

Palm Springs Sun

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A DESERT SUN WEEKLY PUBLICATION

Mid-century modern architecture fans honor Donald Wexler

PALM SPRINGS SUN | FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2010

OUR CITY

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Famed architect to be honored

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With his signature “folded-plate” roofs, steel-framed homes and floor-to-ceiling windows, Donald Wexler helped transform Palm Springs into a mid-century modern mecca — attracting scores of design buffs each year.

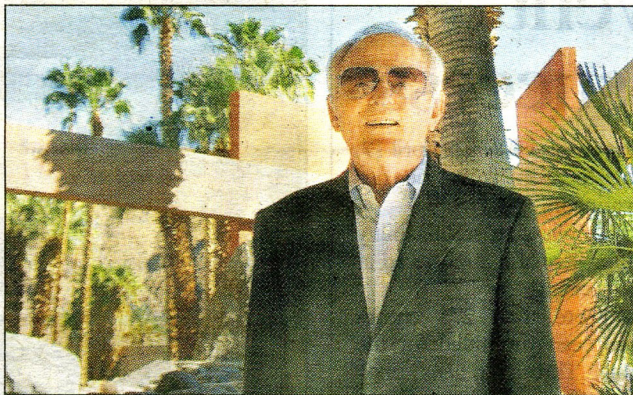
This weekend, the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation will honor the famed architect with Wexler Weekend, a one-time series of events to mark Wexler’s 84th birthday and reflect on the Palm Springs resident’s legacy.

The event, which gets under way today and continues through Sunday, will include a film screening of “Journeyman Architect: The Life and Work of Donald Wexler” at Camelot Theatres and tours of Wexler-designed properties.

Wexler, a South Dakota native, began his architecture career in Palm Springs in 1952 after serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he said.

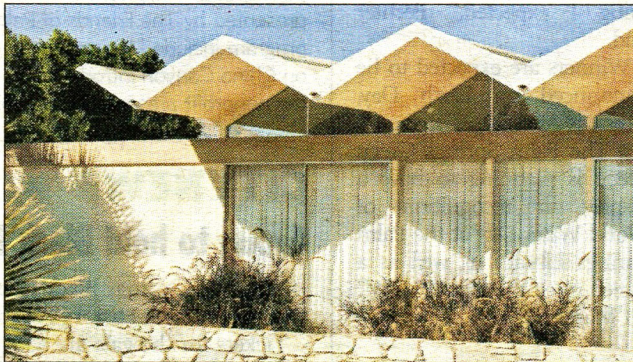
“I didn’t really know what I wanted to be” after leaving the Navy, Wexler said earlier this month. “I wasn’t looking for a legacy.”

However, after a University of Minnesota aptitude test pointed him toward architecture and with more than five decades designing valley buildings, Wexler often is cited as one of Palm Springs’ most important architects, along with others like Albert Frey, E. Stewart



KEITH MATHENY PALM SPRINGS SUN

The Palm Springs Preservation Foundation is honoring famed architect Donald Wexler this weekend.



PALM SPRINGS SUN FILE PHOTO

The Steel House was built in 1961 by Donald Wexler for The Alexander Company.

Williams, Richard Harrison and John Porter Clark.

“He has such a vast quantity of work,” Palm Springs Preservation Foundation President Ron Marshall said.

Wexler estimated he’s designed between 50 and 100 buildings across the Coachella

Valley, including the one that greets most air travelers to the region — the Palm Springs International Airport terminal.

“What’s more fundamental than coming to Palm Springs and seeing the airport?” Marshall said. “It’s the front door to the city.”

at a glance

Wexler Weekend

TODAY

7:30 p.m.: Screening of “Journeyman Architect: The Life and Work of Donald Wexler” at Camelot Theatres.

SATURDAY

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. Cost: \$20.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Tour of Wexler-designed properties. (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.: Fundraiser at the Wexler-designed Leff-Florsheim House (1957). Includes an architecturally-themed silent auction. Cost: \$125.

SUNDAY

10 a.m. to noon: Several Wexler Steel Development Houses will be open for viewing. Cost: \$35.

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