

A background of vertical wooden planks with a natural grain and some knots, creating a rustic and textured appearance. The planks are arranged in a regular pattern, filling the entire frame.

HOWARD LAPHAM
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER

Howard Lapham...(May 11, 1914 – April 16, 2008) born in Oklahoma City was a modernist architectural designer.

He relocated to Palm Springs in the in 1954 from Stamford, CT at age 40. Soon after settling into this desert community, he began designing homes for California's wealthy and movie elite. Many of Lapham's clients were members of the Thunderbird Country Club. Development near the golf club's fairways and up the slopes of the foothills grew into "Thunderbird Heights."

Lapham officially retired in the 1980s, although he continued to maintain an office in Palm Springs until his death at age 92 in 2008.

These Lapham buildings appeared in Architectural Digest:

- **Hyatt von Dehn Residence (1960, Thunderbird Heights)**
- **The Kiewit Residence (1960, Thunderbird Country Club)**
- **The Clarke Swanson Residence (1961, Thunderbird Country Club)**
- **The Morrow Residence (1961, Silver Spur Ranch, Palm Desert)**
- **A remodel of the Thunderbird Country Club clubhouse (1961).**

The background of the entire image consists of vertical wooden planks with a natural, weathered texture and various knots. A solid, dark reddish-brown horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, serving as a background for the text.

THE DESERT STAR

CLASS I HISTORIC SITE



the desert star

1611

Originally commissioned and constructed as an apartment hotel, 1611 South Calle Palo Fiero is now a beautifully restored condo association which was designed by Lapham and built in 1956.



The background of the entire image is a close-up, vertical view of weathered wooden planks. The wood has a warm, brownish-gold tone and shows significant signs of age, including numerous knots, grain variations, and some surface wear. A solid teal horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text.

