

## Preservation alert

Developers with an eye toward razing the semi-old in favor of the new, take heed. There's a new group in town aimed at halting anti-preservation ways.

HoustonMod, the self-proclaimed den of "impassioned advocates of conserving and celebrating the modern design heritage of Houston and Texas," is on the rise. At the group's first event Thursday night, the turnout of 200 hip and architecturally enlightened was twice what was expected. Their first mission — saving the Prudential Building on Holcombe from demolition.

Flying high with their initial success, HoustonMod organizers are already planning the next happening — a home tour. Members of the Mod squad — **Michael Brichford, Karen Lantz, Sally Joyce, Ben Koush, Stephen Fox and Anna Mod.**

## Face-lift

**William Stern** was guest speaker at that first gathering of HoustonMod discussing the renovation of the **Dominique de Menil** residence and its rich history. Stern and Bucek Architects were tapped by the Menil Foundation to handle the resurrection of the home **Philip Johnson** designed in 1950 for **Dominique and John de Menil**. It was one of the first International Style residences built in Texas.

With more than \$3 million dedicated to the project, work is expected to be completed in early 2004. The Menil's **Vance Muse** says that the house will be used for special Menil events that echo the bold philanthropic, art and humanitarian activities that the Menils hosted there during their lifetimes.