

= Riverview Theater =

The Riverview Theater is a neighborhood movie theater in the Howe neighborhood of Minneapolis , Minnesota . Designed by Liebenberg and Kaplan , the theater was built by theater owners Bill and Sidney Volk in 1948 . After building a subsequent theater in a new ultramodern style , the Volks returned to the Riverview in 1956 and had its lobby area heavily renovated and updated . The Riverview remains one of several surviving single @-@ screen cinemas in the Minneapolis ? Saint Paul area and typically shows second @-@ run films for \$ 2 or \$ 3 , as well as other special programming . Since the early 2000s , it has been consistently recognized by City Pages as one of the best movie theaters in the area .

= = History = =

The Lithuania @-@ born Volk brothers , Bill and Sidney , came to Minnesota in the early 1920s and got involved in the movie business by purchasing neighborhood theaters during the Great Depression . In 1946 , the Volks initiated what the publication Greater Amusements called a " theater @-@ building orgy " when they received a permit from the Minneapolis City Council to build the first new theater in Minneapolis in twelve years in spite of the protests of other theater managers . The Riverview was designed by architectural firm Liebenberg and Kaplan and built in 1948 in the Streamline Moderne style . It opened December 30 , 1948 , with a showing of June Bride . The single @-@ screen theater utilized stadium seating , making it one of the earlier movie theaters to do so .

Three years later , the Volks again called on Liebenberg and Kaplan to construct the Terrace Theater in Robbinsdale , Minnesota , " one of the first ultramodern theaters in America " , and considered by author Larry Millett to be " their masterpiece " . Pleased with the results (and the industry @-@ bucking receipts) , the Volks turned back to the Riverview and had Liebenberg and Kaplan remodel it to reflect the successful Terrace model . This occurred in 1956 , eight years after the theater 's initial construction . The new lobby space was intended to reflect a living room and even included a separate TV lounge . Amenities were ample : " Dunbar tables , McCobb stools , Herman Miller divans and chairs , walnut panels imposed on light wood , graceful modern lamps , stunning draperies . " Inside the theater space , however , little changed about the proscenium stage and seating .

The Riverview became one of the few remaining single @-@ screen theaters in the Minneapolis ? Saint Paul area ; by the end of the 1980s , it was one of only six left , and after 1998 , it was one of only four left , with the Uptown and Parkway Theaters and the Oak Street Cinema , although since 1998 , several new single @-@ screen theaters ? the Trylon Microcinema and the Heights Theater ? have opened . The owners installed new seats in 1999 that allowed for greater leg room and more space between patrons .

= = Contemporary status = =

The Riverview is located in Minneapolis 's Howe neighborhood and seats over 700 patrons . It typically shows second @-@ run films for between \$ 2 ? 3 per ticket and its concessions are also " much cheaper than at the suburban multiplexes " . Sometimes , other events are shown , including midnight movies , sporting events , film festivals , and political events such as Barack Obama 's first inauguration in 2009 . Take Up Productions , operator of the nearby 50 @-@ seat Trylon Microcinema , sometimes uses the Riverview for screenings too large for the Trylon to accommodate . The theater won City Pages ' Best Budget Movie Theater award in 2000 , 2004 , and 2005 , and the Best Movie Theater award every year from 2006 to 2014 except 2011 and 2012 . The Riverview 's lobby remains largely unchanged from its 1956 renovation .

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