

HIDDEN GEMS



Official Modernism Week Event

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 24, 2024



HISTORIC TENNIS CLUB NEIGHBORHOOD



THE HOMES

318 West Pablo Drive
HOME OF JIM KISEL & BRIAN SANDQUIST

372 South Monte Vista Drive
HOME OF TIM CAGLE & RICK KAMMERER

575 Fern Canyon
HOME OF JOE SPADA & MARK BJÖRSTROM

579 Polaris Court
HOME OF RAYMOND MANCI & KEVIN TABOR

587 Camino Calidad

591 West Linda Vista Drive
HOME OF ISADORE & ROSALIE SHARP

598 Capella Court
HOME OF CHARLIE & KAREN MARLIN

You may visit the homes in any order you choose.



February 24, 2024

Dear Historic Tennis Club visitor,

We are thrilled to welcome you as our guest today. This guide contains a map and descriptions of the open homes. We invite you to visit them in any order you choose. Our knowledgeable docents are available to answer your questions.

Our homeowners look forward to welcoming you. Please respect their homes by wearing shoe covers which we will provide, when required. Since we are unable to service the restrooms, we regret they cannot be made available for public use.

This Historic Tennis Club Neighborhood (HTCN) is a great example of mid-century and modern design which creates seamless indoor/outdoor spaces and a casual-yet-elegant lifestyle. Our tour today represents the HTCN with its mix of traditional mid-century/modern homes, the modern architecture of the Skye community and one historic Spanish Revival Home. Founded in 1999, the Historic Tennis Club Neighborhood Association is located immediately adjacent to the downtown commercial area of Palm Springs and includes many architecturally significant properties.

The HTCN area is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Palm Springs; it has one of the first churches built in the area, located on Baristo Road adjacent to the Orchid Tree Hotel. Both of these facilities opened their doors in 1936. Pioneer Pearl McCallum McManus settled in the area and developed the Palm Springs Tennis Club in 1940. This facility brought world-class tennis to the Desert.

The tour today is sponsored by the Historic Tennis Club Neighborhood Organization which serves as the association that addresses local neighborhood issues and provides advocacy for the residents to local government. Proceeds of the tour today will go towards neighborhood improvements and supporting local charities.

On behalf of our neighbors and the Historic Tennis Club Neighborhood Organization Board, thanks for coming!

Sincerely,

Mark Fichandler
Co-Chair

Raymond Mancini
Co-Chair

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318 WEST PABLO DRIVE

Jim Kisel and Brian Sandquist purchased this significant Frey-Steinmeyer Home in June of 2018.

The Frey-Steinmeyer home is little changed from 1964, when it was built. The current owners looked for over five years to find a property that had not been substantially modified or added to and was as close to its original condition as possible. The home was designed by architects Albert Frey and Robson Chambers and has only had three owners in its almost 60-year-history. All of the original architectural details remain intact and preserved, including the wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling glass, terrazzo flooring, St. Charles kitchen cabinets, extensive vertically stacked brick elements, lighting fixtures, and the free-flowing floor plan.

The home was designed to blur the lines between indoor and outdoor living – capturing spectacular mountain views from every room. As with many of Albert Frey's projects, the orientation of the home respects the path of the sun throughout the year. West facing walls of glass have extended overhangs to shelter the windows until late in the day just as the sun sets behind the mountains, minimizing solar heat gain. The roof overhang on the south facing wall of glass is exactly the depth needed so that the glass is shaded throughout the summer months with the sun crossing the threshold around the date of the Fall Equinox, helping to heat the home during the cooler fall and winter months.

A piece of Palm Springs History: The first owners were Hugo and Dolores Steinmeyer, who commissioned the architectural team of Frey and Chambers to create the home in 1964. Mr. Steinmeyer was a prominent banker, who served as chief in-house counsel for the Bank of America. During the period of 1956-66, Frey and Chambers designed a number of iconic commercial and residential properties including the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Valley Station (1963), Frey House II (1963-64), and the recently restored North Shore Yacht Club at the Salton Sea (1958).

The second owner was Ethel "Mike" Vetterly, an avid party hostess who lived at the property for almost 45 years before selling to the current owners. Ms. Vetterly, right up to her 90s, was also known to walk two miles every day through the Historic Tennis Club Neighborhood and Palm Spring Downtown areas.

Ms. Vetterly left a number of classic mid-century furnishings for the current owners. These include several oriental cabinets and a nine-foot-long credenza, a Hollywood Regency style bedroom set, plus dining room and entry foyer lamps. The new owners had the furniture refinished and painted with auto body paint by a local Palm Springs craftsman. They have also collaborated with the award-winning design team at H3K to curate art, furnishings and accessories that would honor the architectural pedigree and mid-century modern vibe of the home and property.

