

Desert Modernist Architecture Timeline 1960-1988

This timeline is an amalgamation of the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation's (PSPF) and Palm Springs Modern Committee's timelines, with additions from The Modern Architecture of Hugh Michael Kaptur and The Design of Herbert Burns, written by PSPF Board Member Steve Keylon. Photographs used are taken from random sources on the Internet.

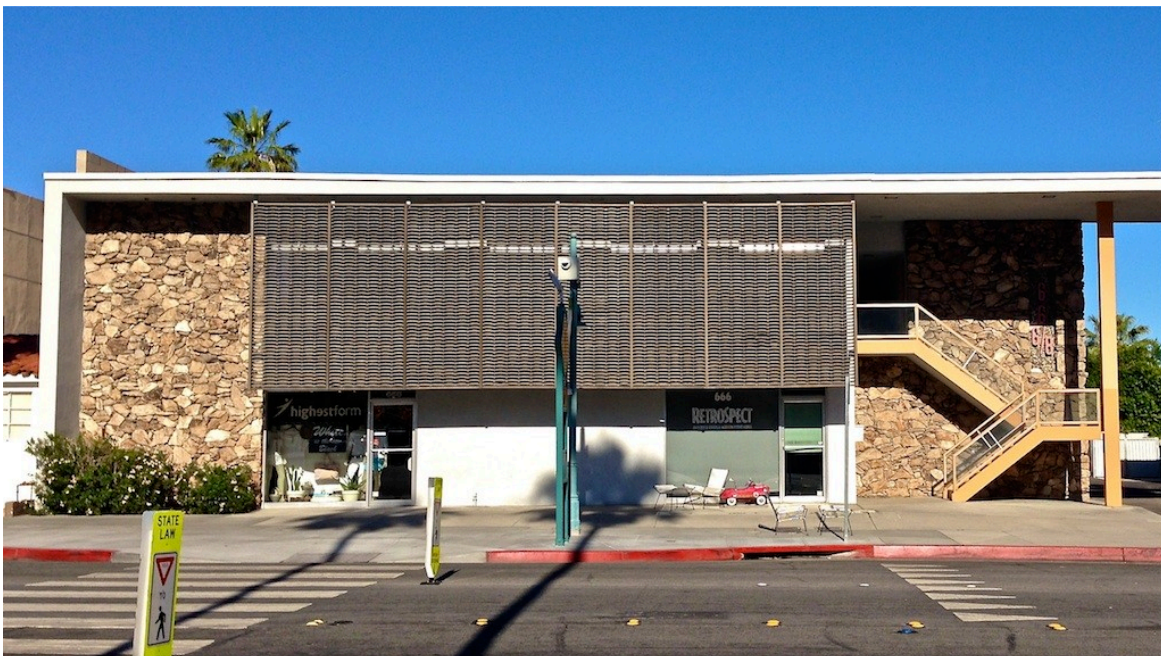
1960

The Alpha Beta Shopping Center, designed by Albert Frey and Robson Chambers, is built on the northwest corner of Sunrise Way and Ramon Road in Palm Springs (now demolished):



1960

The Rackstrom-Reid building, designed by Howard and Lawrence Lapham with a metal brise-soleil, is built at 666 N Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs:



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1960

The Royal Hawaiian Estates, designed by Donald Wexler with tiki architectural elements, are built at 1774 S Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs. They are designated as a Class One Historic Site:



1960

Park Imperial South condominiums. designed by Barry A Berkus with their characteristic folded plate roofs and jutting concrete block, are built at 1750-1844 S Araby Drive in Palm Springs. They are designated as a Class One Historic Site:



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1960

The “House of Tomorrow” (aka “Elvis Honeymoon Hideaway”) designed by Palmer and Krisel for builder Bob Alexander, is built at 1350 Ladera Circle in the Vista Las Palmas neighborhood of Palm Springs:



1960

The Theodore & Claire Morse Residence, designed by William Krisel and Dan Saxon Palmer, is built at 1197 Abrigo Road in the Vista Las Palmas neighborhood of Palm Springs. The home was subsequently expanded by Los Angeles architect Hal Levitt in 1961. It is designated a Class One Historic Site:



