

Northside

Chateau-Manchester
Allegheny West-Allegheny Center

20th-century Modern
Architecture, Public Art & Design
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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Decatur Street side of Manchester Youth Development Center / Manchester Academic Charter School

Architecture



To consider a dynamic and diverse range of structures built during the second half of the 20th-century may seem unusual across historic neighborhoods so firmly associated with their earlier pasts, having undergone extensive transformation in the name of urban renewal. Yet, exploring modern designs supporting education, art making, worship, public recreation, and long-standing business brings a fresh perspective regarding the value of these purposeful sites.

Public Art



The expansive parks and public plazas throughout Pittsburgh's Northside neighborhoods serve as outdoor galleries, accessible settings to experience abstract sculptural works on an everyday basis. The outcome of commissions or invitationals during the 1960s and 1970s, vibrant painted aluminum and gleaming stainless steel contrast with and compliment adjacent austere structures of the period or the surrounding mature trees of a City park.

Design & Planning



The separate municipality of Allegheny City encompassed the vicinities on this guide and most throughout the Northside until it merged with Pittsburgh in 1907. Laid out in 1788, Allegheny hosted an architecturally rich variety of churches, stately homes, factories, social clubs, and an important civic center. Targeted redevelopment of the area in the 1960s disregarded much of this character, yet, a number of modern community projects to follow merit consideration.

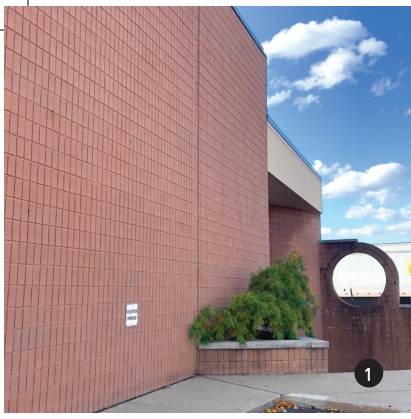
Moved or Modified



A master plan by the Pittsburgh firm Deeter Ritchey Sippel, Allegheny Center (100 S Commons and surrounding area) was designed as a pedestrian superbloc and included a shopping mall, office buildings, residential units, a bank, a heating-cooling plant, and a public square. Implemented between 1965-1973, it was the City's response to a declining historic neighborhood, and demolished layers of character in the name of modernizing. Redeveloped as NOVA Place in 2015, the original midcentury structures have been newly transformed into a multipurpose complex.



Designed in 1967 by William Breger - former employee of Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius - Allegheny Public Square was a composition of terraced concrete surfaces, a sunken plaza featuring a pool and fountain. Having fallen into disrepair, in 2007 it was filled in and replaced with the current Buhl Community Park.



1 Manchester Bidwell Corporation
Tasso Katselas (Pittsburgh), 1986
1815 Metropolitan Street

2 Commercial/Industrial/Multi-tenant
1964
1301 Beaver Avenue

3 Manchester Elementary School
Lawrence and Anthony Wolfe (Pittsburgh), 1965
1612 Manhattan Street

4 Fulton Commons, former Saint Joseph School
1946
1546 Fulton Street

5 Manchester Academic Charter School
Warehouse Redevelopment, 1960s
Manchester Youth Development Center
Ross Bianco, Architect/RBA International (Pittsburgh), 1992
expansion
1214 Liverpool Street

