



# MIDCENTURY MARVELS: A JOURNEY THROUGH LITTLE TUSCANY

Saturday, February 15, 2025



Built in 1954, the Edris House was designed by E. Stewart Williams, one of the desert's pioneering modernist architects. Williams, who preferred commercial projects, designed only a few homes in the desert, including Frank Sinatra's Twin Palms estate in Palm Springs.

Marjorie and William Edris were neighbors of Williams and his wife, Mari, in an apartment duplex Williams designed. The Edrises and the Williamses became close friends, which led the Edrises to hire Williams to design their first home on a spectacular view lot in Little Tuscany. Williams was given complete design freedom, no budget constraints, and carefully considered how his clients lived, down to the last detail.

The three-bedroom, three-bath home is approximately 2,700 square feet and features a gently sloping roof, wood siding, and extensive stonework. Floor-to-ceiling windows at the back of the house face southeast, overlooking a pool deck and the Coachella Valley beyond.

Historic Site Preservation Board #46 -  
Palm Springs, CA.









Just west of the Edris House, Alta Cielo is an original builder-designed, mid-century modern post-and-beam residence that was restored and updated in 2015 by architect Dan Spencer and contractor Chris Neil of PSI.

The home enjoys a commanding 280-degree view of the Coachella Valley and offers an easy indoor-outdoor flow. The focal point and anchor of the living room, dining room, and kitchen is an impressive custom-built, three-sided, rock-faced fireplace. The 2,500-square-foot home has three bedrooms, one of which has been converted into an artist's studio. The primary bedroom includes an enclosed "catio" for the owners' cherished cat. The guest bathroom is covered in a 1970s phantasmagoric Mylar wallpaper and decorated with mid-century automotive-themed ephemera, including concept car renderings by Detroit stylists.

Alta Cielo was originally constructed in 1957 by the Libott family, who hosted many gatherings, often with guests Louis Prima and Keely Smith. That tradition continues with the current owners. The home has recently hosted performances by Tammy Faye Starlite, Erik Paparozzi, Peter Andrews, Alex Burke, The Mighty Echoes, DJ ModGirl, and others.