MANZANITA HOUSE

DEEPWELL ESTATES 1958

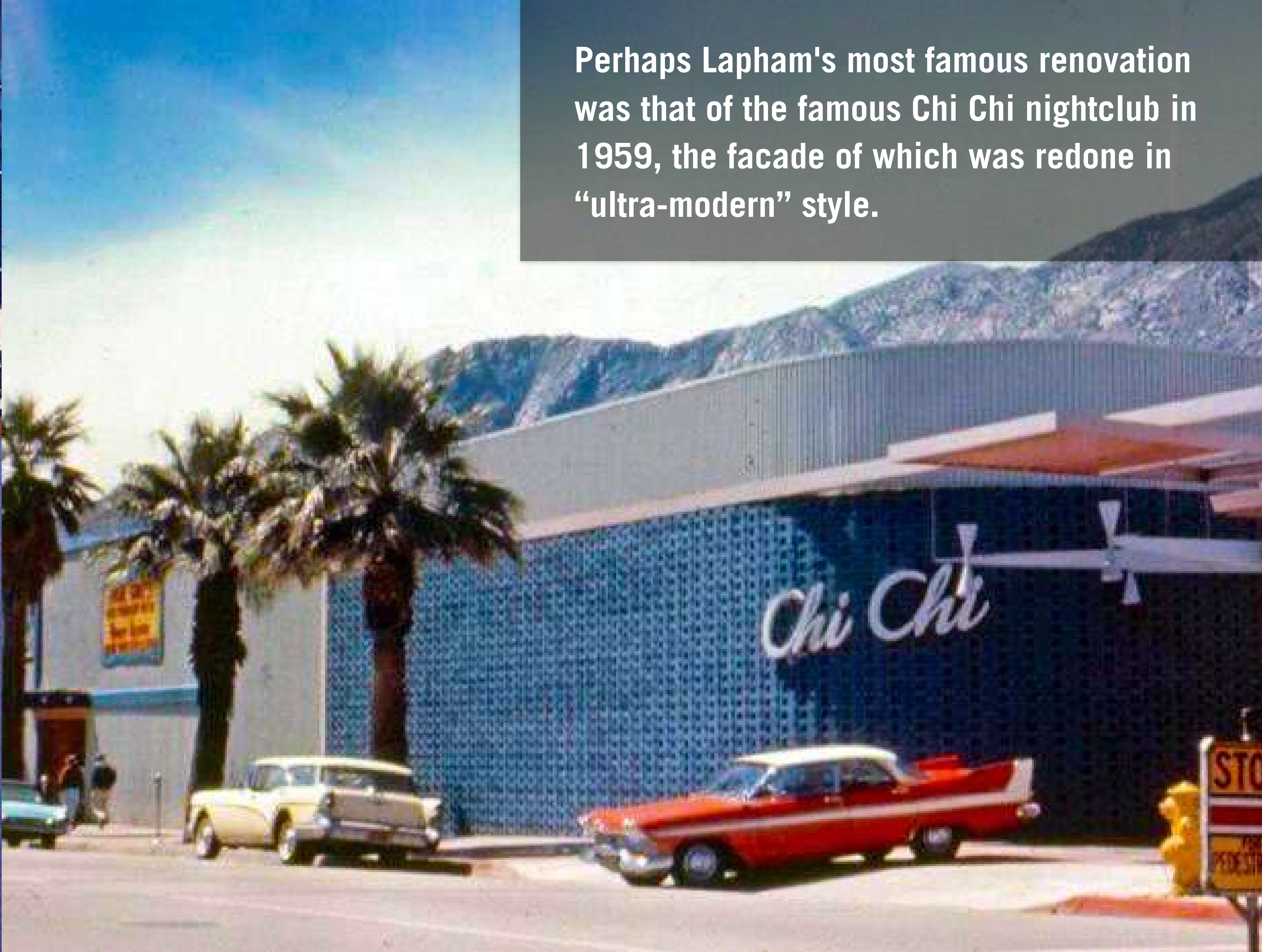


Lapham's early work included custom homes in Palm Springs's Deepwell Estates, including the Manzanita House built in 1958 known for its asymmetrical lot position and glass-with-stone facade.

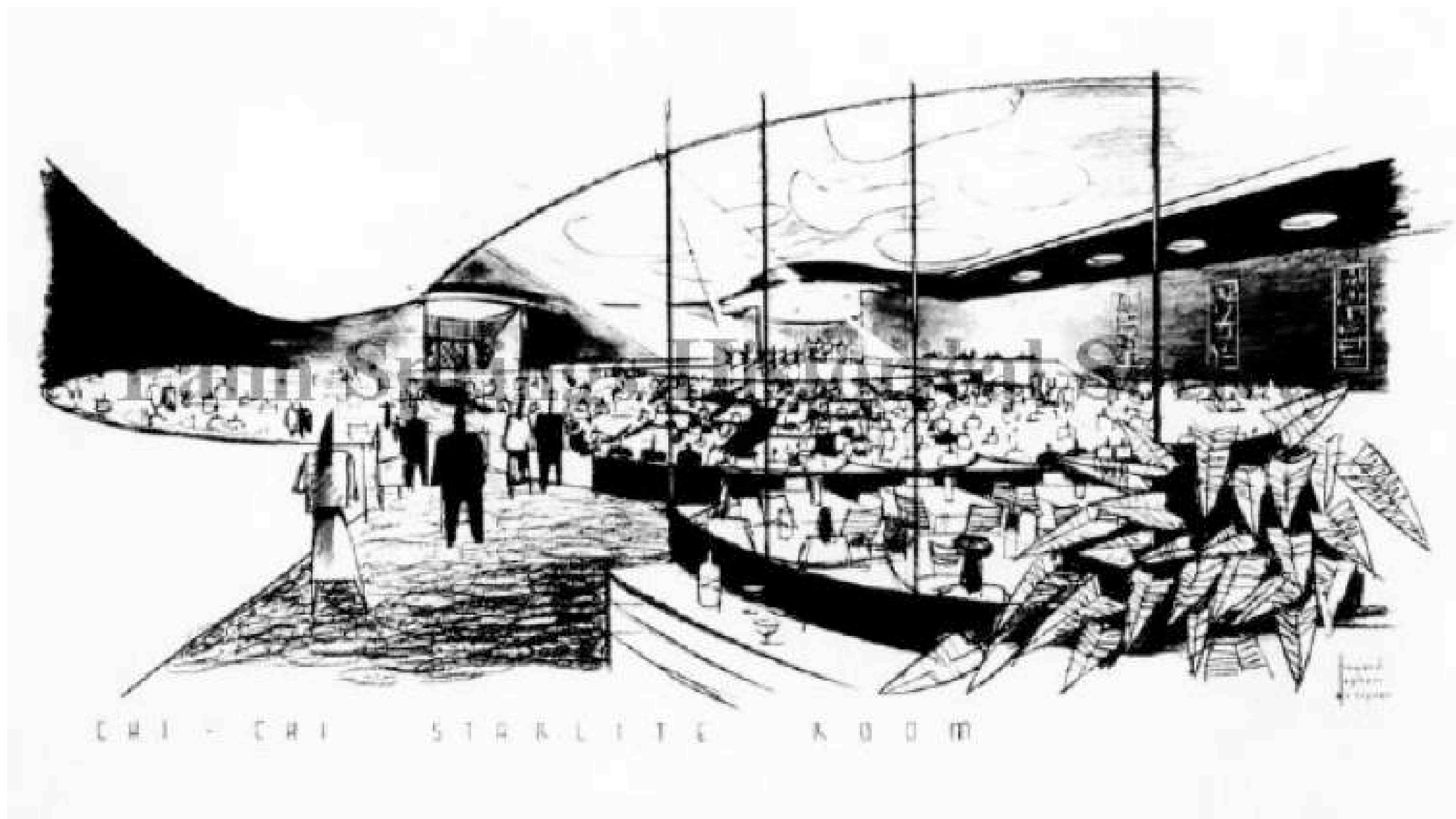
The background of the entire image is a close-up, vertical view of weathered wooden planks. The wood has a warm, golden-brown tone and shows significant signs of age, including numerous knots, grain variations, and some surface wear. The planks are arranged in a regular, vertical pattern.

