In conjunction with the National Building Museum’s exhibit, "Designing Tomorrow: America’s World’s Fairs of the 1930s," AFI Silver presents this series of films featuring an eclectic, and occasionally over-the-top, array of modernist set designs, reflecting the forward-looking design sensibilities of the 1930s.

At a time of incredible economic difficulty, Hollywood provided moviegoers in the 1930s with sparkling fantasies of fashion, urban decadence and nights on the town, set within environments offering the most deluxe, most glamorous, most modern styles available. Many of the same design trends seen onscreen were displayed in demonstration homes at the World’s Fairs of the 1930s, from chrome accents, modular furnishings and plate glass, to synthetic fabrics and surfaces.

Whether it is the appearance of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Ennis House in FEMALE, the spiraling lobby of GRAND HOTEL, William Powell’s penthouse in STAR OF MIDNIGHT or the glittering Silver Sandal Club in SWING TIME, examples of modern architecture and design can be seen within a long list of films considered classics of Hollywood’s golden age.

Washington Post film critic Ann Hornaday and National Building Museum curator Deborah Sorensen will introduce the Hollywood Modern series before the screening of Grand Hotel on February 5. This kick-off discussion will focus on how, at a time of great economic difficulty, Hollywood provided moviegoers with glamorous fantasies of modern living filled with fashion, urban decadence, and nights on the town.

- Grand Hotel (Edmund Goulding, 1932, 112 min.)
- Female (Michael Curtiz, 1933, 60 min.)
- The Gay Divorcee (Mark Sandrich, 1934, 107 min.)
- Trouble in Paradise (Ernst Lubitsch, 1932, 83 min.)
- Design for Living (Ernst Lubitsch, 1933, 91 min.)
- The Women (George Cukor, 1939, 133 min.)
- Swing Time (George Stevens, 1936, 103 min.)
- A Star is Born (William A. Wellman, 1937, 133 min.)
- Star of Midnight (Stephen Roberts, 1935, 90 min.)
- Shall We Dance (Mark Sandrich, 1937, 109 min.)

AFI Information
HOLLYWOOD MODERN
FILM DESIGN OF THE 1930s

GRAND HOTEL
Feb 5
FEMALE
Feb 6
THE GAY DIVORCEE
Feb 7 & 9
TROUBLE IN PARADISE
Feb 12 & 17

DESIGN FOR LIVING
Feb 13 & 14
THE WOMEN
Feb 19
SWING TIME
Feb 25, 26 & 28, Mar 1-3
A STAR IS BORN
Feb 26

Double Feature:
STAR OF MIDNIGHT
w/ RAFTER ROMANCE
Feb 27 & 28
SHALL WE DANCE
Mar 4, 5 & 9

FEB 5 - MAR 9

Tickets & info:
Presented in conjunction with the National Building Museum's current exhibit:
DESIGNING TOMORROW