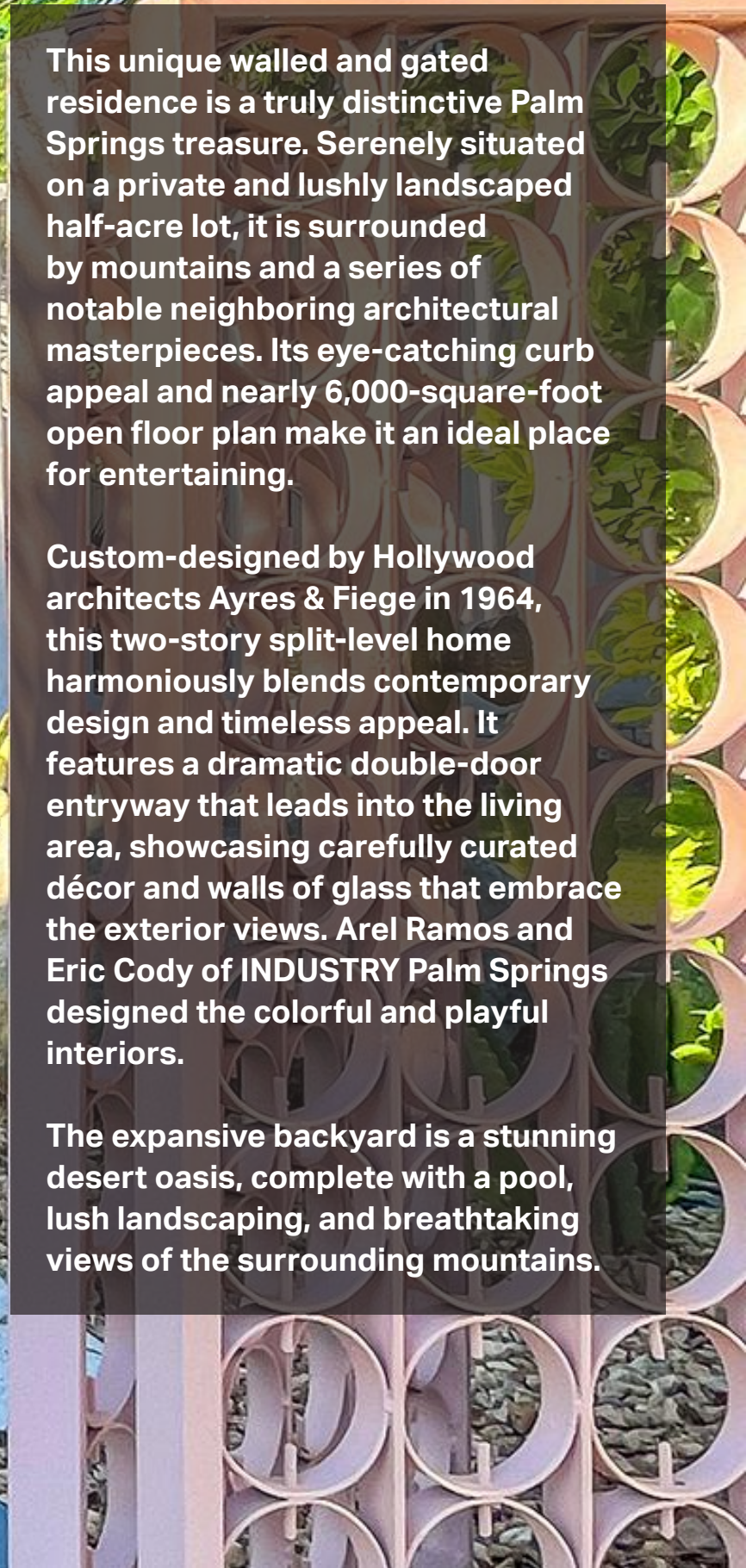




This unique walled and gated residence is a truly distinctive Palm Springs treasure. Serenely situated on a private and lushly landscaped half-acre lot, it is surrounded by mountains and a series of notable neighboring architectural masterpieces. Its eye-catching curb appeal and nearly 6,000-square-foot open floor plan make it an ideal place for entertaining.

Custom-designed by Hollywood architects Ayres & Fiege in 1964, this two-story split-level home harmoniously blends contemporary design and timeless appeal. It features a dramatic double-door entryway that leads into the living area, showcasing carefully curated décor and walls of glass that embrace the exterior views. Arel Ramos and Eric Cody of INDUSTRY Palm Springs designed the colorful and playful interiors.

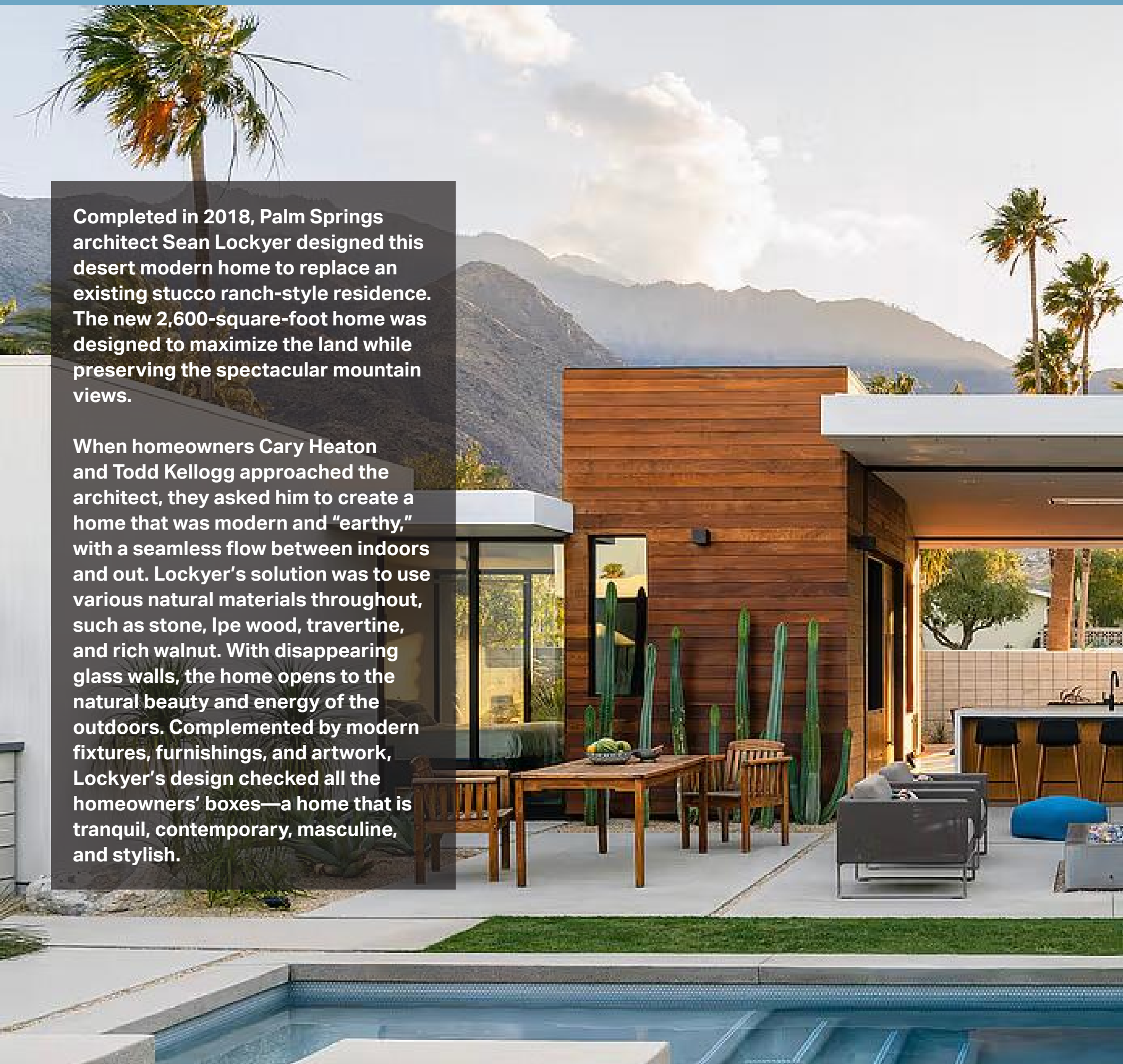
The expansive backyard is a stunning desert oasis, complete with a pool, lush landscaping, and breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains.





Completed in 2018, Palm Springs architect Sean Lockyer designed this desert modern home to replace an existing stucco ranch-style residence. The new 2,600-square-foot home was designed to maximize the land while preserving the spectacular mountain views.

When homeowners Cary Heaton and Todd Kellogg approached the architect, they asked him to create a home that was modern and “earthy,” with a seamless flow between indoors and out. Lockyer’s solution was to use various natural materials throughout, such as stone, lpe wood, travertine, and rich walnut. With disappearing glass walls, the home opens to the natural beauty and energy of the outdoors. Complemented by modern fixtures, furnishings, and artwork, Lockyer’s design checked all the homeowners’ boxes—a home that is tranquil, contemporary, masculine, and stylish.















Constructed in 1966, this Palladian villa estate was designed with meticulous care by James McNaughton to builder Eugene Shelby's specifications for his wife, socialite Barbara M. Shelby. The home's original floor plan consisted of two master bedrooms with en suite baths, along with a grand living room, dining room, and wrap-around verandas. The home also included a library and a maid's quarters. McNaughton's architectural style for this home blended Hollywood Regency, Romanesque, and Palladian influences, notably in its entry, verandas, and the Palladian arches surrounding the pool area.

In June of 2012, this home was rescued from the wrecking ball by Trevor and Carolynn Weflen. It underwent a major restoration, stripping the house down to its original 2x4 studs.

With architect Ray Rooker and designer Neil Curry, plans were drawn up to restore the estate to its original condition, with the addition of a new, enlarged garage, transforming the original maid's quarters into two additional master suites. The restoration thoughtfully preserved McNaughton's original design and architectural elements while incorporating 21st-century amenities.

In April of 2014, restoration was completed, resulting in a brand-new McNaughton masterpiece.



Local interior designer Dan Hall opens his personal residence—this “Case Study” style steel and glass home. Built in 2003 by Modernist Modular Homes, the house reflects the spirit of early 1960s Donald Wexler-designed homes. With metal I-beam construction, concrete floors, and walls of glass clad in galvanized steel siding, this home represented the re-emergence of the Modernist design movement.

Hall purchased and refurbished the home in 2015 after the previous owners had altered many of its original features. The exterior siding had been re-clad in stucco, tile flooring and interior cabinets were poorly upgraded, and the grounds were left barren and neglected. Dan’s challenge was to bring the home back to life, designing a new kitchen, new bathrooms, and new flooring throughout. He also designed and installed new desert landscaping, creating privacy and personal spaces to enjoy the amazing mountain views.

Although the original siding was destroyed on the exterior, it remains a part of the house in the interior ceilings, garden fencing, and newly enclosed carport/garage. Interior furnishings reflect Dan’s eclectic taste for modern art and design, with vintage furniture pieces as well as custom furniture and art that he has designed or created.









Tour Map



LITTLE TUSCANY  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
HOME TOUR

