

Artist Lucy Williams's Remarkable Illustrations of 20th Century Modernism

5 July 2014 | By Jennifer Whelan



Howard House (detail), 2014,
Plexiglas, paper, cork, obeche strip wood and acrylic paint on board, 16 3/8 x 35 1/2 x 1 3/8 inches,
Photo courtesy of McKee Gallery.

Neither photographs nor renders, all of the images in this post are actually the intricately handcrafted creations of British artist Lucy Williams, a skilled paper-cutter with an incredible amount of patience. Luckily for us architecture fiends, the stars of Williams' mixed-media works are her 20th century modernist designs.

As a basis for her creations, Williams collects photographs of modernist buildings and their interiors. She then transforms and abstracts what she sees to create incredibly detailed three-dimension pieces, which contain everything from card to balsa wood to wool embroidery.

Just last month, the McKee Gallery hosted Williams' fourth exhibit in New York. The exhibit was an ode to London's Festival of Britain in 1951, a daring post-war attempt to boost spirits through the celebration of modernist architecture and design (among other disciplines). The bright colors and positive purpose of the festival is reflected in Williams' work within what was presented in the exhibit and beyond.