THE CHI CHI ROOM

1959 REMODEL



Perhaps Lapham's most famous renovation was that of the famous Chi Chi nightclub in 1959, the facade of which was redone in “ultra-modern” style.



A background of vertical wooden planks with a natural grain and some knots, appearing in a warm, slightly aged tone. The planks are closely spaced and run vertically across the entire image.

RACKSTROM BUILDING

PALM SPRINGS 1961



A two-story structure designed by Lapham with offices upstairs and retail space on the street level at 666/668 N Palm Canyon Drive in downtown Palm Springs.

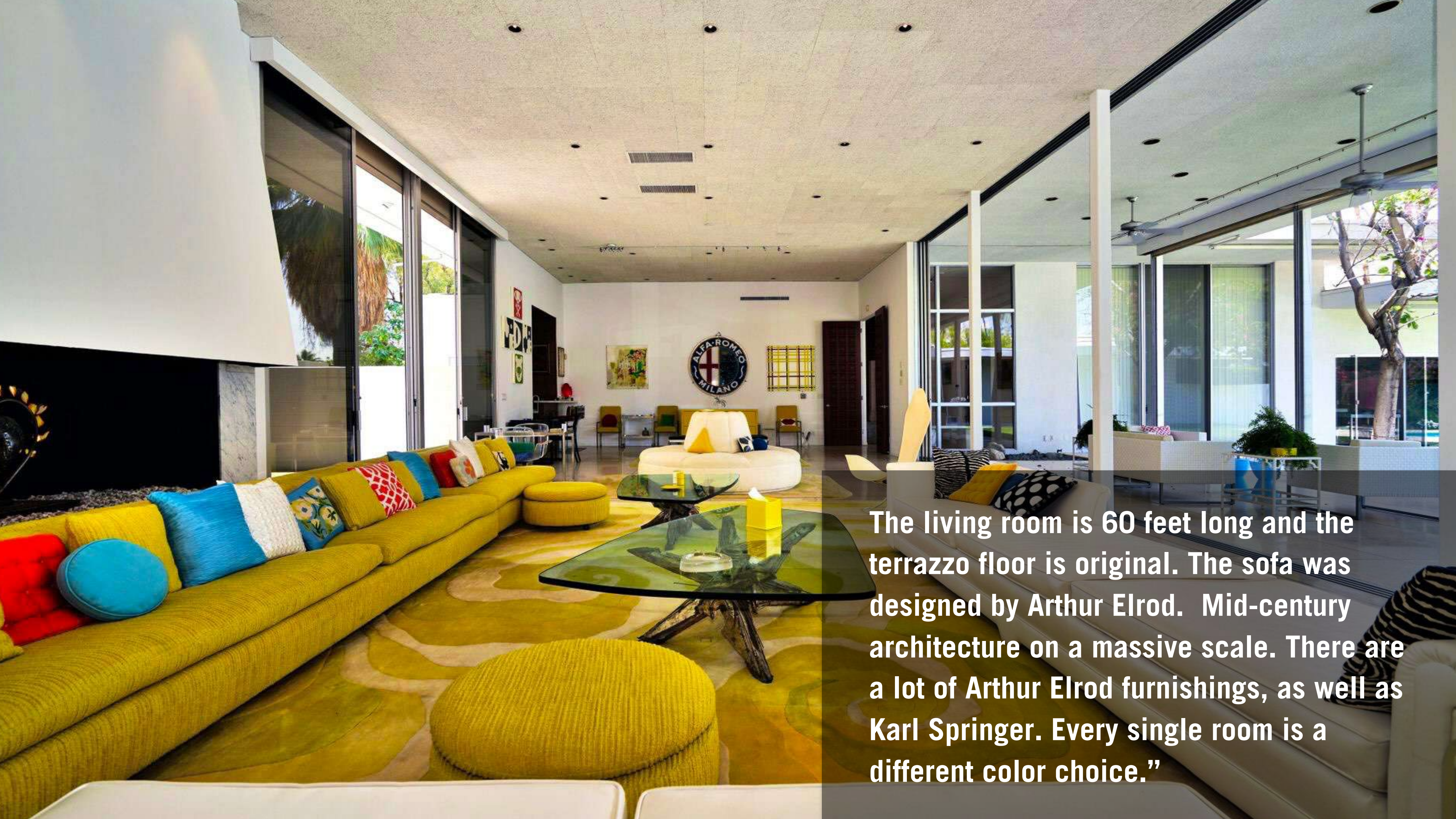
A background of vertical wooden planks with a natural grain and some knots, appearing in a warm, slightly aged tone. The planks are arranged in a regular pattern, creating a textured, rustic look.

650 TACHEVAH DR

PALM SPRINGS 1966



Living Large...The Movie Colony neighborhood of Palm Springs is not known for estate-size homes. Lapham was someone who thought big. Among his projects were a large home in Rancho Mirage for Hyatt von Dehn, founder of the Hyatt House hotel chain, and the 11,000 square foot Cook residence in Thunderbird Heights

