

## HUGH KAPTUR: ORGANIC DESERT ARCHITECTURE

With more than 200 built projects in the Palm Springs area—civic, residential, and commercial—Hugh M. Kaptur (b. 1931) played an extraordinary role in the city’s architectural development. A visionary designer, Kaptur established his practice here in 1957 and continues to work today. While a number of Kaptur’s early projects utilize post-and-beam construction, over time he developed a bold modern aesthetic inspired by the indigenous architecture of the American Southwest, Frank Lloyd Wright’s work at Taliesin West, and a fascination with abstract geometries. While Kaptur tailored every building to the particular needs of its clients, this organic, sculptural style became a hallmark of his work and is immediately recognizable in buildings characterized by thick, blank whitewashed walls pierced with unusual openings, exposed structural elements, and floating roofs. Kaptur often incorporated deeply inset windows with protruding frames to add interest to the façades and to protect the buildings from absorbing the intense desert heat.

In 2015, Kaptur generously donated his architectural archive to the museum and, unless otherwise noted, all materials in the exhibition are drawn from the Hugh M. Kaptur Collection. *Hugh Kaptur: Organic Desert Architecture* traces the architect’s career from the early 1950s to the present and focuses on a number of his most notable projects, showcasing not only the wide range of his work but also his dynamic renderings, which reveal his flair for drawing and capture the innovative spirit of Palm Springs modern architecture. Alongside Kaptur’s drawings, models, and material from his personal collection we present photographs by Dan Chavkin, some of them commissioned especially for this exhibition.

We are indebted to Steven Keylon of the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation for making available his extensive research on Kaptur and his career.

Brooke Hodge and Frank D. Lopez, exhibition curators