



S
U
P
P
O
R
T
U
S

L
O
G
I
N

News ▾

Community ▾

Arts & Culture

Newsletter

Events

COUPON CODES AVAILAB

Students experience architectural artistry at Palm Springs' immersive 'Shag House'

Thanks to charitable neighbors, BEAM program participants from two area schools were able to explore an iconic Alexander home transformed by artist Shag during a Sunday tour.

BY KENDALL BALCHAN • MODERNISM • FEBRUARY 25, 2024



Listen to this article

Palm Springs Area Eve

FRI 1 **Bingo Night with Angelique**
Palm Springs, CA

MON 26 **International Bear Convergence**
Hard Rock Hotel | Palm Springs, CA

MON 26 **Monday Men's Coffee**
Gre Coffeehouse | Palm Springs, CA

MON 26 **Fabulous Bingo with Bella D**
Kings Highway at Ac... | Palm Spring

MON 26 **Adult Tap Dance Classes**
Leisure Center Danc... | Palm Spring

MON 26 **Golden Era Hollywood Home**
Palm Springs Histor... | Palm Spring

MON 26 **Mimosas, Martinis & Music**
Cascade Lounge | Palm Springs, CA



MON 26 TUE 27 WED 28 THU 29

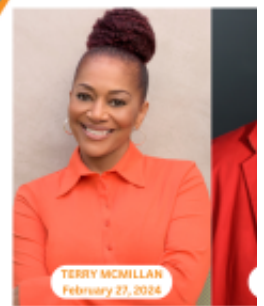
🔍 See all events | + Add your e



Seventh-graders Alexi Rodales (left) and Lauren Lyons explore the Shag House Sunday during a Modernism Week tour made possible by some of the property’s generous neighbors.

The “Shag House,” an exquisitely renovated midcentury modern Alexander home located in the Little Beverly Hills neighborhood, opened its 10-foot-tall lime green doors to more than 4,500 visitors over the past 11 days during Modernism Week. But on Sunday, four very special guests were welcomed into a home that its owner calls part-home, part-immersive art experience.

Four students, three from St. Theresa Catholic School and one from Raymond Cree Middle School, along with their parents, guardians, and teacher, toured the house thanks to a generous donation of tickets from Shag House neighbors. The students participated in this year’s Building Educational Architectural Models program (or BEAM).



www.palmspringsspeaks.com

Support local journalism

The Post shares important stories and celebrates those making Palm Springs a great place to live. We don’t charge for our journalism and never will. But it’s not free to produce independent reporting. Instead, we are voluntarily supported by readers like you.

Subscribe to The Palm Springs Post

Support us

Quality reporting and journalism you can count on.

Subscribe

The program's curriculum, taught by volunteers from the Palm Springs Modern Committee (PS ModCom), educates local art students about mid-century architecture and design and culminates in the students designing and building their own mid-century modern home or painting a midcentury building.

The 1958 home, designed by Dan Palmer and William Krisel for the Alexander Construction Company, was purchased by Brandon McBurney in 2019 and designed by the artist Josh Agle, or Shag. Agle would create art pieces out of his creative world, and architects, engineers, and craftspeople would get to work bringing his art to life.

McBurney envisions the home being made available for fundraising for charitable events.

David Hyams, who lives next door to the Shag House, bought a half dozen tickets for an afternoon tour, intending to donate them to local schools. He told his neighbor Brian Ramos about the idea, and Ramos matched the ticket donation.

“The idea came about really organically,” said Hyams, who, along with his wife, Dr. Botagoz Hyams, is a docent for the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation. “We need to do better to get access [to these homes] to the greater community.”

Hyams said he was inspired by McBurney’s goal of using the home as a force for good.

When Hyams and Ramos told McBurney about the idea, he said he would be there to greet the students personally. “That’s just the kind of neighborhood we live in,” Ramos said.

Last year, the three seventh-graders from St. Theresa’s built architectural models of midcentury modern homes for a sixth-grade project. This year, they each painted an Albert Frey-designed building, working in a different medium and exploring new angles.

Valentina Villeseca chose Frey House I with its second-story futuristic turret because “It was so much more interesting than all the others.”

Alexi Rodales decided against picking a home. Instead, she produced a painting of the Palm Springs Visitor Center, formerly the Tramway Gas Station, because “Everyone else was doing buildings, and I wanted to do the station,” she said.

Last year, two of the students had a connection to the models they built for the BEAM program. In the weeks-long design and construction process,

they were forced to look closer and notice details about buildings they pass by daily.

Rodales built a model of St. Theresa Church, the church on her school's campus, a challenging concrete structure with curving walls designed by William F. Cody.

Lauren Lyons picked an Alexander house to model, she said because she lives in an Alexander house. She also liked picking out the tiny items from the craft store to complete the model.

During the Shag House tour, the art students got to see floor-to-ceiling murals by the artist Shag depicting what would become the backyard of the home and connect how the 2D image inspired real-life 3D space.

The students each had their favorite room, whether it was the striking orange cat bedroom or the room with the huge world map mural.

Ashley Bray, an art teacher at Raymond Cree, said the students were zooming in on details like the hidden shower drain, outdoor heaters, and pool lounge chairs.

Ramos said the home is a perfect model for the students because "It blends art, architecture, and design."

When buying the tickets for the students, Ramos said he thought back to William Krisel, one of the architects of the original Shag House building. Krisel is credited with bringing "modernism to

the masses” by architectural critics and historians.

“How do you make modernism accessible when ticket prices can be hundreds of dollars?” asked Ramos. “How do you open things up for people who might not otherwise be able to afford it?”

He said he hoped the experience would inspire the students in whatever they pursue for years to come.



Author



KENDALL BALCHAN

Kendall was born and raised in the Coachella Valley and brings deep local knowledge and context to every story. Before joining The Post she spent three years as a producer and investigative reporter at NBC Palm Springs. She attended both College of the Desert and the University of Oregon.

Related Articles



Our procrastinator's guide to Modernism Week 2024

BY KENDALL BALCHAN • [MODERNISM](#) • FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Modernism Week is chock-full of fascinating lectures from experts and iconic double-decker bus tours, but it's also bigger than that. There are

cocktail parties, theater,...



Tickets for Modernism Week – October go on sale starting Aug. 1

BY POST STAFF • MODERNISM • JULY 26, 2023

Aside from tours and lectures, there are mixology clinics, interactive music experiences, the Palm Springs Modernism Fall Show and more.



Modernism Week organizers say 11-day February

event had record attendance

BY POST STAFF • MODERNISM • MARCH 23, 2023

Aside from issuing more than 100,000 tickets, Modernism Week representatives said the festival generated an estimated \$55 million for local hotels, retail establishments, and restaurants.



The Post is a free, independent local news source that brings readers vital information about our community and celebrates those making Palm Springs a great place to live.

Read us
on

GOOGLE
NEWS

Subscribe to The Post

Receive vital news about your city in your inbox for free every day

your@address.com

Subscribe

You can unsubscribe at any time.

ABOUT

NEWSLETTER

ADVERTISING

LOGIN

CONTACT US

Support Us

