The flat roofed single-story design incorporates shading overhangs and is slightly raised on pilotis in the same modern tradition as the Farnsworth House by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. When compared to the ranch and contemporary style mid-century modern homes of Fort Lauderdale, the Singer House is a rare residential example of high-style modern design.

Location Map



Reference Photo



³ Doreen Christensen. "Garden tour features mid-century marvels by Singer and Duckham," South Florida Sun Sentinel. (February 19, 2015) Accessed April 2020. <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/features/fl-secret-garden-tour-fort-lauderdale-20150209-story.html>

Donald Singer, Architect⁴

Donald Singer is a prolific and celebrated local architect in Fort Lauderdale. He received architecture degrees from both the University of Florida (B. Arch., 1960) and Columbia University (M.S. Arch., 1961) and became a registered architect in the State of Florida in 1962.⁵ After years of study and thousands of miles of exploration on the American roadways, Donald Singer returned to Florida to start his architecture practice in 1962. He was particularly inspired by the organic architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, especially the use of modular concrete block construction in works like the Ennis and Storrer Houses (1923, Los Angeles). He also sought out inspiration and advice from Louis Kahn. These influences and the local climate guided Singer toward exposed concrete and concrete block construction; a modern, modular, honest, and durable substitute for traditional stone.

One of his early projects in Fort Lauderdale was the celebrated Singer Apartments, built in 1964. The stuccoed concrete building contained Singer's office and three apartments skillfully organized on a diagonal from the street grid to preserve four existing oak trees. The arrangement also provided private entries and courtyards for the apartments. The building earned Singer his first AIA Award of Excellence in 1966, and the Florida AIA Test of Time Award 25 years later. Other notable contributions to the built excellence of Fort Lauderdale include the masterful City Park Garage (1978), the Howard Brody Residence (1982), and the Fire Prevention Bureau (1983).

He has served on many local boards and committees including as president of the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Council, Chairman of Design Broward, on the board of trustees at the Museum of Art, and as a member of the Fort Lauderdale Historic Preservation Board. He has received numerous awards including local and regional AIA awards including the 1997 AIA Florida Firm of the Year Award, 1997 AIA Florida Award of Excellence in Architecture, and the 1997 AIA Florida Test of Time Award.

⁴ James A. Findlay, ed. *Architecture of Donald Singer, 1964-1999*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: Bienes Center for the Literary Arts, 1999): 43.

⁵ *Ibid.*

SHADY BANKS

ADDRESS: 1515 SW 15TH AVENUE

FOLIO NUMBER:	0216150051
YEAR BUILT:	1948-49
STYLE:	MID-CENTURY MODERN - CONTEMPORARY
ARCHITECT:	DAN DUCKHAM
FMSF NUMBER:	BD07404

1515 SW 15 AVE is an irregular-plan two-story contemporary-style house. It has a concrete stucco wall surface and a multi-level flat roof. Character defining features include ribbon windows, clerestory windows, stacked concrete block, and deep flat eaves.

Significance (Explanation of Evaluation)

The Allen House is significant under National Register criterion C as an excellent example of the modern contemporary style as designed by prominent Fort Lauderdale architect, Dan Duckham.

Allen House was originally constructed in 1964 for personal friends of Duckham. The Allens were an older couple with an important art collection including works by French impressionists, Mondrian, and Calder. The house is constructed on a raised concrete slab over a ventilated crawl space for humidity control necessary for housing important works of art. Significant additions were carried out by Duckham for a later owner, adding a north wing and sculpted exposed block privacy wall at the street front.

The building materials are limited to exposed concrete block, cypress and mahogany panels, and plaster/stucco. The influence of Frank Lloyd Wright’s organic architecture is evident in the stack-bond concrete blocks and geometric abstracted lampposts. When compared to the ranch and contemporary style mid-century homes of Fort Lauderdale, the Allen House is a rare residential example of high-style modern design.

Location Map



Reference Photo



Dan Duckham, Architect⁶

Dan Duckham is a celebrated local architect, formerly of Fort Lauderdale. Duckham moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1956 after receiving his B.Arch. from Miami University of Ohio. He worked for the architect Robert Hansen until 1959 when Duckham started his own practice. Duckham was inspired by Alfred Browning Parker's Pacesetter Homes in Miami, and the work of Paul Rudolph in Sarasota. However, the main source of Duckham's inspiration was the organic architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Duckham's work has ranged from residential to commercial and hospitality. By 2001, Duckham had completed seventy-seven restaurant and bar projects, while also completing over twenty residential projects. To date Duckham has completed over 500 projects. While another celebrated local architect, Donald Singer, saw concrete as the most fitting modern expression of durable building stone, Duckham's work utilizes a greater variety of materials. Duckham's design philosophy is summarized on his website as "Romantic Naturalism + Geometric Abstraction = Balance."

Duckham practiced architecture in South Florida from 1959 until 2001 when he moved his home and practice to North Carolina. Dan Duckham, along with Charles. F. McKirahan and Donald Singer, is one of the three most influential Fort Lauderdale architects of the mid-twentieth century.

⁶ Dan Duckham. "About" Dan Duckham Architect Website. Accessed June 2020. <https://www.danduckham.com/about/>

SHADY BANKS

ADDRESS: 1530 SW 15TH TERRACE

FOLIO NUMBER: 0216150070
YEAR BUILT: 1975
STYLE: LATE CONTEMPORARY
ARCHITECT: DONALD SINGER
FMSF NUMBER: BD07430

1530 SW 15th Terrace is a one-story contemporary-style house with an integrated carport. It has a flat membrane-clad roof and horizontal emphasis. Character-defining features include a stack-bond concrete block wall surface, obscured entrance, flat roofline, integrated planters, and integrated carport. Windows were not visible for evaluation, as windows on this style house are often located at the rear for optimized private views.

Significance (Explanation of Evaluation)

The house at 1530 SW 15th Terrace appears to meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent late example of the international style as designed by prominent Fort Lauderdale architect, Donald Singer.⁷

The building was constructed in 1975. The building is one of three residences designed by Donald Singer between 1975 and 1977 built in close proximity to each other. These other two houses are Singer's own residence at 1509 SW 15th Ave (1976) and 1500 SW 15th Ave (1977). The building's raw concrete block construction is intended as a durable modern analog for traditional building stone; suitable for the wet-dry cycles of South Florida that rapidly degrades wood and steel construction. The influence of Frank Lloyd Wright's organic architecture is reflected in the deliberately-exposed stacked concrete block wall surface. When compared to the ranch and other contemporary style mid-century modern homes of Fort Lauderdale, 1530 SW 15th Terrace is a rare residential example of high-style modern design.

Location Map



Reference Photo



⁷ Doreen Christensen. "Garden tour features mid-century marvels by Singer and Duckham," South Florida Sun Sentinel. (February 19, 2015) Accessed April 2020. <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/features/fl-secret-garden-tour-fort-lauderdale-20150209-story.html>

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⁸ James A. Findlay, ed. *Architecture of Donald Singer, 1964-1999*. (Fort Lauderdale, FL: Bienes Center for the Literary Arts, 1999): 43.

⁹ *Ibid.*