

FLORIDA BUILDINGS I LOVE



Victor Lundy, the architect of the Warm Mineral Springs Motel explains the thinking behind the designs: “I was searching for a form that would somehow symbolize the thought of the Fountain of Youth by a flowing shape, that would also echo the organic growing shape of a tree,” COURTESY PHOTOS/JIFAT WINDMILLER, AIA

No. 81: Warm Mineral Springs Motel, 1958, Sarasota County

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Sarasota Herald-Tribune | USA TODAY NETWORK

Sam Herron believed in the power of good design. The owner of Warm Mineral Springs, he hired Victor Lundy to design his curvy, wing-shaped house in Venice (Florida Buildings I Love, No. 50), as well as a motel for the new community between Venice and North Port.

The building has been a landmark ever since — not the most majestic of Florida's special buildings, but one of the most memorable.

The hyperbolic paraboloid roof structures stand out, and speak to the artistic Lundy's preference for curvature in his architecture at that time.

For 60 years, the motel has served tourists who visit the nearby spring. The 200-foot-deep pond has a nearly constant water temperature of 87 degrees, and Eastern Europeans love it for what they say are the health benefits of swimming, or just floating, in it.

Lundy, 95, the eldest surviving mem-

ber of the “Sarasota school” group of modernist architects, only practiced here for less than a decade, running an office from 1954 to 1960. By the time he moved his office to New York, Lundy was already a local architectural legend.

In those few golden years of the 1950s, when it seemed that all the possibilities and promise of postwar architecture were displayed between the Atlantic and the Pacific, Lundy helped Sarasota gain the world's attention as a hotspot of progressive design.

He did it with such buildings as the blue-tile-roofed Sarasota Chamber of Commerce (1956, now headquarters of the Sarasota Bayfront Planning Organization), Galloway's Furniture (remodeled and unrecognizable as an eyeglasses store that is now closed), an addition to Alta Vista Elementary School, St. Paul's Lutheran Church (1959) and the restored Herron Residence (1957) in Venice.

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For 60 years, the Warm Mineral Springs Motel has served tourists who visit the nearby spring Warm Mineral Springs.



Stay vigilant with finances, credit history and your homes. DREAMSTIME/TNS

Owner

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notify you about changes to your credit history. You can also receive similar products for free from online companies that sell your data to creditors and other merchants. Your bank may also offer free credit monitoring if you use that credit card. Getting frequent notifications about your credit history is smart. But don't forget the dark web. Monitoring your email address and other personal information on the dark web is equally important for preventing cyber theft. You just need to know what's going on.

Back to real estate. Many government agencies that record or file real estate documents have a free service to alert you when any document is recorded against the title to your home. With this notification, you'd know that someone had filed something against the title to your home. You could view it and see if it was significant or not.

If you paid off your mortgage loan and the lender filed the release of the mortgage to your home, you'd know it was something good. If you saw a new mortgage filed against the home, you'd know it was something bad and would need to notify the lender that fraud had potentially occurred.

The properties most at risk these days for fraud are vacant homes and vacant property lots. With vacant properties, a bad actor can claim to be the owner and a lender might fall for the bad actor's scheme. When the appraiser goes out to see the lot or vacant home, the appraiser might be able to get the appraisal done without the real

owner knowing that anybody had been out to see the property.

We think that if you live in your home year-round, monitor your credit history regularly, freeze your credit, and sign up for any alerts that your local recording office offers you, you'll likely be protected.

Keeping a HELOC open isn't going to make a difference. Bad actors can take advantage of your current lender even if you kept a small amount in the home equity line of credit (HELOC). They could do everything they would otherwise do and simply request a payoff of the HELOC at the fraudulent loan closing. The only notice you might get is that your HELOC loan has been closed, but by that time, the bad actor will be long gone.

So will more of your home equity.

The prudent course these days is to stay vigilant with your personal finances, credit history, and your homes. Watch for any recordings or filings that may be placed on the title. Remember, in most jurisdictions you can view the documents recorded against your home online. Often easily and for free.

Try it for yourself. Take a look at the most recent document filed or recorded. If you see that it shows a mortgage or lien you don't recognize, immediately take action and start investigating.

Thanks for your question. And, make sure your passwords are safely stored and strong. They should include more than eight characters, upper and lower case letters, numbers, and punctuation of some sort. That, in and of itself, will go a long way toward protecting your personal finances and your home.

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