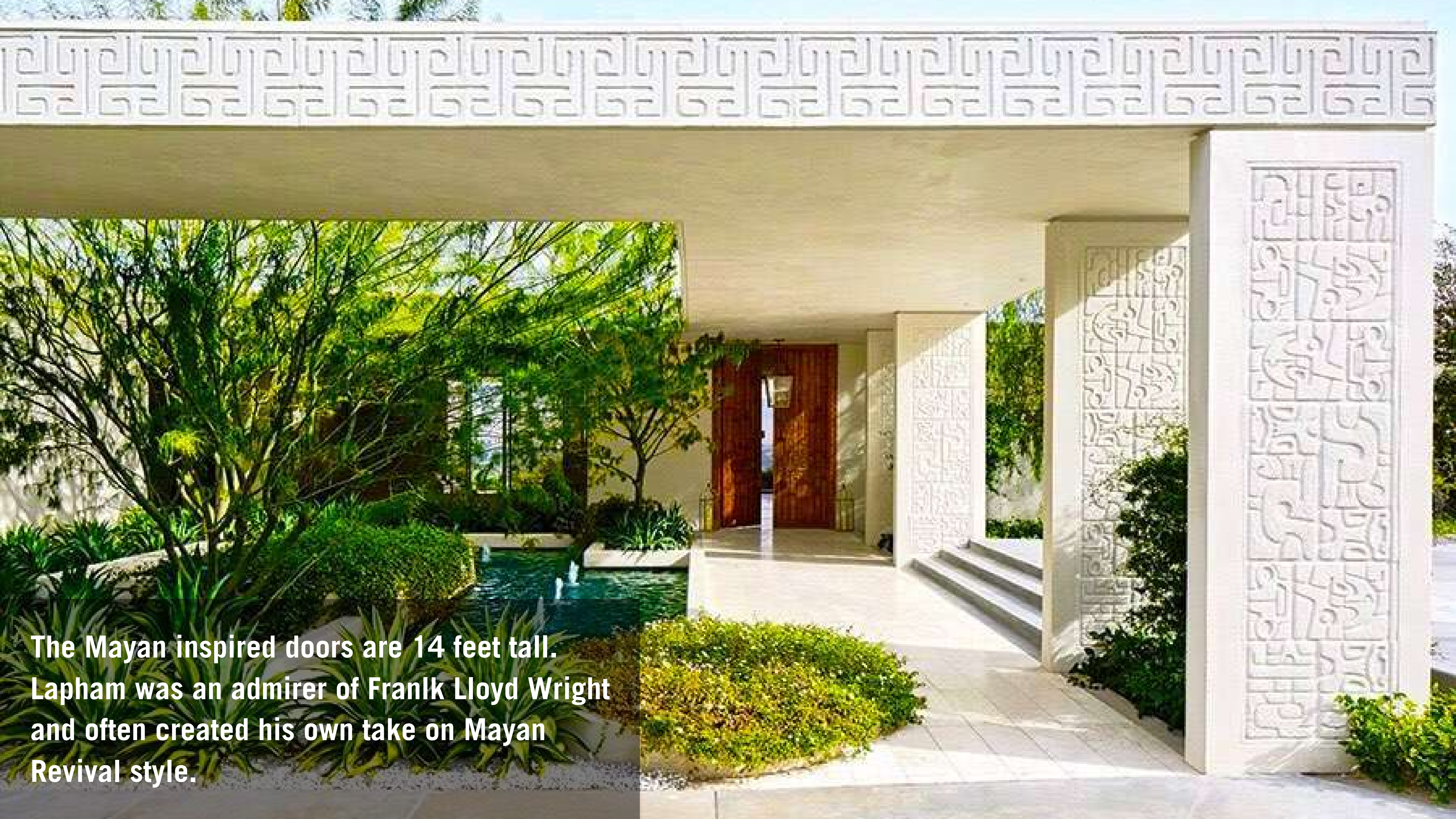


The living room is 60 feet long and the terrazzo floor is original. The sofa was designed by Arthur Elrod. Mid-century architecture on a massive scale. There are a lot of Arthur Elrod furnishings, as well as Karl Springer. Every single room is a different color choice.”

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ICHPA MAYAPAN

PALM SPRINGS 1966



The Mayan inspired doors are 14 feet tall. Lapham was an admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright and often created his own take on Mayan Revival style.



Ichpa Mayapan (also known as the Cook house), is Lapham's 11,000-square-foot glass-and-stucco fantasia featuring a hand-carved Mayan calendar in its entrance court, a facade richly embellished with stylized Mesoamerican motifs, and a keystone-shaped pool presided over by a colossal Mayan-inspired stone figure



A few years ago, when L.A.–based designer Michael S. Smith was working on a new visitors' center for Sunnylands he found himself captivated by Ichpa Mayapan. He notes a kinship between Sunnylands and Ichpa Mayapan in their “clean lines, broad roofs, and green lawns—a great refinement and opulence in the middle of this harsh wilderness.”





THE CRAMER HOUSE
THUNDERBIRD HEIGHTS 1970





Interiors by Steve Chase...

