

AIA Houston

# Architectural Guide

Third Edition

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# Houston



**M-14** Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church



**M-15** Time Warner Building



**M-16** Texas Steel Processing Building



**M-17** Katherine Smith Elementary School



**M-18** Oak Forest Branch, Houston Public Library

**M-14**  
**Our Lady of Lourdes  
 Catholic Church**

6550 Fairbanks–North Houston Road  
 2010, Jackson & Ryan Architects

This triple-towered brick church, built for a Vietnamese parish, comes as a complete surprise amid the array of commercial buildings lining the Northwest Freeway. Material thinness and squat proportions don't support the architecture's Romanesque aspirations, however. Across the south parking lot from the church is the outdoor shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, which contains life-sized sculptural depictions of the Stations of the Cross.

**M-15**  
**Time Warner Building**

[now Comcast]  
 8400 W. Tidwell Road  
 2003, Archimage

Archimage's Richard Buday emphasized the horizontal in detailing the granite and glass curtain wall of this 4-story corporate office building. Faceted bays project the horizontal lines volumetrically. Archimage also designed the corporation's supporting service buildings along W. Tidwell.

**M-16**  
**Texas Steel Processing Building**

5480 Windfern Street  
 2009, Powers Brown Architecture

Located on a 10-acre tract in the Fairbanks Industrial Park, this combination office building and industrial workshop faces Carverdale, a subdivision of single-family houses, in a juxtaposition of land uses typical of unzoned Houston. PowersBrown mitigated the potential for incompatibility (and advertised their client's specialty) with their use of laser cut sheets of weathered steel as sunscreens on the building's 1-story west elevation, which overlooks a moat-like retention basin. The glazed second story is recessed behind the projecting first story.

**M-17**  
**Katherine Smith  
 Elementary School**

4802 Chrystell Lane  
 2010, Brave/Architecture

Fernando Brave added this low-key, planar, brick and stucco addition to an existing 1950s-era Houston Independent School District school complex immersed in temporary classroom buildings.

**M-18**  
**Oak Forest Branch,  
 Houston Public Library**

1349 West 43rd Avenue  
 1960, Golemon & Rolfe  
 2011, James Ray, Natalye Appel  
 & Associates Architects, and  
 ArchitectWorks

This is an extraordinarily refined and respectful expansion of Golemon & Rolfe's 1-story original, which faces West 43rd. The architects took advantage of the library's awkward site within a neighborhood shopping center to open the 2-story west addition to a park-like planted lawn on Oak Forest Drive.

**M-19**  
**Oak Forest Park Pool House**

2100 Judiway Drive  
 2002, Bricker + Cannady

The pool house is a gateway structure, which the designer, Mark Wamble, emphasized with counterposed roofs above the central entrance; their profile reiterated



**M-19** Oak Forest Park Pool House

above the enclosed portions of the building. The yellow-green brick exterior facing intensifies the light and color perceptions of the park's lawn on a hot summer day.

**M-20**  
**Revere Quality House  
 Institute House of  
 Expanding Rooms**

1101 Wakefield Drive  
 1948, MacKie & Kamrath

Frank W. Sharp developed the Oak Forest subdivision in 1946–1948. At 1,100 acres, it was the largest subdivision in the U.S. until surpassed by Levittown on Long Island. Sharp teamed up with Revere Copper & Brass to build this 1-story, 1,060-SF demonstration house, one of a series of demonstration houses that Revere built throughout the U.S., all designed by modern architects. MacKie & Kamrath used accordion-fold screens to create the “expanding rooms” concept within the compact house, which is not quite as pristine as it was when new.



**M-20** Revere Quality House Institute House of Expanding Rooms