



TEAM-BUILDING »

TOURS »

LEAD THE WAY

Palm Springs offers a variety of customized design tours that not only give meeting participants a look at the city's much admired midcentury-modern architecture but also inspire fresh thinking. "We're using landscape, architecture and design as a way to stimulate creativity," says Trevor O'Donnell, founder of Palm Springs Architecture Tours. O'Donnell leads groups on various itineraries, including architectural tours by van and walking tours of Palm Springs' Uptown Design District, which is populated with shops specializing in midcentury design.

Michael Stern is the founder of the Modern Tour Palm Springs and an architecture writer (his second book, *Hollywood Modern*, will be published by Rizzoli in early 2016). He says his bespoke tours are carefully curated and paced for each client to provide context and "highlight what makes Palm Springs so extraordinary."

Stern has organized a series of tours for Interior Design Magazine's annual Giants of Design conference and he's worked with corporate clients like Nike, Cadillac and NBC. Clients may request a visit to certain iconic properties, and if the group has time, he recommends a cocktail party to cap the day. Twin Palms, one of the city's most fab post-war homes, was built for Frank Sinatra and has a piano-shaped pool where tourgoers can absorb a genuine midcentury vibe. "It's a chance to relax and soak in the experience," Stern says. "We make it so it's a fun, humor-laden tour that's an alternative to the crunch and stress of non-stop meetings and work sessions." psarchitecturetours.com; themoderntour.com