The current owners retired in June 2022 and moved from Laguna Beach to Palm Springs full time. Jim Kisel is a retired architect. He was a Principal with the sustainable multidisciplinary design firm LPA, Inc., founding the firm's Education Studio in 1994. His husband Brian Sandquist had several careers before retiring. These included over 20 years practicing corporate finance in Silicon Valley, Director of Finance at Stanford University, and the final ten years as a high school chemistry and AP physics teacher at Santa Ana USD.

372 SOUTH MONTE VISTA DRIVE

This historic home was built in 1948 by film actor William Bendix (1906 – 1964), known for his roles in *Wake Island* (Academy Award nominee, best supporting actor), as Chester A. Riley (on radio and television) in *The Life of Riley*, as Babe Ruth in *The Babe Ruth Story*, and as one of the stars of Alfred Hitchcock's *Lifeboat*. As you enter from the street, take note of the plaque honoring Bendix at the front gate.

Homeowners Tim Cagle and Rick Kammerer have owned the home for three years and have extensively renovated and updated the complete interior. Working with Cincinnati interior designer John Hinger, they have filled the home with contrasting tones of off-white and deep copper, with textured wall coverings by Phillip Jeffries, and bronze and brass metal flourishes on the occasional tables.

Throughout unique artworks adorn the walls, including a stunning large painting by Joan Steinman in the den. Other artists represented are photo-journalist Kit Roane in the entryway and Gene Davis in the living room. Nick Toilo created the pastels in the hallway and the casita painting is by Bruce Brainard.

The clean original exterior features a small army of cacti and a free-form swimming pool.

In 1960, William Bendix was quoted as saying: "I've had a long, varied, pleasant, eventful career. I don't hate anybody and I don't have any bitter feelings. I started out without any advantages, but I've been lucky and successful...and I've had fun!"





575 FERN CANYON

Joe Spada & Mark Björstrom have owned their home on Fern Canyon for five years, splitting their time between Palm Springs and Provincetown, where they were married. When they took over the property (which was built in 1979) they opened up the living area and added new flooring to create a more contiguous sense of flow.

In his semi-retirement from the practice of law, Joe has filled the home with large canvases that he creates in his studio converted from the former garage. The home features many of Joe's stunning paintings and also showcases works by other artists including significant sculptures, collections of decorative objects featuring butterflies, and the hard-to-miss giraffes dwelling in the living room.

As you enter through the gleaming yellow front door, the open-plan dining and living areas unfold. The living room features a dramatic deep-gray feature wall and a number of Joe's paintings. Further into the house is a stunning bar that Dean Martin would find welcoming, as well as a beautiful kitchen and TV area. Throughout the home, the pops of colors and the play of textures and patterns on the furnishings create an overall dynamic atmosphere (plus more butterflies).

Outdoors you find a classic free-form swimming pool. Note the large mirror above the seating area that reflects the stunning views of the surroundings. The home is perched on an elevated site giving onto a vantage point of the city and valley below.



579 POLARIS COURT

After numerous trips for winter vacation, owners Raymond Mancini and Kevin Tabor decided to make Palm Springs their permanent home. After Hurricane Katrina, the couple wanted a change of pace, so they traded their Greek Revival home in the Garden District of New Orleans for an Alexander in Palm Springs.

