
WALTER WHITE

Walter S. White (1917-2002) was the son of a builder in San Bernardino, California. He worked for his father's construction company in his younger years. Between 1933 and 1936 he attended San Bernardino High School. White worked for six months in 1937 for Harwell H. Harris followed by an eight month term (1937-1938) in Rudolf Schindler's Los Angeles office. White then worked for Allen Rouff for six months between 1938 and 1939. From 1939 to 1942, he worked for Win E. Wilson helping to plan and design prefabricated war housing with a skin-stressed plywood panel system. For the remainder of the war (1942-1946), White was employed by the Douglass Aircraft Co. in El Segundo, California, working on machine tool design. In 1947, he moved from Los Angeles to Palm Springs where he worked for John Porter Clark & Albert Frey Architects. He was in the Coachella Valley area from 1947 to 1960.

White designed homes for the middle-income earner, retirees and permanent residents rather than weekend visitors from Los Angeles. He was known for his small home and commercial building designs. White described the variety of buildings he designed over his lifetime: "300 residences, 40 recreation homes, ski lodges, commercial buildings, churches, luxurious club houses and guest rooms, and condominiums. Of the 300 residences designed I have built approximately 15% of them myself."

White's detailed designs make him a master architect in mid-century modernist style.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

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Located at the Old Palm Desert Firehouse
72-861 El Paseo Dr., Palm Desert, CA
92260
760-346-6588

Web site: www.hspd.org
Email: hspd.firehouse@gmail.com



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1917-2002



Corner Window Detail: a structural steel post located within a mitered 90 degree glass corner were common in his designs.



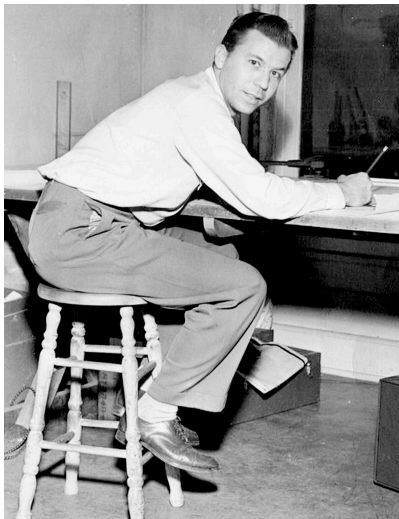
45710 Shadow Mountain Dr.: Common in his small house designs were his extended roof overhangs with a continuous tongue and groove pine wood plank eave detail and angled detailed fascia boards.

Common but not always typical details of his residential designs are: L-shaped or T-shaped floor plans with carport nearby, masonry fence/walls from exterior to interior walls, shallow pitched roofs, single ridge beam and wide overhangs, glass corner windows wrapped around a steel pipe.

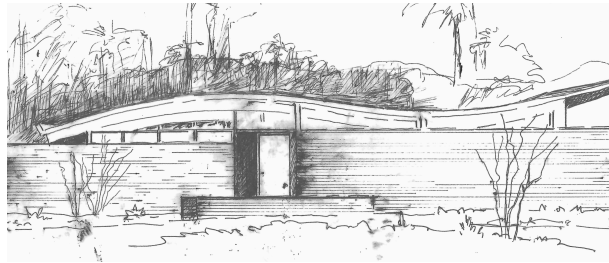
He was a structural pioneer in framing. His roof designs took roof framing to new levels not found in the conventional construction at this time. He has patents for his innovative 1966 Steel Hyperbolic Paraboloid Roof System and 1975 Heat Exchanger Windows and others.

Some examples of his work along Hedgehog for Metro Homes include:

- 72705 1951 - Metro Home.
- 72759 1953 - Metro Home.
- 72787 1953 - White's own home.
- 72821 1953 - attributes to W.W.
- 72603 1958 - Metro Home.
- 72810 1952 - attributes to W.W.
- And 72763 Beavertail St. 1960

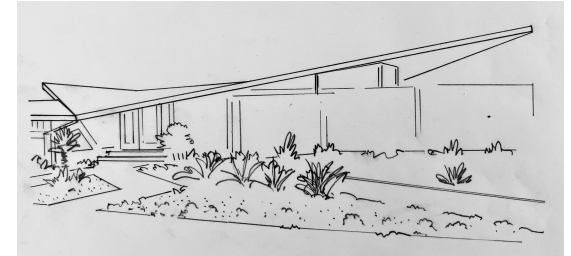


Walter White



Miles C. Bates House, (1955)
73697 Santa Rosa Way, Palm Desert
Desert Wave House

Signature Designs
1011 West Cielo Drive, Palm Springs, built in 1955 for Dr. Franz Alexander. In 1984 added to the National Register of Historic Places



Corner of Jefferson St and Ave 49, Indio, CA,
built in 1958-1959 for Max E. Willcockson.
Hyperbolic Paraboloid Roof



45666 Shadow Mountain Drive, PD. built in 1957 by Charles S. Gibbs. The mid-century modern style characteristics of this home include a low-sloped, angular, asphalt-shingled gable "T" shape roof projecting above a long angled brick wall along the front exterior elevation with clerestory windows.