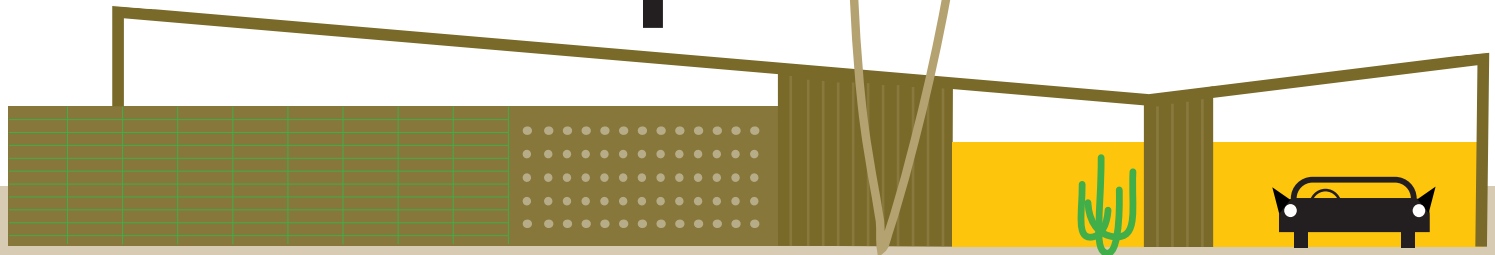




# twin palms



2025 TOUR OF HOMES

# Welcome to Twin Palms



***William Krisel, left, and Dan Palmer in 1957. Their firm designed the Ocotillo Lodge and Twin Palms Estates.***

*Photo courtesy the Huntington Library*

**IN 1957, TWIN PALMS** became the desert’s first completed Modernist neighborhood. Designed by William Krisel and built by the Alexander Construction Company, our neighborhood sparked the Desert Modernist movement that continues to this day.


William Krisel brought unprecedented sophistication to economical tract development. Today, you’ll enter two of his detached homes — each customized with a different roofline that transcends tract construction, and each respectfully restored to reflect its original design — and a Krisel-designed bungalow at the historic Ocotillo Lodge.

Though Twin Palms is best known as “a William Krisel neighborhood,” we also have significant contributions from other notable architects. This year, we are proud to feature three later additions to the neighborhood’s evolving architectural legacy: a renovated 1958 home built by Don McKinney, youngest of a storied Palm Springs family; and two homes built by Milton Seidner that were designed by Cary Bigman: an updated 1964 home and a 1969 Hollywood Regency time capsule with original interiors designed by Ian Phillips.

Exclusive to our neighborhood, this tour also includes a multimedia exhibit, *William Krisel’s Twin Palms*, featuring graphic panels, scale home models, and a video kiosk, which details Mr. Krisel’s innovations and lasting impact on Palm Springs architecture. This display continues to expand as we explore more aspects of our neighborhood’s history and embrace the significant contributions of other architects to Twin Palms.

This year’s tour also showcases neighborhood landmarks, including our new Krisel-inspired Little Free Library, the neighborhood entry sign, the renamed William Krisel Way, our distinctive blade signs, and the expansion of the Hugh Kaptur-designed Palm Springs Fire Station #4.

Proceeds from this tour help the Twin Palms Neighborhood Organization preserve and beautify our neighborhood and fund community projects and organizations throughout the city.



- A** Ocotillo Lodge #367
- B** 1095 E. Twin Palms Drive
- C** 1081 E. La Jolla Road
- D** 1911 S. Yucca Place
- E** 2055 S. Joshua Tree Place
- F** 2077 S. Navajo Drive
- G** Krisel Exhibit
- H** William Krisel Way Sign
- I** Little Free Library
- J** Palm Springs Fire Station #4
- K** Twin Palms Monument



## A Ocotillo Lodge #367

We have been coming to Modernism Week since 2007, staying in the iconic hotels, renting Alexander homes, and different units here in the Ocotillo Lodge. We kept returning to the Ocotillo Lodge and realized we loved this place. We purchased this unit in 2022 and became members of this wonderful community and neighborhood. This unit is one of the 590-square-foot bungalows, the largest of the three floorplans in the community.

