



**Baltimore City Landmark
Designation Report
Bolton Square**

1400 to 1420 Mason Street
300 to 310 W Lafayette Avenue
236 to 250 W Lafayette Avenue
1401 to 1421 Jordan Street
250 W Lafayette Avenue

July 10, 2007

Proposed Landmark Designation Bolton Square

Bolton Square consists of 35 modest modern brick town homes arranged in three staggered rows backing up to a gated common area, each home has a walled private garden area adjacent to the common green space. Located what was once a block of Linden Avenue in the historic community of Bolton Hill, Bolton Square is bordered by Mason Street to the north, Lanvale Street to the east and Jordan Street to the south. The addresses include, 1400 to 1420 Mason Street, 300 to 310 W Lafayette Avenue, 236 to 250 W Lafayette Avenue, 1401 to 1421 Jordan Street, and 250 W Lafayette Avenue.

Each of the 35 homes is part of a staggered row facing out towards a small front set back and a parking strip. The rear of each home features a walled private garden that opens into a gated elliptical green space. The burgundy North Carolina brick structures vary in size from an 18 foot by 30 foot model with 2 bed rooms, to a 20 foot by 40 foot model with 4 bed rooms. Each unit has floor to ceiling window frames with black panels and a single pane glass, one panel containing a matching solid black door and a low pitch slate gabled roof with parapets. The complex features hidden rain gutters, underground power and phone lines, and in ground trash receptacles. As with a lot of post-war architecture the style of Bolton Square is hard to define but contains elements of Brutalism, such as large brick surfaces and International Revival elements such as large panes of glass. The roof pitch is very in tune with the “Shed” style popular at the time.

Significance Summary

In 1969 the American Institute of Architects awarded Bolton Square with the National Honor Award, recognized by the Baltimore AIA Chapter, the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Baltimore, and Homes for Better Living Program.

Built in 1967, the development was an early work of award winning designer and architect Hugh Newell Jacobsen, FAIA. Jacobsen was chosen as the architect for the two block development after a design competition. Jacobsen began practicing under his own name in 1958 after graduating from Yale with a Bachelors and Masters of Architecture in 1955; he had previously attended the University of Maryland and received a certificate from the Architectural Association in London. Over the span of his career he received numerous awards, sat on many boards and commissions, lectured all over the world and contributed to various publications. Some of these are, six National Honor Awards from the American Institute of Architects, 20 awards for excellence in house design from the professional journal *Architectural Record*, a juror for over 50 AIA awards programs and many design competitions, in 1971 he delivered the Kennedy Memorial Fellowship lectures at four New Zealand universities and he is a member of the National Advisory Board of the International Masonry Institute. He contributed to *Architectural Digest*, *Architectural Record*, *the New Republic*, *House and Garden*, *the Washington Post* and was the editor of *A Guide to the Architecture of Washington, D.C.* He served from 1976 to 1982 as a member of the Joint Committee on Landmarks for the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission, served as a consultant to both the

Historic Charleston Foundation and the Historic Savannah Foundation and in 1971 Mr. Jacobsen became a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and in 1992 he was elected an Academician of the National Academy of Design.

In the book A Field Guide to Contemporary American Architecture, author Carole Rifkind states “Hugh Newell Jacobsen shows irreverence as well as respect in his approach to local tradition,” and even as one of his early designs Bolton Square is no exception. Jacobsen’s design of the two block community is in scale with many surrounding historic and modern row home communities. Features such as flat front façades, dark brick color, and properly proportioned front steps create a comparable aesthetic to a historic local row home. Even today in his modern work he is applauded for his regionalism, and nod to local building traditions in his designs.

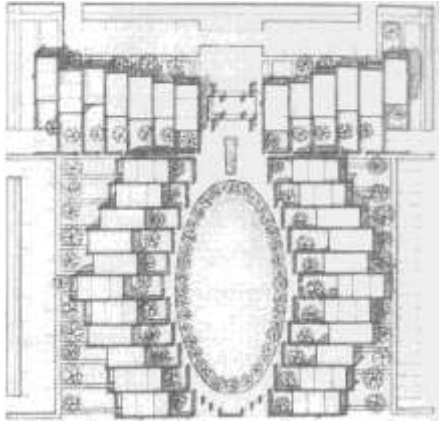
Staff Recommendation

Bolton Square meets CHAP landmark criteria:

1. dates from a particular period having a significant character, interest or value, as part of the development, heritage or culture of the City of Baltimore and;
4. is significant of the architectural period in which it was built and has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style, method of construction, or engineering, or is the notable work of a master builder, designer, engineer, artists, or architect who’s individual genius influenced his age

Staff encourages landmark designation of this award winning modern design in the celebration of the 40th anniversary of its construction.

