



**HOME & GARDEN**  
**Honoring famed architect Wexler**

**The Desert Sun**

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**Home & Garden**

**WEXLER: An education weekend**



**GLEN WEXLER** GARYWEXLERDESIGN

Palm Springs International Airport

**Weekend schedule**

**SATURDAY, JAN. 23**

**9 to 11 a.m.:** Champagne Jazz Brunch at Leon's Bar & Grill, Indian Canyons Golf Resort, 1100 Murray Canyon Drive, with a special breakfast menu. Entertainment provided by the Palm Springs High School Jazz Band with vocals by granddaughter Marilyn Wexler. PSPF will donate \$1,000 to the PSHS Jazz Band in honor of Donald Wexler's 84th birthday. Cost: \$20.

**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.:** Tour of Wexler-designed properties. Highlights include tract homes in El Rancho Vista Estates, Wexler's own Palm Springs home and celebrity homes. Price includes a copy of the Wexler tribute journal. (Tour check-in from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and lunch break from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.) Cost: \$75.

**6 to 8:30 p.m.:** Evening fundraiser at the Wexler-designed Leff-Florsheim House (1957). Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and an architecturally-themed silent auction. Cost: \$125.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 24**

**10 a.m. to noon:** "Steel Some Time" at the Wexler Steel Development Houses. Several steel homes will be open for viewing. Mimosas and hors d'oeuvres. Cost: \$35.

**3 to 5 p.m.:** Wexler tribute journal book-signing by author Patrick McGrew at Just Fabulous, 515 North Palm Canyon Drive. Light refreshments. Free.

**For more information:** Go to [www.pspreservationfoundation.org](http://www.pspreservationfoundation.org)

**Wexler facts**

- The South Dakota native began his architecture career in Palm Springs in 1952.
- Wexler served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.
- At the University of Minnesota, Wexler studied architecture on the GI Bill.
- Wexler received a star on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars in 2008.
- Altogether, Wexler has designed dozens of custom homes, government buildings, schools, hospitals and somewhere around 200 tract homes.
- Wexler briefly worked with Richard Neutra, another legend of modern architecture.

**Building timeline**

- 1955:** Wexler House, Palm Springs
- 1958:** Spa Hotel Bath House, Palm Springs
- 1961:** Alexander Steel Houses, Palm Springs
- 1962:** Union 76 Gas Station, Palm Springs
- 1963:** Palm Springs Medical Clinic
- 1964:** Dinah Shore Residence, Palm Springs
- 1965:** Palm Springs International Airport
- 1971:** Merrill Lynch Building, Palm Springs
- 1985:** Hope Square Professional Centre, Palm Springs

**wexler's world**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2010



**DAVID GLOMB** GARYWEXLERDESIGN

A steel house designed by Don Wexler sits at 300 Molino Road in Palm Springs.

**Weekend honoring famed architect gives fans and novices an education**

**BY MAGGIE DOWNS**  
 The Desert Sun

**E**ven if you've never heard of Don Wexler, you probably drive past his work every day. The legendary mid-century modern architect has designed everything from the Palm Springs International Airport to the Larson Justice Center in Indio — and nearly all the steel homes in between.

Thanks to the Palm Springs Preservation Society, architecture aficionados and novices alike can pay tribute to the architect during the first ever Wexler Weekend.

The festivities, set for Jan. 22-24, include home tours, cocktail parties, a champagne brunch and the release of a new book that delves deep into Wexler's designs.

The celebratory weekend coincides with Wexler's 84th birthday on Jan. 23.

"We were planning to do something special for the book anyway," says Richard Kip Serafin, board member for the Palm Springs Preservation Society. "And then we thought, why not make a weekend of it?"

**Wexler Weekend**

**FRIDAY, JAN. 22**

**7:30 p.m.:** Screening of "Journeyman Architect: The Life and Work of Donald Wexler" at Camelot Theatres. A 67-minute film followed by a brief Q&A with Wexler tribute journal author Patrick McGrew and architect Doug Hudson.

**For the full schedule, see WEXLER, D2**

Thus, the merging of mimosas and steel houses.

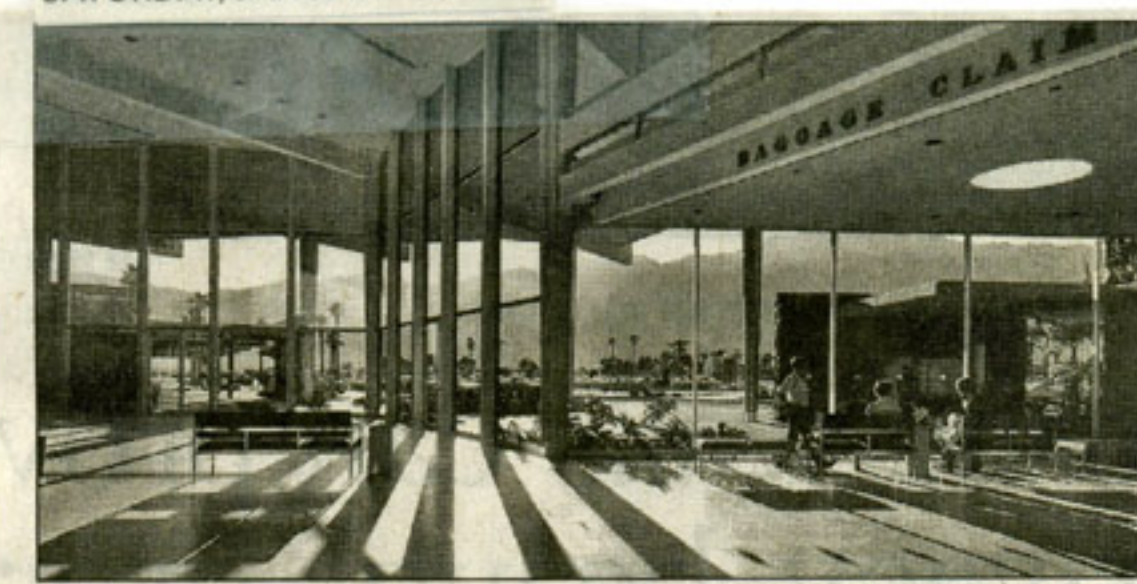
The idea was to create an event accessible enough for people just learning about modernism but still enjoyable for those who have long loved Palm Springs' structures.

Organizers expect about 600 out-of-towners to attend.

"It's all about education," says Patrick McGrew, a board member of the preservation foundation and author of "Donald Wexler: Architect." "There's something here that everyone can appreciate."

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**WILLIAM K. PLAC** GARYWEXLERDESIGN



**LANCE GERBER** GARYWEXLERDESIGN



**ETHAN KAMINSK** GARYWEXLERDESIGN



**COLIN FAULKNE** GARYWEXLERDESIGN

GARYWEXLERDESIGN

**Photos from top to bottom:**

- The Palm Springs International Airport
- The former Dinah Shore residence in Palm Springs
- The Larson Justice Center in Indio
- The Don Wexler residence in Palm Springs
- The Colonnade at the Spa Hotel (circa 1960s)