We restored the original studio floor plan by removing the wall separating the sleeping area from the living room. This opened the mountain view to all of the condo. Our decor is mid-century modern, in fact it came out of our own home. The couch is Adrian Pearsall and the chairs are Z Chairs by Poul Jensen for Selig. The coffee tables are Silas Seandel brutalist torch-cut pieces. The artwork is by C. Jeré. How many C. Jeré pieces can you find?

The most distinctive feature of this condo is the expansive yard off the patio. We landscaped this in a desert minimalist design to allow the mountain view to take center stage. This yard is unique among all the condos in the Ocotillo Lodge because of its size. Ocotillo legend has it that Gene Autry frequently stayed in this unit when he owned the hotel. We joke that Gene Autry added the yard space so his horse, Champion, had a place to stay, too!

—TODD & JEFFREY KOOPMAN





## B 1095 E Twin Palms Dr

We are newcomers to the area and made this our home in Spring of 2024. We participated in an exhibition at Modernism Week and learned that the house was coming onto the market. Once we experienced the space we were hooked! We really enjoy the iconic architecture and the proximity to the mountains and nearby hiking trails. Shops, restaurants, and additional lodging for friends and family are also all within walking distance.

The home was designed by William Krisel and constructed in 1957 by the Alexander Company. The 1600 sq. ft floor plan is ideal for entertaining with the seamless blend of indoor/outdoor areas. Each room allows you to enjoy the surrounding landscape and seasonal changes of light. There are designated private gardens off each room to escape to as well. The previous owners respectfully updated the home in 2015 with dual pane Low-E windows and doors, a new kitchen, primary and guest bathrooms, and the HVAC system. The landscape which surrounds the home was designed by Kent “Chip” Wilson of Landscape Resource Group San Diego.

Our home in Los Angeles consists mostly of modern and contemporary European designers, so this was an opportunity to experiment and immerse ourselves in the work of a number of Brazilian architects and designers practicing in the region. The furniture was produced from sustainably harvested wood and manufactured by Sossego in Canela, Brazil. The art is a combination of Brazilian and local California artists.

—MELANIE BECKER & CHRISTOPHER PEPPER







## © 1081 E La Jolla Rd

Palm Springs had always attracted me, although I never really spent any time here until I retired. On my first extended stay, I toured Twin Palms during Modernism Week 2019 and fell in love with the neighborhood and William Krisel's architecture.

My dream of owning a mid-century home came true a few months later when I bought my home, a 1957 Krisel/Alexander with a gable roofline. The house had been most recently used as a rental, and everything inside and out needed to be updated. The floor plan is original, except I took down the wall blocking the kitchen from the rest of the home, which revealed the clerestory windows in the kitchen, and removed the atrium to enlarge the two bathrooms. I installed new floors, a new kitchen, and two bathrooms. All the paint was sandblasted off the natural stone — inside and out, the pool and patio were completely redone, and a new spa and outdoor shower were installed. Unbeknownst to me, the colors I selected for the exterior — a weathered brown and orange for the door — are very close to Krisel's original color palette for the neighborhood. The two large paintings in my living room are by a local artist, Savage. The colors in these paintings inspired the color palette for my home.

My goal was to bring out the incredible bones of the house, opening the living space and incorporating modern design materials that reflect the mid-century esthetic. The indoor/outdoor lifestyle along with the privacy of the property, beautiful mountain views, and our great Twin Palms neighborhood really make me feel as if I'm living in paradise!

—CAROL MUNRO





## D 1911 S Yucca Pl

Realizing a long-standing dream to move to the desert and embrace a modernist lifestyle, I purchased “Casa Miguel” in December of 2023. Guided by fate, this unique property was the first I looked at and has been a joy to own since day one. In addition to the loveliness of this home, I was captivated by the beauty of Twin Palms and the architectural pedigree of the neighborhood.

Built in 1964 as part of the third phase of development of the Twin Palms neighborhood, Casa Miguel was designed and built by prolific duo Cary Bigman and his father-in-law Milton Seidner, who are responsible for several homes in the community. Having undergone a complete interior remodel by previous owners, Casa Miguel is a terrific example of marrying a contemporary remodel with respect for the home’s past, embracing a new open floorplan, redone kitchen, bedrooms, and bathrooms, and incorporating bountiful natural light. This past year’s project has been a total landscape redesign and multistage replanting, resulting in a desert oasis of peace and tranquility that permeates both the poolside backyard as well as the front and side yards.

