



## BUTLER HOUSE, 1937

Des Moines, Iowa, USA

## EARL BUTLER & GEORGE KRAETSCH

Described by an American magazine in 1937 as “the world’s most modern house,” this house was commissioned by engineer Earl Butler, who wanted a space for entertaining. The twenty-eight-room home was a superb example of the Streamline Moderne style of the 1930s, a later version of Art Deco. Built of reinforced concrete, with metal-framed windows, it excelled in its use of technology, featuring air-conditioning, garbage disposal, electric garage doors, an intercom system, and dishwashers. In the dining room, lighting could be adjusted to accent the attire of guests. A Corbusian ramp was used for internal circulation, rather than a staircase, and there was a secret passageway to the wine cellar. Following remodeling work by ASK Studio, the Butler House has been adapted for use as offices and has had a courtyard and auditorium added.