

RANDOM HAUS

ANYTHING BUT RANDOM

by joel martens

I think I've found nirvana and it's just a hop-skip-and-a-jump away. It's quiet, peaceful and tranquil, with soothing dry temperatures, high-lighted by endless skies and humbling purple mountains. In my mind's eye I keep hearing, "Blue skies, smilin' at me, nothing but blue skies do I see..."

It's a new twist in the classic desert town of Palm Springs, a little jewel called Random Haus. And as the title above says, it is anything but. So succinct in its execution, every detail is accounted for—loaded with everything that you could possibly need for a short weekend trip, or an extended home-away-from-home stay.

All 12 suites are done as vacation units, large and breezy, much more space, allowing you to spread out with no bruised elbows. Invite your friends and family, comfort will be there for everyone, because you won't be forced into one tiny hotel room. The feel is so much more like a upscale home. Each unit has multiple bedrooms, common areas, fully equipped kitchens and dining areas, not to mention the unique and tastefully appointed outdoor spaces—some complete with outdoor showers.

A whopping 75 tons of rock comprises one of the resort's best features and surrounds the entire complex with flowing water. A miniature creek, soothing and beautifully lit, drowns out any exterior noises and comes complete with its own bit of nature: sweet singing frogs. I am told they moved in almost immediately—their first guests, as they say, "nature always finds a way." That quiet calming bit of nature is a backdrop to everything here.

"The idea was to create something that was reminiscent of the Bauhaus style," says CEO Tom Bauer, "the idea of simplicity, 'form follows function.' The reason the pioneers of the movement did that is because they believed that the elements that should be featured in the rooms where the contents, the furniture should be the art. Very little or no decoration. It was the first school of design to incorporate

architecture and industrial design—the purity of their functions—as the main aesthetics of style. Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity. Nothing extra to clutter the soul of their properties, to create a soothing sense."

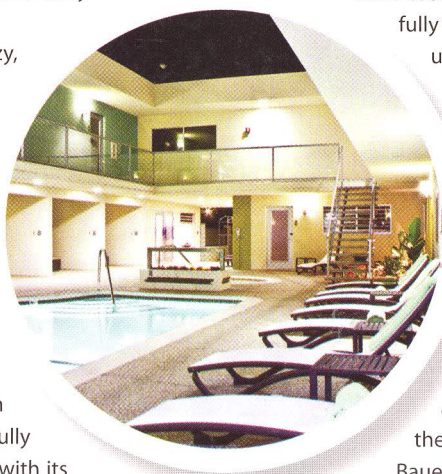
Bauer continues, "That basically laid the foundation for modernism as we know it and out of that came mid-century modern, which of course Palm Springs is famous for. We basically wanted to create Random Haus as homage to that, to the Bauhaus movement, the foundation of modernism. It will hopefully mean something to those who are interested in architecture. Whether you are a fan of interior design, great architecture or the art of that time, you will find it here."

All of the furniture is custom-built and I am told that each piece is unique to the hotel. One can see it in the case goods and other forms; all designs were borrowed from 1950s originals. Bauer also commented on this, "we tweaked each piece a bit for usage purposes and to make sure that we had something that was really unique—right down to the handles we chose." They had Amish craftsmen in

Ohio custom craft the pieces and as Bauer said, "they did it beautifully for us, but it was surprisingly difficult, because they do not use computers of course ... they will use e-mail on a phone because it's not connected to the grid, but not a computer. Their tools are electric, but the electricity generating them has to be basically self-created."

The hotel is based on the concept of fractional ownership; the basic idea being that the property will always operate as a hotel; anyone can book a room and stay a night or stay a week as a guest. With the fractional concept however, those people who love Random Haus and feel it is the only property they wish to stay every time they visit Palm Springs can have that. It allows guests to come whenever they want and prioritizes them because they essentially have deeded ownership.

