

THE BLOG

Four Intimate Tours of Palm Springs' Architectural Wonders

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Cody Glass House, courtesy of moderntour.com

(On one tour you can explore the interior of this typical mid-century home)

A small cottage tour industry has developed to showcase the region's architecture, mostly run by transplants from New York and Los Angeles who are not architects but have a keen interest in preservation and the area's unique design history.

Palm Springs has been cited by the National Register of Historic Places for having the largest collection of mid-century modern architecture in the U.S., designed by such notables as Albert Frey, Howard Lapham, William F. Cody, William Krisel, Donald Wexler, Richard Neutra, and A. Quincy Jones among many others.

These tours all a bit different. Some include interiors, others just exteriors; some last just 90 minutes, others take three hours. They are all led by passionate, knowledgeable local residents, who love the area and its many iconic residential and commercial buildings.

One such is Michael Stern, who wrote *Julius Shulman: Palm Springs* (Rizzoli), chronicling the famous photographer's work in the area. On my tour, Stern pointed out some of the neighborhood's unique building regulations. "Notice the single-story zoning ordinance," he told our group. "No one can block your view, or look into your backyard. And there are no street lights so you can see the stars at night."