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1960

The Leo S Maranz Residence, designed by Val Powelson with its remarkable gull-wing roof, is built at 70-551 Tamarisk Lane in Rancho Mirage:



1961

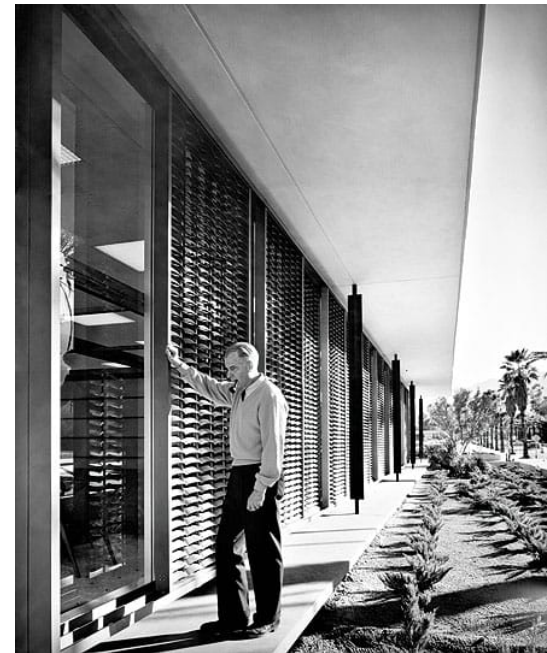
Coachella Valley Savings and Loan #2 (now Chase Bank) designed by E Stewart Williams and reminiscent of Oscar Niemeyer's Palácio da Alvorada in Brasília, is built at 499 S Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs. It is designated as a Class One Historic Site and listed on the National Register of Historic Places:



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1961

Santa Fe Federal Savings Building (now PSAM Architecture & Design Center) designed by E Stewart Williams, is built at 300 S Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs and is designated as a Class One Historic Site:



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1961

The James Logan Abernathy Residence, designed by William Cody with its pavilion style of architecture, is built at 611 Phillips Road in the Movie Colony neighborhood of Palm Springs. It is designated as a Class One Historic Site:



1962

Wexler & Harrison's Canyon Country Club at 1100 E Murray Canyon Dr with its mural-like facade on its south side is built in the Indian Canyons neighborhood:



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1962

Palmer & Krisel's Canyon View Estates Condominium on S Sierra Madre Drive, noted for its double-double-gabled roofs and clerestory windows is built:



1962

The Samuel and Luella Maslon house, designed by Richard Neutra, is built at Tamarisk Country Club in Rancho Mirage (now demolished):



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1962

Seven experimental Alexander Houses, some with Wexler's characteristic folded plate roofs, designed by Donald Wexler, are built at 300 & 330 E Molino Road, 290 E Simms Road, and 3100-3165 N Sunnyview Drive in the Racquet Club Estates neighborhood of Palm Springs. They are designated as a Class One Historic Site and one is on the National Register of Historic Places. Original plans called for 38 such homes, but the project was abandoned due to the high cost of steel at the time along with other more complicated issues:



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1963

The Palm Springs Unified School District building, designed by E Stewart Williams with its distinctive 'spider leg' steel columns, is built at 333 S Farrell Drive in Palm Springs. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places:



1963

The Tramway Valley Station, designed by Clark, Frey & Chambers, is built at 1 Tramway Drive in Palm Springs. It is designated as a Class One Historic Site:



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1963

The Enco Gas Station (now Palm Springs Visitors Center) designed by Albert Frey and Robson Chambers with its steel-cantilevered hyperbolic paraboloid roof, is built at 2901 North Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs. It is designated as a Class One Historic Site:



