



ADSW HISTORY

THE 1970'S – THE THREAT

During the 1970's in the Washington, DC area, impressive and significant Art Deco buildings began to disappear. The Trans-Lux Theatre, the Apex Theatre, and the Roger Smith Hotel were all victims of cruel demolitions.

THE 1980'S – THE FORMATION OF ADSW

Led by Richard Striner, a historian and co-author of *Washington Deco*, and inspired by Barbara Baer Capitman, the crusading defender of Miami Beach Art Deco, a small group became pioneers in preserving the area's Art Deco architectural masterpieces. The founding members of the Board of Directors incorporated the non-profit Art Deco Society of Washington in the fall of 1982. *Washington Post* articles brought in hundreds of members. We launched a newsletter, *Trans-Lux*, named after the theater that was demolished in 1975, and its distinctive prismatic mirror became the inspiration for our logo.

In 1983, we successfully confronted our first preservation emergency – the threat to Greenbelt Center School. In 1984, we launched campaigns which helped save the Washington Greyhound Terminal and the streamlined Art Deco buildings in downtown Silver Spring, including the Silver Spring Shopping Center complex and the Silver Theatre, now the east coast home of the American Film Institute.

THE PRESENT – THE PRIORITY REMAINS PRESERVATION

Then, as now, we worked with others to achieve our goals. Encouraged by our early successes, ADSW continues today with historic preservation as the core of our mission.

The scope of ADSW's programs and events has evolved over the years. Our members and friends enjoy walking tours, curated museum visits, out-of-town trips, films, concerts, cocktail parties at historic homes, and lectures from notable experts on an array of topics. We host an annual Modernism Show. Our membership has broadened to include a constellation of interests, including architecture buffs, collectors, vintage clothing enthusiasts, and those interested in period art, film, dance and music.