The background of the entire image is a close-up, vertical view of weathered wooden planks. The wood is a warm, golden-brown color with prominent grain patterns and numerous knots and imperfections. The planks are arranged in a vertical stack, creating a textured, rustic appearance.

BANK OF AMERICA

SMOKE TREE PLAZA 1976

Desert Sun, March 24 1976



SMOKE TREE OFFICE — Artist's rendering shows how Bank of America's planned \$922,000 new building for its Smoke Tree office will look when completed next January. Architects for the project are Howard

Lapham and Richard Harrison of Palm Springs while Baldi Brothers of Beaumont will handle the construction. It will replace existing BofA office at 1580 South Palm Canyon Drive.



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CROCKER BANK
SMOKE TREE PLAZA 1967



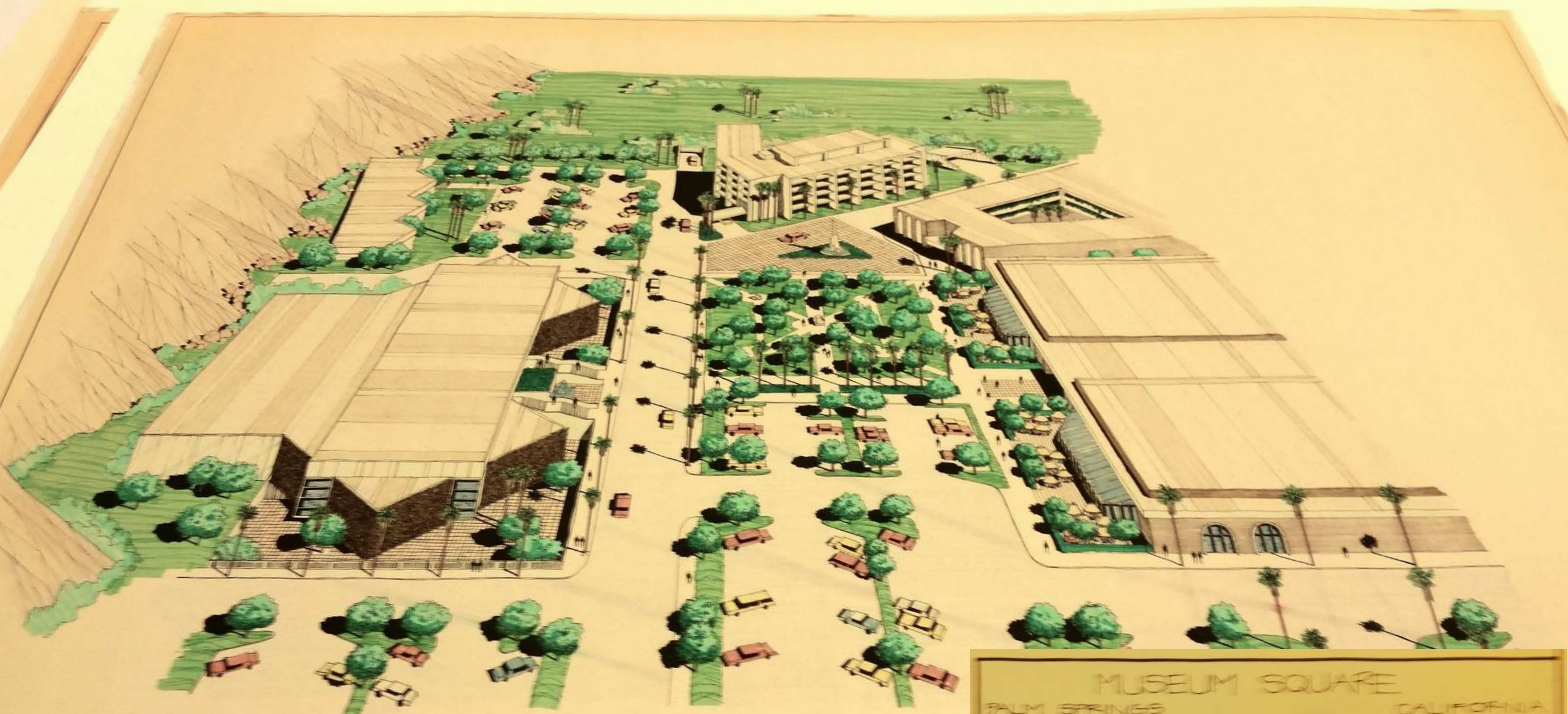
1711



MASTER PLAN

FOR CITY OF PALM SPRINGS





MUSEUM SQUARE		
PALM SPRINGS		CALIFORNIA
SCALE: NONE	APPROVED BY:	DRAWN BY JWS
DATE: 12-28-52	JOB NO 8116	REVISED:
AERIAL VIEW		
HOWARD LAPHAM, Reg. Bldg. Designer 662 577 E. Sunny Dunes Rd., Palm Springs, California		DRAWING NUMBER

Some of Howard Lapham's projects...

- **Model Plumbing Supply Building (495 Industrial Place) (1955)**
- **Skylark Hotel Expansion (1466 North Palm Canyon) (1956)**
- **Desert Star (1611 South Calle Palo Fierro) (1956)**
- **Kelly's Home Furnishings (4525 East Ramon Road) (1956)**
- **Tranquilla Villa (291 Camino Monte Vista) (1956)**
- **Store Building (1074 North Palm Canyon/1061 North Indian Canyon, now DaVita Dialysis) (1958)**
- **Palm Springs Greyhound Bus Depot (311 North Indian Avenue, now Woody's Burgers) (1959)**
- **Chi Chi Club Remodel (217 N. Palm Canyon 1959)**
- **Peter Kiewit Residence (Thunderbird Country Club) (1960)**
- **North Shore Club Hotel (Lake Tahoe at Crystal Bay, Nevada) (1960)**
