

Palm Springs historic preservation tours set for Sunday

Skip Descant, The Desert Sun Published 5:58 p.m. PT April 6, 2016 | Updated 8:11 p.m. PT April 6, 2016

Yes, Modernism Week is in the rear-view mirror for now, but Palm Springs architecture gurus, developers and even the casual do-it-yourself home-improvement types have another afternoon of lectures and tours to learn more about this community's aesthetic and historic preservation.

The third annual Palm Springs Historic Site Preservation Board symposium – titled “The Many Faces of Palm Springs Architecture and Design” – is Sunday at Jewish Community Center starting at 1:15 p.m.

The event includes lectures, panel discussions and everyone's favorite – eight different tours of Palm Springs sites. The tours explore neighborhoods and districts such as the look at the Hawaiian Estates neighborhood in south Palm Springs, hosted by Robert Imber. Or, check out a tour of the Palm Springs financial district called “Show Me the Money.”

Perhaps one of the most alluring tours – which is sadly already sold out – takes attendees into the unseen reaches of La Plaza, the 1936 Spanish-style shopping center designed by Harry Williams. The “Mysteries of La Plaza” tour will trek through the underground parking garage, roof and even the famed “dance hall.” The tour will be led by former Palm Springs Mayor Will Kleindienst.

When we structured the program, our intent was to create a learning experience in an enjoyable atmosphere that evokes a lighthearted approach to what might often be considered as a dry subject matter,” said Dick Burkett, a member of the Historic Site Preservation Board. “The tours are definitely the favorite component of the event.

“The underground tour that former Mayor Will Kleindienst is conducting is one of those rare opportunities to visit a piece of history that seldom is seen,” he added.

The afternoon wraps with an “after celebration” at the O'Donnell Golf Club.

Tickets to the symposium and tours are free, but only a few are left. Go to <http://www.palmspringsca.gov/government/departments/planning/historic-resources/historic-preservation-month> to register.

Palm Springs Historic Preservation Symposium schedule Sunday, April 10

1:15 -- Registration

2:25 -- “How Does Interior Design Complement Preservation” panel discussion

2:24 -- A look at seven different architectural and preservation organizations in the area

3:30 -- "20th Century Architectural Eclecticism in Palm Springs," moderated by Trina Turk with panelists: Steven Vaught, Susan Secoy-Jensen, May Sung, Paul Ortega

5 p.m. Tours

6:15 -- After event, O'Donnell Golf Club