

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

THE FAIRVIEW COTTAGES 1963

46015-46087 Portola Avenue, Palm Desert, CA



Photos: pscondos.com

Fairview Cottages are located off Portola Ave in the Shadow Mountain Resort & Club. These 2 – 3 bedroom, 1,440 - 1,749 sq. ft cottages are part of a small 20-unit development. Originally they were intended to be part of a much larger development scheme which was never realized.

ARCHITECT:
RICHARD DORMAN, AIA

BUILDER:
MONTE WENCK



 **modernism week**
Official Modernism Week Event

Richard Dorman, AIA

Richard Dorman was born in 1922 and raised in Los Angeles. After flying thirty-five missions over the Pacific as a World War II B24 pilot, Dorman used the GI Bill to attend the USC School of Architecture. Upon graduation in 1951, he was then invited to join the design department at Welton Becket and Associates. He served as assistant chief designer until 1956, when he left to start his own firm.



Photo: Desert Sun

Dorman designed a number of homes in Trousdale Estates and the 1961 Irving Stone Residence in Beverly Hills, which was demolished in 2008. Other local works include the Ivory Tower Restaurant in Santa Monica (demolished), which won an AIA Honor Award in 1961; the Airport Office Building (1961) in Westchester; Los Angeles International Design Center (1962) at 8899 Beverly Boulevard; Malibu United Methodist Church (1965); and the Beverly Hills National Bank Building (1965) in Brentwood, which was featured in *Architectural Record* in 1967.

In 1962, Dorman appeared on the cover of “The Take-Over Generation,” a *LIFE* magazine special issue. He was 39 years old, was president of two firms, had nearly sixty projects in the works, and had won ten national awards. “Nothing moves fast enough for Richard L. Dorman, Los Angeles architect and designer,” read his profile, which quoted Dorman as saying, “I want to upgrade everything.”

Dorman moved to Santa Fe in 1975, where he continued to practice architecture while pursuing a great interest in narrow gauge trains and railroads; he wrote thirteen books on the subject. He died in 2010 at the age of 87. His obituary in the *Santa Fe New Mexican* called him “a man passionate about family, friends, church, architecture, trains, and life.”

(Source: Los Angeles [Conservancy](#))

The Cottages

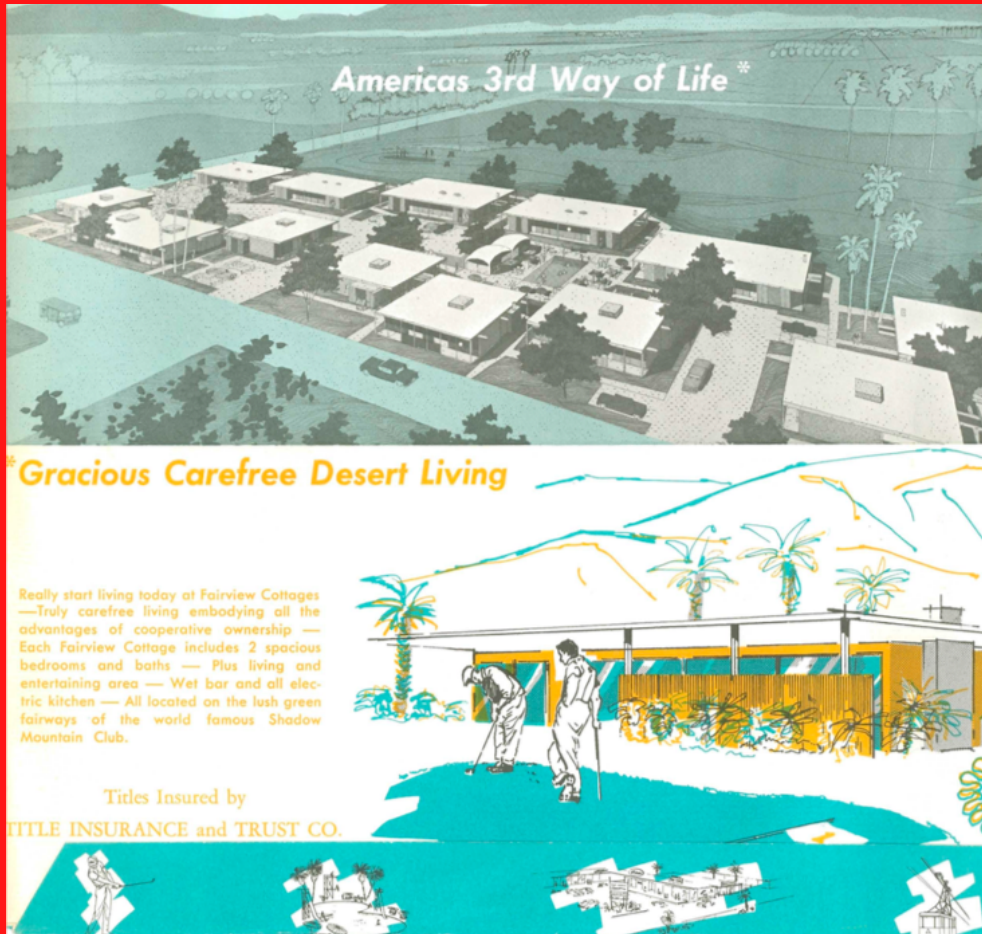


From the Desert Sun 12 April 1963:

"A joint venture consisting of Palm Desert Realtor President Dick Coffin and builder-developer J. Monte Wenck, will be known as Fairview Cottages on approximately three acres at the southwest corner of Fairway Drive and Portola Avenue. The developers announced that the property would be developed into a deluxe condominium cottage area with 20 two-bedroom, two-bath units designed by noted Beverly Hills architect Richard Dorman, designer of many homes and buildings in various parts of the country recently publicized after being awarded the contract for the Los Angeles Playboy Club and office building to be built on the Sunset Strip."



Photos: pscondos.com



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