6 Bidwell United Presbyterian Church
Tasso Katselas (Pittsburgh), 1977
1025 Liverpool Street

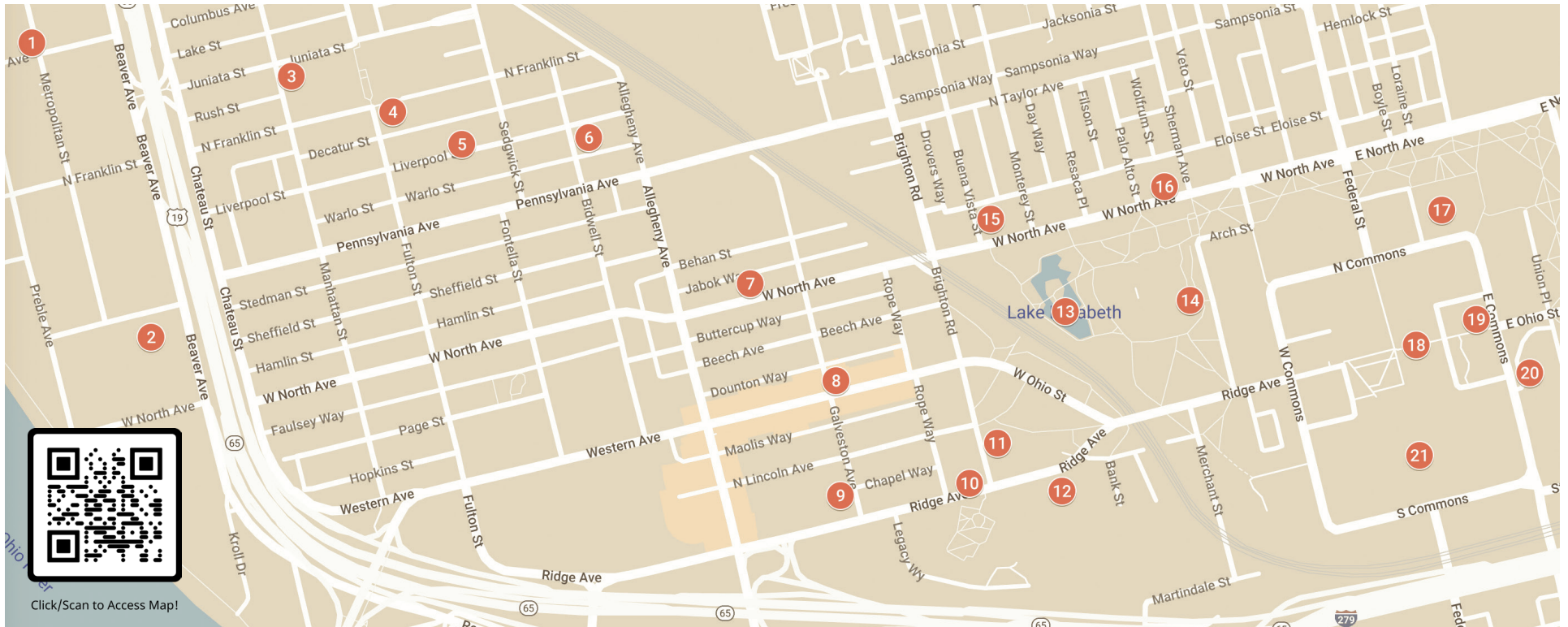
7 Office / Mixed-use
1960
922 W North Avenue

8 Modern Cafe
1933
862 Western Avenue

9 Greybar
Distributor Warehouse, 1950
900 Ridge Avenue

10 CCAC Allegheny Campus
Tasso Katselas (Pittsburgh), 1975
808 Ridge Avenue

11 Five Factors II
Peter Calaboyias (Pittsburgh), 1977
Allegheny Commons Park West, Brighton Road



12 Former Living Word Ministry/First Christian Church
1963
717 Ridge Avenue

13 Lake Elizabeth
Simonds & Simonds (Pittsburgh), 1966
Allegheny Commons along W North Avenue

14 National Aviary-Conservatory
Lawrence & Anthony Wolfe (Pittsburgh), 1952
700 Arch Street

15 Trinity Lutheran Church
1963
616 W North Avenue

16 Northside Institutional Church
James A. Mitchell (Pittsburgh), 1960
302 W North Avenue

17 Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School (King PreK-8)
Liff, Justh & Chetlin (Pittsburgh), 1973
50 Montgomery Place

18 Cubed Tension
Sylvester Damianos (Pittsburgh), 1969
Allegheny Commons

19 Four Allegheny Center / East Commons Professional Building for IBM
Bruno Conterato, Office of Mies van der Rohe (Chicago), 1976
4 Allegheny Square E

20 Allegheny Commons East
Tasso Katselas (Pittsburgh), 1973
255 E Ohio Street