- **Hyatt Robert von Dehn Residence (Thunderbird Heights) (1960)**

- **Commercial Building (577 East Sunny Dunes Road, Lapham's later business office) (1961)**
- **Thunderbird Country Club Clubhouse Remodel (1961)**
- **Clarke Swanson Residence (Thunderbird Country Club) (1961)**
- **Morrow Residence (Silver Spur Ranch, Palm Desert) (1961)**
- **Model Commercial Park (Ramon Road) (1962)**
- **Apartment Buildings (Avenue 44 & Arabia Street, Indio) (1962)**
- **Palm Springs National Bank (441 South Palm Canyon Drive) (1963) (with architect Richard Harrison)**
- **Smoke Tree Village (Hwy. 111 & Sunrise Way) (1965) (with architect Richard Harrison)**
- **666 Building (666/668 North Palm Canyon Drive) (1965)**
- **Mr. & Mrs. Robert O. Naegcles Residence (70-209 Calico Road, Thunderbird Heights) (circa 1965)**
- **Mr. & Mrs. Alan Stoneman Residence (70-146 Calico Road, Thunderbird Heights) (circa 1965)**
- **Lord Fletcher's Inn (70385 Hwy. 111, Rancho Mirage) (1966)**
- **Commercial Complex (South Palm Canyon Drive & Sunny Dunes Road) (1966)**

- **Orchid Tree Lane Estates (Alejo Road & Burton Way) (1966)**
- **Crocker-Citizens National Bank (Smoke Tree Village) (1967)**
- **Medical Office Building & Laboratory (140 Luring Drive) (1969)**
- **Cook Residence (Ichpa Mayapan) (Thunderbird Heights) (1970)**
- **Downey Savings & Loan Association Tennis Complex (Smoketree Commercial Center) (1973)**
- **Tennis Courts (Riviera Hotel) (1974)**
- **Bank of America (Smoke Tree Village) (1975) (with architect Richard Harrison)**
- **Bob's Big Boy Restaurant (North Palm Canyon Drive & Stevens Road) (1977)**
- **Professional Offices (North Palm Canyon Drive & Indian Avenue, north of Tacheva**
- **Lapham drew the initial plans for the Eisenhower Medical Center
(Edward D. Stone obtained the commission)**

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