Bauer explains, "This is not a timeshare and yes, there are similarities, but it is a much higher-level concept. Unlike a timeshare, which basically gives you increments of time somewhere in any given part of a resort, this idea gives you guaranteed time in the specific unit you choose to invest in. The fractional concept is similar to tenancy in common, the units are sold in 28-day increments. You are basically purchasing the unit with a group of other investors, sharing the usage of the property and the costs associated with it. The difference being that the upkeep and cleaning of the units follows more of a hotel concept; all the rooms are cleaned daily, anything that needs to be replaced is taken care of,





all those common maintenance items are part of the package."

Things like the pool, hot tub and sauna, the gardens, the water features and public areas are maintained, as they would be if one were staying in a high-end hotel. And they have wonderful concierge services; you can request a full bar and snacks be ready, or a meal complete with steaks waiting to be grilled when you arrive. I don't remember any luxury hotel, or condominium I've stayed at for that matter, that provides such amenities!

Seriously, what could be better than a beautifully appointed high-end suite, with everything at your fingertips... food, wine and everything needed to prepare it (well, maybe everything but the will to do so) waiting for you, along with all that sunshine, a pool, sauna and hot tub? There is even a common area for outdoor entertaining with a full kitchen, grill and an enormous television to enjoy... I like it, I really, really like it.

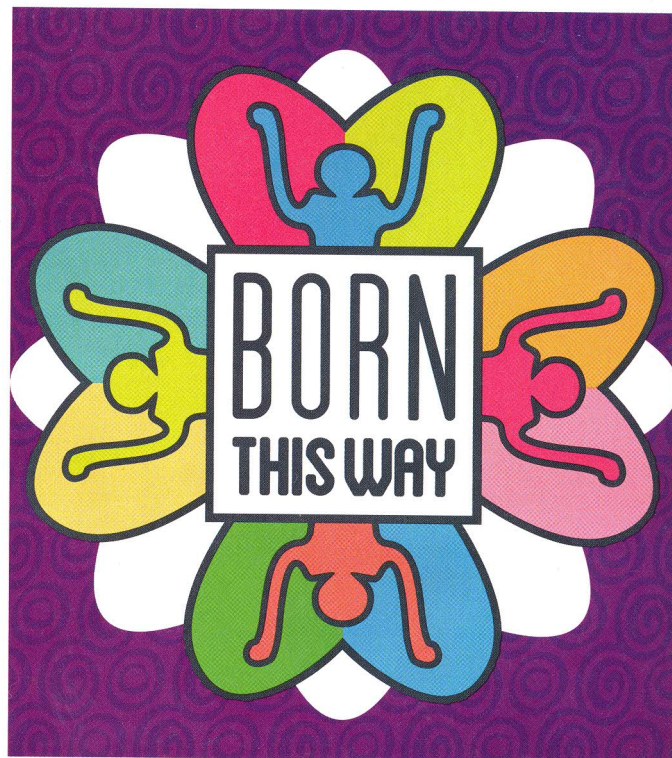
My stay there was truly amazing and the staff showed us how seriously they take their concept of comfort. Every morning greeted us with fresh coffee, O.J., (Champagne was available too, God help me), fresh bakery items, a plethora of fresh fruit and other selections. I lounged my weekend away, luxuriating in the peaceful surroundings and the drop-of-a-pin service I received. An off-chance comment about the need for coasters was dealt with within hours—impressive if you ask me.

My friends and I shared a two-bedroom suite in total comfort. The rooms were impeccably clean and after every afternoon jaunt, there was a fresh bottle of vodka in the freezer, with a selection of mixers above. Our suite-mate Ruby, the Maltese, was completely pampered as well; fresh treats were offered to her every day. Random Haus is totally pet-friendly, with no restrictions on the size, breed or number of animals guests can bring. And for you newlyweds, they offer special honeymoon packages as well. "With nine states now having gay marriage, this will be a great place for a honeymoon," says Bauer.

Married, single, with a group or on your own, Random Haus is worth a look... and maybe a little investment for your total future comforts.

SEE YOU POOLSIDE!

Random Haus is located in Palm Springs at 588 East San Lorenzo Road just off South Random Road (and now you know where the name came from). For more information on the resort, how to own a little piece of this particular paradise or to inquire about reservations call 760.537.7601 or go to randomhauspalmsprings.com.



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Sunday, April 28 at 3 p.m.

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