A collector through and through, you will enjoy my many decorative pieces from Bitossi, Blenko, Empoli, Eames, Nelson, and Jonathan Adler, and an extensive photography collection featuring Slim Aarons, and signed works by artists Terry O’Neill, Bill Bernstein, Thomas Monaster, Henry Diltz, and Timothy White.

—MICHAEL FAULKNER





## **E** 2055 S Joshua Tree Pl

We have owned our home for almost two years now. For years, ever since discovering this oasis, I dreamed of having a home in Palm Springs. I love the pristine, preserved, and picturesque beauty of this town. We are forever in awe of the iconic mid-century architecture, so thoughtfully preserved and celebrated. We ultimately chose to purchase our home in Twin Palms because it's such a serene area with majestic, unobstructed mountain views. Twin Palms has such a rich history all on its own.

This house is a literal time capsule, transporting you back to 1969 when you step inside. It is absolutely over the top in terms of design. All the bold colors and patterns throughout create a sort of fantasy. It is truly a home unlike any other, and it's always very exciting for those who appreciate this period and design style to experience it in person. This house is a piece of history, and I take a lot of pride in being responsible for the care and preservation of this gem.

There was no gate or hedges in front of the house originally. This was added by the previous owners. The interior is almost completely original, except for the kitchen, which was renovated a few years ago. The fireplace in the bar was originally granite and changed to stone at the same time the kitchen was renovated. Most of the furniture is original, some custom built for the space. The artwork through the house is vintage, collected over time.

Our home has been featured in numerous fashion and lifestyle magazines. There have been many fashion ad campaigns and music videos produced here as well.

—BRANDY ARMSTRONG & MOE KESHAVERZI





## F 2077 S Navajo Dr

When we discovered Twin Palms on a Modernism Week bus tour in 2020, we were smitten with not only the Krisel rooflines, but also the row of unique houses along the 1100 block of La Verne Way. A few months later, a dilapidated mid-century ranch at the corner of La Verne and Navajo came on the market, and we knew we had found our ideal renovation project.

Our home, named “Circle in the Sand” after the circular window in the foyer (and as an homage to Belinda Carlisle), was originally around 1,500 square feet. The architect is unknown, but the house was built by Don McKinney, a scion of one of the pioneering families of Palm Springs. McKinney was a contractor on projects including the Bavarian Room at the El Mirador Hotel. It seems he intended to sell 2077 Navajo on spec, but McKinney lived here with his wife Virginia until 1974.

Renovations in 1981 and around 2000 added over 1,000 square feet, and the house became a “Renaissance Villa” (as marketed on Airbnb) with faux stone arches embellishing the beige façade. The most satisfying part of our 2021 renovation was peeling off that painted Styrofoam “stonework” and removing decorative columns and a mosaic of Zeus from the foyer. We excavated layers of tile and laminate flooring and laid down a concrete micro-topping throughout the house. The only floorplan modification we made was the addition of the powder room off the dining area; most other changes were cosmetic. We added several linear feet of glass to the back elevation to take advantage of mountain views, and we designed the wet bar backsplash to frame a picture-perfect view of one of Krisel’s floating butterflies across Navajo Drive.

—CASEY CORNWELL & TIM NEIMAN



# Many Celebrities Have Called Twin Palms Home

(Note – the addresses provided are for reference only - these homes are not on the tour)



## Ray Bradbury

Author and screenwriter, Ray Bradbury and his wife, Marguerite, owned **1837 S Caliente Road** from 1981-2011. One of the most celebrated 20th-century American writers, he worked in a variety of genres, including fantasy science, fiction, horror, mystery, and realistic fiction.

## Lita Baron

Actress Lita Baron bought a home at **1508 S La Verne Way** in 1976. She acted in 25 titles from 1945-79, including *I Love Lucy* in which she played Ricky Ricardo's Cuban girlfriend and Lucy's object of jealousy. In the well-known Slim Aarons photo "Poolside Gossip," Lita is walking along the pool.



## Burt Baskin

Not recognizable until his name is paired with that of his brother-in-law and business partner, Irv Robbins—together known as Baskins-Robbins. He owned the home at **1093 La Jolla Road**.

