



August 23, 2010

Chair, Planning Commission  
City of Palm Springs  
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Re: City Hall Parking Lot Reconfiguration Appeal

Dear Chair Caffery,

We recently became aware of archival information at the University of California, Berkeley that may inform a broader appreciation of the historic value of the Palm Springs city hall site.

Within the UC-Berkeley Environmental Design archives is a collection of papers donated by the well-known landscape architect Garrett Eckbo (1910-2000). Eckbo authored the influential book *Landscape for Living* in 1950 and is credited with “inspiring the modern landscape movement.”

The Eckbo collection project index file notes a folder entitled “Palm Springs City Hall (Palm Springs, CA; 1956; governmental) Collaborator: Clark, John (architect).” Unfortunately, the folder contains only 35mm slides, reproductions of which are provided as attachment (1). Despite the lack of additional information in the folder, the images are unmistakably our own city hall.

Independent of any value judgment regarding the relative importance of this information, what is obvious is that the city has yet to do the necessary research to establish a complete appreciation of the value of the city hall’s “historic hardscape.”

We ask that you share this letter with your fellow commissioners as this additional information may lend further credibility to the appeal of the planning director’s approval of Case No. 3.3377.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact the foundation at (760) 837-7117.

Sincerely,

Ron Marshall  
President

Copy to:  
Historic Site Preservation Board  
Desert Sun (Mariecar Mendoza)

Attachment (1): Six images from Eckbo Collection (UC-Berkeley Environmental Design archives)



**Attachment (1)**



