

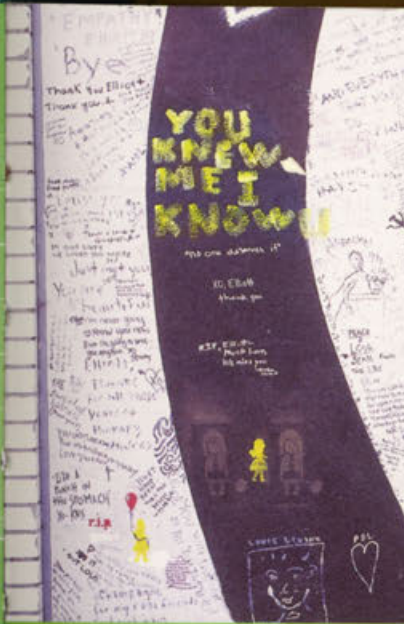
# BOHEMIAN MODERN

LIVING IN SILVER LAKE / Barbara Bestor





2



**FAR LEFT**  
The Elliot Smith memorial wall on Sunset Boulevard.

**LEFT**  
Lorcan O'Herlihy's Lexton McCarthy house.

One of the most visible results of this history is Silver Lake's wealth of modern residential architecture. The most famous local architects in the area, Rudolf Schindler and Richard Neutra, did some of their best experimental work here, but there are also fantastic houses by Craig Ellwood, John Lautner, Harwell Hamilton Harris, Gregory Ain, and Raphael Soriano. These architects, though of different generations, tend to share certain concerns: embracing new materials and colors, rethinking the uses and hierarchies of domestic spaces, and breaking down the barriers between indoors and out.

Today in Silver Lake there are several young firms, my own included, that aspire to continue in this tradition of low-key, experimental modernism. The new architects I put in this book are not doing mid-century historical revivalism, but trying out new ideas. Schindler really started the regional non-conformist modernism movement that I subscribe to. Silver Lake's architecture grew up parallel to international style modernism, but it developed without the formal orthodoxy. The bohemian strain was supported by three factors: the clients, the climate (all the sun, water, and swimming pools), and the vision of the architects themselves (many of them were European trained émigrés in the exalted company of Thomas Mann, Arnold Schoenberg, F.W. Murnau, and the like). This work is defined by informality, rawness, and a large dollop of hedonism.

The so-called bohemian modern lifestyle is illustrated here by the variety of people who live happily and comfortably in modern environments without sacrificing their individuality. The intent of this book is to capture a glimpse of the energy of the community.



**OPPOSITE**  
Maximilian's Schell, an installation at Materials and Application by Ball-Nogues (Benjamin Ball and Gaston Nogues).

**ABOVE**  
Blik Design graphics on Bestor Studio.