



TOUR THE 2017 CHRISTOPHER KENNEDY COMPOUND

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has become a must-see of Modernism Week, the annual 10-day celebration of Palm Springs art, architecture, and design. Not just a show house, the annual Compound defines the epitome of living in the designer desert. This year, Kennedy and an impressive assembly of designers adorned "Villa Golightly," the home of blogger and lifestyle guru Kelly Golightly and her husband, photographer Fred Moser. Golightly is recognized around the world for her daily curation of a modern lifestyle guide for aspiring Audrey Hepburns. In its fourth year, Villa Golightly drew more than 6,000 visitors from as far away as Australia and raised more than \$50,000 for charity.

"I thought it was strange that Palm Springs didn't have a true decorator showcase house," explains interior designer and show house producer Christopher Kennedy, when asked what prompted him to launch the project in 2014. "I wanted to give back to the town that had given me so much and it seemed like a great way to do it. My firm was 10 years old and Modernism Week was in their 10th year, so there was a wonderful



synergy." Kennedy pulled together the first year on a wing and a prayer. He bought the house, renovated the property, called on brands he knew and loved, and reached out to his network of interior designers. "In the beginning, you just have to do it yourself!" says Kennedy. Trina Turk, Celerie Kemble, Jiun Ho, and Thomas Lavin were among the tastemakers who signed on for the freshman event. Successive years have lured top names including Michael Berman, Trip Haenisch, Julia Buckingham, and Martyn Lawrence Bullard to the desert.

This year's home was no exception. Dee Murphy, Joy Cho, Michel Smith Boyd, Kelli Ellis, Gray Malin, Sarah Sherman Samuel, and Barclay Butera were among the influencers and experts who contributed their talents to Golightly's expansive Andreas Hills house. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get that level of talent designing your home," says Golightly. "We were very lucky that Christopher and I were on the same page when it came to design. We like very similar things. And since he's the mastermind, orchestrating the entire project, he told the designers to use me as their muse."

What sets the Compound apart from the other well-known show houses (such as Wattles Mansion, Greystone Manor, Pasadena) is that people are living in the homes. "They are very real houses for very real people," Kennedy points out. "Yes, it's a show house and it's beautiful and it's over the top, but at the end of the day this is actually someone's home. And I think that people come from all over the world not just to experience the city's architecture, but also our cocktail culture, our brilliant color, the afternoons by the pool. It's about more than just beautiful design; it's that great Palm Springs lifestyle." Golightly sums it up as: "Palm Springs is a state of mind."





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