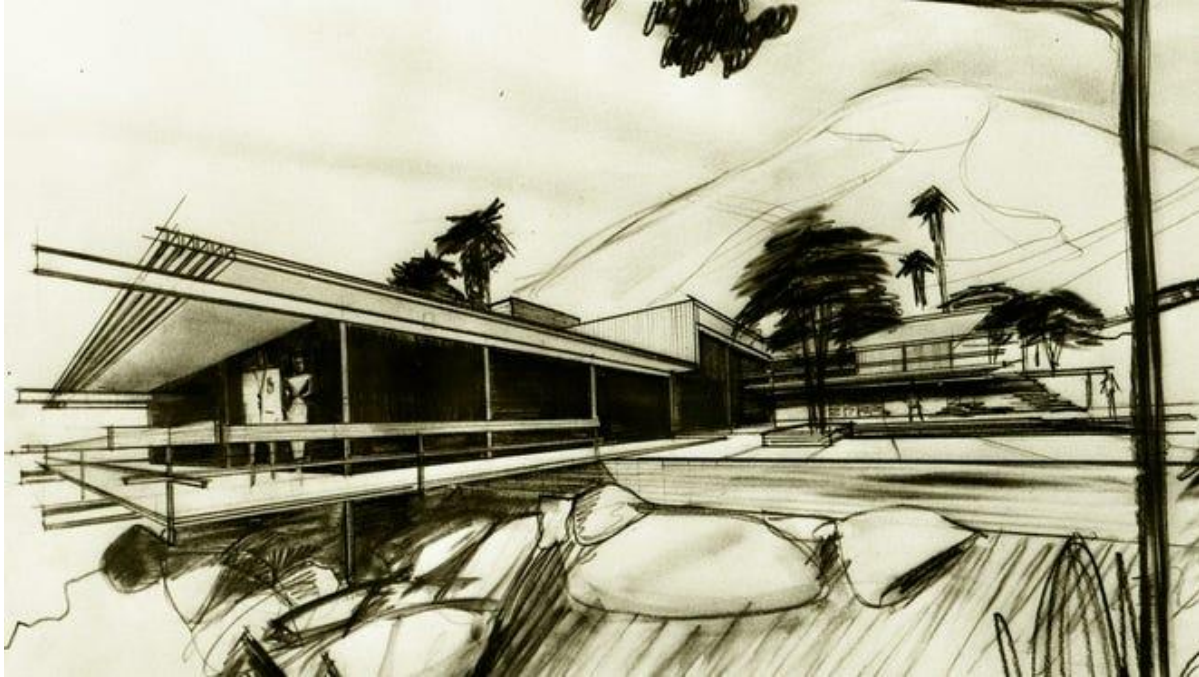


A thank you from Hugh Kaptur to all who helped build a career

Hugh M. Kaptur Special to The Desert Sun

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Architectural rendition by Hugh Kaptur of Steve McQueen's home in Southridge. *Courtesy of Palm Springs Historical Society*

I've lived in Palm Springs for more than 60 years, raised my family here, served on several city boards and committees, participated in the community and made a living doing the work I love, which is designing architecture.

Over the years, I've had the pleasure of watching my contemporaries — E. Stewart Williams, Donald Wexler, Albert Frey and Bill Krisel, among others — receive respect and accolades for their work. I was proud to know them and call them friends.

I never imagined that one day I would receive similar recognition.

Over the past several years my work began receiving attention; a fire station on the corner was noted or Bill Holden's house on Southridge had a new

owner, my name attached to the architecture. But most of my work was unknown to the people who lived in the houses and worked in the buildings.

Today, I'm asked to autograph a wall of a house I designed 50 years ago; participate on panel discussions; consult on restoration projects; give interviews for newspapers and magazines; and even attend glamorous parties honoring me. That's what a museum exhibition, a film and a new book will do for one's anonymity.



Architect Hugh Kaptur pictured at the building he designed at 600 Tahquitz Canyon Way in Palm Springs, October 16, 2016.
Jay Calderon/The Desert Sun

The recognition I am receiving this year overwhelms me, surprises me and humbles me.

My sincere and heartfelt gratitude goes to so many people and organizations that contributed to this recognition. First and foremost, I thank the late Patrick McGrew for "discovering" me in 2011 and beginning those watershed years. And to the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation's Ron and Barbara Marshall for writing the nomination of Tahquitz Plaza to be a historic property and to the same foundation's Steve Keylon for authoring a book on my career.

To the Palm Springs Art Museum's Brooke Hodge and Frank Lopez for the Architecture and Design Center's current exhibition on my work. To the Historical Society, the Historic Site Preservation Board, the Modern committee, the Architecture and Design Council and to Gary Johns and Modernism Week for giving me a star on the Walk of Stars. To Michael Stern and Allan Hess for including my work in their new book.

Thanks to Bert Simonis for making a film about me and to Trina Turk for her generosity. To Scott Timberlake for bringing new life to Tahquitz Plaza and to Susan Secoy Jensen for her expertise in restoring it. And to many others: Paul Kaplan, Peter Moruzzi, Gary Wexler and Michael Hinkle, I say "thank you."

And finally to the City Council of 2015 for their first unanimous vote designating Tahquitz Plaza a Class I historic site; this alone is a lifetime honor I will long cherish.

To all and to those I absentmindedly omitted, please accept my profound indebtedness.

