



April 6, 2023

Denver City Council
1437 Bannock Street
Room 451
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Denver City Council,

The Colorado chapter of Docomomo US, advocate for the documentation and conservation of buildings of the Modern Movement throughout Colorado, is writing in support of the landmark Application that we helped prepare with Historic Denver Inc. for the Alan Golin Gass House at 602 S Harrison Lane in Denver.

The Alan Golin Gass House is a Denver building worth protecting. Alan Golin Gass, FAIA designed the home as his personal residence and still resides there today. It is largely unchanged from its original 1961 design, which is a thoughtful, creative, refined, and unique example of the modern movement in Denver and Colorado. Like all great works of modern architecture, it is a design that is more than skin-deep – while many of Denver's homes are just a pretty façade on the street, the Gass House is a complete piece of architecture, carefully considered and finished on all sides, and meant to uplift the experience of the home's residents with an emphasis on a connection to natural light, views, the seasons, and outdoors. Understanding why a piece of modern architecture looks the way it does, goes beyond style – it concerns how a building functions, and how it lives for those that reside there.

Frequently, we hear arguments from Denverites who suggest that the only buildings worth protecting and saving are those designed and built prior to the modern movement – that those are the only buildings that make up the historic character of the Mile High City. We highly disagree. One need not look far to realize that Denver has a decades-long history as a strikingly modern city. During the time that the Alan Golin Gass House was built, Denver was being nationally recognized for its cutting-edge modern architecture – and virtually every major building being built at the time was a result of the modern movement. As it turns out, modernist works, such as the Alan Golin Gass House are a tremendous part of what makes Denver, Denver! The works of Richard Crowther, William Muchow, Eugene Sternberg, Chuck Sink, John Henderson, Joe Lort, Alan Gass and countless others who worked with them are every bit as historically significant and worth preserving as those earlier works by Frank E. Edbrooke, Fisher & Fisher, and Burnham Hoyt.

Docomomo US/Colorado, in collaboration with Historic Denver, proposed and assembled this application on behalf of Mr. Gass because we believe that Alan was a profound contributor to the modern architecture of Denver, that his home is an excellent example of his architectural work, and that landmarking his home both honors Alan and preserves one of his important contributions to the modern movement in Denver. We ask for your vote of support in approving this owner-supported landmark application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Atom Stevens".

Atom Stevens
Board Secretary
Docomomo US/Colorado