

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM DESERT

THE RALPH HALE HOUSE 1958

46260 Goldenrod Lane, Palm Desert, CA



Photos: Linda Holden Clode

This 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,980 square foot rancher built on .45 of an acre backs onto the Shadow Mountain Golf Course.

The flat roof is covered with reflective white stone and has large overhangs on all sides. The profusion of rock which faced the exterior of the home and was replicated inside, became a trademark of Outcault's.

The house was built for Mr and Mrs Ralph Hale, owners of the "Hale's Men's Wear" in The Patio Shops, located on the south side of Highway 111 in the 73000 block of Palm Desert.

ARCHITECT:
JOHN OUTCAULT

THE OWNER:
MR & MRS RALPH HALE



Official Modernism Week Event



John Outcault was born in 1927 in Chicago, Illinois. His parents moved to Palm Springs in 1936. They owned and operated the Townhouse Hotel (now the Avalon). He graduated from Palm Springs High School in 1945 and served in the U.S. Navy in 1946.

Outcault attended the University of Southern California School of Architecture in 1946-1952, graduating with a Bachelor of Architecture. While he was a student he apprenticed in the offices of Clark and Frey in Palm Springs. Before opening his own practice, Outcault worked in several different offices including the State of California Division of Architecture (1952-1953), in New York (1953-1956), and Clark, Frey & Chambers of Palm Springs in 1956. In that same year he opened his architecture office in Palm Desert. Outcault received his California license in 1957.

JOHN OUTCAULT

Between 1957 and 1998 Outcault designed many commercial, public, and residential buildings, most of them located in the Coachella Valley. He was very prolific. Not only did he design many custom homes, he also was responsible for the many commercial buildings along El Paseo where he had his offices on the corner of San Luis Rey and El Paseo. The buildings at the Living Desert were designed by Outcault over a 20-yr period. He also designed several small condominium projects mainly in the Shadow Mountain area.

As well, he was often contracted to do additions or remodels of existing buildings. In particular, he did modifications to homes designed by Walter S. White.

In the early days of Palm Desert, he served on the Board of Trustees of the College of the Desert, was active in the development of the Living Desert Reserve, and involved in the growth and incorporation of the City of Palm Desert.

It is generally agreed that Outcault shaped the look of Palm Desert.

John Outcault died in 1998.

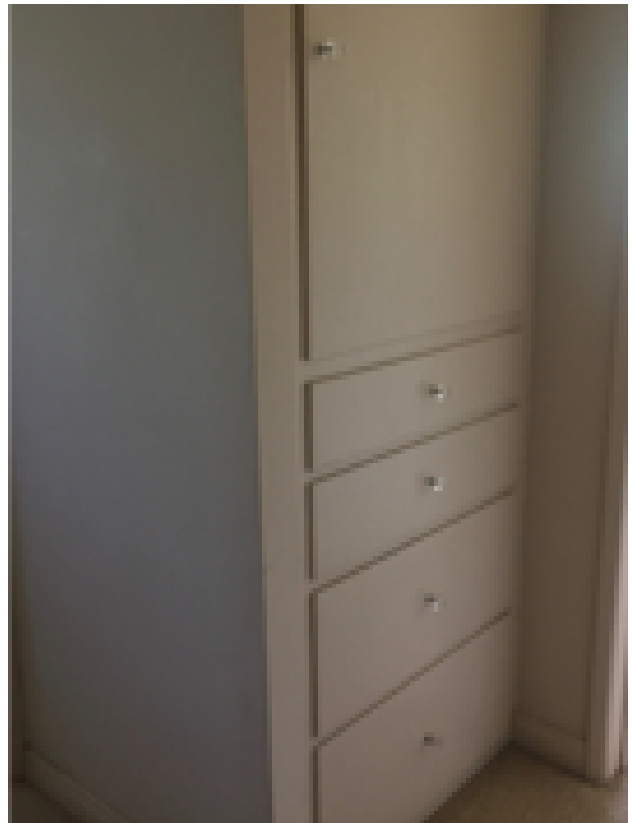
(Overview based on the Archives at UC Santa Barbara where his work is located)

THE HOUSE



The custom woodwork, rock fireplace, beamed vaulted ceiling remain, as well as the original woodwork.





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