

Cocktails and Corbu at Mod's First House Party

Photography Tammy Martin

On a balmy Friday night, guests were invited to roam Cathy and Andrew Echols' mid-century modernist house, inside

and out, upstairs and down. And it was all for a good cause, to support the stylish new architectural group, Houston Mod, which is charged with saving important 1950s and '60s architectural icons from the wrecking ball. At Houston Mod's first sold-out House Party, guests perused copies of a May 1963 issue of *House & Garden* magazine, which had featured the sleek, modern house (called the Garner House, after its original owners) which it called "a veritable Palladian villa underneath its modern skin." Built in 1960 by Wilson, Morris, Crain & Anderson with interior design by Herbert Wells, a 2002 thoughtful and light-handed modification by architect Michael Landrum, decorator Randy Powers and landscape designer Sarah Lake preserves the integrity.

The evening may have had a heady raison d'être, but the also-heady cocktail of the night, the Prairie Fire (a shot of tequila with a dash of Tabasco) was a winner with this studious and stylish design group, such as architect Allen Bianchi, who bravely partook. Also in the crowd: Darin Brooks and Robert Reid of Brooks-Reid Studio, architectural designer Lisa Pope Westerman and husband Greg Westerman, Karen Lansing, designer Herbert Wells with Ann Farish, Michael Landrum, Randy Powers and Bill Caudell, architect Bill Stern, Lawndale Art Center's Chelby King, Philip Paratore, Jim Manning of Catered Affairs (who provided the bites for the night), Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's Margaret Skidmore and architect husband Louis, Houston Mod cofounder Michael Brichford and wife Selena, Ryland Holmes



Stephen Fox



Michael Brichford, Stuart Rosenberg
Selina Brichford



Allen Bianchi



Selena & Chris Yarbrough



Anna Mod



Michael Landrum, Philip Paratore
Sarah Lake, William Stern



Davis
Stodolle



Louis & Margaret Skidmore
Chris Skidmore, host Cathy Echols



Karen Stodolle
Chelby King



Boris Scardino, Givette Basso
Daphne Scarborough



Darin Brooks
Karen Lantz, Robert Reid



Bill
Caudell



Herbert Wells
Ann Farish



Daniel &
Selinda Hall
Andrew Farish

What is Houston Mod?

Michael Brichford, cofounder of the Houston Mod group, was motivated to start the organization because "I was frustrated in seeing so many good houses in Houston being torn down around town, and I wanted to do something. The historic registry won't protect any structure that's not 100 years old or older, so houses like this, which were built in the 1950s and 1960s, could be candidates for the demolition block." Houston Mod is dedicated to knowledge and appreciation of the cultural legacy that is modern architecture and design. Programs include lectures, exhibitions, social events and study tours. For information, call 713.630.1086 or log onto www.houstonmod.org.