

James Bertram "Bert" King (1924–2012) was one of Asheville's most influential architects, particularly known for pioneering mid-century modern design in the region.## Bert King: Asheville's Mid-Century Modern Architect

James Bertram "Bert" King (1924–2012) is widely regarded as Asheville's most prolific and celebrated architect of the mid-century modern era, shaping the visual character of the region for over four decades.

Early Life & Education
Born in Greenville, South Carolina, King grew up in Asheville and first discovered architecture through a drafting course at Lee Edwards High School (now Asheville High). He served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps during World War II, flying a C-47 over the Battle of the Bulge and earning a medal for his service. After the war, he earned a degree in Architectural Engineering with honors from the NC State University School of Design in 1949.

Career
King began his career working under noted architect Henry Gaines before joining the firms Six Associates and Lindsey Gudger. In 1952, he founded his own practice, J. Bertram King Associates, which he led until his retirement in 1994.

Notable Work
King's residential designs favored wood, stone, and expansive windows that "brought the outside in," framing the mountain views around Asheville. Beyond homes, his portfolio includes prominent civic and religious buildings such as:

- First Citizens Bank, Asheville
- Clyde Savings Bank, Asheville
- Pack Memorial Library, Asheville
- Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church and College Chapel (Swannanoa) — honored with a 1968 award from the NC Institute of Architects

Legacy
King received the Fellow Award from the American Institute of Architects. His mid-century homes, found throughout neighborhoods like Grove Park and Lakeview Park, remain highly sought-after in Asheville's real estate market today, with a devoted following among mid-century modern enthusiasts.