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The 23 Most Famous Art Deco Buildings Around the World

From New York's Chrysler Building to London's Claridges Hotel, these are some of the finest examples of art deco architecture worldwide.

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Impressions: 490,000



When in 1925, Paris hosted the first major world exhibition after the end of World War I, it was a symbol of hope and economic stability. The Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes occupied 57 acres in the heart of Paris and hosted a number of countries whose pavilions met the organizers' strict architecture requirements. One of them was that no design should reference any of the historical styles known at the time. The result was a new, modern movement that lacked the highly decorative nature of previous periods and instead favored a more streamlined aesthetic influenced by geometrical shapes and stylized motifs such as zigzags, sunburst, and chevron patterns. The style will later be named art deco.

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The hugely successful exhibition attracted millions of visitors from all over the world, which led to the global popularity of the art deco movement. And while France may have been its birth country, it is the United States that embraced this new aesthetic more than any other nation in the world.

Even though our country was not represented at the world exhibition in Paris, it organized its own event the following year—'A Selected Collection of Objects from the International Exposition Modern, Industrial and Decorative Arts' that toured several U.S. cities to major acclaim. Coincidentally, our nation was also in the midst of its Second Industrial Revolution so many architects were inspired by this new design trend.

As a result, art deco buildings started popping up across the U.S. as well as around the world. Here, we take a look at the most prominent examples of art deco architecture in all four corners of the globe.



Ben Hider/Getty Images

Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City

The Waldorf Astoria hotel is an institution in New York City and its instantly recognizable art deco building, completed at the height of the Jazz Age in 1931, has become a symbol of the city's cultural and social life.

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