

8070

Smells Like Team Spirit

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This Eichler model has an atrium, a two-car garage and a carport, where a restored 1971 Mercedes 280SL resides.

Eight years ago,
the owner of a
Palm Springs
midcentury icon
bought an Eichler
tract house.
Then the fun began...

“I needed to live in Orange County, which tends to have a dearth of interesting modern-era buildings [dating] from the mid-1930s to the mid-’60s,” says Brent Harris, 54, a financial executive. His first foray into renovating midcentury architecture was working with Marmol Radziner on the four-year intervention to save Richard Neutra’s Kaufmann House. Much has been published on that extensive 1990s rehab, as well as the split with his former wife and rehab partner, and the subsequent \$19 million Christie’s auction of the home that fell through. Today, Harris still owns the weekend property, which he now shares with wife Lisa Meulbroek, a college professor.

Harris was interested in architects A. Quincy Jones and Frederick Emmons’ work for Joseph Eichler, specifically in Fairhills, the last Eichler tract built in Orange, Calif., where the lots are relatively large and back up to low hills with borrowed views. Wanting to avoid paying for someone else’s shoddy improvements, he saw potential in a



The Kaufmann House

Brent R. Harris, 2011



The Orange Eichler