1963

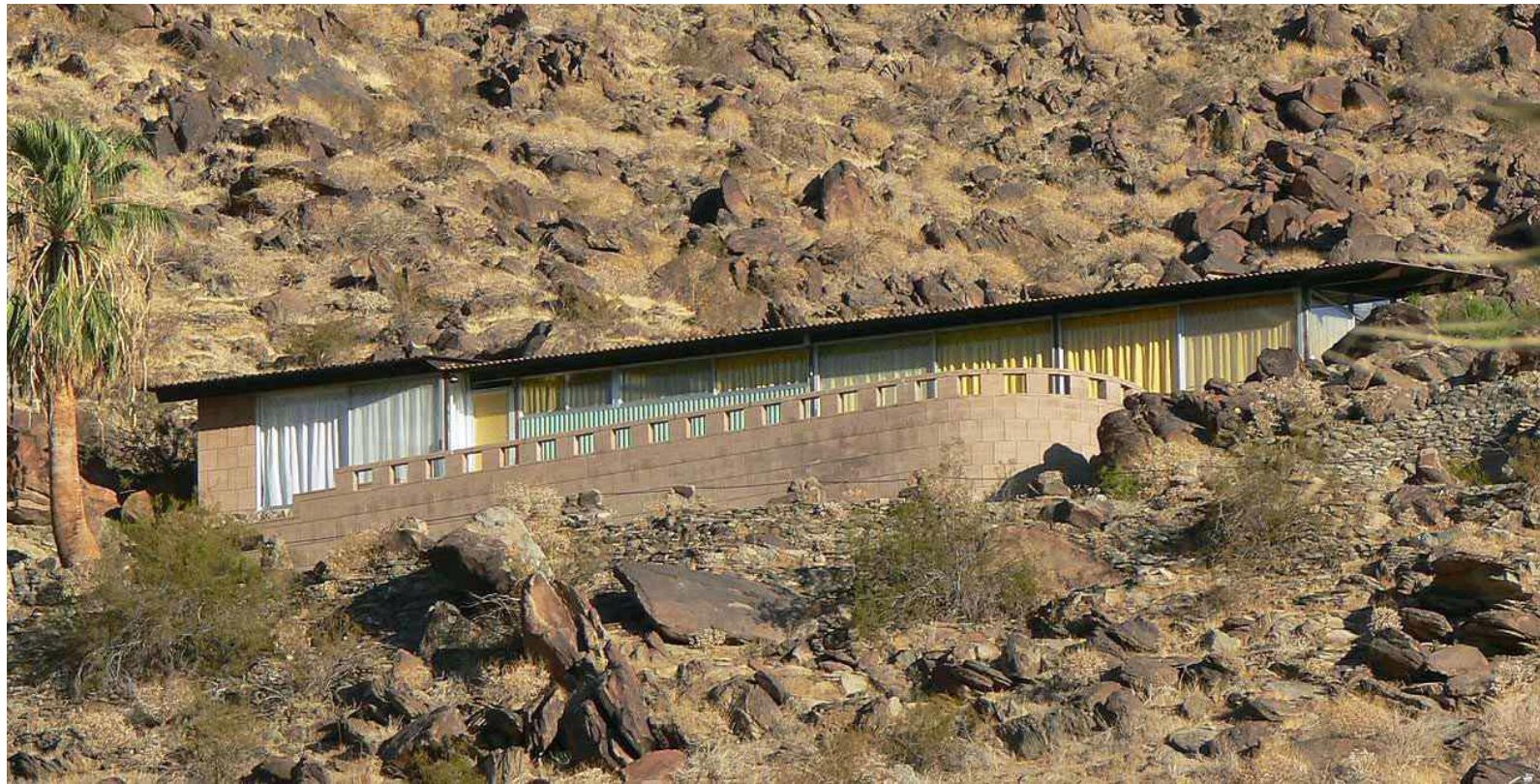
Inspired by the 1960 Olympics in Rome and designed by James Schuler Associates, Villa Roma apartment complex is built on S Sierra Madre Dr in the Indian Canyons neighborhood of Palm Springs:



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1963

Albert Frey builds his Frey House II on a steep lot with a giant boulder as a room divider and practical aluminum roof at 686 Palisades Drive above PSAM in Palm Springs. It is designated as a Class One Historic Site:



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1963

The Walter H Annenberg Residence (aka Sunnylands) designed by A Quincy Jones and Frederick Emmons, is built at 71-800 Frank Sinatra Drive in Rancho Mirage. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places:



Julius Stulman and Juergen Nogai © 2007 Juergen Nogai, Sunnylands Collection



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1964

William Cody designs a futuristic gas station that is built at 2796 North Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs. It is designated as a Class One Historic Site:



1964

Pompeii de Las Palmas between W Stevens Rd and Camino Norte at the northeastern end of Old Las Palmas is built by Des-Pro, Inc Developer in a modernist Roman Revival style. It is designated a Class One Historic Site:



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1964

The Maurice Smith / Dinah Shore residence (now owned by Leonardo DiCaprio) designed by Donald Wexler with its characteristic 'spider leg' steel columns, is built at an angle to the street at 432 W Hermosa Place in the Old Las Palmas neighborhood of Palm Springs:



1965

Palm Springs International Airport, designed by Donald Wexler, is built at 3400 E Tahquitz Canyon Way in Palm Springs. Its Western Facade is designated as a Class One Historic Site:



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1965

Seven Lakes Country Club residences, designed by Richard Harrison, are built just north of E Seven Lakes Drive in Palm Springs:



1966

The Abe & Marion Schwartz house, design attributed to Hal Levitt with shades of the Valley Tram Station, is built at 1999 S Joshua Tree Place in the Twin Palms neighborhood of Palm Springs. It is designated as a Class One Historic Site:



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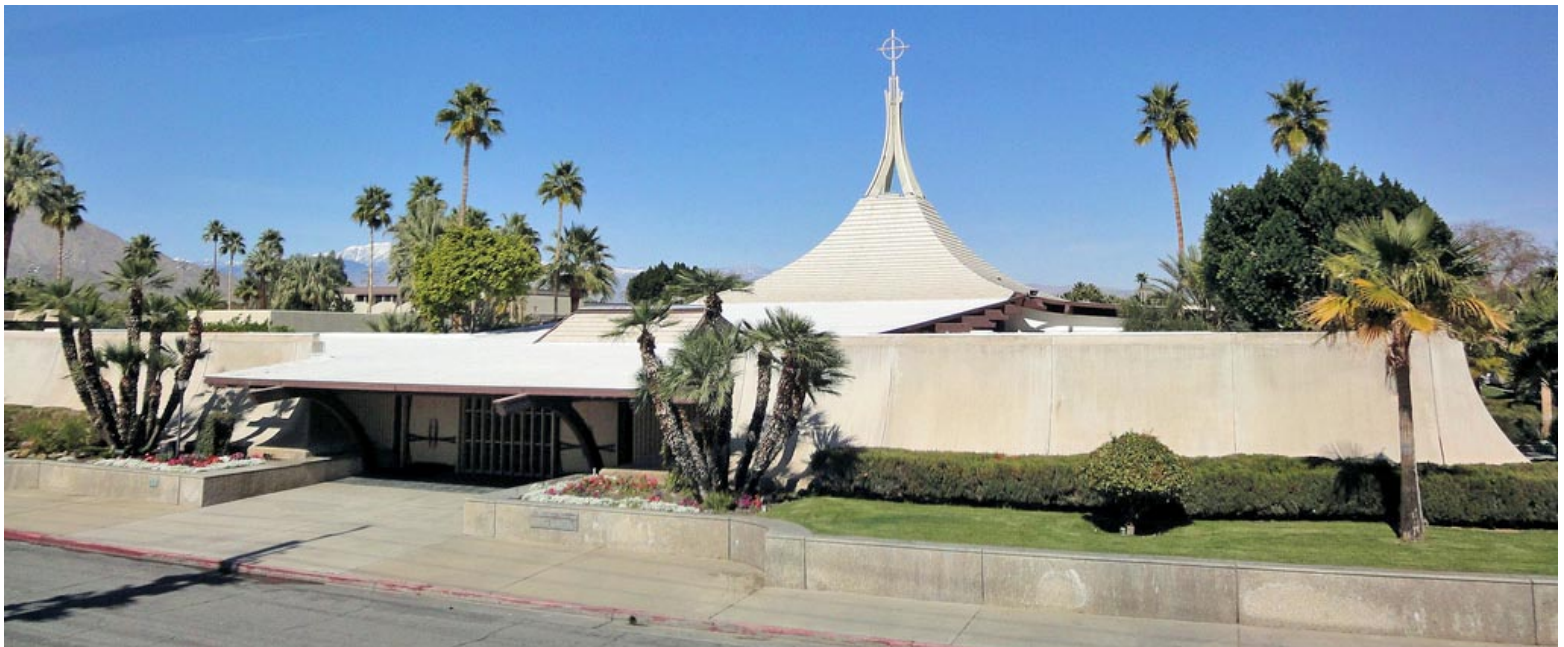
1967

