Mid-Century Modern "Craig Woods"

(1950's) California ranch-style house, is a domestic architectural style originating in the United States and extremely popular amongst the booming post-war middle class of the 1940s to 1970s. In North America, the suburban population exploded during the post-World War II economic expansion. In answer to this demand, the Atomic Neighborhood was introduced. In 1953, Burton W. Duenke, a known developer, introduced such a mid-century modern neighborhood to the city of Kirkwood. Craig Woods was carved from a previously rural, sloping, heavily wooded tract of land into a multiple-home development.

Duenke believed that a house should fit the land, thus the "Craig Woods style" consists of one, two and three (or split) levels, depending on the topography of a particular home site. Most of the homes were framed with California Redwood exteriors, while some were done in brick. Some have basements, while others are concrete slabs on grade. There is also an emphasis on indoor-outdoor living through the use of large glass panes, patios, and screening fences. As many trees as possible were maintained.

GENERAL PROPORTIONS
One level - designed for sites that slope down from the street, with a walk-out basement in the rear
Two levels - designed for sites that slope up from the street, with grade access from both levels

Architectural Styles found in Kirkwood

Three, (or split) levels - Duenke Burton Split-level uses a 2/3-1/3 separation between entry level, upper level and lower level (eight steps up, four steps down, with the narrow facade of structure facing the street). This style was designed for the steeper sloped sites in the subdivision

SPATIAL DESIGNATION & FLOOR PLAN
Asymmetrical rectangular or H-shaped design
Second level projection
Simple, open floor plans that maximize views and privacy
Carports - placement off either the entry level, the lower level, or in an adjoining rectangular arrangement

ROOF TYPES & FEATURES
Long, low gabled roofline
Conventional framing, no attics
Flat roofs
Large overhanging eaves

CHIMNEY PLACEMENT
Generally exterior ally placed
Fieldstone or brick

FENESTRATION
Sliding glass doors opening onto a patio
Large single pane windows

ENTRANCE ATTRIBUTES
Non-descript, almost hidden

STRUCTURAL & FACEWORK MATERIALS
Exteriors of redwood and/or brick
(Burton Duenke designed prefab standard 6'-4" wood and glass panels)
Post and beam structural framing
Simple and/or rustic interior and exterior trim, minimal use of exterior and interior decoration

COLOR
Natural material colors
Natural, neutral paint/stain colors