

PS ModCom Winter Member Newsletter

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It's a Wrap - From the Desk of the Executive Director

As 2015 comes to a close we thought it presented the perfect opportunity to thank you, our members, for the support you have provided over the past year. Your membership dues provide, among many things, the legal support needed to address the many preservation issues that we have faced this year.

Our one major loss was the beautiful Ramon Drug building designed by Wexler & Harrison. After a protracted effort to stop the razing through appeals to the Historic Site Preservation Board (which recognized the building's value) and the previous City Council (which did not), it was demolished by the tribal allottees. However, we have had some terrific victories, which I would like to briefly recap.

The Palm Springs International Airport Donald Wexler, 1965

With new plans afoot to demolish the baggage area to accommodate the growing needs of the airport, founding President and current Advocacy Chair, Peter Moruzzi worked closely with airport Executive Director, Tom Nolan to find a solution to retain the original facade, which was finally achieved with City Council support.



PHOTO: GLEN WEXLER

PALM SPRINGS AIRPORT, 1965

Tahquitz Plaza Hugh Kaptur, 1971

This roller coaster ride, carefully documented for our members, was the ultimate success story that culminated in the current owners agreeing to restore all of the buildings according to the Secretary of the Interior's rigorous Standards for Rehabilitation. Once again Peter was at the forefront of this success by working behind the scenes with the president of Nexus, Cory Alder, to obtain this significant result. Joining with our partners the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation, who wrote the Class One nomination, we will jointly continue to assist in the



Photo by Brad Dunning

restoration and also in trying to find future tenants. As an added bonus Hugh Kaptur will act as consultant.

**Town & Country Center
Paul R. Williams & A. Quincy Jones, 1948**

The Center continues to be in danger of demolition, even though it has been determined eligible for both the State and National Registers. While quagmired in the downtown specific plan, we are working with the new mayor and city council on preserving this very important building which, if restored and adaptively reused, would undoubtedly become an international attraction.



THREATENED: Town & Country Center, 1947. A. Quincy Jones and Paul R. Williams.

Congratulations to new Palm Springs City Council & Mayor

Talking of the new council, we would like to send our hearty congratulations to Mayor Robert Moon and new council members J.R. Roberts (our former vice president) and Geoff Kors (all PS ModCom members) we look forward to working with you.

Modernism Week 2016 - Gala Benefit Announcmeent

Now less than two months away, PS ModCom will celebrate the Legacy of Donald Wexler and the recent Tahquitz Plaza success story at our booth at the Modernism Show and at the Library exhibit.

THE ANNUAL GALA BENEFIT FEB 13, 6-9pm

STEEL SO COOL - WEXLER PREMIERE PARTY

Be the very first to see the last residence designed by famed architect Donald Wexler at the coolest party of the year. This premiere event is the first official opening of the house, celebrating the finale masterpiece of Don's extensive body of work. While reflecting back to his designs of the 60's, this elegant glass and steel home shoots fast forward to 2016 with its striking and sexy streamlined style maintained by architect Lance O'Donnell, who was mentored by Don along with being one of his closest friends.



This very special evening will pay tribute to the legacy of Palm Springs' beloved "Man of Steel"

Tickets will be available for purchase thru the MW website on January 1st commencing at noon.

Modernism Week St. Theresa School Modernism Projects

Tuesday, February 16 & Thursday, February 18, 1-4pm

Following up on the very successful project produced by the students in 2015, the 6th grade class will exhibit its remarkable new models of significant Palm Springs Modern architecture alongside modern artworks by the 7th grade class



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based on historical or cultural midcentury events.

This is a **FREE Modernism Week event** produced by our Education Committee to inspire interest in the importance of retaining our architectural heritage.

PS ModCom provides each student with a complimentary app and a library donation of books and DVDs to assist them with their projects.



Please mark your calendars for this fun event to show your support!

Volunteer Update

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who signed up to volunteer for our Modernism Week events. The Booth and Iconic Home Tours are now fully staffed but I still need help with the **Unseen Midcentury Desert Modern Home Tour** on Monday FEB 15, 1- 6pm.

If you have a few hours to spare and would like to participate in assisting with the tour I would certainly appreciate your help. Please email me directly at nickie@psmodcom.org or by calling 760.835.5628

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish you all Happy Holidays and a Very Happy New Year!

All the best,
Nickie McLaughlin
PS ModCom Executive Director

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