Hugh Kaptur's Palm Springs Municipal Golf Course Clubhouse with its sweeping roofline, seemingly random small inset windows, and unique arched entryway, is built in on Golf Club Drive (the facade has since been altered with the addition of an insensitive canopy):



1968

St Theresa Parish Church, designed by William Cody, is built at 2800 E Ramon Road in Palm Springs. It is designated as a Class One Historic Site:



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1968

Kings Point condominiums, designed by William Krisel and featuring long rectangular clerestory windows, are built on E Murray Canyon Drive and S Kings Road in Palm Springs:



1968

The Max Palevsky House, designed by Craig Ellwood, is built at 1021 W Cielo Drive in the Little Tuscany neighborhood of Palm Springs:



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1968

The Arthur Elrod House, famed for its part in the James Bond film *Diamonds are Forever*, designed by John Lautner, is built at 2175 Southridge Drive in Palm Springs and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places:



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1971

Palm Springs Fire Station #4, designed by Hugh Kaptur to blend in with the surrounding residential homes, is built at 1300 La Verne Way in Palm Springs:



1971

The Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith building, designed by Donald Wexler whose client "wanted a temple" is built at 415 S Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs:



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1973

John Lautner designs the turtle-shell roofed Bob Hope House that is built on Southridge at 2466 Southridge Drive in Palm Springs:



1975

Palm Springs Public Library, designed by William Cody with similar elements to his 1968 St Theresa Catholic Church, is built at 399 S Sunrise Way in Pam Springs:



1976

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The Palm Springs Desert Museum (now Palm Springs Art Museum) designed by E Stewart Williams with its hand-selected volcanic stone facade chosen to match the color of the Museum's mountain backdrop, is built and opens at 101 Museum Drive in Palm Springs. It is designated as a Class One Historic Site:



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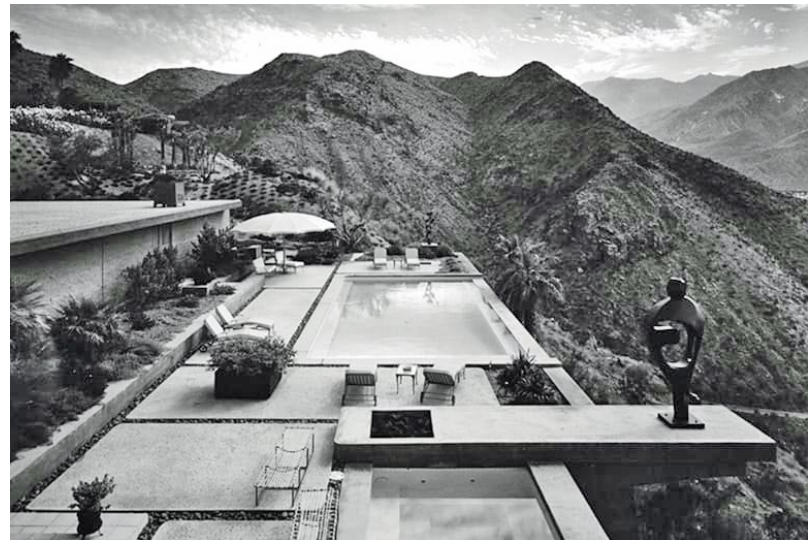
1977

Tahquitz Plaza, designed by Hugh Kaptur, is built at 600-750 E Tahquitz Canyon Way in Palm Springs. With Kaptur's signature "bulging windows" it is designated as a Class One Historic Site:



1977

Hugh Kaptur designed the William Holden House which is built on Southridge at 2433 Southridge Drive. Holden was Kaptur's 'favorite client':



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1978

The low-slung organic Chart House Restaurant, designed by Kendrick Bangs Kellogg, opens on Highway 111 in Rancho Mirage (destroyed by fire):



1988

The Paul and Kay Selzer House, designed by Hugh Kaptur in a unique somewhat Mexican Modern style, is built at 38727 Maracaibo Circle in the Andreas Hills area of South Palm Springs:

