



## TOWN & COUNTRY CENTER DESIGNATED LOCAL LANDMARK!



Tonight the Palm Springs City Council voted to designate the Town & Country Center (T&CC) as a Class One Historic Site! Now, proposals to alter the property will be reviewed by the Historic Site Preservation Board (HSPB) and the City Council.

This is a key victory after over a decade of effort by the Palm Springs Modern Committee, PSPF, local community leaders, residents, members of the business community, architects, and historians. Together, in 2006, we formed "Friends of Town & Country Center" to ensure that the T&CC would be integrated into the proposed Desert Fashion Plaza project (the current downtown revitalization) instead of it being demolished.

We are encouraged by owner John Wessman's intention to adaptively reuse the T&CC as part of a hotel or residential complex. Noted preservation architect Leo Marmol has been retained by Wessman Development to investigate viable options in attaining this goal. Marmol and his firm were responsible for restoring Neutra's Kaufmann House and E. Stewart Williams' Santa Fe Federal Savings building (now the Art Museum's Architecture & Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion). Leo also worked with the developer of the Century Plaza Hotel, the Los Angeles Conservancy, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation on the successful plan that integrated the building into the new project instead of demolishing the historic hotel, which was the developer's initial plan.

Landmark designation is an important first step in what we hope will soon be the restoration of one of Palm Springs' most important midcentury architectural sites located in the heart of the new downtown.