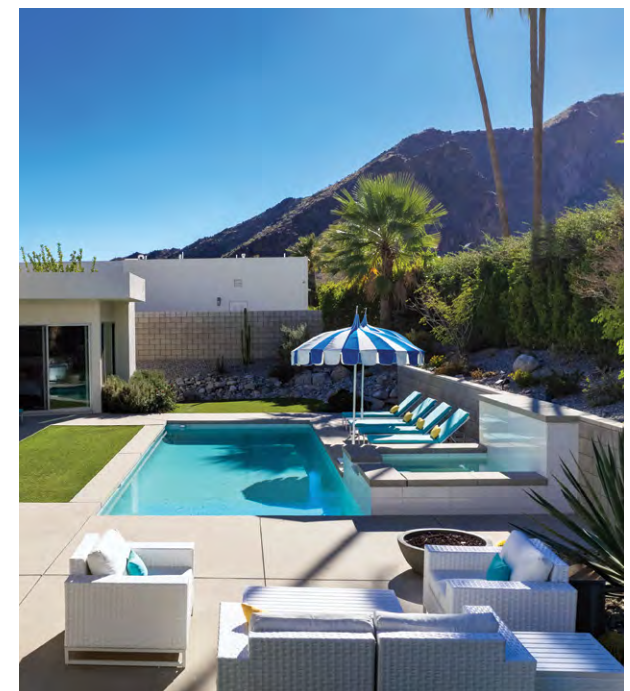
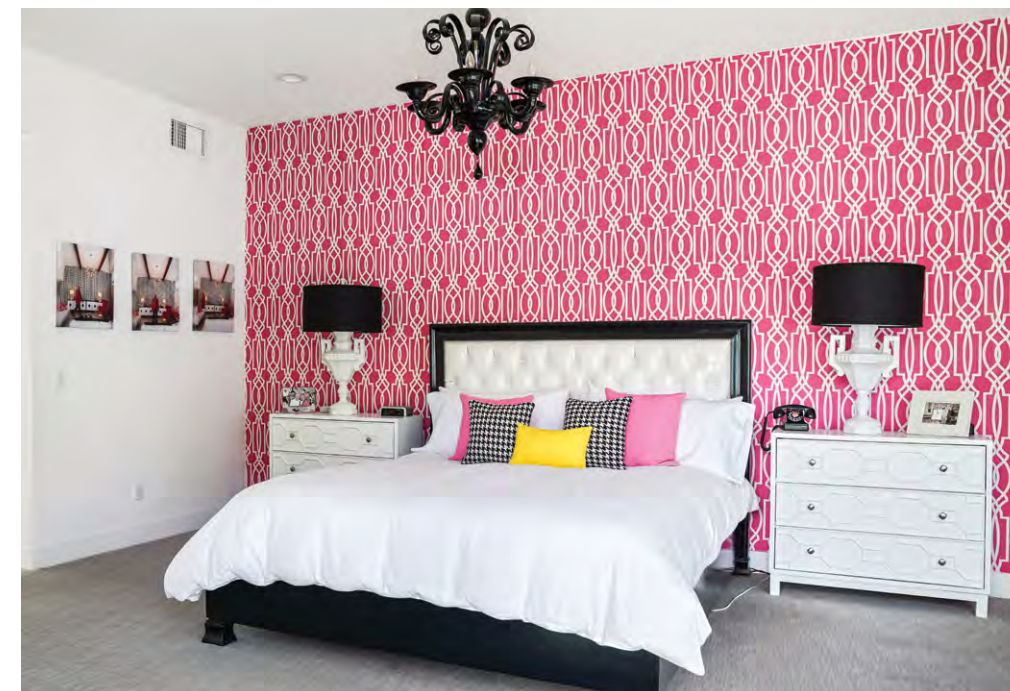
Raymond owned a Garden District guest house and Kevin works in the FinTech industry. They were immediately drawn to mid-century architecture and decided that the Vista Las Palmas neighborhood would meet their needs. After renovating two Alexanders in the neighborhood, the couple had a desire to have more space for their lifestyle which includes a lot of home entertaining. In 2018, after visiting the Skye home models, they decided the open floor plans, high ceilings and expansive mountain views perfectly fit their needs.

The interior is furnished in the Hollywood Regency style which is exemplified by a lot of lacquer, gold and mirrored finishes throughout the house. A palette of contrasting colors, especially pink, emerald, yellow and black & white are featured predominantly with a nod to Asian inspiration.

The dining room serves as an homage to Gianni Versace, with a black and white portrait of him and his sister Donatella. The wall is covered in the textured Versace print, *Les Etoiles De La Mer*. Note the Chinoiserie breakfast room was made by the Union National Furniture Co. of Jamestown, New York, which made quality high-end furniture. They had a celebrity clientele that included Jerry Lewis, Lucille Ball, and William Holden. Furniture was hand-painted by skilled artists on black lacquer. The original piece was purchased from an estate in Palm Beach.

The primary suite is decorated in shades of pink anchored by a pink geometric wallpapered accent wall. Original artwork in this bedroom is by noted pop artist Ivan Jenson, an acrylic on canvas, titled *Rafaella*. A trio of photography by noted modernist photographer, James Schnepf, is of one of the owners. This portrait was featured in the coffee table book, *Modern Living*, which highlighted Palm Springs residents and their homes.

The home is a true reflection of the homeowner's interests in art, interior design, and functionality for home entertaining. The home is great for informal pool gatherings or elegant dining celebrations. The home recently hosted a major donors dinner for AAP-Food Samaritans which included celebrity guest Andrea McArdle, famous for Broadway's *Annie*. After dinner, guests were treated to a sing-a-long with Andrea!



587 CAMINO CALIDAD

Built in 2015, the homeowners acquired the property during the construction phase. At that point they relocated a few walls and significantly expanded the footprint of the open kitchen.

Upon entering this exotic home, one is immediately struck by the disappearing wall which opens to the Shangri La inspired grounds and waterfall, a mood reflected by the lush interior plantings. These ample plantings are a blend of desert and coastal materials and enhance the overall indoor/outdoor flow.

Complimenting the plantings is the generous use of natural materials throughout, including stone, massive metalwork and wood which form important and powerful design elements. The metalwork and woodwork were designed and fabricated by Marker's End Design and Dahlstrom Designs (who also created many elements at the Rowan and Arrive hotels in Palm Springs). Much of the furniture was designed and fabricated by the owners in conjunction with Richard Read Interiors of Palm Desert.

Notice the dramatic kitchen details, including sliding cobalt blue glass panels along the upper cabinets, as well as, the many original and personal details in the lighting fixtures and unusual decorative elements which together create a most unique and inviting home.





591 WEST LINDA VISTA DRIVE

This Spanish Revival home was constructed in 1936 for the Wurlitzer family, known for importing and manufacturing musical instruments such as organs, pianos and others. The home was built even before the small street it sits on was constructed, with maps of the day stating "future road". Isadore and Rosalie Sharp acquired the property in 1986. They live half the year in Toronto. Mr. Sharp is the founder and chairman of Four Seasons Resorts and Hotels. His wife Rosalie is an accomplished abstract painter whose works appear throughout the home. She has transformed her kitchen into an artist's studio.

Entering through an iron gate under an archway of Bougainvillea, this large property runs all the way from Linda Vista to Ramon Road. The home is surrounded by traditional low stone walls, and in keeping with a home built in 1936, the interiors are more traditional and comfortable in character. The space is quite generous, open and flowing, with a sweep from the living room into the dining room and out to a covered patio graced with colorful painted furnishings. Large windows on both the south and north sides of the home let in the light and views. An inviting covered front porch with two swings and a glass enclosed rear porch with a fireplace add to the openness and charm of this perfectly maintained home. A suite of living room furniture is covered with Jack Lerner Larson velvet fabrics, all resting on a beautiful antique carpet.

Be sure to admire the artworks throughout, both by Ms. Sharp and others, for it is the art that truly defines this classic home.



598 CAPELLA COURT

Yes, that is a large (fake) marlin, in honor of the homeowners Charlie and Karen Marlin. It floats above the bar on an ocean-like blue tile wall. The Marlins acquired the home in the Skye development in 2022. The previous owners had already installed the magnificent curvaceous pool, with its palm tree island and circular spa – all built by Teserra. The Marlins then proceeded to complete the interiors and put their personal stamp on the home. Surrounded by the San Jacinto Mountains, the home exudes a sophisticated yet relaxed and welcoming vibe.

The living room features a Restoration Hardware chandelier and an iconic photograph of people diving into a swimming pool (which the marlin appears headed for as well).

In the dining room hangs a Mexican glass art piece acquired in Carmel, rendered in deep blues and rust tones. On the dining table is a grouping of modern glass vases that repeat the sea-tones from other parts of the interior.

The kitchen features a dramatic waterfall counter top in white, with striking deep gray veins running to the floor. Above are three large globe-shaped lights. The circular theme is echoed in the large modern clock on the wall and again in a number of art-glass sculptural pieces throughout the home.

The owners have been expanding upon the spa/beach resort theme, in keeping with the one-of-a-kind pool, and they feel they are just getting started. Five mirrors soon will be installed in the dining room that will allow another view of the mountains from that room.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful for the support we received from the following:

Our sponsors who help underwrite today's tour.

Our homeowners who graciously opened their homes for our annual neighborhood tour.

Our volunteers and docents who took the time out of their Saturday to be with us and answer your questions.

HTCNO Modernism Week Planning Committee: Kirk Ballard, Lynn Dittrick, Tempe Essell, Mark Fichandler, Jim Kisel, Ron Kollen, Raymond Mancini, Malte Schutz, and Cristina Van Dyck.

Kirk Ballard, HTCNO Board Member, for managing our neighborhood social media and promoting the home tour.

Mark Duebner Design for designing this tour book.

Donato Di Natale (DiNatalePhotography.com) for the home photography.

Lynn Hammond for providing catering.

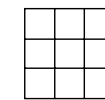
Mark Fichandler & Paul Travis for hosting our volunteers, homeowners and staff.

Evelyn Yardley and the entire Modernism Week team for making this week so special for our visitors, our city, and our neighborhoods.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Raymond Mancini & Kevin Tabor

Jim McKenna & Marco Aguilar

Enso AVEDA Salon



HISTORIC TENNIS CLUB HOME TOUR MAP

HIDDEN GEMS



- 584 Capella Court** (check in)
- 598 Capella Court**
- 579 Polaris Court**
- 575 Fern Canyon Drive**
- 587 Camino Calidad**
- 591 W Linda Vista Drive**
- 372 S Monte Vista Drive**
- 318 W Pablo Drive**

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