

Hope International University Campus Buildings

2500 E. Nutwood Avenue

1964

Googie; Exaggerated Modern

**Status: Unrecognized
Significant Property**



Designed by the noted architectural firm Armet & Davis, the several buildings on the Hope International University campus exhibit pure Googie architectural designs and represent one of the largest examples of such architecture. The buildings feature soaring, angled roof lines, large glass windows with flat and beveled panes, and tapered steel columns and supports.

The buildings along Nutwood and Commonwealth Avenues were originally constructed to complement the adjacent C.S.U Fullerton campus, designed as a shopping center with a movie theater and student facilities – and very indicative of the “strip mall” designs of the 1960s. The buildings were converted to office and classroom uses when Pacific Christian College bought the property and moved from Long Beach in 1973. The institution’s name changed to Hope International University in 1997, when the school attained university status.

Eldon C. Davis of the architectural firm Armet & Davis was involved in over 4,000 projects, both public and private, and is considered the “father of California coffee shop design” that is associated with Googie architecture. One of the most prominent practitioners of Googie architecture, the firm created many innovative postwar commercial structures, gaining international acclaim for their restaurants and coffee shops, such as Pann’s Restaurant and Ships Coffee Shop in Los Angeles. The architect also designed prototypes for large chains, such as Denny’s and Bob’s Big Boy, that were used to develop the restaurants throughout the United States and abroad. The firm also worked with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles on hundreds of church projects.