



## BROWNFIELD MEDICAL BUILDING (1938)

The Brownfield Medical Building was Gregory Ain's only Inglewood building. Designed for two doctors, the small building was very straightforward. The plan consisted of two offices with a shared waiting room between the practices. Noted for simplicity and planted court, Brownfield was one of Ain's rare non-residential projects.

The building was substantially remodeled, masking the original design. Some Los Angeles architectural historians, including the influential David Gebhardt, believe that the Medical Building was actually destroyed. It was not.

### Architect

Gregory Ain

Manchester Boulevard and Third Avenue  
Inglewood, California

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Gregory Ain was born into a very left-wing political family. His Russian father was caught teaching peasants to read and banished to Siberia. Senior Ain arrived in the United States through his father-in-law, who bribed Russian authorities to let him emigrate. Gregory was born in 1908 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and moved to Los Angeles with his family in 1911.

Gregory became interested in architecture as a teenager, building a garage at 15. When a contractor told him to look at Schindler's Kings Road House, a lifelong friendship began. He spent a year at UCLA studying physics and mathematics before switching to architecture at the University of Southern California, though he dropped out before graduation.

During the war Ain worked as Chief Engineer for Charles and Ray Eames as they began researching plywood. He also began designing housing developments in partnership with Joseph Johnson and Alfred Day. Some of the more significant ones included Mar Vista Housing in LA and Avenel Group Homes in Silverlake (both 1948). Avenel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Ain was overlooked for the Case Study House program due to his politics during the 'Red Scare'. He built a prototypical house in the Museum of Modern Art Garden in New York in 1950, taught at USC and even served as Dean of Penn State University. Mr. Ain died in 1988.