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THE PRESERVATION POST

BY ANGELA NEWMAN

FRIST ART MUSEUM IN NASHVILLE



photo credit: Frist Art Museum website

Standing proudly and prominently on Broadway in downtown Nashville is the Frist Art Museum. A popular place for all to visit and experience the love of art and the changing of exhibitions throughout the year.

This building definitely had good bones and beautiful architecture when it was built in 1933-34 as a United States Post Office. It had two very distinctive styles of that period; classicism and art deco. The exterior facade with its white Georgia marble and the interior with its cast aluminum doors and grillwork.

In 1984, it was officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Then in 1986, the post office moved closer to the Nashville airport and this location was no longer needed. Years passed and then a brilliant partnership formed between the Nashville government and Dr. Thomas Frist and the Frist Foundation to form The Visual Arts Center.

The City purchased the building and the museum leases it. The Frist Foundation and Tuck-Hinton Architects of Nashville oversaw the preservation work of the beautiful architectural details and the re-commissioning for use as a public art center. Some of the work completed was removing the pine floors, refinishing them and then reinstalling.

It opened to the public in April of 2001 and was welcomed with open arms. In 2018, the name was changed to 'Frist Art Museum'. It's a gorgeous building and worth admiring its preservation efforts. You can take a FREE architectural tour on Saturdays from 3:30-4:30pm. Just meet in the Grand Lobby and learn all about its history.

They also have a nice gift shop, kids art center, various art exhibits, areas for a snack and seating including special events. Be sure to check out their website at www.fristartmuseum.org for more information.

They are open Thursdays through Mondays.

ARCHITECTURE ARCHIVES

Art Deco Design



Art Deco is derived from a French term, *Arts Decoratifs*, based on an exhibit in Paris in 1925.

The design was popular from 1919-1939. Some of the character defining features are geometric influences, sunburst design, sharp angles and edges, symmetrical, striking colors, metals, sleek, and streamlined.



Angela Newman

Angela is a Realtor® passionate about historic preservation, communities and small business. She holds an MBA and is an avid and enthusiastic student of historic architecture and preservation.

Her desire to bring awareness to and advocate for old homes is what inspired her to create, 'Historic District Walking Tours' and social media platforms to promote her community.

“The primary purpose of the Museum is to help people enjoy, understand, and use the visual arts of our time.”
Alfred H. Barr, Jr.

Alfred Hamilton Barr Jr. was an American art historian and the first director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.