## Charlie Farrell

Matinee idol of the 1930s and 40s, and later best known as the father of *My Little Margie*, actor Charlie Farrell (along with pal Ralph Bellamy) built and owned Palm Springs famed Racquet Club and was the city's first celebrity Mayor, (1953-1970). Mr. Farrell was the first owner of **1070 E Apache**.







## Eddie Fisher & Debbie Reynolds

Perhaps best known as the real-life parents of Princess Leia. Actor, singer Eddie Fisher purchased **955 La Jolla Road**, with his wife actress Debbie Reynolds, when it was new in 1957.

## Shecky Greene

Comedic actor, Shecky Greene (real name Sheldon Greenfeld), bought a condo at **1642 S La Verne Way** in 2001. He appeared in the *Dean Martin Comedy Hour*, *Love American Style*, *History of the World Part 1*, and more.



## Larry Gelbart

Larry Gelbart was one of the country's most successful and prolific comedy writers. He is responsible for the movies *Oh God*, *Tootsie*, and *The Thrill of it All*, more than 40 episodes of television's *M\*A\*S\*H*, and much more. Larry Gelbart owned **1907 S Caliente Road** in 1997.

## Betty Hutton

Actress Betty Hutton, entertaining on both film and stage, was best known for the title role in the film version of *Annie Get Your Gun*. She lived at **2080 S Camino Real**.



# Twin Palms Landmarks



**H Twin Palms Blade Signs** This is one of 42 neighborhood blade signs installed in 2014 on every available signpost in Twin Palms. We are the only organization to have raised sufficient funds in a single campaign to put up all its signs at the same time.

**William Krisel Way** Over 200 people attended the 2016 William Krisel Way Dedication Ceremony to celebrate the City Council approved name change. This change was initiated, proposed, and advocated for, by the Twin Palms Neighborhood Organization.

**I Twin Palms Little Free Library** Dedicated in May 2024, the TPNO Little Free Library was built and installed by students from the College of the Desert Department of Architecture and Environmental Design. The Little Free Library is the first of its kind in the neighborhood and was financed by funds raised by TPNO's 2024 Modernism Week Home Tour.



**J Palm Springs Fire Station #4** The Twin Palms Neighborhood Organization played a lead advocacy role in preserving this architecturally significant 1971 building. The original architect, Hugh Kaptur, was retained to assure that a 2019 extension complemented the original exterior architecture.

**K Twin Palms Neighborhood Entry Monument Sign** The first city-approved free-standing entry sign erected by a neighborhood organization since the City Council enacted its Neighborhood Entry Sign Ordinance in 2008.



