

paradise in the desert



Las Vegas wakes up to its midcentury housing stock

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Having been residents of Nevada for decades, when my husband, Clay, and I had the opportunity to purchase our first place together, we knew we wanted to buy in one of the few midcentury modern neighborhoods in Las Vegas. Three years ago we were instantly sold on a 1962 Palmer & Krisel with a decorative champagne bubble screen wall in front, a floating fire-place, dedicated bar room and a unique tri-level design.

Selling Modern

In 1961, construction began on the first master-planned community in the heart of Las Vegas. The 600-home Paradise Palms neighborhood was designed by a number of different architectural firms and included 42 award-winning models from Palmer & Krisel. Nestled among the homes were the Stardust Golf Club, where the Rat Pack entertained guests at the clubhouse; a private park; elementary and middle schools; and the first air-conditioned, enclosed mall in Las Vegas, built by the same developer responsible for our neighborhood.

With multiple models and floor plans available, buyers had the opportunity to modify their tract home, or could opt for custom, one-of-a-kind designs. Prices for the tract houses ranged from \$20,875 to \$42,500 and, according to developer Irwin Molasky, they sold a house a day between 1957 and 1959—before the project even broke ground.

Since it was about a mile from the Las Vegas strip, many celebrities chose to make Paradise Palms their home. Bobby Darin, Phyllis Diller, Debbie Reynolds, Johnny Carson, Joe Lewis and



Above: Built in 1961, this three-bedroom, two-bath Palmer & Krisel was ready for the wrecking ball two years ago. From drywall and electrical inside, to a new carport and decorative screen wall outside, it had a complete overhaul. The interior received a new kitchen and renovated bathrooms, and the exterior got a new paint job, roof, driveway and landscaping.

Below: Built in 1963, this home is nicknamed “The Caddyshack” because it’s right next to the Las Vegas National Golf Club. The house features a nine-hole miniature golf putting course in the front and back yards.

