
HAROLD J BISSNER SR

Harold Bissner Senior was born in 1901 in San Francisco and graduated from high school with no technical training. His first work opportunity was as a draftsman for the architectural firm Lescher & Mahony in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1921, he moved to LA and worked for several architectural offices. In 1931 he started his own firm in Pasadena. It was in the late 1930's and 1940's that his work began to be recognized and published.

Bissner embraced a more traditional approach to architectural design. His 16 plus home designs along Fleur Dr, San Marino near Pasadena area are Spanish Mediterranean, Georgian, and Monterey Adobe styles. In the late 1940's, he partnered with architect Harold Zook and designed with a more modern sensibility. The pair designed Gwinn's Drive-In in Pasadena on Colorado Blvd. In the 1950's he designed dozens of modern apartment buildings in Pasadena, many lining Colorado Boulevard.

He also designed the Mac Blankenhorn's Rancho Mirage residence and the Gibbon residence in Smoke Tree, Palm Springs.

In the late 1950's, Bissner moved to Palm Desert permanently where he designed the 1st phase of Sands and Shadows. The project was a circle of condominiums similar in style to the Sandpiper Condo's near by. It was the 1st phase of a planned "81-apartment project" design, in the "\$20,000 price class", as mentioned in the Desert Sun, Sept. 11, 1959 article.

Special thanks to Luke Leuschner,
Architectural Historian

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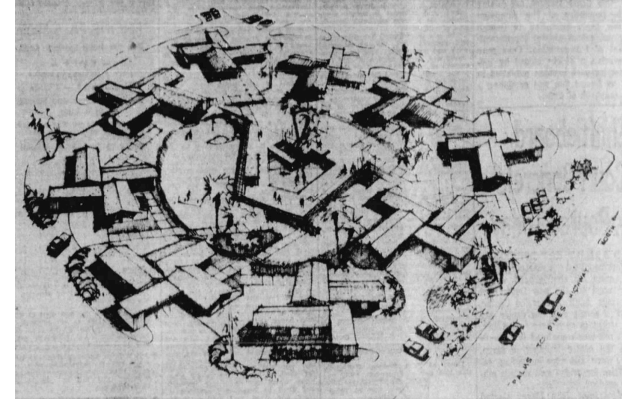
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1901-1988



Sands and Shadows #1 Palm Desert
Artists sketch, The Desert Sun, Sept. 11,
1959 for first 27 units



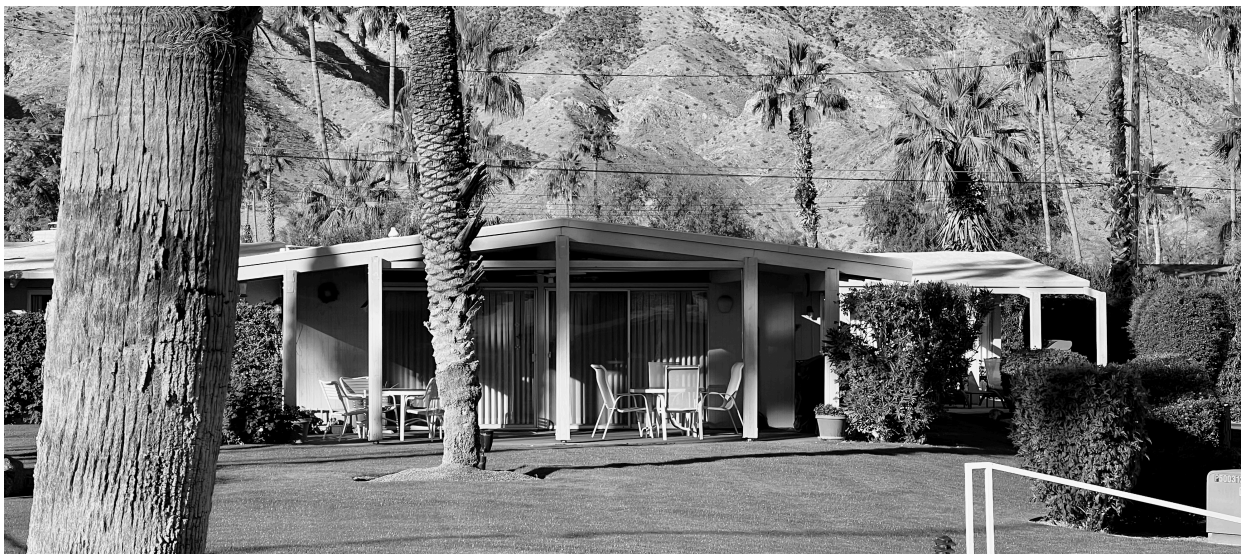
Bill Bean, 1st residence, Harold Bissner &
Lucille Bissner, 2nd residents, Desert Sun
Photo, Feb. 20, 1960



Sands and Shadows #1 was designed by H. J. Bissner Sr. Neill Davis was the owner-developer. Ralph and Dorothy Diets of Diets Designs in PD furnished the first model in a contemporary mode. The construction was completed and the models opened in 1960.



Bissner Sr. partnered with Architect Bob Pitchford around 1960, and formed Bissner & Pitchford. The Sand and Shadows #2 was their design, and completed in 1963.



Sands and Shadows #1, elevation looking from the pool area to a typical unit. The difference in design between the Sands and Shadows #1 & #2 include the roof slopes, roof eave details, fascia details, size of wood posts, and the unit site placement.



Upper circle area, S&S #2 was completed by Bissner & Pitchford, 1963. The lower circle, S&S #1 was completed by H.J. Bissner Sr., 1960.

Map data: Google