## Thank you to all who helped make the 2025 Twin Palms Home Tour possible.

### TWIN PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION MODERNISM COMMITTEE:

DAVID CARLSON – Advisor

ERIC CHIEL – *William Krisel's Twin Palms* exhibit

TOM EICH – Curator, *William Krisel's Twin Palms* exhibit

MICHAEL FAULKNER – Communications & Marketing, Volunteers

HENRYCONNELL.COM – Graphic Design

JEFF HOFFMAN – Vice Chair

LARRY JOHNSON – Treasurer

MICHELE JOHNSON – Advisor

CAROL MUNRO – Chair

TONY VARDARO – Secretary

SHAFIK WAHHAB – Photography

### TOUR HOMEOWNERS:

BRANDY ARMSTRONG & MOE KESHAVARZI

MELANIE BECKER & CHRISTOPHER PEPPER

CASEY CORNWELL & TIM NEIMAN

MICHAEL FAULKNER

TODD & JEFFERY KOOPMAN

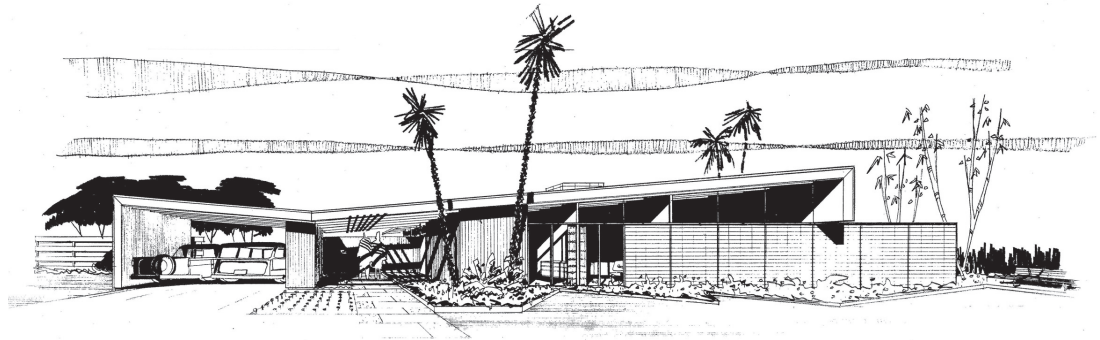
CAROL MUNRO

**All our Twin Palms Volunteers!**

Thank you to the OCOTILLO LODGE and its board President TONY VARDARO for arranging the use of their facilities for Registration, the *William Krisel's Twin Palms* exhibit, and for allowing tour guests access to a portion of their common area.

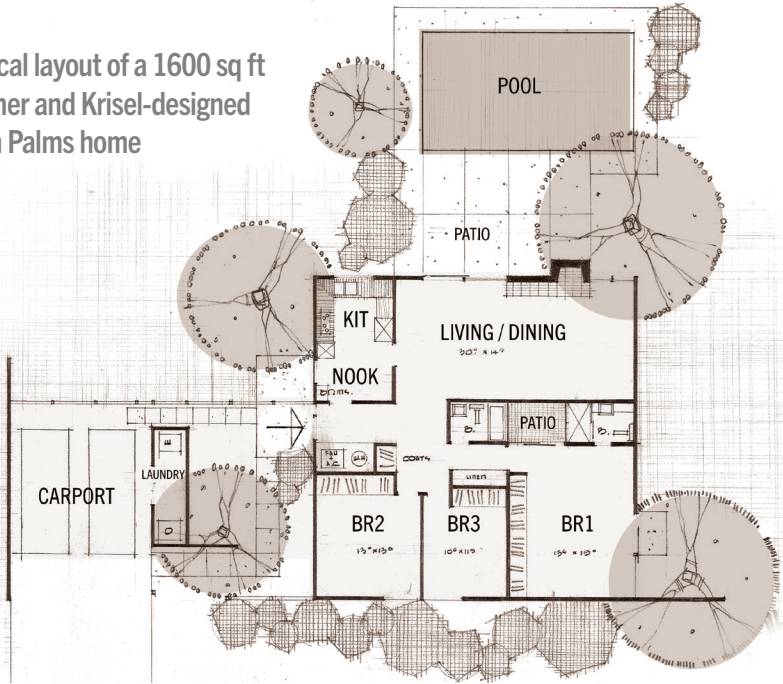
Thank you to DAVID CARLSON and MARCEL LaJOIE for hosting the Volunteer Recognition Reception at their home.

The vintage cars featured along the tour route are provided by members of the Great Autos Car Club. Thank you to James Barnes & Michael Grow, David Carlson, Matt Dunagan & Brian Crider, Christopher Harms & Keith Kincaid, Tom Keim, Pierre Lemieux, Carol Munro, Daniel Pelosi, and Walt Thoms & Bob Holz.

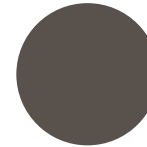


*Twin Palms rendering from the Palmer and Krisel office circa 1957*

Typical layout of a 1600 sq ft  
Palmer and Krisel-designed  
Twin Palms home



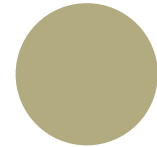
Some of the original Dunn-Edwards paint colors  
specified for use in Twin Palms:



WEATHERED  
BROWN



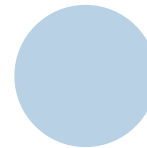
APRICOT GLOW



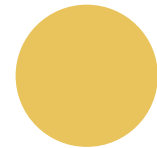
CACTUS



OFF WHITE



SEA ISLE BLUE



SUTTER'S GOLD

 **modernism week**  
Official Modernism Week Event



Don't forget to tag us in your photos!  
[@twinpalms\\_ps](#)

