

## DESERT DISPATCH

Text by Samuel Cochran | February 13, 2013



The pool at the Parker Palm Springs. Photo: Catherine Ledner

With its rich architectural legacy and sybaritic spirit, the oasis-like town of Palm Springs, California, just a two-hour drive from Los Angeles, makes for a perfect weekend getaway.

**WHY GO NOW:** Palm Springs Modernism Week, the city's annual celebration of midcentury design, returns February 14–24. This year's programming expands the beloved house tours, showcasing contemporary homes in addition to iconic dwellings by architects Albert Frey and E. Stewart Williams.

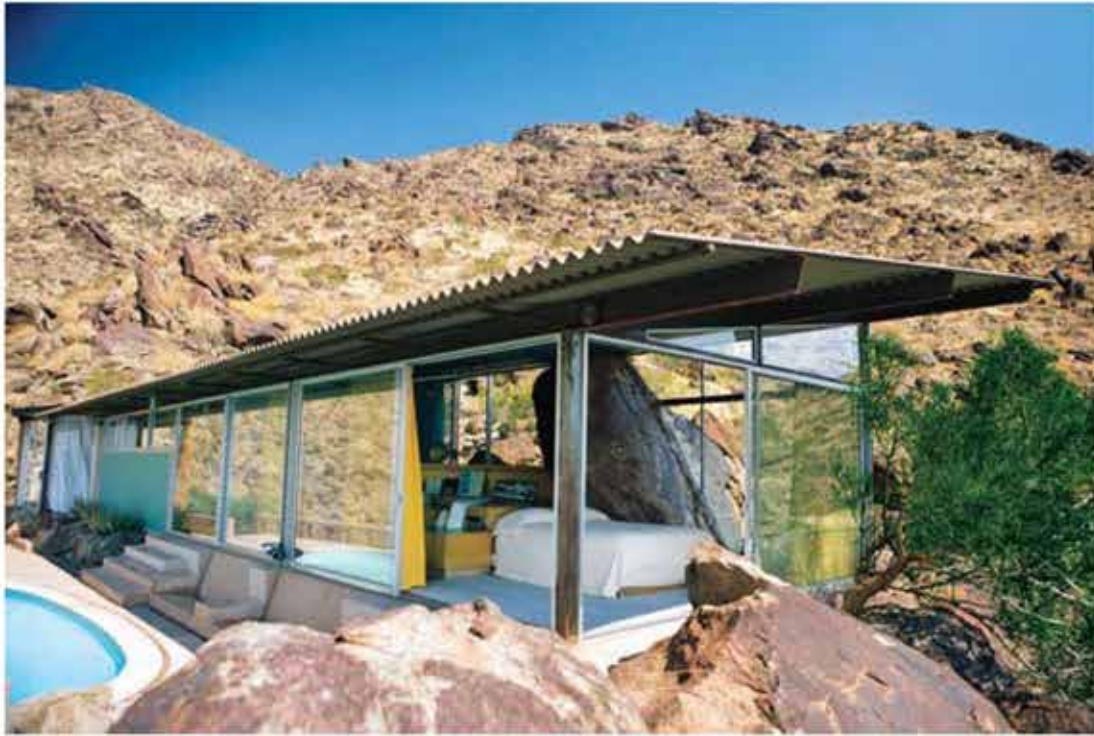
**WHERE TO STAY:** The range of accommodations grows wider by the year, but the standard-bearers of local style are still the Parker Palm Springs, with its trademark kitschy-cool interiors by designer Jonathan Adler, and the Colony Palms Hotel, featuring spaces conceived by AD100 decorator Martyn Lawrence Bullard. The budget-conscious would be hard-pressed to find rooms more cheerful than the candy-color ones at the recently debuted Saguaro.



The dining area at the new Workshop Kitchen + Bar. Photo courtesy of SOMA

**WHERE TO EAT:** Unveiled in September, Workshop Kitchen + Bar has quickly become a go-to spot, luring residents and tourists alike with its sleek, industrial-inspired look, devised by the Manhattan architecture firm SOMA, and a rotating menu that draws heavily on local produce.

**DON'T MISS:** These days, what trip to the Coachella Valley would be complete without a stop at Sunnylands, the former estate of philanthropists Walter and Leonore Annenberg in Rancho Mirage? Opened to the public last March, the storied A. Quincy Jones–designed house is a modernist rhapsody in pink.



The Frey House II, a local landmark designed in 1964 by architect Albert Frey. Photo: Christopher Wray-McCann/Condé Nast Archive

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