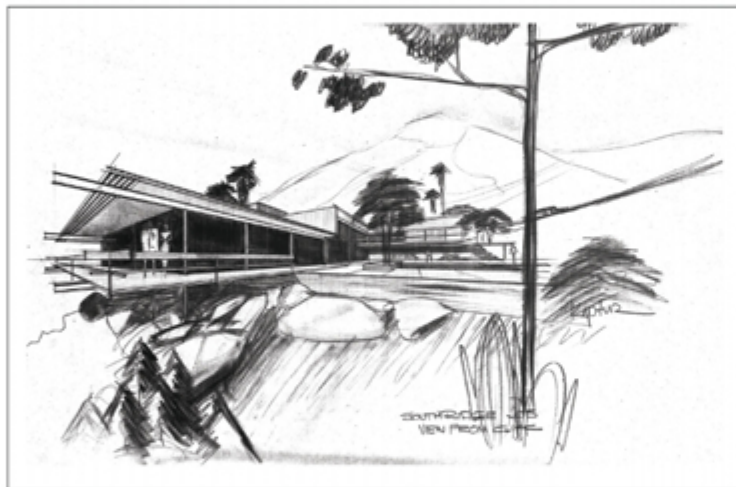


## ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN CENTER

# Hugh Kaptur

## Organic Desert Architecture

Architecture and Design Center  
February 2–June 17, 2019



With more than 200 built projects in the Palm Springs area—residential, commercial, and institutional—Hugh Kaptur has played an extraordinary role in the city's architectural development. A visionary designer, Kaptur established his practice here in 1956, and he continues to work today as he oversees an addition to his 1971 City of Palm Springs Fire Station No. 4.

While a number of Kaptur's early projects utilize post-and-beam construction, over time he developed a bold modern style that was inspired by the desert architecture of Arizona and the work of Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin West in Scottsdale. This organic, sculptural aesthetic became Kaptur's signature and is immediately recognizable in buildings that are characterized by thick walls and deeply inset windows with protruding frames; these add interest to the facades while protecting the buildings from absorbing the intense desert heat.

In 2015, Kaptur gave the museum his architectural archive where it joined holdings by fellow desert modernists Albert Frey, Donald Wexler, and E. Stewart Williams, providing a rich and invaluable resource for scholars and building owners alike. *Hugh Kaptur: Organic Desert Architecture* traces Kaptur's career from the late 1950s to the present and showcases his dynamic graphite renderings, which reveal his flair for drawing and capture the innovative spirit of Palm Springs' modern architecture.

Focusing on a number of Kaptur's most iconic projects, the exhibition features a wealth of material from the Kaptur Collection, including sketches, architectural drawings, watercolors, models, period photographs, as well as new images by photographer Dan Chavkin.



Opposite page: Hugh Kaptur. Graphite perspective drawing of Griffith/Morris/Hoover Residence, Palm Springs, 1963. The Hugh Kaptur Collection, Palm Springs Art Museum. (above) Hugh Kaptur, Muscled Hotel (formerly Casa Blanca), Palm Springs, 1967. Photo by Dan Chavkin. (right top) Hugh Kaptur and Larry Lapham, Tahquitz Plaza (now Kaptur Plaza), ca. 1973-74, Palm Springs. Rendering by Purcell. (right middle) Hugh Kaptur. Hotel for Mrs. Fern Laurence (formerly Impala Lodge, now Triangle Inn), ca. 1958. Palm Springs. Rendering by Hugh Kaptur. (right bottom) Hugh Kaptur and Robert Ricciardi, and Palm Springs Municipal Golf Course Clubhouse, 1961. Photo by Dan Chavkin.



*Hugh Kaptur: Organic Desert Architecture* is organized by Brooke Hodge, Director of Architecture and Design, and Paul D. Lopez, Archivist/Librarian, with generous support from Palm Springs Preservation Foundation and Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Council.



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