

Across the valley

palm springs

Group honored for preservation

BY STEFANIE FRITH

The Desert Sun

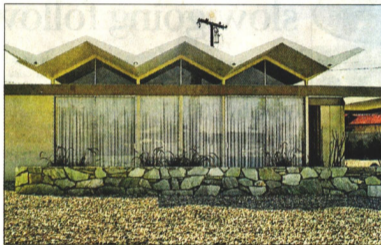
A Palm Springs neighborhood dotted with mid-century modern homes designed by famed architects Donald Wexler and William Krisel was recognized Thursday.

The Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization received a \$1,000 check from the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation at the Palm Springs Neighborhood Involvement Committee meeting.

The money will help the organization representing 550 homes continue to educate the public through its Web site about the history of the neighborhood, Preservation Foundation President William Kopelk said.

"(Your Web site) does much to instill a sense of neighborhood identity and pride," Kopelk said as he presented the check to Rick Vila, the neighborhood's general coordinator.

He added he hopes recog-



This house at 300 Molino was designed by Palm Springs architect Don Wexler. Wexler and architect William Krisel's work is prized by its owners.

DESERT SUN FILE
PHOTO

niton like this will help with the creation of historic neighborhood districts.

The Web site includes vintage advertising brochures, as well as an interview with Krisel. Krisel designed the Racquet Club Estates from 1959 to 1962 when he worked for the well-known Alexander Construction Co.

The development was the largest single-family tract home project the Alexanders undertook, according to www.racquetclubestates.com.

The site also includes an architectural map of the area, which is mainly bounded by East San Rafael Road, Avenida Caballeros, Vista Chino and In-

dian Canyon Drive.

"This is the type of thing neighborhoods should be doing," Neighborhood Involvement Committee Chairman John Williams said.

There are 22 neighborhoods in the city's Neighborhood Involvement Committee, which was established in 2005.