

## **“Palm Springs Architecture 101” Lecture Series to be Offered at Palm Springs Art Museum**

### *Informative Lecture Series to Focus on Significant Local Architects*

December 18, 2009 (Palm Springs, CA) - The Architecture and Design Council (ADC) of the Palm Springs Art Museum will offer a lecture series focused on the designs of four local architectural icons and their impact on the history of modernist architecture in Palm Springs. The series will profile architects Albert Frey, William F. Cody, Donald Wexler and E. Stewart Williams and will trace the roots of their work and their impact on the community.

The lectures will be held on Saturday mornings starting in January in the museum's lecture hall and will be conducted by local experts who will discuss the influence that the architect has had on the history of Palm Springs. Each lecture will conclude with a private tour of a home or building designed by the subject architect. Tickets are \$25 per lecture or \$85 for the series (a savings of \$15). Tickets can be purchased at the museum's box office by calling 760.325.4490.

### **Palm Springs Architecture 101 Lecture Series**

January 17 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.): *Albert Frey*

Lecturer: Bill Butler

Albert Frey (1903- 1998) was a prolific architect who established a style of modern architecture centered around Palm Springs that came to be known as 'desert modernism.' Some of the notable buildings designed by Frey are his private residences, Frey House I and II, the Loewy House, Palm Springs City Hall (1952), the now abandoned North Shore Yacht Club at the Salton Sea (1958-1959), the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Valley Station (1949-1963) and the iconic "flying wedge" canopy of the Tramway Gas Station (1963-1965) at the foot of the entrance to the tramway, now used as a visitor's center.

*Lecturer Bill Butler is vice chair, programs of the ADC and an instructor in Cal State Osher Foundation's program.*

February 28 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.): *William F. Cody*

Lecturer: Patrick McGrew

William F. Cody (1916 - 1978) is known for his acute design sensibility using the techniques of Modernism to reduce a structure down to its essential beauty. Significant local projects include the Del Marcos Hotel (1947), the conversion of the Thunderbird Dude Ranch to the Thunderbird Country Club, the Tamarisk and

the Eldorado Country Clubs, the Spa Hotel (1955), the Palm Springs Library Center (1973) and St. Theresa Catholic Church (1973).

*Lecturer Patrick McGrew is a Palm Springs architect and writer who specializes in California architecture and architectural history. He is a member of the ADC Board.*

March 28 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.): Donald Wexler

Lecturer: Bill Butler

Donald Wexler (b. 1926) worked for Richard Neutra in Los Angeles and subsequently moved to Palm Springs to work for William F. Cody. In 1952, he partnered with Richard Harrison, creating the firm of Wexler & Harrison. In 1963, Wexler formed Donald A. Wexler Associates where he developed an expertise in prefabricated steel construction. Notable projects included the Alexander Steel Houses (mid 1960's), the Palm Springs International Airport (1966), the Spa Hotel Bath House (1959), the Canyon Country Club Clubhouse (1963), the Dinah Shore House (1963) as well as many commercial, institutional and public buildings.

*Lecturer Bill Butler is vice chair, programs of the ADC and an instructor in Cal State Osher Foundation's program.*

April 25 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.): E. Stewart Williams

Lecturer: Sidney Williams

E. Stewart Williams (1909 -2005) was the eldest son of Harry Williams (architect of the historic La Plaza Shopping Center in Palm Springs). In 1946, Stewart joined his father and his brother Roger to form the Palm Springs firm Williams, Williams & Williams. Notable projects included the Oasis Office Building (1952), Coachella Savings and Loan (I and II, 1956 and 1961 respectively), the Santa Fe Savings and Loan (1960), the Upper Mountain Station of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (1964), Frank Sinatra "Twin Palms" House (1946) and the Palm Springs Art Museum building (1976).

*Lecturer Sidney Williams is the daughter-in-law of E. Stewart Williams and the Associate Curator of the Palm Springs Art Museum. She serves as the museum's staff liaison for the ADC.*

Located downtown in an architecturally-significant E. Stewart Williams-designed building, the Palm Springs Art Museum features exciting exhibitions of contemporary, Native American, Western and Pre-Columbian art in spacious galleries. It features two sculpture gardens, stimulating lectures and educational programs for all ages, and offers diverse performances at its Annenberg Theater. The Art Museum is open six days a week; Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free to members; \$12.50 for adults; \$10.50 for seniors 62 and over; \$5 for adult students and active-duty military with I.D. and free for youths 17 and under. For more information, call 760.322.4800 or visit [www.psmuseum.org](http://www.psmuseum.org).