

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

THE HERBERT BURNS MODEL HOME, 1949

73605 Juniper Street, Palm Desert, CA



Photo: Linda Holden Clode

The Herbert W. Burns Model Home is a 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom home of 2,168 square feet on a .46 acre lot.

Burns' designs use horizontal lines, stone stacked fireplaces, flat roofs, cantilevered overhangs, vertical pylons, screens, grids, and planters seamlessly blending the indoor-outdoor lifestyle while natural materials like wood and sandstone help the structure fit into the environment.

Julius Schulman photographed Burns' work for the Los Angeles Times Home Magazine (1948) and wrote admiringly:

"The designer must merge desert and house, so the occupant will be puzzled to find that subtle point where the view ends and the interior begins... For the theme of desert life, its common denominator is Herbert W. Burns."

**ARCHITECTURAL
DESIGNER:**
HERBERT BURNS

THE OWNERS:
CHARLES AND THELMA
MCVEY



Official Modernism Week Event

THE MODEL HOME



Photos from the Palm Desert Historical Society Archives



Mr. and Mrs. Charles McVey's new home is typical of much of the smart new building.

According to Stephen Keylon, author of "The Design of Herbert W. Burns," Burns had multiple careers — a lighting designer/fabricator, a stockbroker, a building contractor, a color consultant and finally, a as a self-taught architectural designer.

Best known for his apartment motels in Palm Springs - Town & Desert Apartments (1947) (now known as The Hideaway), Desert Riviera Hotel (1950), Holiday House (1951), Village Manor Inn (1955) (now known as the Orbit In) and Desert Hills Hotel (1956).

HERBERT W. BURNS



PHOTOGRAPH BY JULIUS SHULMAN, TOWN AND DESERT APARTMENTS, 1947
J. PAUL GETTY TRUST. GETTY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LOS ANGELES (2004.R.10)

Burns also designed many single-family homes for discerning clients, including Edith Eddy Ward, the “first lady of real estate” in Palm Desert. Her home was featured in the *Los Angeles Times Home Magazine* in 1948 and described as follows:

“The home, in which she entertained extensively, featured long, low lines that fit the desert contours, a large terrace punctuated by syncopated vertical steel poles, something that would become a Burns trademark. Burns designed the Ward home to be easily converted, as required, into a motel, and Mr. and Mrs. L. Fred Talbot of Portland subsequently purchased it and added ten more rooms creating the Sun and Shadow Apartment Hotel in Palm Desert.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BURNS FAMILY ARCHIVES, Published in Palm Springs Life 2018

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