



March 25, 2019

City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Re: 1900 Airole Way

Dear Commissioners,

Mid Tex Mod, the leading voice for the preservation of mid-century architecture and design in our region, respectfully supports revisions to the proposed rehabilitation of 1900 Airole Way, now under your review. We are thrilled that the current owner plans to rehabilitate the property and ensure its viability for future generations, and support remodeling the house to accommodate the owner's needs. We hope that this can be accomplished in a way that does not damage the home's historic integrity, however, and that does not render it ineligible as a future historic landmark. Specifically:

- Mid Tex Mod fully agrees with the HLC staff's recommendation that the applicant eliminate stucco from the proposal and utilize use historically-accurate and appropriate materials instead. A.D. Stenger was known for his use of local, often site-collected materials, such as wood and stone. Stucco should not be added to this house.
- The existing concrete block screens should be retained and repaired. If they must be replaced due to deterioration, any new screen should match the existing in both material and design.
- The clerestory windows in the pop-up roof are a character-defining feature and the pattern of the new fenestration should match the existing.

The above recommendations are in keeping with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Proposed changes to the rear façade are more drastic than we would like to see, but Mid Tex Mod does not feel that these would impact future landmark status provided that the front façade is sensitively rehabilitated.

Mid Tex Mod believes that 1900 Airole Way is individually significant as an extremely intact and exuberant example of A.D. Stenger's design philosophy. It is located within the A.D. Stenger addition - a small but remarkably intact collection of A.D. Stenger homes within the Barton Hills neighborhood where Stenger began his career -- which would certainly qualify has a local historic district. Mid Tex Mod featured homes on this street as part of our 2015 Docomomo US Tour Day event on Stenger's work, and we have advocated to save nearby Stengers threatened with demolition or insensitive alterations.

We ask that the Historic Landmark Commission work with the property owner and their architect to ensure that 1900 Airole Way retains its high degree of integrity. If this cannot be achieved, we support

initiation of historic zoning on 1900 Airole Way and/or the A.D. Stenger subdivision. Historic preservation at the local level involves a careful balance of community values and private property rights, of which we are highly respectful. This A.D. Stenger neighborhood is worth it.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at midtexasmod@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'L' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

Lindsey Derrington, Board President
Mid Tex Mod