Images



Site Plan



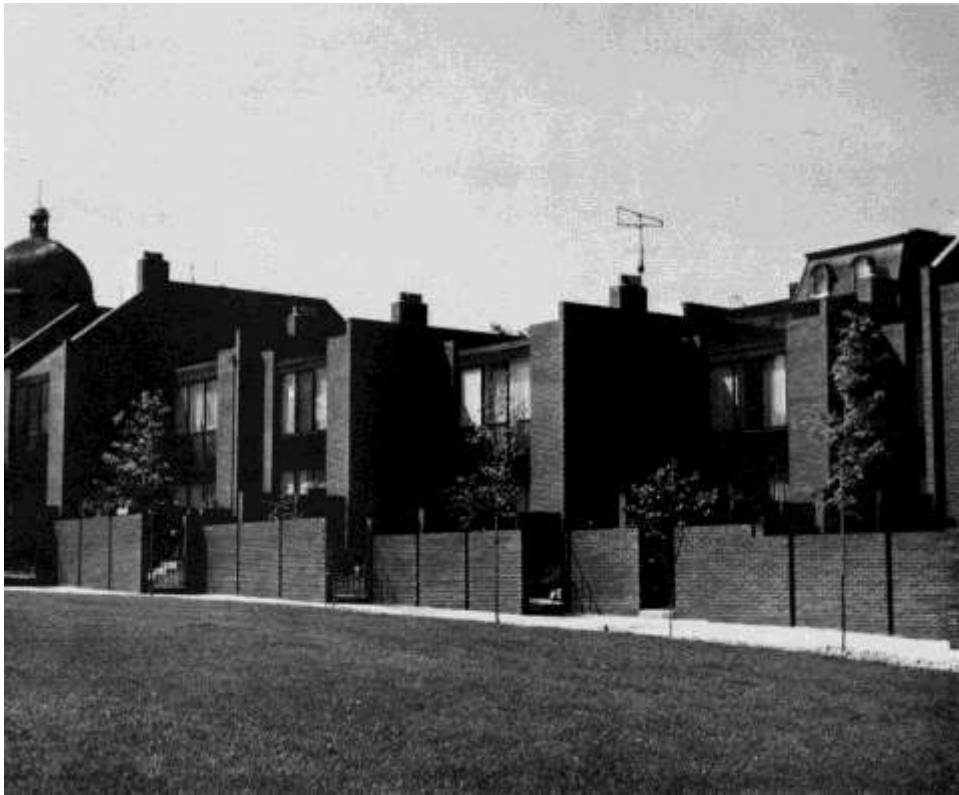
Aerial View 1



Aerial View 2



Front with Parking



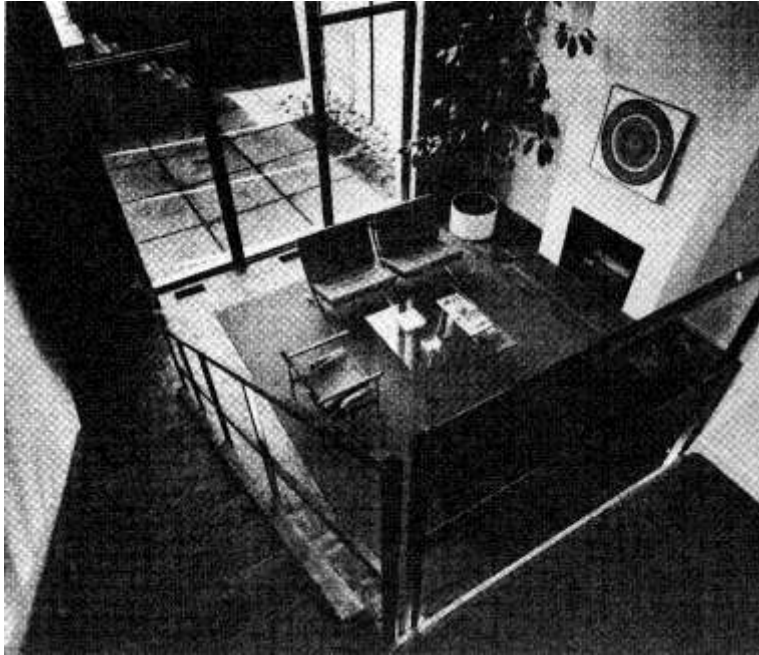
Back View From Ellipse



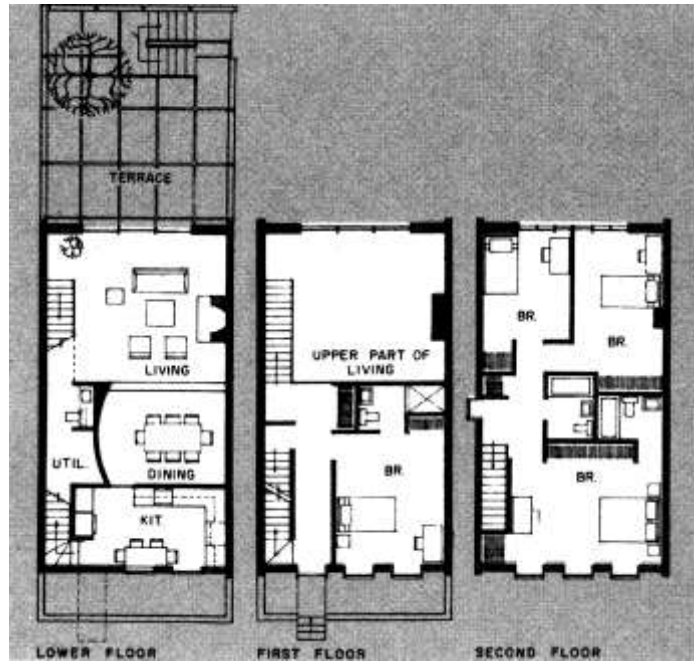
Front Façade



AIA Award



Interior View towards the Rear



Floor Plan of 4 Bedroom Unit



Hugh Newell Jacobsen